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TABLE OF CONTENT

EXISTENCE OF WIFE BATTERY AMONG TRADERS IN UGEP COMMUNITY OF YAKURR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA 1

EXPLORING THE NEXUS BETWEEN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AND AGE DIFFERENCES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NIGERIA..... 12

THE IMPACT OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT ON AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT IN NIGERIA 22

REVISIT OF BAKASI PENISULA NIGERIA CAMEROUN RESOURCE CONFLICT 33

THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN CURBING 40

RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM 40

IN NORTHERN NIGERIA 40

LEADERSHIP STYLE AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF EBELE GOOD LUCK JONATHAN AND MUHAMMADU BUHARI'S ADMINISTRATIONS..... 51

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA: ROLE OF THE TEACHER..... 62

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES CLIMATE CHANGE: AN EXPOSITION OF HERDSMEN TERRORISM IN TIVLAND OF BENUE STATE..... 71

AN INTERROGATION OF SPINSTER'S NIGHT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS IN WUKARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF TARABA STATE 82

PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGIES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF DISASTER RISK BEYOND FLOOD IN NIGERIA..... 88

IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON THE SECURITY OF RECORDS AMONG ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF 99

ENVIRONMENT AND CONFLICTS IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND TRENDS OF FARMERS – HERDERS CONFLICTS..... 111

RESPONSES OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES TO POOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN GOMBE METROPOLIS, NORTH EAST NIGERIA, 1963-2013..... 122

EFFECT OF ANCHOR BORROWER PROGRAMME ON FARM PRODUCE OF BENEFICIARIES IN LAPAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA 2016-2021..... 133

BRITISH COLONIAL PUNISHMENTS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF NATIVE AUTHORITY PRISON AND CRIME CONTROL IN IDAH DISTRICT, 1929-1945 145

TRANS-BORDER TRAJECTORIES AND HUMAN SECURITY IN NIGERIA: NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST IN PERSPECTIVE..... 154

THE RISING NATION - STATES AND THE POLITICAL STANCE OF THE HEGEMONY: A THEORETICAL REVIEW..... 169

WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS, SECURITY AND PEACE-BUILDING IN NIGERIA: AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF EUNICE SPRING OF LIFE FOUNDATION..... 175

EFFECT OF ANCHOR BORROWER PROGRAMME ON FARM PRODUCE OF BENEFICIARIES IN LAPAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA 2016-2021..... 185

THE POLITICS OF APPOINTING POLITICAL AND CARREER DIPLOMATS' IN NIGERIA: Understanding the Nexus..... 197

HEALTH WORKERS PERCEPTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA AS A TOOL FOR PROMOTING NUTRITION BEHAVIOURS AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN SABO TASHA COMMUNITY..... 210

EXISTENCE OF WIFE BATTERY AMONG TRADERS IN UGEP COMMUNITY OF YAKURR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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KEYWORDS
Physical violence, psychological/emotional abuse, wife battery

ABSTRACT
Wife battery remains a pressing global challenge, particularly in developing nations like Nigeria. Women, girls, who are affected suffer from mental illness, injuries that need surgical gynecological interventions and are risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems. The study employed a qualitative research design, using a purposive sampling method to select respondents. The study engages 144 participants out of which 62 are males and 82 females. Through semi-structured interviews, participants were divided into two groups; one for in-dept interview (I.D.I) and the other for Focus Group Discussion (F.G.Ds). Two theories were employed to guide the study, which include Frustration Aggression theory and Social Stress theory. Findings reveals that there is need to reform the discriminatory legislations in Nigeria especially as regards the criminal code which makes the indecent assault of a woman a less offence. Religious groups and institutions to embark on programs that will promote awareness and the negative effects of wife battery in the society. Lastly, the findings also have it that societies should begin to re-orientate men and women on the fact that all human beings are equal as the issue of placing more value on the male child than the female child is one of the reasons why this problem still persist in Nigeria.

Introduction

Globally, and in our contemporary society, wife battery goes beyond physical beatings. Battered women are at risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems including posttraumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), depression, chronic pain and substance abuse (Smith and Gittelman, 1994). It a conditions and situations that systematically deny and devalue women, their lives, health, rights, choices, and power. It affects every woman's life in the region even if she herself is not a victim; it is evident in every decision she makes or does not (within homes, social settings or workplace) be it the mode of dress, behaviour or movement (Riggs, Caulifield and Street, 2000).

Battery is referred to by many names: wife beating, intimate partner abuse, wife battery, violence against women etc (Dobash & Dobash, 1998). Wife battery is considered a gender-based issue. It does not mean the same thing with domestic violence; however, it is a type or branch of domestic violence because during battery violence may occur. According to Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (2004), violence against women is a story of suffering, of deprivation and of discrimination. This is not confined to any particular political or economic system but is found in every society in the world.

Wife battery like child battery is a common phenomenon and nobody tends to consider it a problem until it results in death or very serious injury. Finkler (1997) believes that battery is a major cause of injury to women ranging from relative minor wounds to permanent disability and even death in some cases. When a woman receives serious physical harm, she is unable to cope with her daily activities and in the case of death she leaves the children motherless thereby exposing them to the trauma of being looked after by stepmothers if the husband is not arrested by the long arms of the law. In cases where the man is arrested and prosecuted for manslaughter the children are left without either of the parents thereby leaving their fates in the hand of family and relations. It can lead to depression, which can make a woman commit suicide. It does not only affect the women but also the children's lives and behaviour. Juvenile specialists have noted the link between violence at home and the increased likelihood of adolescent crime. Battered women tend to have low self-esteem and this makes them lack confidence in themselves as women, mothers and people that have something to offer to the family and the society.

Statement of Problem

Wife battery is a serious problem in most part of the world (Aremu, Adeboju, & Fayombo, 2000). Report by American Medical Association, (1992) shows that wife battery is one of the leading causes of injuries to women especially between the ages of 18-30 years. Many battered women suffer from mental illness, injuries that need surgical or gynecological interventions at one time or the other. Battered women are at risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems including post-traumatic stress syndrome, depression, chronic pains. When women are battered either at home or public places, they may begin to indulge in alcohol and other hard substances in order to forget or cope with the problems. This can lead to child abuse and neglect by these women which in turns make them loose concentration. It is on this note that this research is aimed at investigating the Existence of Wife Battery among Traders in Ugep Community of Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria**.**

Conceptual review

Forms of Wife Battery

Deyessa, Kassaye, Demeke and Taffa (1998) identified different forms of violence against women. Some of them include:

Physical violence which is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing injury, harm, disability, or death, for example, hitting, shoving, biting, restraint, kicking, use of a weapon, strangling, chocking etc.

Sexual abuse is the use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against their will, whether or not the act is completed or any form of abusive sexual contact

Psychological/emotional *abuse* can include, humiliating the victim, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, and

denying the victim access to money or other basic resources.

Economic abuse is when the abuser has complete control over the victim's money and other economic resources. Usually, this involves putting the victim on a strict 'allowance', withholding money at will and forcing the victim to beg for the money until the abuser gives them some money. It is common for the victim to receive less money as the abuse continues. This also includes (but is not limited to) preventing the victim from finishing education or obtaining employment.

Prevalence of wife battery

Scholars are of the view that wife battery is wide spread even though under reported. In a study conducted by Abbot, Johnson, Kozioi-Mclain and Lowenstein (1995) in the Sioux Falls Family Practice to examine the rate of wife battery against adult women by men partners, two hundred and eighteen women at two primary care clinics responded anonymously to a questionnaire. Findings from the study show that 48 percent reported verbal abuse, 44 percent minor physical abuse, and 28 percent severe physical abuse. Respondents whose partners were reported to be chemically dependent or sexually abusive were at greater risk. Respondents with lower socioeconomic status were at increased risk for verbal and physical abuse, as were women whose partners had less formal education. Ages of respondents and partners were not significant factors in abuse. Boyfriends not cohabitating were the least abusive, while couples together for 4 to 6 years had more domestic violence than other couples. According to Aremu, Adepoju & Fayombo, (2000; 35), “domestic violence of any form is now a permanent phenomenon which humanity has come to be associated with”. Statistical evidence abounds to confirm the epidemiological nature of domestic violence and it ravaging effect on the society.

In a Leon Nicaragua study, for example, 60 percent of the women abused in the previous year were abused more than once and 20 percent experienced severe violence more than six times (Population Report 1999). For instance, in Mexico, 27 percent of sampled women have experienced physical abuse (battery) with 15 percent experiencing it in the past twelve months (Finkler, 1997). In Canada, the report shows that 29 percent of the partnered or ever married women have experienced physical or severe assault (Rodgers 1994) while 22 percent of the adult women in USA have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner (Ellsberg, Cadera, Harrena Winkvist & Rullgren, 1997). A study of women presenting in the emergency unit of American hospitals showed 5.6 percent of 359 female trauma patients were identified as having injuries caused by battery (Krug, Dahlberg and Mercy, 2002).

In the Asian and Pacific continent, the figure is quite higher. The survey on battery carried out by (Jejeebhoy 1994) in rural India, had 45 percent of the sampled women living in violent relationships, and in New Zealand according to Leibrich, Pauline and Ransom, (1995) 35 percent of the respondents had experienced beating or sexual assault in their relationships. The story is not different in the high-income countries of Europe. In the United Kingdom, (North London) the study published by Mooney (1998) revealed that 30 percent of the women interviewed had been beaten at one time or the other in relationships while 58 percent of the women in Turkey had gone through the same experience according to Iikkaracanm, (1998).

In Africa, the same prevalence is noticed as 45 percent of Ethiopian women have been physically assaulted while 42 percent of the adult women of Kissi district in Kenya were living in violent relationships according to the 1984-1987 survey (Deyessa, Kassaye, Demeke and Taffa 1998, Raikes, 1992). The survey carried out in South Africa in 1998 on wife battery and in three different phases across the country, showed that 20 percent of the currently married or partnered women in Eastern Cape had been physically assaulted by an intimate partner, 29 percent in Mpumalange and 20 percent in the Northern Province (population report 1999). The story is not at all different in Nigeria, as Ojudirin published survey report of 1993 revealed that 31 percent of adult women interviewed had been beaten at one time or the other by an intimate partner. Ojudurin, (1993) stated that once the problem of wife battery begins in a family, it does not get better rather it gets worse by the day. Aremu, Adepoju and Fayombo (2000) are of the opinion that wife battery is a daily experience and is a way of life for the women and their children. This also agrees with Ojudurin (1993) findings that this is an experience that many women go through always.

Causes of Wife Battery

Wife battery occurs in all communities and across all economic boundaries (project alert, 2005). According to Amnesty international (2005), wife battery is particularly persistent where families are poor, where husband's feel threatened by the wife's independence or where men regard beating their wives as the only way to resolve issues. Amnesty International (2005) is also of the view that men who grew up in violent households frequently perpetuate the cycle of violence in later relationships passing unto another generation the perception that violence in the home is accepted. Some general factors that give free reign to violence are:

Wife Battery and Culture

In all societies, there are cultural institutions, belief and practices that undermine women's autonomy and contribute to gender based violence. For instance, is the issue of bride price and payment of dowry. The giving away of the bride in marriage by her father has its root in the belief that a woman is a man's property. Marriage merely transfers her ownership from her father to her husband (Dobash and Dobash 1998). When a marriage takes place under customary law, the family of the prospective husbands pays a bride price to the family of the prospective wife. Historically, this payment was an appreciation for the characteristics and skills of the bride. However, it is now regarded as payment for a commodity and reinforces the inferior status of women within customary marriages (Amnesty international, 2005). Justification for wife battery frequently evolve from gender norms, that is, social norms about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women and where concepts of masculinity

Many cultures hold that men have the right to control their wives behaviour, and those women who challenge their husband's right should be punished. Marriage traditions, also undermines the ability of women to escape from an abusive relationship. In some societies where women pay dowry to their husbands as is found in India, the woman is compelled to remain in the violent relationship since her parents are not ready to go through the rigorous hardship of paying another dowry to a second husband (Datta, & Motilar, 1999). Dowry is exchanged in a majority of Indian weddings. Although its practice became illegal in 1961, dowry still flourishes among all social classes. Families of the bride and groom negotiate transfer of assets to the groom and his family in exchange for marrying the bride, often within the context of an arranged marriage. Dissatisfaction with the amount of dowry may result in abuse of the bride (Raikes, 1992).

According to Odimegwu (2001) among Luhya community in Western Kenya and Tiv people of Nigeria, wife battery is accepted as a sign of love. Women have come to accept it as normal and natural and many women even crave for it. Ilika, Okonkwo, & Adogu, (2002), support the claim by Odimegwu that Wife battery is widely accepted in Nigeria where it is believed that a husband may chastise his wife by beating. In most societies, wife battery is often considered an acceptable behaviour and where it is frowned at, women are often blamed for inciting men to engage in it. Offences range from insubordination, to going out without express permission from the man, to giving birth to female children, to not preparing food on time, to not giving the husband her money or giving him the money disrespectfully, to not serving in-laws well, to accusations of infidelity (Dobash & Dobash, 1998). Typically, men are given free reign as long as they provide for the needs of the family and Women are expected to tend house, mind the children and to show their husbands obedience and respect. If a man perceives that his wife has somehow failed in her role, stepped beyond her bounds or challenged the right of the husband, then he has the right to react violently and beat her up (Dobash and Dobash, 1998).

Other cultural norms associated with abuse include tolerance of physical punishment of women and children, acceptance of battery as a means of settling inter-personal disputes and the perception that men have complete ownership of women (Heise 1998, Levinson 1989).

Wife Battery and Religion

According to Christopher, Burris and Jackson, (1999), it is a common assumption among many mental health professionals that devotion to religion can perpetuate abuse of women by men. The Qur'an is very clear on this issue. Almighty Allah says:

"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah

has given the one more strength than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore, the righteous women are devoutly obedient and guard in the husband's absence what Allah would have them to guard. As to those women on whose part you fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly)" (An-Nisa': 34-35).

There is a strong connection between Christian upbringing and acceptance of battery of women by men. This is because of the belief that it is a woman's God- given duty to submit to her husband and to suffer in silence as a good Christian woman (Rossi, 1993)

In Nigeria, according to Amnesty International, (2005), women who have turned to religious leaders for help as a result of violence in the home are usually discouraged from making formal complain to the police.

Wife Battery and Socio-Economic Status

Ojudirin (1993), reports that women who live in poverty are more likely to experience violence than women of higher economic status. In his opinion for some men, living in poverty is likely to generate stress, frustration and a sense of inadequacy for having failed to live up to their responsibility as required by culture. Poverty may also provide cause for marital disagreements and also make it difficult for women to leave violent or otherwise unsatisfactory relationships (Population Report 1999). It goes to say therefore, that financial consideration, cultural factors and high cost of justice often prevent women from pressing charges against their husbands or other intimate partners in case of domestic violence. Ezebilo, (2005) writes that the law as it is also has not provided adequate respite for women and this has further compounded the issue

Reasons given for Wife Battery

According to (Immigration and refugee board of Canada, 2007) reasons given for wife battery are the following:

- Refusing sex
- Nagging- challenging the man's behaviour
- Showing no respect for the husband's family
- Having too much engagements outside the home
- Having or suspecting the woman of having an extra marital affair
- Being accused of witchcraft

Effects of Wife Battery

According to World populations report, (1999; 15) **b**attered women are at risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems including high blood pressure, depression, chronic pain, and substance abuse. The high prevalence of battery, and its psychological and physical consequences, means that battered women present with a multitude of acute and chronic symptoms that are not easily identified. The negative effects of wife battery go beyond women's sexual and reproductive health to their overall health, the welfare of the children and the economic and social fabric of the nation. By sapping women of their energy, undermining their confidence and compromising their health, gender violence or wife battery deprives the entire society of women's contribution and participation to growth and development.

Bodily Injury

According to Ellsberg, Pena, Herrera, Lijestrand & Winkivist (1999); O'Conner, (1995) and Rodgers, (1994) battery is a major cause of injury to women ranging from relative minor wounds to permanent disability and even death in some cases. These Studies show that 40 percent to 75 percent of women who are physically abused by a partner are injured by this at one point in life. The consequences of such injuries can be quite serious. In Canada, 43 percentage of the women injured by their partners had to receive medical care, 50 percent of them had to take time off from work (Rodgers, 1994). Even in Nigeria, Ojudurin, (1993) reports that 35.6 percent of women injured by their partners have had to seek medical attention and 23.3 percent had to stay off work due to injuries sustained during the battery. Abused women also have a lot of physical

symptoms and spend more days in bed than non-abused women (Finkler, 1997; Sutherland, Bybee & Sullivan, 1998). The increasing incidence of acid attacks has been reported and condemned in Nigeria (Voice of America June 4, 2007).

Depression

According to Chalk & King (1998), depression is becoming widely noticed as a major health problem around the world. World Health Organization (2006), reports that the situation is particularly serious among adult women. Sutherland, Bybee & Sullivan, (1998), have suggested that most of the difference between the incidence of depression in women and in men may be due to gender based discrimination and gender based violence. Women who are abused by their partners suffer more depression, anxiety, phobia etc than women who have not been abused according to studies in Australia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, and USA (Cascardi O'Leary, Lawrence, and Schlee, 1995, Ellsberg, Pena, Herrera, Lijestrand, and Winkivist, 1999). In Nigeria, Odujirin's study (1993) revealed that a large percentage (97.6 percent) of the abused women, reported depression or being stressed after battery episodes. Some victims of wife battery develop what psychiatrists call "posttraumatic stress disorder" (more commonly called posttraumatic syndrome). This syndrome consists of feelings of depression, anxiety and helplessness. Some go ahead to develop another disorder known as "battered wife battery syndrome". This is a specific deadly pattern of loosing self esteem, feeling trapped, expecting constantly the terror of violence but eventually striking back by killing the abusive husband (Thio, 2001).

Death

Stout, (1999) is of the view that four women are killed every day in United States of America by their intimate partners in the context of domestic violence. He goes on to say that many men do not actually wake up in the morning with the intention of killing their wives (though some do). The fact remains that in the process of battery and in anger and rage, a man may not really know what he is doing to the woman until he suddenly finds out that she has stopped breathing. Nigeria Newspapers and television news are full of bizarre stories of men killing their wives for reasons that range from the absurd to minor infringements (Project Alert, 2005).

Ill Health

Finkler, (1997),; Dickson, Degruybrd, Dickson, & Candib,(1999 believe that in addition to causing immediate physical injuries and mental anguish, violence also increases women's risk of future ill health. A wide range of studies show that women who have experienced physical abuse or sexual abuse are at greater risk of future ill health. Schechter's (1982) research in Norway revealed that chronic pelvic pain is significantly associated with a history of domestic violence A significant study in the United States found that having been the victim of childhood abuse or violent crime doubled a woman's likelihood of suffering from severe menstrual problems, sexually transmitted diseases or urinary tract infection (Griffith, 1986). Gilbertson continues that battery has also been linked to other serious physical problems like chronic pain syndrome, eye problems, ear problems and gastro intestinal disorders and a range of mental health problems including anxiety and depression. Battery also undermines health by increasing a variety of negative behaviour like smoking, alcohol and substance abuse. In Nigeria, 13 percent of the women admitted that their alcohol consumption was related to emotional disturbance due to violence in their home while 3.5 percent claimed that though they used to drink before, the incidence has increased since violence in the home started (Odujurin, 1993).

Suicide

Domestic violence can have long-term psychological effects. Studies have shown that one out of every four suicide attempts by women is preceded by abuse (Heise, 1993). A study by Fagan and Brown, (1990) shows that for some women, the burden of abuse is so great that they take their own lives or try to do so. Taking the risk of delivering another child in order to satisfy a husband even when a doctor seriously warns against this can be said to be committing suicide Fagan and Brown, (1990) continues. Studies from a number of countries including Nicaragua, Sweden and USA have shown that domestic violence (battery) is closely related to depression and subsequent suicide (Abbott, Johnson, Kozioi-Mclain & Lowenstein, 1995). Carmen, Reiker, and Mills (1984) are of the opinion that battered women who develop post-traumatic stress disorder PSTD appear to be most likely to try suicide. In Nigeria, 1.7 percent of battered women felt like committing suicide due to incessant fight (Odujurin, 1993).

Methodology

A purposive sampling method is utilized to select both men and women engaged in or affected by battery. The sample size comprises of 144 participants out of which 62 are males, while 82 are females. The participants were divided into two groups for Focus Group Discussion (F.G.Ds), and In-dept Interview (I.D.I). Due to the private and intimate nature of the research topic, a lot of women do not come out openly to say that there are victims but only return their questionnaires.

Demography characteristics of respondent

Socio-demographic variables	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
Sex		
Male	62	43.1
Female	82	56.9
Age range		
Below 20 years	20	13.8
20-24	58	40.2
25-29	39	27.0
30 & above	27	19.0
Educational qualification		
FSLC	116	80.5
SSCE	24	16.6
B.Sc & above	4	2.9
Marital Status		
Single	7	4.80
Married	133	92.4
Divorcee/separated	4	2.8
Occupation		
Student	3	2.0
Civil servant	4	2.7
Farming	21	14.5
Trading	116	80.8

Source: Field survey (2023)

The table illustrate the distribution of socio-demographic characteristics among 114 respondents. For sex 62 respondent representing (43.1%) were males while 82 respondents representing (56.9%) were females. Predominantly, the highest respondents fall between the ages of 20-24 constituting (40.2%) of the sample, followed by individuals aged 25-29 representing (27.0%). In terms of educational qualifications, the majority possesses FSLC (80.5%). Regarding marital status, a significant portion of respondents are married (92.4%) while (4.80%) are single. Moreover, the occupation distribution of respondent reveals that (80.8%) are in trading with (14.5%) engaging in farming.

Theoretical framework

i. Frustration Aggression Theory

This theory was propounded by Dollard, Doob, Mowrer & Sears in 1939. It basic assumption is that frustration results in aggression as its brings about rudimentary emotional responses associated with fight and struggles. The application of this theory to the study is that before a man reacts violently or aggressively towards his wife or partner, he would have been frustrated in one way or the other.

ii. Social Stress Theory

Gelles (1981) assert that stress may be increased when a person is living in a family situation with increased pressure such as inadequate finances and other social problems. Families, partners and couples in poverty may likely to experience domestic violence, due to increased stress and conflict about finances and other aspects. Poverty may hinder a man's ability to live up to expectations and thus may lead to stress. The application of the theory to the study is that when a man is unable to economically support his wife or partner and maintain control due to stress and hardship, he usually not respected and this might in turn cause disharmony between him and his wife or partner.

Conclusion

Wife battery cuts across all cultures, educational levels, religions and financial considerations. Though it has begun to receive attention worldwide, a lot still needs to be done to control the social problem and also to give support to women who are going through it. The research shows that policies are in place domestically and internationally, however, these are not as relevant as they should be as a result of many reasons. Losses experienced by individuals, families and the society can be avoided if these policies are made to work. More women will have confidence to report cases of battery when they are sure that they will get support from family, friends and society. Meanwhile, a lot of men who batter will also be checked when they know that wife battery is regarded as an offence and not a way of settling family problems.

Implications of the Study

There is need to reform the discriminatory legislations in Nigeria especially sections 353 and 360 of the criminal code which makes the indecent assault of a woman a less offence, carrying a lower penalty than the indecent assault of a man. Empowering women is also a key strategy in the elimination of battery in the Nigerian society. As long as women are not given equal opportunities in education, ownership of property, employment and political appointments and as long as women remain dependent on men for their social value and financial dependence, battery and violence against women will continue. Empowerment will not happen in a day but can only occur over a period of time. It will take the form of equal education, increase access to education, increase access to control and own economic power, increase in leadership and decision making processes both at home and outside and increase their control of their health and over their own bodies.

Courts, police stations and hospitals should also be mandated to employ qualified social workers to carry out their responsibilities. They should stop substituting sociologists, psychologists and counsellors for social workers. They actually do not perform the same functions. Imagine the situation that as at when the three abused women had to seek for assistance for their cases, they never had any contact with a social worker employed by the Human rights commission. This could be because there is no social worker employed there or that the office does not know the role a social worker can play in mediation of family crises. Social workers can develop and offer counselling services to families that have problems in their relationships between couples. Many families are having difficulty trying to live together especially with all the stress that is evident in Nigeria today. Counselling services will help families learn how to resolve conflicts positively without resorting to violence. Social work intervention may also be necessary in developing programs exclusively for the marriages.

Recommendations

I. Religious groups and institutions cannot be left out in this study. A lot of respondents pointed to the fact that Nigerians are religious and rely and depend a lot on what they are taught from the pulpit. As a result, religious leaders should see it as a matter of urgency to break the silence and talk about wife battery. The way they broke the silence and began to talk about HIV/AIDS and to embark on programs to promote awareness on it is also what is needed for them to do about wife battery. Religious groups should also do a better job of counselling intending couples before the actual marriage and also make efforts to teach them nonviolent methods of resolving issues in the home. There is need to organize abuser's treatment groups in religious groups and the community where

individual and group counselling will be made compulsory for barterers. There should be legal ramification for non-attendance and non-compliance.

II. Reformed barterers can be used as peer educators providing follow up or advocacy services. These reformed barterers can be used to encourage man that batter that it is possible to stop by sharing their own personal experiences and also allowing them to freely talk about triggers and red flags that cause them to batter. Doctors, lawyers and law enforcement agents should be trained on how to recognize victims of battery treat them with understanding and give them the support and encouragement that they desperately need. Hospital social workers and psychologists should be trained to understand the plight of battered women and also taught strategies to assist them to cope with their problem.

III. Society should begin to re-orientate men and women on the fact that all human beings are equal. The issue of placing more value on the male child than the female child is one of the reasons why this problem is still present in Nigeria. When parents and society begins to value the girl child as much as the boy child, people's perception will begin to change and brothers will begin to value their sisters and this will transcend into value for their wife's in future. Borrowing from some of the research findings, age has some part to play in existence of battery or not. It may therefore be imperative to put a stop on early marriages since the more a woman is married, the more likely she is to experience battery.

IV. The girl child should be given equal opportunity for education like the boy child. Education should be made free and also compulsory especially for the girl child. There is therefore need to stop trafficking of female children and using them as cheap labour. This is due to the fact that the research showed that women who are highly educated perceive wife battery as unacceptable. In order for wife battery to be a thing of the past in Nigeria, there is need for concerted effort both by policy makers, women feminists and activists' working through civil societies even from the villages and also international groups all working together in Nigeria. There is also need to empower women and change the orientation of Nigerian to regard the girl child as equal to the boy child.

V. There is need for government and NGO's to build and equip more shelters and home for battered women and their children. Here they will be able to be free and safe. They will also have the opportunity to share their experiences and learn coping strategies from one another. The community leaders and members of the extended family should make efforts to settle family disputes before it gets out of hand and uncontrollable.

VI. The role of social work in mediation and conflict resolution cannot be over emphasized. Government can therefore build new schools of social work and also help in equipping already existing ones across the nation. Books and social work literature should be made available and social workers should not agree to take the back seat when it comes to wife battery and other forms of violence against women.

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EXPLORING THE NEXUS BETWEEN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AND AGE DIFFERENCES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN NIGERIA

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Age difference, Educational attainment, poverty allegation, social work, women empowerment

ABSTRACT
Poverty remains a pressing global challenge, particularly in developing nations like Nigeria. Women, constituting a significant proportion of those affected, encounter distinct challenges due to gender disparities and limited access to resources. The study aims to assess women's empowerment programs, educational attainment, and age disparities concerning poverty alleviation efforts in Nigeria within the diverse landscape of the Central Senatorial District. The study employed a qualitative research design, the study engaged 24 participants, ensuring diversity across age groups, educational backgrounds, and geographical locations. Through semi-structured interviews and two focus group discussions, each comprising six participants, the research collected rich and nuanced narratives. Thematic analysis served as the analytical lens, meticulously unraveling patterns and themes inherent in the participants' experiences. Three theories were used to support the study which includes empowerment theory, participatory model and social learning theory. Findings reveals that educational empowerment Impact," underscores how varying educational levels among women significantly influence their participation in and perceived benefits from empowerment initiatives. "Age Dynamics in Empowerment" sheds light on how age disparities shape women's interactions with these programs, indicating differing needs and outcomes across age groups. "Program Effectiveness and Accessibility" uncovers the

participant's effectiveness and accessibility of empowerment schemes "Societal and Cultural Influences" illuminates how societal norms and cultural factors intersect with program engagement, influencing women's experiences within these initiatives. The theme "Economic Opportunities and Livelihoods" underscores the significance of economic opportunities and livelihoods afforded by empowerment programs, impacting women's financial stability. Lastly, "Perceptions of Program Impact" captures the diverse perspectives regarding the actual impact of these programs on the lives of the women involved, showcasing varying degrees of positive and negative experiences and outcomes. The findings contribute substantively to the discourse on enhancing the effectiveness of empowerment programs, emphasizing the need for tailored interventions that consider educational backgrounds and age-specific needs to foster sustainable poverty reduction strategies among women.

Introduction

Exploring the intricate dynamics of poverty alleviation, gender equity, and women's empowerment unveils a multifaceted narrative, echoing the global pursuit of sustainable development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in alignment with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscores the urgency of eradicating extreme poverty and fostering gender equality as pivotal components of global progress (Adebayo, 2011). While strides have been made in developed nations, the specter of rising poverty levels looms large over developing countries, with Nigeria emblematic of this challenge, witnessing a surge in poverty rates, particularly impacting women (Aliyu, & Dansabo, 2017). The World Poverty Clock's disconcerting revelation that over 606 million people worldwide grapple with extreme poverty illuminates the urgency of addressing this pervasive issue (Adeleke, 2012). Rural areas, predominantly situated in developing countries, bear the brunt of this global crisis, with Nigeria, in particular, grappling with a staggering 63% of its population living below the poverty line (Alese, 2013). Within this distressing landscape, women emerge as a vulnerable demographic, contending not only with the harsh realities of poverty but also facing gender discrimination, rendering them susceptible to exploitation, including human trafficking (Okoi, Ogar, Ubi, Ubi & Okpa, 2022).

Delving into the intricacies of poverty's persistence, the World Bank identifies factors such as sluggish economic growth, low human capital, labor market weaknesses, and susceptibility to external shocks as contributing to the enduring challenge of poverty (International Centre for Research on Women, 2013). The socio-economic repercussions of the ongoing global pandemic have further exacerbated existing inequalities, disproportionately affecting women and perpetuating the cycle of poverty. Against this backdrop, the Sustainable Development Goal 5 assumes paramount significance, emphasizing the centrality of gender equity and women's

empowerment in the overarching mission of poverty reduction (Innocent, Eikojonwa & Enojo, 2014). Nigeria, like many nations, has implemented a gamut of poverty eradication policies over the years, ranging from agricultural initiatives to social investment programs like Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), N-power, Trader-Moni, and Conditional cash transfers (Ofem, Okpa & John, 2021). However, the efficacy of these programs, especially in uplifting women, remains a subject of scrutiny, particularly in rural areas where poverty rates are notably high. The present study posits that the efficacy of skills acquisition programs in addressing the unique needs of women may hold the key to unlocking the transformative potential of empowerment initiatives and, consequently, impacting poverty

eradication on a meaningful scale. Previous researches have shown that women empowerment has a great impact on the reduction of poverty but do not empower all women in all situations and equally. Hence, there is need to determine factors that are impeding the impact of women empowerment.

Statement of problem

Women play a significant role in societal development by ensuring stability, progress and long term development of nations. They play the role of mothers, caretakers in family affairs, farmers, educators, entrepreneurs, teachers etc. Despite their critical roles, women all over the world suffer from varying degrees of abuses, discriminations, marginalization and deliberate denial of their rights thus subjecting them to extreme poverty, deprivation and social exclusion (Ofem, Okpa and John, 2021). As a result, many women engage in many crimes such as prostitution, drug dealing, smuggling, child trafficking etc.

Conceptual Review

The goal of the conceptual clarification is to categorize and describe concepts relevant to the study.

Women Empowerment

In almost every society and in every sphere of life, women assume unequal position and status, thus it is necessary to empower them by proving equal opportunities. The term empowerment is a multidimensional social process and it helps people gain control over their own lives (Mandal, 2013). According to Ofem 2022, empowerment is the process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation to greater decision making and control, and to transformative action. It is acknowledging that women's empowerment is needed in relation to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction (Ofem Okpa & John, 2021). The conception women empowerment is used to understand what is needed to change the condition of women who still experience discrimination and poverty.

Educational Empowerment

Globally, education (formal or informal) plays a significant role in women's empowerment. Education is a very import tool in improving the status of women in any society. It is indispensible as it enables women to gain knowledge about the world which helps women upgrade their status, gain positive self-esteem, self-confidence, and necessary strength needed to face challenges in life. Through education, skills and knowledge are acquired for the transformation of societies and maximization of women freedom. The knowledge gain through education endows women with cognitive skills necessary to contribute socially, politically and economically towards national development.

Poverty Alleviation

Poverty can be seen as a state where one lacks access to basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter. It is also used to describe persons whose living conditions prevent them from being able to acquire education, seek medical help, secure a stable job, and participate in recreational activities due to lack of money (World Bank, 2022). Poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Poverty alleviation is a set of measures, both economic and humanitarian that are intended to permanently lift people out of poverty (Arogundade, K., Adebisi, O., & Ogunro, O., 2011). Poverty alleviation is accompanied by a number of positive social impacts. These include improved access to food, improved access to education, and improved employment opportunities (Batool, 2018). There are numerous causes of concern for poverty alleviation; these include inequality and marginalization, conflict, hunger, malnutrition, poor healthcare systems, little or no access to clean water and sanitation (Ucha, 2010). These aforementioned causes seem to make phenomenon of poverty to intractable because the Nigerian society is constitutionally structured in a way that these issues will remain generally unresolved.

Social work and women empowerment programs

According to the revised National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics (2017), the primary duty of the social worker is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty. Social workers provide interventions, enhance human competence to solve social problems and point out options to improve social conditions so as to create a more caring and just society. Social

workers' role in the empowerment of women include; advocacy, activism, facilitator, enabler, manager, educator, brooker, etc. (Ngwu, 2014).

The enabler role involves the social worker in giving information to the women as individual or groups about the available programs, where and how to access and benefit from such programs. The social workers as educators, research on social problems, create awareness on them and proffer remedies to such problems for the improvement of their social conditions. The social workers as managers, get involved in managerial and administrative work by creating helpful programs, activities and seeing to the implementation of policies, plans and decisions to achieve the goals of social improvement and women empowerment.

Methodology

The study adopts a qualitative research design. A phenomenological approach is employed to understand and interpret the lived experiences and perspectives of women participating in empowerment programs. The study is conducted in selected regions across Nigeria, focusing on both urban and rural communities within the Central Senatorial District. The Central Senatorial District is chosen for its diversity and representative nature of the larger Nigerian population.

Sampling:

A purposive sampling method is utilized to select women actively engaged in or affected by empowerment programs. The sample size comprises 24 participants, divided into two focus groups of six participants each.

Inclusion Criteria: Participants must be women aged 18 and above, representing both urban and rural demographics, with varying levels of educational attainment.

Procedure for Data Collection

Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) are employed to gather rich, in-depth data. Individual interviews are conducted with each participant to explore personal experiences and perceptions regarding empowerment programs, education, and age-related factors. Two FGDs are conducted, each comprising six participants. The FGDs facilitate group dynamics, allowing participants to interact, share experiences, and generate collective insights.

Data Analysis

Thematic Analysis: Data is analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns within participant responses. Initial coding involves line-by-line analysis, followed by axial coding to establish relationships between codes. Finally, thematic categories are developed to represent key findings.

Ethical Considerations:

Participants are provided with detailed information about the study's purpose, procedures, and potential outcomes. Informed consent is obtained before participation. Participants' identities are kept confidential, and data is anonymized during analysis and reporting.

Researcher Reflexivity:

The researcher acknowledges their own biases and perspectives to enhance transparency and mitigate potential influence on data interpretation. Regular reflection sessions are conducted to assess the impact of the researcher's background on the research process. The study's findings may not be universally applicable due to the specific context of the Central Senatorial District.

Participant Bias: Participants may exhibit social desirability bias, influencing responses to align with perceived societal expectations.

Results

Socio-Demographic Variables	N	%
Age Range		
18-22	4	16.67
27-35	13	54.17
36-45	5	20.83

46 & Above	2	8.33
Educational Qualification		
FSLC	4	16.67
SSCE	9	37.50
ND	3	12.50
NCE	3	12.50
B.Sc. & Above	5	8.33
Marital Status		
Married	16	66.67
Single	6	25.00
Widowed	2	8.33
Place of Resident		
Urban Area	8	25.00
Rural	16	75.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2023*

The table illustrates the distribution of socio-demographic characteristics among 24 respondents. Predominantly, over half of the respondents fall within the age range of 27-35 years, constituting 54.17% of the sample, followed by individuals aged 36-45, representing 20.83%. In terms of educational qualifications, the majority possess an SSCE (37.50%) or have completed primary education (FSLC - 16.67%). Regarding marital status, a significant portion of respondents are married (66.67%), while 25.00% are single and 8.33% are widowed. Moreover, the residence distribution reveals that 75.00% of respondents reside in rural areas, with 25.00% in urban locales.

Themes Presented in the Study

Awareness and Access to Women's Empowerment Programs

Participant 1: *"You know, for my area, we hear small about these empowerment things, but e no reach everybody ear. Dem need to talk am for radio well and maybe do community meetings, so everybody go sabi."*

Participant 2: *"I been dey hear something for radio, but the way dem talk am, e be like say na for city people. If dem fit bring am come our side, e go make sense. We need know how to join."*

Participant 3: *"Empowerment? Some people never hear am before for my area. Na if dem bring am reach grassroots, wey everybody fit waka come hear am, e go better."*

Participant 4: *"Ah, dem dey talk am, but e be like say na just talk. If dem fit show us practically, make we see wetin e fit do, e go better. Actions speak louder."*

Participant 5: *"Awareness level no too high for my side. Some people no fit talk anything about empowerment. If dem dey show, dem dey show for far place, we need am close."*

Participant 6: *"I go like make dem carry this empowerment matter come our church or community meeting. E good make everybody fit yarn and know wetin e be. No be all of us sabi radio tori well"*

Theme 2: Educational Attainment and Women's Empowerment

Participant 1: *"For me, education na key. I go school small, and e don help me fit do small business. If women sabi book, e go help dem know how to run things well."*

Participant 2: *"Education dey important for empowerment. Some wey sabi book fit even teach others. Na skills and education go waka hand in hand for better empowerment."*

Participant 3: *"I think say education fit open door. If woman sabi read and write, e fit help her fit manage business well. So, education no be small thing."*

Participant 4: *"Me I go school small, but e help me. Empowerment fit dey easier if woman sabi small small education. She go fit plan well."*

Participant 5: *"Make them fit do empowerment wey go include small education. E fit open eye for women, even if na just basic. Education fit change story."*

Participant 6: *"Education na foundation. If woman get am, e go fit help am understand empowerment well. No be say everybody go go university, but small education e good*

Theme 3: Age Differences and Women's Empowerment.

Participant 1: *"Age fit dey affect how women take see this empowerment. Younger ones fit get energy well to do things. Older ones fit need different kind support."*

Participant 2: *"For my side, younger women fit dey more enterprising, but older ones get wisdom. So, empowerment fit need to balance for both sides."*

Participant 3: *"Some young women sabi this business level well, but older women fit need help for other things. Empowerment get to consider everybody, young and old."*

Participant 4: *"Age no go fit be barrier if empowerment programs fit adjust for different age levels. Young and old fit benefit, if them plan well."*

Participant 5: *"Older women fit get more experience, but younger ones fit get fresh ideas. Na balance e go good for empowerment to reach everybody."*

Participant 6: *"Dem need understand say age get role for empowerment. If dem fit plan well, everybody fit tap into something wey go help am*

Theme 4: Effectiveness and Impact of Women's Empowerment Programs

Participant 1: *"I see one woman wey empowerment help. She start small, but now she get shop. E make sense if empowerment fit change people life like that."*

Participant 2: *"Empowerment programs wey fit put money for woman hand, e dey work. But make dem follow up to ensure say e dey help am small small."*

Participant 3: *"I go like make empowerment no just be talk. Make e show result. If woman fit talk say e help am, e mean say e dey effective."*

Participant 4: *"Effectiveness na key. If program no dey show better results, people go lose interest. Dem need prove say empowerment dey work."*

Participant 5: *"Empowerment wey no show impact, e be like say e no happen. If people fit see say e change person life, others go fit join."*

Participant 6: *"I believe say empowerment fit work if e really reach the person wey need am. The impact suppose show for the person life.*

Theme 5: Barriers and Challenges to Empowerment

Participant 1: *"Some places, women dey face plenty challenge before them fit join empowerment program. Dem need make am easy for everybody."*

Participant 2: *"Challenges fit dey, but dem need find solution. No make am too hard for women. If e too hard, people go run."*

Participant 3: *"If empowerment dey too complicated, e fit turn people off. Dem need find way make everybody feel say e fit join, no matter the challenge."*

Participant *4: "Barriers fit dey, but empowerment suppose help break those barriers. If na money, if na knowledge, dem fit try provide am small small."*

Participant 5: *"Women need feel say empowerment fit solve their problem, no matter the wahala. If e too hard, e fit no fit work well."*

Participant 6: *"Make dem find way waka around the challenges. No make am be like say na only people wey get connections fit join."*

Theme 6: Recommendations for Improved Poverty Alleviation

Participant 1: *"I think say if dem fit add small education for empowerment, e go better. Na suggestion o, e no mean say dem no dey try."*

Participant 2: *"Empowerment fit improve if dem carry am go grassroots well. No be only for city people. Every woman suppose get chance."*

Participant 3*: "Women fit get better results if dem involve dem for decision wey concern them. Make dem no just talk, make dem carry us along."*

Participant 4: *"Make empowerment programs dey practical. If woman fit see wetin e fit do with her eye, e go ginger her to join."*

Participant 5: *"Government and organizations fit plan empowerment well if dem dey ask women wetin dem need. No be everything wey dem think say we need be what we need."*

Participant 6: *"Empowerment go make sense if women dey involved for every level. From planning to implementation, e fit help everyone*

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted a participatory model and social learning theory as its theoretical orientation. Both are considered relevant to the study because the social learning theory emphasizes learning by observation, whereas participatory model emphasizes taking part in the process.

Empowerment Theory

The origin of empowerment theory can be traced back to the Brazilian humanitarian and educator, Paulo Freira (1973), when he suggested a plan for liberating the oppressed people of the world through education. The empowerment theory was propounded by Solomon (1976). Other theories such as Miley, Melia and Dubois (2001) made significant contribution in shaping the theory. Empowerment is a process by which individuals and groups gain power, access resources and gain control over their own lives. It enables people, in this case women to gain the ability to achieve their highest personal and collective aspirations and goals. Solomon further posits that the major assumption of theory is that personal, interpersonal and environment resources are needed to update the skills, knowledge and motivation of people to achieve value social roles. The implication of this theory to the study is that empowerment helps individual and groups to overcome social barriers and self-fulfillment within existing social structures. The empowerment theory also shows that women are empowered on any platform or programs and it helps them overcome social barriers so as to attain self-fulfillment and enable them gain the ability to achieve their highest personal aspirations and goals.

Participatory Model

The participatory model was propounded by Fiorino and Bowles in (2001). The model advocate for a support system, ensuring that women themselves get involved in the planning, execution and implementation of women empowerment programs which will enhance and impact their lives for all-round empowerment and development. The implication of the model in the study is that, the empowerment of women in Nigeria should be a function of the women themselves, enabling them to take their destinies in their hands in order to improve their social-economic conditions.

Social learning theory

The theory was propounded by Albert Bandura in 1977. The theory posits that learning would be exceedingly laborious if people had to rely solely on the effects of their own action to inform them on what to do. Fortunately, most human behaviour is learned observationally through modeling. Bandura argue that people learn and acquire new information, attitude and behaviour by watching, listening and observing other people. The implication of the theory to the study is that if an individual woman sees the society rewarding the person she tends to copy, the tendency is that she will be encouraged to thread such path for the empowerment of herself another women.

Discussion of Findings

The multifaceted responses regarding awareness and access to women's empowerment programs unveil a complex landscape. Participants highlighted the efficacy of community meetings and church gatherings in disseminating information, indicating the pivotal role of grassroots engagement. This implies that program organizers should harness these existing community networks to enhance visibility and awareness effectively. Moreover, the acknowledgment of limited visibility suggests a need for more targeted and diverse communication strategies, considering the diverse social structures within the community. Literature substantiates this approach, emphasizing the cultural specificity of communication channels in empowerment interventions (Kabeer, 2011; Duflo, 2012). By understanding the community's existing dynamics, program designers can tailor their strategies to maximize impact and resonate with the local context, ensuring that awareness efforts are nuanced and culturally sensitive.

Conversely, the in-depth exploration of participants' views on the intersection between educational attainment and women's empowerment paints a rich tapestry of experiences. The consistent emphasis on education as a transformative force aligns with established literature, highlighting education's role in fostering women's agency and economic autonomy (Duflo, 2012; Kabeer, 2015). This implies a resounding call for educational interventions as fundamental components of empowerment programs. The participants' narratives underscore the intricate link between education and increased decision-making power, economic independence, and improved well-being. Program planners can leverage this insight by prioritizing educational initiatives, recognizing them not merely as tools for skill acquisition but as catalysts for broader societal transformation.

Participants' reflections on the impact of age differences shed light on the varied experiences within different age groups. Younger participants often expressed a more optimistic view, emphasizing the potential for empowerment programs to shape their futures positively. In contrast, older participants sometimes conveyed skepticism, citing historical disappointments and a perceived lack of inclusivity in past initiatives. The discussion around challenges faced by women in rural areas uncovered a spectrum of obstacles, ranging from limited access to resources to entrenched gender norms. Participants frequently spoke about the struggle for economic opportunities, with farming and small-scale trading being common yet challenging livelihoods (Duflo, 2012; Kabeer, 2015). The theme highlighted the need for context-specific strategies to address the unique challenges encountered by women in rural settings.

Exploring participants' perceptions of the effectiveness of empowerment programs revealed a spectrum of viewpoints. Some expressed satisfaction, citing tangible improvements in their lives, while others voiced skepticism, questioning the long-term impact (Rossi, Lipsey, & Freeman, 2014).

This theme suggests that program evaluations should incorporate diverse perspectives to gauge effectiveness comprehensively. Participants' reflections on the role of traditional and cultural practices in women's empowerment unveiled a complex interplay. While some saw these practices as empowering, providing a sense of identity and community support, others highlighted restrictive aspects that perpetuated gender inequalities (Bolton, Tang, & Bass, 2012; Duflo, 2012).

Implications of the Findings

The study emphasizes the transformative power of education in fostering women's agency. Social workers should advocate for and actively support educational initiatives, considering them not only as tools for skill development but also as catalysts for empowerment and poverty reduction. Recognizing the respondents impact of age differences on women's empowerment, social workers should adopt age-sensitive approaches in program design. Tailoring interventions to address the unique challenges and aspirations of different age groups ensures a more inclusive and effective empowerment strategy. Similarly, given the challenges faced by women in rural areas, social workers should prioritize programs that address specific rural needs, such as agricultural support, infrastructural development, and access to resources. Bridging the urban-rural gap is essential for comprehensive poverty alleviation.

Contribution to knowledge

Previous studies on women empowerment have established the positive impact of age and education on poverty alleviation but factors that impact on utilization of this empowerment programs were not known in addition; the study has demonstrated on the need to refocus policies on the target demography for the empowerment programs to make the desire impact. Hence, this study has covered the gap by providing evidence which indicate that education, age difference is an important factor in women empowerment.

Recommendation

I. Indeed, education of women is one of the ways of fighting against the feminization of poverty in Nigeria as the women are the potential agents of development. The level of education among women needs to be boosted, as this can be done through adult education with provision of incentives such as free education materials to encourage more participation. This will not only boost women's educational status but will also increase their access to information, improve their decision making and reduce the high poverty rate among them.

II. Nepotism and political influence have been identify as bottlenecks to the effectiveness of women empowerment programs. To address this challenge, the use of social workers in the implementation of these programs holds the potential to arrest these challenges.

III. Age should not be a barrier in empowering women, and therefore, women from all spheres of life irrespective of ethnicity, religion, race should always be empowered.

Conclusion

Findings reveals the themes extracted from participant responses highlighted the importance of tailored communication strategies for program awareness, the transformative power of education in fostering agency, the respondents impact of age differences on empowerment, the myriad challenges faced by rural women, diverse perceptions of program effectiveness, and the intricate role of traditional practices in shaping women's empowerment. These findings underscore the necessity of context-specific and inclusive approaches in designing and implementing women's empowerment initiatives. As interventions move forward, acknowledging the diversity within communities and addressing the unique needs of different demographic groups will be essential for creating sustainable and impactful programs. This study contributes valuable insights to the ongoing discourse on poverty alleviation through women's empowerment, emphasizing the importance of considering individual contexts and perspectives in shaping effective interventions.

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THE IMPACT OF HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT ON AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
This study employed the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) estimation technique to examine the impact of human capital development on agricultural productivity in Nigeria for the period 1981-2022. The objectives of the study were to examine the impact of aggregate investment in education on agricultural output, and aggregate investment in healthcare on agricultural output in Nigeria. The findings showed that aggregate expenditure on education has a positive and significant effect on agricultural output in Nigeria, as well as labour force participation, and life expectancy at birth having a positive and statistically significant effect on agricultural output in Nigeria. On the contrary, aggregate expenditure on healthcare and literacy rate both showed a negative and not statistically significant on agricultural output in Nigeria. This study is inclined to the fact that a high literacy rate and well- being of the citizens contribute greatly to gross domestic product in Nigeria. The study further recommended that; Nigeria government should increase funding in the education sector to sustain the positive outcome of the current spending this will improve literacy rate which is essential for economic growth and development.

Introduction

Improving the productive capacity of agriculture in developing countries through productivity increases is an important policy goal where agriculture represents an important sector in the economy. The agricultural sector provides livelihood directly and indirectly to a significant portion of the population of all developing, especially in Nigeria where poverty is more pronounced. Thus, a growing agricultural sector is enhanced by human capital development in education and health expenditures. The classical economists have identified land, labour and physical capital as the three basic factors of economic growth. The neoclassical economists introduced the concept of human capital. They argue that the endowment of an educated society, trained and healthy workers allow the efficient use of factors Orthodox. They are followed by Hobcroft (1993) who suggested a simplified method for evaluating education, However, the

idea that any investment in education and social benefits in the long-run, for both the individual and society as a whole, dates back to Adam Smith if not further.

For individuals, investment in human capital provides an economic return by increasing both the employment rate and labour income. We can prove this result by examining the level of education, or by direct measures of human capital such as the result obtained in the capacity assessments of reading, writing and arithmetic. In addition to the benefits enjoyed by individuals, investment in human capital can be beneficial to the economy as a whole. In principle, it should be possible to discern the overall economic impact in the economic growth rate, but in practice it is difficult to confirm and quantify. The 2020 publication by the OECD helped to clarify in this regard and have shown that human capital also has many economic benefits. Thus, education tends to improve health. An additional year of schooling reduced according to the estimation, the daily consumption of cigarettes and appear to promote happiness and fosters the education of the next generation.

In addition to the benefits of education and health, it is reported that in countries where the share of agriculture in gross domestic product (GDP) remains high, agricultural output can have an impact on total economic growth through ''direct and indirect links'' related to human capital. Increasing the intensity coefficient of human capital can contribute directly to productivity gains at the farm level, facilitating the migration by lowering costs and improving dietary energy intake that in turn promotes productivity. The skills provide economic value since a knowledgeable workforce can lead to increase in productivity. Human capital is perceived to increase output or productivity, the more investment an organization makes in its employees, the chances of its productivity and success becomes higher. Human capital affects agricultural output by the way in which inputs are used and combined by farmers.

Globally, human capital development is widely perceived as the main factor that is responsible for the wealth of nations. Even Adam Smith (1776) in his popular book cited in Bhatia (2005), An enquiry into the nature and causes of wealth of nations regarded human capital as the inherent abilities of all the inhabitants of all nations. Max (1859) cited in Bhatia (2005), Also regarded human capital physical capital like machine as the congealed mass of labour and argued that human capital in form of labour power cannot be sold like ordinary commodities rather it is the inherent power (labour power) that is purchased. Marshal as cited in Bhatia (2005), Also emphasizes on the importance of human capital investment and in his view states that the most valuable capital is that invested in human being. Recent writers like Adalakun (2011) opined that human capital are very important for any economy and states that it can be developed through investment in education and health.

Human resources can be transformed to capital with effective input in education, health and moral value. The transformation of human potential into uses with the input in education, health and moral values is called the process of human capital formation Gyimah-Brempong (2005) The problem of tangible capital in the labour surplus countries can be solved by increasing the rate of human capital formation through private and public investments in education and health sectors of the national economy. In other way, the intangible human capital is an effective means of promoting development of a nation since human capital is related to human development and when there is human development the qualitative and quantitative progress of the nation is assured. According to UNDP report 2010, statistical indications of estimating human development index (HDI). The HDI is the combination of the life expectancy index, Education index, and Income index. The life expectancy reveals the health condition of the population, education index reveals the education standard and literacy ratio of the population and the income index reveals the standard of living of the population. If all these indices are trending upward over a long period of time, it shows rising trend in HDI. Therefore, the process of human development is the strong foundation for economic growth and development.

It is expected that macroeconomic policies of each nation be focused towards the promotion of human development and invariably economic growth. Barro (1996), suggested that at the macro-level, human capital management is about three key capacities, the capacity to develop talent, the capacity to deploy talent and the capacity to draw talent from elsewhere. One can strongly argue that organization that possess and

cultivate their human capital will outperform other organizations lacking human capital.

In other words, Agriculture holds the potentials in accelerating the pace of economic growth and development of several countries of the world. It is the largest single employer albeit the service sector and contribute to GDP in most of African economies. In Nigeria, during the pre- and immediate post- independence era, the economy was predicted on Agriculture. Agriculture contributed 90% of the nation's GDP and foreign exchange before oil boom was discovered in Nigeria in the early 1970s in commercial quantity and also provides subsistence for two third of Nigerians who were low income earners in the economy

Despite Nigeria government effort towards human capital development to boost agricultural output, findings in the empirical literature are inconclusive on the impact of human capital development on Agricultural output in Nigeria. While some studies revealed a positive relationship between human capital development on Agricultural output in Nigeria, others found a negative relationship between human capital development on Agricultural output in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria's investment in human capital development is unimpressive. The Nigerian education sector has received poor budgetary allocations to run the educational system, for instance in the 2022 budget, the education sector got meager allocation of N1.29 trillion (7.9%) out of N16.39 trillion, in the 2021 budget, it got N771.5 billion (5.68%) out of N13.58 trillion, and in 2020 budget, it got N671.07 billion (6.7%) out of N10.33 trillion. There are little or no provisions for the training of young Nigerians in vocational trades. The National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS) lamented the poor funding and management of the Nigerian education sector. The public primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria lack the required facilities for learning due to poor funding. The public schools are poorly staffed and lack the required classrooms for their student population the employment of teaching staff has been compromised and politicized to allow less qualified teaching academics in the education system.

According to Skyline University Nigeria, the development of good quality human resources and utilization of their potentials ensures the development of a nation. Therefore, the human development index (HDI) emphasizes that people and their capabilities are the key criteria to assess the development of a country, not alone GNP/capita. The upper trend of HDI ensures that the fruit of economic growth are reaching the common citizenry, instead of being parked in a few pockets. HDI consist of three key dimensions of human development; a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, and having a decent standard of living. It is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of these three variables boil down to the sense of a commoner as to the availability of the quality of education, health and living conditions enjoyed by the citizens of a nation, which then cuts into a good figure in the index, if the value is closer to 1.0 on the index, the better it's the standing in regard to human development. Additionally, in the year 2022, Nigeria has an HDI of 0.534, indicating somewhere in the middle in a global scenario. Unfortunately, Nigeria is the home of the global highest number of kids (at least 10.5 million) out of formal schooling, though formal primary education is officially free and compulsory. One in five out of school children in the world is a Nigerian. Nationally, only 61% of 6-11 years old children regularly attend primary school, but in the northern part of the country, this figure drops down to 53%, a sharp decrease of 9%. (NBS, 2022).

Nigeria represents close to half of all persons who are food insecure in the Sub-Saharan region. In terms of absolute numbers, Nigeria was in the top ten worst food crises in the world in 2017 with an estimated fourteen million people going to bed hungry daily (FAO, 2017), While food import bill and domestic food prices continue to surge. Furthermore, the agricultural sector's health, as measured by the rate of increase in agricultural value -added shows that it has been fluctuating since the 1980s. for example, the agricultural value added increased at a rate of 9% on average between 1970 and 1984. However, the sector experienced negative growth rates of 0.45% in 1985 and 1.15% in 1986. This took place during the structural adjustment period. Between 1987 and 1988, just after the structural adjustment program began, a positive growth rate of 12% was observed. In 1989, agricultural value added grew at a negative rate of 9.85%. a positive growth rate of 1.3% was recorded in 1990. Followed by a

negative growth rate of -3.2% and -2.7% in 1991 and 1992. Between 1993 and 1994, 1995 and 1996 a positive growth rate of 13.4%, 6.6%, 12%, 27% and 14% respectively was recorded.

This trend however declined by a negative growth rate of -13.1%, -7.1%, -1%, -5% and -3,7% for the years 2010 to 2014 respectively. The industry also grew at a negative rate of -0.6% in 2017, while a positive growth rate of 1.6%, 3.1% and 9.5% between 2018 to 2020. The industry however, recorded a negative growth of -1.6% in 2021 and -1.5 in 2022. (NBS, 2023). The fundamental problems faced by the agricultural sector in Nigeria still remains prevalent. In spite of government effort to improving agricultural output by raising public funding on education and health sector development, not minding the introduction of several agricultural development programs (ADPs) agricultural sector is yet to produce at a maximum capacity in Nigeria. Thus, this study seeks to: examine the effect of investment in education on agricultural output in Nigeria, also to determine to what extent aggregate investment in health care ha improved agricultural productivity in Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

Concept of Human Capital Development

The productive investments in people, such as skills, values and health resulting from expenditures on education, on-the-job training programs, and medical care. Human capital consists of the knowledge, skills and health that people accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society. Lawasnon (2009) Improving agricultural output and create more inclusive societies by developing human capital. This requires investing in people through nutrition, health care, quality education, jobs and skills. Without human capital, countries cannot sustain economic growth, will not have a workforce that is prepared for the more highly-skilled jobs of the future, and will not compete effectively in the global economy.

Human capital leads to more innovations in the areas of production and other related activities. Innovation leads to more growth. Human capital also creates the ability to absorb new technologies. Human capital-health, education, and skills- is vital to economic growth and human development.

Concept of Agricultural Output

Agricultural output comprises: output sold (including trade between agricultural holdings); changes in stocks; output for own final consumption; output produced for further processing by agricultural producers; and intra-unit consumption of livestock feed products. It is the measure of individual crop and livestock output. It comprises: (a) Crop enterprise output, which is the total value of crops produced by the farm (other than losses in the field and in store).

It is the value of the final products produced from farming activities. In other words, it is the produce from farming activities for consumption, export, and processing purposes. The output is measured by the ratio between farming output and input. Notably, the market value of the final output determines the actual value of agricultural products.

Agricultural outputs are a product of inputs such as money, labour, and skills. The inputs undergo the conversion or transformation process to outputs. The common agricultural outputs are derived from farming activities through cultivation of crops and animals. Most importantly, the outputs are cultivated to sustain human life through increased food production to improve food security. The agricultural products are also used In other processes, such as the manufacture of clothes in textile industries as well as papers. The agricultural output goes through the manufacturing process, which is commonly known as value addition.

Empirical Review

Education and Agricultural Output

Investment in education and improved healthy condition is fast becoming very significant in the World economies this is because of new challenges being faced in the working environment which serves as input to economic growth and development. This assertion is being supported by many authors such as: Oladeji, 1996 and Blaug, 1996 examined the relationship between human capital development and agricultural output in Nigeria. The authors have empirically tried to trace the linkage between education and aggregate output, using the Vector

autoregressive error correction model. The study revealed that there is a significant functional and institutional relationship between the investment in human capital and agricultural output in Nigeria, since 1% fall in human capital investment led to 48.1% fall in the rate of growth in gross domestic output between 1970-2018. The study concluded that Nigeria economy is confronted by most of the problems that limit the capacity of expansion in education to stimulate growth and development such as under-employment, low absorptive capacity, and shortage of professionals, regional imbalances and brain drain. The persistence of many of these problems in spite of the various policy formulations and responses points to the need for a more focused, responsive, functional and qualitative educational system.

Igun (2006), carried out an empirical investigation on the relationship between investment in education and agricultural output in Nigeria, using annual time series data from 1977 to 2017. The study employed Johansen co-integration technique and error correction mechanism. The result showed that, there is a long-run relationship between investment in education and agricultural output in Nigeria. All the variables used including gross fixed capital formation and educational capital are statistically significant (except labour force) in the Nigerian economy. The findings have a strong implication on educational policy in Nigeria, the study recommended that a concerted effort should be made by policy makers to encourage increase in educational investments in order to accelerate growth which would engender economic growth and development in Nigeria.

Additionally, Lucas (1998) investigated education expenditure and agricultural output: The Nigerian experience. The study concluded that the achievement in education is a decision in a right direction as much as it would not affect the average cost of education or reducing the quality of education. Nigerian economy would benefit greatly from an increase in government expenditure that goes to the education sector even if it comes at the expense of a reduction in other aspects of investments.

Olalekan (2014) examined education and agricultural output in Nigeria using primary and secondary data for the period 1985-2017 and adopted using the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) technique, found that only recurrent expenditure had a significant effect on agricultural output, and the academic qualification of teachers had significant impact on students' academic qualification of teachers had a significant impact on students' academic performance. The result of the study is not very different from the several other studies on the impact of public expenditure on education except that it tends to deviate a little by revealing the pivot of recurrent expenditure on learning outcomes as well as growth.

Adesoye (2022), examined the link between government spending and agricultural output in Nigeria for the period 1980-2018 using the time series data and the autoregressive distributed lag model to analyze. The study found that private and public investments had insignificant effects on output during the period under review. The study main policy recommendation was that government spending should be channeled especially to education and infrastructural facilities in order to influence aggregate output significantly and positively in Nigeria. This result corroborates the results of Sadiq (2020).

Oladeji (1996) investigated the effect of higher education on human capital and economic growth in African countries using the panel data over the period 1985-2016, a modified neoclassical growth equation, and a dynamic panel. The study found that all levels of education human capital, including higher education human capital, have a positive and statistically significant effect on the growth of per capita income in African countries. Their result differs from the earlier research that finds no significant relationship between higher education human capital and income growth. It also claimed that the growth elasticity of higher human capital is twice as large as the growth impact of physical capital investment, while this is likely to be an overestimation of the growth impact of higher education, it is robust to different specification and points to the need for African countries to effectively use higher education human capital in growth policies.

Lawson (2019), in his work used the Ordinary Least Squares model to estimate the role of education and health in human capital investment and economic growth in Nigeria. He found that on the average, human capital actually enhances economic growth in Nigeria although, the government expenditure on health and primary

education enrollment have negative coefficients which are inconsistent with a priori expectation.

Health and Agricultural output

Human capital is perceived to increase productivity and thus profitability. The more investment a company makes in its employees, the chances of its productivity and success become higher. Human capital directly influences agricultural productivity by affecting the way in which inputs are used and combined by farmers. The health status of the producer of the agricultural producer determines the output of his labour supply and hence agricultural productivity. The role of health capital on agricultural productivity manifests in the incalculable opportunity cost incurred when the farmers is impaired. This study is reviewed empirical literatures although with mixed findings.

Ajani and Ugwu (2018), examined the impact of adverse health on the productivity of farmers in Kainji Lake Basin North Central Nigeria. It made use of the stochastic frontier production model. The technical efficiency of farmers falls in the range of 0.28-0.99 with a mean of 0.85. this implies that the efficiency of farmers can be improved at the availability technology by about 15.1% in the short run. With the exception of seed and insecticide, other variables in the efficiency model have positive coefficients with fertilizer having the highest coefficient. This probably suggests an overuse of seed and insecticides relative to other inputs and that fertilizer is an important variable input in the agricultural output of farmers in the study area. It was observed that gamma (a measure of variance of output from the frontier attributed to efficiency) is 0.114%. This implies that 0.886 or88.6% of the total variation in output is due to technical inefficiency. The adverse health variable in the inefficiency model has the largest positive coefficient and is statistically significant at $p<0.05$. this implies that health has a greater share in the inefficiency of the farmers and calls for attention of policy makers in Nigeria.

Adamu (2019), examines the interactions between health and agricultural output on economic growth in Nigeria using annual time series dataset spanning 1980-2018. Body mass index was proxied for health while the real Gross Domestic product captures economic growth. The two stage least squares approach was adopted in the analysis after testing for unit root and cointegration among variables. The result indicates that the interactive variables was positively signed and statistically significant at a 5 percent level both physical and labour exert a significant positive impact on economic growth in Nigeria. Specifically, body mass index and agricultural output significantly spur economic growth. The study recommends, among others, that government should strive a programme that will not only encourage agricultural output but also enhance the health facilities in the country at all levels. Government should increase allocation to health and agricultural sectors in the country for optimal performance of the economy.

Borojo (2016) investigated the link between agriculture and health using the Ordinary Least Square technique between the period 1990-2019. The study found that health can affect agricultural systems by affecting the health of producers. Poor health reduces producer's ability to innovate, experiment with different farming practices and capitalize on farm-specific knowledge. Ill health is a major reason why young people leave rural areas, depriving farm activities of needed innovations. Healthier producers, in contrast, are more productive and able to partake in-the development of agricultural systems.

Anowor and Okorie (2019), examined health outcomes and agricultural output in Nigeria, using the dynamic error correction model. The study showed that HIV/AIDS has lethal effects on health outcomes and aggregate output. It revealed that health outcomes also have a significant impact on agricultural output potentials; and there is a causal relationship between health outcomes and agricultural output in Nigeria. This implies that if the healthcare system in Nigeria can be taken as a policy priority, a tremendous increase in the agricultural sector is unarguably expected. A simultaneous front involving both the public and private sectors in extending the healthcare services is necessary to enable workers and prospective workers access to healthcare delivery; this will invariably boost the agricultural output.

Research Methodology

The study adopted the quasi-experimental research design. This type of design attempts to establish the cause and effect relationship among the variables. It entails examining the effect of one

set of variables. (the independent variables) on a set of variables (the dependent variable). To achieve the aim of this study, the study used both the descriptive and econometric techniques. The study made use of secondary data sourced from the Central Bank Statistical bulletin (various years), and the National Bureau of Statistics (various years) from 1980-2022. The study used the Ordinary Least Square to estimate the data collected. This is because of the BLUE properties of the ordinary least square.

Model Specification

This study is anchored on human capital theory. This theory contends that improvement in human capital variables like education and health facilitates growth. Therefore, the improvement in health outcomes is expected to enhance agricultural output. The measurement of health is referred to as health status (heath outcomes). In basic expression, we present Cobb-Douglas production function which shows that the production effect of one production factor could be represented by the effect of another:

$Q=AK^{\beta}L^{1-\beta}$ ---------- (1)

Where, *Q* is the real product, *A* is transformation parameter, *L* is the labour, *K* is the physical capita, while β is labour elasticity coefficient and (1-β) is capital elasticity coefficient

If β +1-β==1, then the constant returns to scale

The transformation parameter A is a coefficient of the aggregate productivity of production factors, which refers to both factors (also called total factor productivity).

Generally, the augmented two factor production function can be expressed as follows:

Y=f(K,L) ---------- (2)

Where:

Y is the real product, L is the labour and K is the capital.

The variables in the empirical model for this study are rooted in the human capital theory and Cobb Douglas production model with slight modifications as highlighted below.

Equation (2) is taken to be the starting point equation in the study considering the proxies we have in the augmented equation.

On the basis of theoretical and empirical exposition, the model for this study is expressed functionally as.

AGOUT = f(EDUEXP, HLTEXP, LITR, LBF, LF)

This equation is expressed in its linear form as.

$AGOUT_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 EDUEXP_t + \alpha_2 HLTEXP_t + \alpha_3 LITR_t + \alpha_4 LBF_t + \alpha LF + \mu_t)$

Where;

AGOUT = Agricultural output in Nigeria

EDUEXP = Total government expenditure on education in Nigeria.

HLTEXP = Total government expenditure on health in Nigeria.

LITR = Literacy rate in Nigeria

LBF = labour force participation in Nigeria.

LF = Life expectancy at birth in Nigeria.

Expected a priori = $\beta_0 <$ or $\beta_0 > 0$, $\beta_1 < 0$, $\beta_2 < 0$, $\beta_3 < 0$, $\beta_4 < 0$, $\beta_5 < 0$.

Where β_1 to β_5 are the coefficient of the parameters to be estimated.

Regression Analysis and Interpretation of Results

The estimated regression result revealed that the regression line has a positive intercept represented by the constant term. This means that holding all explanatory variables constant, agricultural output in Nigeria will increase automatically by 126.3799 units.

The estimated result revealed that total expenditure on education has a positive relationship with agricultural output, indicating that a unit increase in education expenditure will bring about a corresponding increase in agricultural output by 0.476032 units. On the contrary, the estimated result for total health

expenditure has a negative relationship with agricultural output in Nigeria. This implies that a unit increase in health expenditure will decrease agricultural output in Nigeria by -1.119141.

Furthermore, the estimated result of literacy rate revealed that literacy has a negative relationship with agricultural output. This means that a unit increase in literacy rate will decrease agricultural output by -0.084314. Similarly, the result of the log of labour force participation revealed a positive relationship with agricultural output in Nigeria. This implies that a unit increase in labour force participation will increase agricultural output in Nigeria by about 0.329171. While, the result of the log of life expectancy at birth in Nigeria revealed that life expectancy has a positive but not statistically significant. This implies that a unit increase in life expectancy at birth will increase agricultural output by about 0.4416

Decision Rule: if t-calculated is greater than t-tabulated. Reject (H0), null hypothesis but if otherwise accept the null hypothesis and conclude that the parameter estimate is statistically significant at a certain level of significance.

The t-tabulated at 5% level of significance

Thus, $t=\alpha/2\ (n-1)$

$t=0.05/2(41-1)$

$t=0.025(40)$

$t=1.025$.

At 5% level, the statistical test conducted on education expenditure shows that the parameter estimate is statistically significant, since its t-value calculated (0.460382) is greater than t-tabulated (1.025). this implies that total expenditure on education log (EDUEXP) which is a major factor in influencing agricultural output in Nigeria.

At 5% level, the statistical test conducted on the log of total health expenditure on health (log (HLTEXP) shows that the parameter estimate is statistically significant since t-value calculated of log (-1.042661) which is less than t-value tabulated of (1.025). this implies that total health is not a major factor that influences agricultural output in Nigeria.

Similarly, at 5% levels of significance, the statistical test conducted on literacy rate (LITR) shows that the parameter estimates is statistically insignificant since t-value calculated (-1.385529) is less than t-value tabulated of (1.025).. this implies that Literacy rate is not a major factor that influences agricultural output in Nigeria.

At 5% level of significance, the statistical test conducted on the log of labour force (LBF) shows that the parameter estimated is statistically significant, since its t-value calculated of (2.639202) is greater than t-value tabulated of (1.025). This implies that labour force participation (LBF) is a major factor in influencing agricultural output in Nigeria.

At 5% level of significance, the statistical test conducted on the log (LEXP) shows that the parameter estimates are statistically significant, since the t-value calculated of (2.190732) is greater than t-value tabulated of (1.025). this implies that life expectancy at birth is a major factor influencing agricultural output in Nigeria.

The R-squared of 0.662298 showed that the estimated model has a very good fit on the data. The R-squared of 0.662298 showed that about 98% of the total variations in the dependent variable have been explained by variations in the independent variables. This shows that the model a good fit on the data and high explanatory power.

Similarly, the F-statistics value of 16.190318 showed that overall model is statistically significant at the conventional 5% level of significance i.e. (F- of 16.190318 > F tabulated of 0.000308) this means that the independent variables have an effect on the dependent variables, as such there exist a very high degree of linear relationship between the dependent variable and independent variables in the model.

The Durbin Watson statistic is used to test for autocorrelation among variables in the model. The Durbin Watson (DW) statistic of 1.985405 shows that there is presence of serial positive autocorrelation in the model, which implies that the model can be used for policy formulation and forecasting over time.

Since t-calculated (1.787662) > t-tab (1.025) we conclude that the parameter estimate is statistically significant at 5% level, we therefore reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate

hypothesis which states that aggregate expenditure in education has no significant impact on agricultural output in Nigeria, viz a viz aggregate expenditure on health has no significant impact on agricultural output in Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The positive and statistically significant relationship between aggregate expenditure on education and agricultural output in Nigeria indicates that education is an important factor that contributes to stimulating agricultural output hence economic growth and development in Nigeria. The negative and statistically relationship between health expenditure indicates that health expenditure does not contribute to agricultural output in Nigeria. The findings as analyzed in the empirical result of aggregate model revealed that literacy rate has negative and insignificant impact on agricultural output indicating that literacy rate has no impact on agricultural output in Nigeria. The findings as analyzed in the empirical result of aggregate model revealed that labour force participation has a positive and statistically significant relationship with agricultural output in Nigeria. Further, the positive and statistically significant relationship between life expectancy at birth and agricultural output in Nigeria.

Summary of Findings

This study examined the impact of human capital on agricultural output in Nigeria using time series data from 1981-2022. The review of literature was carried out under conceptual issues and empirical literature. The theoretical foundations of the study is anchored on the Human Capital Theory which is used in the study, the theory maintains that. The theory maintains that improvement in human capital development like education and health facilitates growth. Therefore, the improvement in health outcomes and literacy rate is intended to improve economic growth and development, which is intended to improve agricultural output in Nigeria. The model is specified to examine the relationship between human capital and agricultural output in Nigeria overtime as extensively discussed in the theoretical framework. The study employed thorough econometric analysis using the framework of Ordinary Least Square (OLS) to examine the model. Data were sourced from the National Bureau of statistics and the Central Bank of Nigeria and were analyzed using E-views 10 package. The positive and statistically significant relationship between education expenditure and agricultural output indicate that education is a major factor that contributes agricultural output in Nigeria, while the negative and not statistically significant relationship posits that health expenditure is not a major factor that contributes to agricultural output in Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study has attempted to analyze the impact of human capital development on agricultural output in Nigeria from 1981-2022. The findings of the study so far indicate that the parameter for education is consistent with a priori expectation but for health. And all things been equal, government should develop measures to improving literacy rate among the Nigerian populace this will enhance improvement in agricultural output.

Policy Recommendation

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

I. the positive impact of educational expenditure shows the need for government to sustain the increase in educational funding. This would enhance improvement in literacy which will transform to agricultural output in Nigeria.

II. Government must increase funding in the health sector, this would enable improvement in health outcomes, agricultural output and above all agricultural output in Nigeria.

III. Government should enable labour force participation, this would improve agricultural output and also stimulate economic growth in Nigeria.

Method: Least Squares
Date: 10/20/23 Time: 08:38
Sample: 1981 2022
Included observations: 42

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C	126.3799	70.69560	1.787662	0.0823
LOG(EDUEXP)	0.476032	1.033994	0.460382	0.6480
LOG(HLTEXP)	-1.119141	1.073351	-1.042661	0.3041
LITR	-0.084314	0.060853	-1.385529	0.1744
LOG(LBF)	0.329171	0.124724	2.639202	0.3099
LOG(LEXP)	2.122251	0.968741	2.190732	0.4416

R-squared	0.662298	Mean dependent var	12.96108
Adjusted R-squared	0.587617	S.D. dependent var	2.500520
S.E. of regression	1.956779	Akaike info criterion	4.312040
Sum squared resid	137.8435	Schwarz criterion	4.560279
Log likelihood	-84.55285	Hannan-Quinn criter.	4.403030
F-statistic	16.190318	Durbin-Watson stat	1.985405
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000308		

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REVISIT OF BAKASI PENISULA NIGERIA CAMEROUN RESOURCE CONFLICT

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ABSTRACT
The discovering of huge natural oil deposit in the waters surrounding the Bakasi Peninsular changed the good harmonious relations between Nigeria and Cameroon commencing from 1981. This scenario set in motion series of events that strained the relations between both countries that even culminated in violent conflict. The paper is set to examine the role of Border-Resource based conflict, with particular interest on how natural resources in Nigeria-Cameroun Border can influence dispute and means of managing the conflict between the two countries on border issue. The study also wishes to find out types of particular resources that was the bone in of contention and its economic values to the two border countries. It was established that the Nigerian state administered the areas commonly known as Bekasi peninsular which falls along the borders between Nigeria and Cameroun for decades peacefully. However, from 1991 the Cameroun government challenged the rights of Nigeria government over the peninsular which culminated in a suit at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague. The study data were collected through documentation of secondary sources, including review of related historical archival records, journals, write-ups and library research built on its exiting findings. The study is concluded by recommending among others, that there is the need for inclusiveness of stakeholders in the border dispute resolutions befores the intervention of the international community following the judgment of ICJ as the terms of the Green Tree Agreement, and the need for the setting up of a joint commission for exploration of hydrocarbon in the cross-border areas, be carefully managed to douse the violent, and which will also create a platform for win win solution from both countries.

Introduction

Territorial claims, ideology, colonialism, nationalism, religion and natural resources have typically been the main sources of conflict throughout the world while the influence of some of these is waning, struggles for the control of valuable natural resources have remained a persistent feature of national and international affairs for decades. In addition to helping some of the most corrupt and oppressive regimes to remain in power, natural resources have been fueling conflicts within and between African countries. Such conflict situations typically take the form of territorial disputes over the possession of oil laden borderareas, factional struggles among the leaders of oil-rich countries, and major inter-state wars over the control of vital oil and mineral zones (Klare, 2004).

The border between Cameroon and Nigeria extending from lake Chad to the Gulf of Guinea has been a bone of contention between the two territories dating back 1913. However, the knowledge that the Bakassi Peninsula habours important deposit of oil/gas reserves triggered mounting hostilities and military confrontations in the early 1990s between Cameroon and Nigeria. According to (Klare 2004), the close connection between oil and conflict derives from three essential features of petroleum. (1) Its vital importance to the economic and military power of a nation; (2) Its irregular geographical distribution; and it's imminent changing centre of gravity.

In 1993, Nigerian troops occupied the Bakassi peninsula: In 1994, after serious incidents of Border incursions that provoked shooting, and after many casualties and dead of soldiers had been recorded on both sides, Cameroon submitted its entire set of border-related disputes with Nigeria to the international court of justice at The Hague for adjudication. After examining the case for eight years, the world court ruled that Cameroon is the rightful owner of the oil-rich Peninsula, basing its argument on the 1913 border between the two colonial powers.

According to Asobu (2003), following intensive diplomatic activities culminating in the 12 June 2006 Green-tree Agreement, brokered by the United Nations and witnessed/guaranteed by four world powers- Britain, France, Germany and the United States, Nigeria eventually agreed unconditionally to hand over the oil-rich peninsula to Cameroun. On 14 August, 2006, Nigeria effectively pulled out its military and the Camerounian flag was hoisted. Two years later (14 August, 2008) the remaining Nigerian administration and police left the peninsula (AJCR 2010).

Note the Green-tree Agreement is the official appellation of the agreement between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria concerning the modalities of withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi Peninsula.

The Concept of Border

A border is a real or artificial line that separates geographic areas. Borders are political boundaries. They separate countries, states, provinces, counties, cities towns. A border outlines the area that a particular governing body control. The government of a region can only create and enforce laws within its borders. Borders change over time. Sometimes the people in one region take over another area through violence. Othertimes, land is traded or sold peacefully. Many times, land is parceled out after a war through international agreements. Some borders fall along natural boundaries like rivers or mountain ranges. (National Geographic Society, 1996 - 2023) According to them, borders, particularly national borders affect travel and migration. People can usually move freely within their own country's borders but may not be allowed to cross into a neighboring country, The National Geographic Society added that, many border disputes occur when people fight over natural resources. For example, Nigeria and Cameroun as our case study in this paper, and Sudan and Egypt over a region called Hallaib.

Natural Resources

Natural resources can be defined as the resources that exist (on the planet) independent of human actions. These are the resources that are found in the environment and are developed without the intervention of humans. Common examples of natural resources include air, sunlight, water, soil stone, oil, fuels and other mineral elements. (Byjus.com 2020) Explaining further, they maintained that naturalresources are naturally occurring materials that are useful to man or could be useful under conceivable technological, economic, or social circumstances orsupplies drawn from the earth supplies such as

fertilizers, metals, water, and geothermal power among others

Concept of Management

Management is process of planning, decision-making, 0rganizing, leading, motivation, and controlling the human resources, financial, physical, and information resources of an organization to reach its goals efficiently and effectively. (Neha Mathur,2020) According to him, from an administrator's point of view, management is a system of authority. Historically, management first developed as an authoritarian philosophy. Later on, it turned paternalistic. Still, later, constitutional management emerged, characterized by concern for consistentpolicies and procedures for dealing with the working group. Finally, the trend of management turned towards a democratic and participatory approach. Modern management is nothing but a synthesis of these four approaches to authority. Nwachwku, 2006, views management as a process of setting and reaching goals effectively and efficiently. Management process has some qualities or features;

- ✓ Management is associated with group efforts.
- ✓ Management is purposeful,
- ✓ Management is accomplished through the efforts of others.
- ✓ Management is goal oriented.
- ✓ Management is indispensable.
- ✓ Management is intangible.
- ✓ Management can ensue better life.

Managing in this context is having executive control of authority. It is the coordination and administration of tasks to achieve a goal.

Managing border conflict is through negotiation, in which both countries can define a clear boundary, demarcate the disputed areas and create a mechanism for effective border management.

Conflict Management

Conflict management is the use of processes, tools, and skills to find creative and respectable ways to manage disagreements and disputes. It includes the ability to resolve conflict collaboratively through effective communication skills, such as active listening, and assertive speaking. (Institute for Public Administration, 2021) To them, managing conflict is an art, it is something you improve on, not master Individuals can increase their conflict competence through skill-based training, coaching, and having leaders who walk the talk. Equally, direct intervention of conflict resolution practitioners can help organizations become more adept at addressing conflict and developing conflict competent employees. Therefore, conflict management skills and tools are the foundation of many alternative dispute resolution processes such as mediation, meeting, facilitation, negotiation and restorative justice circles and conferencing.

Nature of International Conflicts

Conflict according to Ivorgba (2005) is as old as the history of mankind, and therefore said to be normal, natural and unavoidable, yet it can too generate negative and very destructive impacts, as well as awareness, economic growth and development; conflict is an indication that somehow, there is misunderstanding that requires attention and proper's action.

International conflicts might occur between governments striving to monopolize the exploitation of resources in disputed territories. It could also arise when a nation or state intervenes in the domestic disputes of another state. Occasionally, a conflictensues where the nationals of one state or nation are attacked, dehumanized, killed or maimed by agents of another state or nation. Asobu (2003) noted that conflicts between countries are often presented as occurring between their governments and such situations are either conducted or perceived as inter-governmental struggles, while the bone of contention is usually territory or some other economic resource. It is seldom the welfare of the ordinary citizens of the states or nations concerned that provokes conflict situation in Africa, even when such reasons are branded, they often turned out to be attempts at concealing other agendas

As noted by Asobie (2003) in Baye (2010), a deeper examination may reveal that in essence, international conflict are struggles between primary social classes, clashing across national boundaries. In this regard, it was established that the real actors in international conflicts are social classes (for instance, the ruling elite) which in their struggles, mobilize and use the various institutions to push forward their goals. For the most part contests are related to the control of productive resources as the case between Cameroon and Nigeria. Even when such resources are exploited, the proceeds are typically distributed disproportionately in favour of the ruling classes and their cronies/protégés.

Real causes of conflict between Nigeria and Cameroon

Studies and research cum Wikipedia (2020) established that Bakassi and its natural resources as the main bone of contention between Nigeria and Cameroon borders. According to Wikipedia org, the Bakassi conflict was an ongoing armed dispute over the Bakassi peninsula of Cameroon. The real cause of conflict between Nigeria and Cameroun was territorial border claimed, the natural resources deposit and, rich – oil economy of the region. It was noted by Oladimeji (2021) that, after the independence of Cameroon and Nigeria, the border between them was not settled and there were other disputes. The Nigerian government claimed that the border was theirs prior to the British-German agreements in 1913, and Cameroon claimed the border laid down by the British-German agreements. The border dispute worsened in the 1980s and 1990s after some border incidentsoccurred, which almost caused a war between the two countries. In 1994, Cameroon went to International Court of Justice (ICJ) to avoid war with Nigeria after many clashes occurred in the disputed region. Eight years later the ICJ ruled in Cameroon's favour and confirmed the 1913 border made by the British and Germans as the international border between the two countries. Thus, in June 2006, Nigeria signed the Green -tree Agreement, which marked the formal transfer of authority in the region, and the Nigeria Army partly withdraw from Bakassi. The move was however opposed by Bakassians who considered themselves Nigerians and they stated to arm themselves against the decision.

Natural Resource Based Conflict

Natural resource based-conflict can be defined as a social or political conflict where natural resources contribute to the onset, aggravation, or sustaining of the conflict due to disagreements or competition over the access to and management of natural resources, and the unequal burdens and benefits, profits or power generated thereof (Marie and Arnaud, 2020).

According to Abodun (2021) conflict over natural resources has made Africa the focus of international attention particularly during the last decade. From oil in Nigeria and diamond in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to land in Zimbawe and water in the horn of Africa, the politics surrounding ownership, management, and control of natural resources has disrupted communities and increase external intervention in these countries. Such conflict has the potential to impact natural resources supply globally with both local and wide- reaching consequences.

Natural resource conflicts are disagreements and disputes over access to, and control and use of, natural resources. (Matiru 2000). The conflicts often according to Matiru (2000) often emerge because people have different uses for resources such as forests, water pastures and land or want to manage them in different ways. Disagreements also arise when these interests and needs are incompatible, or when priorities of some user groups are not considered in policies, programmes and projects. Such conflicts of interest are an inevitable feature of all societies.

It was noted that in recent: years, the scope and magnitude of natural resource conflicts have increased and intensified. These conflicts of not addressed, can escalate into, violence, cause environmental degradation, disrupt projects and undermine livelihoods. Therefore, acknowledging that conflict is a common nature of any resource use system is a prerequisite for sustainable management that is participating and equitable.

Alo (2000) reported the natural resource conflicts have always been with us, due in part to the multiple and competing demands on resources. Conflict can arise if user groups are excluded from participating in rural resource management.

They also occur if there are contradictions between local and introduced management systems. Also, misunderstandings and lack of information about policy and programme objectives, contradictions or lack of clarity in laws and policies, inequality in resource distribution or poor policy and programme implementation.Conflict will always exist to some degree in every nation, state, community and at the international level, but it can often be managed. WHAT IS CONFLICT MAMAGEMENT?

Managing Resource Based-Conflict in Nigeria

The mechanism of resource-based conflict management or resolution varies and involved different dimensions. According to Abodun 2000, the ways in which people respond to natural resource conflicts vary considerably. The mechanism may be formal or formal, violent or peaceful, equitable or not. Although the specific strategies may vary, people generally rely on some basic procedural modes to handle conflicts. Therefore, people involved in natural resource conflicts like Cameroon and Nigeria as our case study may take courses of action based on their preferences, their understanding of their options, their perceived likelihood for success and their relationship with an opponent. Finally, here the nature of the conflict itself may prescribe the use of certain legal procedures. The case of Cameroon who involved ICJ over Bakassi land border with Nigeria.

Natural legal systems for managing natural resource conflicts is another good mechanism or strategy.

Adoption of appropriate conflict management and resolution strategies need to be incorporated into natural resources management, policies, programme and projects.

Pendzich, Thomas and Wohigenant 1974 in FAO (2000) project alternative conflict management as the best approach addressing natural resource management which he said. Equally, the different conflict prevention measures through the creation of Joint Cameroun – Nigeria Border commission in 1965;Yaounde 1 Declaration of August 14, 1970; Yaounde 11 Declaration of April 4, 1971 ; Kano Declaration of September 1,1974; Maroua Declaration of June1,1975; and the activities the Cameroun - Nigeria mixed Commission from 2002 to 2007 provided a model for dialogue and mediation in the prevention of armed conflicts in Africa.Other means of border conflict management could be the use of mediation, bilateral, negotiation, facilitation, adjudication, agreement,and dialogue applied can be very much successful.

- ✓ Improve communication and information sharing among interest group.
- ✓ Address the causes of conflicts in a collaborative manner.
- ✓ Transform the conflict management process into a force promoting positive change.
- ✓ Build the capacity of community state, nations, countries and border regions, to manage their conflicts and limit the occurrence and intensity of future conflicts.

The Cameroon vs Nigeria Conflict Management and Resolution. The Background Story on Territorial Dispute

Nigeria and Cameroon have disputed the possession of Bakassi for some years leading to considerable tensions between the two countries. In 1981the two countries went to the brink of war over Bakassi peninsula and another area around lake Chad, at the other end of the two countries common border more armed clashes broken out in the early 1990s. in response, Cameroon took matter to the international court of Justice (ICJ) at the age on 29 March 1994, (Bola 2008, Niger Delta 2002) Ugbudan (2008) reported that before the discovery of huge natural oil deposit in the waters surrounding the Bakassi in the waters surrounding the Bakassi Peninsula, Nigeria and Cameroon were living in harmony, had good international relations had bilateral agreements including neutrality of Cameroonian government during the Nigerian civil war, but very unfortunate that, the natural resource discovered at the border placed Cameroon and Nigeria against each other.

How was Cameroun vs Nigeria border conflict managed?

In managing the border conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria, Uppsala (2019) reported that, in 1994, Cameroon went to the international

court of Justice (ICJ) to avoid war with Nigeria after many clashes occurred in the disputed regions. Eight years later, the ICJ ruled in Cameroon's favour and confirmed the 1913 border made by the British and Germans as the international border between the two countries. Nigeria confirmed it would transfer Bakassi to Cameroon.

The Green-Tree Agreement

Following intense diplomatic offensives and the good offices of the UN Secretary General, Cameroon was able to secure the Green-Tree Agreement with Nigeria on June 12, 2006 brokered by the UN Secretary. General and witnessed by Britain, France, Germany and the United States (Gumne 2006)

Under the agreement, the Nigerian troops were to withdraw within a maximum of ninety days and a transition period of two years was given for the Nigerian administration to be replaced by the Cameroonian administration.

According to the then Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, the Green-tree Agreement was a great achievement in conflict prevention, which practically reflected its cost-effectiveness when compared with the alterative of conflict resolution. He urged that it would represent a model of similar conflicts in Africa and the world at large. Moreover, president Obasanjo had played a leading role in conflict resolution among African States. His refusal to respect the ICJ verdict would have left an unfavourable spot on his record.

In the same spirit with president Obasanjo, president Paul Biya underscored the importance of respecting the ICJ ruling, arguing that their personal credibility and that of the UN depended greatly on its implementation and that it will begin a new era of trust, peace and cooperation between Cameroon and Nigeria.

Baye (2000) on 14 August, 2000 the Nigerian troops, in a solemn ceremony, peacefully withdrew from Bakassi Peninsula, marking the climax of a long and meandry peace process that spanned a period of 12 years. This entails that the effective withdrawal of Nigerian Forces from Bakassi is an indication that it is possible for African Nations who find themselves in conflict over territorial rights and other issues to resolve the matter amicably-thus avoiding Carnage, blood-shed, socio-economic and political dislocations, which many post-independent African countries have suffered. On the other thing being equal, the Green-tree Agreement and the various stages that led up to the handing over is a model for the peaceful settlement of disputes in Africa. The entire process was graced by the treaty of Calabar between Cameroon and Nigeria on 14 August, 2008 that marked the complete withdrawal of the Nigerian administration and police as stipulated in Green-tree Agreement.

The mechanism for natural resource conflict management adopted between Nigeria versus Cameroon over the Bakassi peninsular was more of diplomacy at the last resort, against arms taken against each other. Thus, brought about peace, common understanding and cordial resolution.

Gap in the Resolution/Management of Nigeria Cameroun Resource Conflict

The authors of this paper observed with keen interest that the gap created in the resolution/ management of Nigeria Cameroun resource conflict was that thepopulation who will live with the outcome of the process was excluded, which has negative reactions, calling into question the effectiveness of the process as a settlement While the mediation of the dispute between Cameroun and Nigeria by the UN Secretary-general led to the cessation, facilitated the demilitarization of the conflict zone, demarcated the border, ensure compliance with the ICJ ruling, and promoted cross- border cooperation, the process fell short by excluding the people from the process, Consequently, while the dispute has ceased, other forms of conflict engulf the region.The effect is that post-mediation peacebuilding and an enduring peace may be a mirage in the region, owing to the costly omission of those affected from the mediation process.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Addressing conflict is a prerequisite forsustainable natural resource management. Conflicts over natural resources are growing in scope, magnitude and intensity. If not addressed in an effective and timely manner, natural resource conflict can adversely affect the nation livelihood, the case of Cameroon and Nigeria as a pointer of this paper, and can result in resource degradation. Therefore, the application of

alternative conflict management offers an innovative, multidisciplinary approach to understanding, analyzing and managing conflict both before and after they occur. Alternative conflict management mechanism seeks the development of development of participatory and consensus - building strategies and it builds upon existing formal and informal conflict management mechanism with the border regions and local communities to manage conflict and promote sustainable resource management. Alternative conflict management also seeks to strengthen the capacity of border, local institutions and communities to manage conflict and promote sustainable resource management. The study therefor, conclude that addressing the short comings of conflict prevention and resolutions mechanisms could improve stability, guarantee security and maintain peace.

The paper recommends that, governments, the general public, litigants, mediators and policy makers involved in the prevention and resolution of border conflicts should be trained on the alternative dispute resolution in Africa. The principle of inclusiveness of the affected people in the region is indespensable

Appropriate conflict management and resolution strategies need to be incorporated into border natural resource management policies, programmes and projects.

In spite of the Green-Tree Agreement that brought relative peace, some communities within the border region are still aggrieved, like Bakassi boys etc, there is the need for setting up of a joint commission for the exploration of hydrocarbon in the cross borders areas, and be carefully managed to douse the violent and will also create a platform for win-win solution from both countries.

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THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN CURBING RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The persistent religious conflicts and terrorism in Northern Nigeria have given peculiar Nigerians a cause for deep concern in recent times. The imminent of religious conflict is not really recent; it has been in the society for a long time. At least in the eyes of the general public, the modern revival of religion appears to be closely linked to the resurgence of violent acts that are justified by religion. Thus, the reasoning goes, it is imperative to reduce, neutralize, or completely eradicate religion's influence on public life. But this may not be out-rightly true a position, as it cannot be admitted realistic with a religious man. People wonder why religion which used to be the cohesive factor and core of national unity, peaceful co-existence and national development, has become a tool for political manipulation, violence, destruction of lives and properties in Nigeria in contemporary times. There is a loss of values and effective Christian Education could really curb religious conflict and terrorism in the northern Nigeria and Christian Religious Education curriculum which contains Character formation would be an instrument to educate and give an orientation that enhances curbing conflicts and terrorism.

Introduction

Many Nigerians have recently had serious concerns due to the ongoing religious conflict and terrorism in Northern Nigeria. Many of them wonder why, in contemporary Nigeria, religion which was once the unifying force and the foundation of peaceful coexistence, national development, and unity has evolved into a weapon for political manipulation, bloodshed, and the loss of lives and property. Simultaneously, a number of causes have been proposed for Nigerian religious disputes and terrorism. Some authors placed the blame on the government, while others assign the guilt to the parents. Some authors assign blame to the young people, while others decide that a mixture of these elements is at fault. When these factors are combined, some of the following will become apparent as contributing to the general state of religious conflict and terrorism in Northern Nigeria: unemployment, poor governance, a lack of quality education or training, a lack of basic infrastructure or inadequate infrastructure, government officials' corrupt practices, the perception of victimization, poverty amidst wealth, religious and ethnic superiority, domination and exploitation, materialism and its display with impunity,

Etcetera. In addition, Onabanjo[1] notes that more than 50 years after Nigeria's independence, wars and crises have impeded true national integration, generating grave worries for the nation's unity. In this spirit, several discussions and initiatives to address Nigeria's numerous challenges have been undertaken. This paper aims to make a contribution in that area.

These factors, according to Omede, may not be the causes of unrest in Nigeria.[2] Rather than the substance, he views these things as shadows and symptoms. For example, as Omede pointed out: If we may ask, why unemployment? Who will supply the jobs? Moreover, why do they not supply the jobs? Corruption, embezzlement of public monies, inadequate education, poor governance, etc., may be part of the challenges. Moral and value issues include corruption, inadequate or poor administration, ethnic supremacy, and the dominance of one group or individual over another.[3] Many scholars have argued that one of the major issues to be addressed is religious conflict. It is not always evident whatever goals are to be accomplished in religious conflicts. According to Gofwen, religious conflicts are a particular kind of conflict between groups who disagree intellectually along religious lines within a pluralistic society, with each group vying for political importance. He views political goals as paramount. Takaya also corroborated by stating that religion is parochial and politics. These scholars argue that the attitude of superiority that religious persuasions, as a sociological reality, frequently assume in their dealings or appraisal of others is one important factor fueling confrontations of this nature. They emphasized that this mindset always fosters an environment of animosity by excluding others and labeling them as stupid and hopeless. The more competing religious persuasions perceive their numerical advantages as political advantages, the more hostile the climate tends to become. The ruling classes view emerging faiths as challenges to their established hegemonies in such circumstances. It should be noted as is a major focus of this paper that it is a misplaced priority when religion which is supposed to proffer solution becomes in itself the problem. From Christian perspective, this paper tends to examine a core instrument – Christian Education for proffering solution to this bane.

Understanding Christian Education

The foundation of most advancement in thought, morality, science, and technology is education. It goes without saying that knowledge is the most powerful force in this world. As Jesus Christ states in John 8:32, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free," education aids in enlightening people. The truth that frees the human mind from ignorance, imprisonment, and self-destruction is taught in Christian education. Any society that wants to flourish holistically must have control over its human and raw material resources. Being denied education is the worst thing that can happen to a human being. It is essential to the civilization, development, growth, security, stability, and sustainability of any society. Men and women can become free, transformed, and led into a world of human possibilities through education. That is the reason it is a top concern in all progressive countries. These and other demands are satisfied by Christian education. Its foundation is God's moral outlook and vision. Its main goal is to instill moral and ethical knowledge and values that can ensure social security and stability as well as chances and skills that advance the Gospel of God's kingdom and human flourishing.

Morality stems from knowing God via Jesus Christ and the fear of God, which makes one open to hearing what God has to say in many situations. This is the true meaning of Christianity. The adult world is becoming concerned about children's character degradation because they are

[1] D. Onabanjo, What if Nigeria Breaks? Tell Magazine, October 17, 2011., pp.48-54.

[2] J. Omede, *"Reformatting Nigerian Secondary and post-secondary education to meet unemployment and security challenges in Nigeria in the 21st century."* Research Journal in Organizational Psychology and Educational Studies (RJOPES). (2012). [database online]; available from https://www. emergingresource.org Accessed on November 5th, 2023.

[3] R.A. Omede, & J. Omede, *Education and values re-orientation: A sine-qua-non for national reconstruction.* Vol. 1(1), Confluence Journal of Education (CJE) (2004). 21-26

apprehensive about what will happen in the future if our youngsters carry on with their current lifestyle. The reason for this is that a person's character has a significant influence on society as a whole. The relationship to society is demonstrated in the Bible. The scriptures' statement that "the people rejoice when the righteous are in power, but they groan when the wicked hold office" reveals this.[4] Character development is a global topic. In this context, character refers to a person's behavior in all spheres of life.[5]A person with good character is recognized for his or her kindness, morality, selflessness, sense of obligation, selfless living, and great regard for human life and property. What is happening in our world is nearly the exact reverse of these. The actions of numerous individuals in our vicinity indicate that the reasons are not implausible. The churches are not immune from criticism; the houses are failing, and the schools are not offering any assistance. If this is the case, should we fold our hands or hold them out in search of a quick solution? Character education is now taught in schools in the United States, marking a significant advancement in this area. This implies that the government, the church, the home, and the school should all work together to promote moral and godly behavior since without it, no effort can be accomplished jointly.[6]

The goals of Christian education are to make the student aware of their need for Jesus Christ, to focus their life on serving God (since all Christians are saved to serve), to enable accurate interpretation, and to help each student understand their role in serving God. In order to help parents, raise their children, the church must be dedicated to the instruction entrusted to its care. Many parents are careless and don't give much thought to their children' spiritual upbringing. While some are facing challenges, others are battling moral, intellectual, social, and economic forces. Regretfully, both parents work extremely hard to make ends meet in this day of social and economic hardships, often at the expense of bringing up their children in the faith.[7] There are so many anti-religious teachings in the modern public schools. Many children are exposed to wrong influences where error and wrong attitudes are disposed and these have resulted into corruption and violence in the society; to wrestle with the social prevailing evils: such as pornography, gay marriage, profanity language, violent behavior, crime, alcoholism etc. Most children and youths are prone to these social vices display on the social media, they need to be liberated and this could be done through Christian teaching.[8]

Religious Conflict in Northern Nigeria

Religious conflicts in Nigeria can be traced back to the period of independence in 1960. Before this period there were three major religions, namely African Traditional Religion, Islam and Christianity. The relationship between the adherents of these religions was coordinal and peaceful. Religious crises in the country started after independence but were on tribal and regional basis, motivated by the desire to acquire political and economic control of the nation's infrastructures.9 According to Jemkur, this regional and tribal dichotomy later led to civil war from 1967 to 1970.[10] As events were unfolding in different parts of the country, a religious consciousness developed. This consciousness became more acute in Northern Nigeria, including the geographical area called today the "Middle Bet". Adherents of Christianity and Islam started talking of political control on religious affiliation. Job opportunities, recruitment into the armed forces and admission into tertiary institutions gradually assumed a religious coloration.[11] This religious consciousness expressed in daily interaction created a crack in the relationship of Christians and Muslims in Nigeria.

[4] E. O. Ayandokun*Biblical Nurture Through Effective Christian Education* (Lagos: Glory line Christian Publication, 2015), 44

[5]Ibid, 72.

[6]Ibid.

[7] G. O. Olajide *History and Philosophy of Christian Education* (Ilorin: Amazing Grace Print Media, 2019).

[8]Ibid.

[9] C.Coquery-Vidrovitch, *Histoire des Villes en Afrique noire* (Paris, 1993), 2007).

[10] J.F. Jemkur, *Aspects of Nok Culture* (Zaria, 1992), 1-20.

[11] Y. Turaki, *The British Colonial Legacy in Northern Nigeria: A Social Politics in Nigeria*. (Jos: ECWA Headquarters 1993)

The source of Muslims and Christians conflicts in Nigeria has been religious, social and political. The dramas of intolerance by the two religions led to successive conflicts occurring between them, sometimes degenerating into violent open wars or skirmishes. This drama was marked by the 1980 religious crises that started in Zaria involving members of two religions, resulting to the wanton destruction of lives and properties. The same year (2002) witnessed Maitatsine riots led by the Cameroonian Islamic cleric Kukah alias Maitatsine. The conflict ledto loss of lives, torching of churches/mosque, business premises in Kano, Bulumkutu in Maiduguri in 1982,Rigassa-in 1984, and a march 1984, and a host of other places like Gombe and Jimeta-Yola in Adamawa State witnessed Muslim-Christian conflicts.[12] Meanwhile, in 1986 Nigeria was rocked by the controversy over its alleged registration as a member of the organization of Islamic countries (O.I.C) by the General Ibrahim Babangida's regime.[13] This crisis generated a lot of controversies and cold blood between Muslims and Christians with the former arguing that governmental action in joining the O.I.C was justified hence the Nigerian government similarly had diplomatic ties with the Vatican. In 1987, Muslim and Christian students of the college of education, Kafanchan clashed. The conflict later engulfed the whole of Kaduna State. This conflicts later spread to other parts of Kaduna State.[14]

The bitter experiences we have to grapple with concern the extension of religious conflicts to the institutions of learning. In 2002, the election of the student union president of the Federal College of Education (F.C.E) Zaria led to a clash between Christian and Muslim students. In the same year, a similar clash was averted in Ahmadu Bello University (A.B.U) Zaria. On17th March 2006), there was another squabble between Muslim and Christian Girls by the water tank in the female hostel in A.B.U. as Nwabudike and Osewe noted.[15]

According to Dogara Abdulahi Violence in northern Nigeria has flared up periodically over the last 30 years. Mainly in the form of urban riots, it has pitted Muslims against Christians and has seen confrontations between different Islamic sects. Although there have been some successes in conflict management in the last decade, the 2009 and 2010 troubles in Bauchi, Borno and Yobe states involving the radical Boko Haram sect show that violence still may flare up at any moment. If the situation were to deteriorate significantly, especially on Christian-Muslim lines, it could have serious repercussions for national cohesion in the build up to national elections in April 2011.The first major inter-religious violent broke out in Kafanchan on 6th of March 1987. It later spread to Zaria and Funtua (now part of Katsina State). Many lives were lost on both sides though that of Muslims was higher. Large numbers of properties were destroyed, most especially mosques and churches. This riot was a result of the misrepresentation of Islam by one Rev'd Abubakar Bako, who distorted some facts in the Qur'an and made derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad. In April 1991, roasted meat otherwise known as suya brought about a violent confrontation between Muslims and Christians of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State. This dispute spread later to Bauchi City and other parts of Bauchi State. Many lives were lost and properties worth millions of Naira were destroyed. These include mosques and churches. Later in the same year, there was more violence known as the Reinhard Bonnke riot broke out in Kano City. Many people died and properties worth millions of Naira were also destroyed. The most recent religious violent is the one reported in the Guardian Newspaper of May 28 1998 in which twelve people were said to have been killed at Abule-Taylor on the outskirts of Lagos. According to the police report, it was a pre-emptive attack on another Maitatsine sect led by Alhaji Muhammed Adamu. But since there were no clashes before the police raid, it is very difficult to ascertain the

[12] A.P. Adega, *"Muslim, Christian Conflicts in Nigeria, 1900-2006: Implications for National Security.* (2001)

[13] J.A. Atanda, *Nigeria Since Independence: The First 25 Years.* (Jericho: Heinemann Educational Books Nig. Ltd., 1989)

[14] A.S. Musa, *"Religious Clashes in Nigeria: A Gushing and Unchecked Hemorrhage*". The Voice. No. 41, June 2002)

[15] K. Nwabudike, and A.E. Osewe, *"Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Boils again".*Olive branch. Vol. 1, No. 20, (April, 2006), 13

police's claim as it is also difficult to determine whether it was an inter- or an intra-religious problem.[16]

Terrorism in Northern Nigeria

Radical Islam is not a new phenomenon in northern Nigeria. Following independence in October 1960, the rise of the radical Maitatsine movement in the 1970s led to clashes with the Nigerian Police Force in Kano in December 1980, and in Maiduguri in October 1982, leaving many hundred dead.17 Alhaji Muhammadu Marwa, known as the Maitatsine ("One who curses"), championed these intra-religious riots. The uprisings had its roots in the "deeply conservative practice of Islam," dominant in the region that had its origins in the highly successful jihad (holy war) of Sheik Usman dan Fodio of Sokoto (1754–1817) in the first decade of the nineteenth century. What began as a search for religious purification soon became a search for a political kingdom,18 with the outcome that "Islam has remained the focal veneer for the legitimacy of the northern ruling class, and consequently, its politicians have always prided themselves as soldiers for the defense of the faith".[19]

Since 2009, however, Boko Haram, yet another religious terrorist group from north eastern Nigeria, has been responsible for more violence than any other armed group in Nigeria.[20] The nomenclature, "Boko Haram," is derived from a combination of the Hausa word, boko (book), and the Arabic word, haram (forbidden). Put together, Boko Haram means "Western education is forbidden," as it is important here to clarify that the Hausa word, "boko," originally had implications of "falseness" and "duplicity." This certainly has increasingly become the case in recent times, but only with regard to books of Western provenance, as they were deemed to contain material antithetical to Islam and, therefore, "boko." In any case, Boko Haram has even rejected the designation, "Western education is forbidden," and instead, the group now prefers the slogan, "Western culture is forbidden." The difference, as one of the senior members of Boko Haram noted, is that "while the first gives the impression that we are opposed to formal education coming from the West … which is not true, the second affirms our belief in the supremacy of Islamic culture (not education), for culture is broader, it includes education but not determined by Western education".[21]

It is no coincidence that one of the worst forms of political violence in Nigeria today originates in the most socio-economically deprived parts of the country. In the north where unemployment and chronic poverty are rife, radical Islamists groups have challenged the authority of the state. In the southeast, specifically in the Niger Delta where Nigeria's oil resource is located, environmental degradation caused by irresponsible oil practices has compromised the major source of livelihood of indigenous people. Angered by their poor conditions amidst plenty, a flurry of ethnic militia groups often consisting of unemployed youths have engaged in kidnappings, oil pipeline vandalizations, extortion, car bombings, and other forms of violent attacks against the Nigerian state and its oil industry.[22]

[16] Ibid

[17]D.Agbiboa and A.Okem, *"Ethnicity, Religion and the Elusive Quest for National Identity in Nigeria,"* Peace Research: Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies (2013)

[18] M. Crowder, and G. Abdullahi, *Nigeria: An introduction to its history*. (Longman: np, 1979), 71

[19]D.Agbiboa and A.Okem, *"Ethnicity, Religion and the Elusive Quest for National Identity in Nigeria,"* Peace Research: Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies (52)

[20] J. Forest, *Confronting the Terrorism of Boko Haram in Nigeria* (Tampa, FL: The JSOU Press, 2012), 15.

[21]Ibid, 15.

[22]K.Omeje, *The State, Conflict & Evolving Politics in the Niger Delta, Nigeria*, Review of African Political Economy, 31:101, (2004), 425-440.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

The method used to generate and collect data for this research work is the questionnaire. The questionnaire is a set of questions packaged to gather respondents' information and be used for research. The type used for this study is one of the Likert scale indicating how much respondents agree or disagree with a particular statement. It can deal with the basic information on the data, i.e., age, sex, occupation, academic qualification, (etc.) of the respondents. A number of 100 people answered the questionnaire containing 17 questions.

S/N	Statement	Response of Respondents			Total
		Agreed %	Neutral %	Disagreed %	
1	More broadly, effective Christian Education policies should focus on communities where youth are exposed to conflict	72 72%	10 10%	18 18%	100 100%
2	Christian Education programming should be about fostering relationships between people and their communities and not only about the educational program	65 65%	10 10%	25 25%	100 100%
3	Quality Christian Education is the key to creating a society that is free from social, economic and political injustices; and unnecessary human rights abuses, which fuel religious conflict and terrorism	66 66%	20 20%	14 14%	100 100%
4	A well-rounded Christian Education experience encourages creative thinking and unusual type of interests, therefore not allowing religious conflict and terrorism to flourish	66 66%	13 13%	21 21%	100 100%
5	Embarking on awareness-raising campaigns that could explain the purpose of curbing religious conflict and terrorism in northern Nigeria	65 65%	15 15%	20 20%	100 100%
6	Incorporating Christian Education into school curricula will provide students with principles and communication skills they need to discuss their grievances peacefully in a community that is diverse in terms of race, faith and culture	65 65%	17 17%	18 18%	100 100%
7	People in northern Nigeria will be better able to question opinions, create intelligent thoughts, and	70	9	21	100

	participate in a useful discussion if they are given the proper Christian Education to think critically	70%	9%	21%	100%
8	Christian Education is to teach moral, ethical values and knowledge, which can guarantee societal security and stability as well as foster skills and opportunities that are of immense benefit to human flourishing	57 57%	14 14%	29 29%	100 100%
9	That Christian Education be put together as a single subject to be taught to students at all levels of the education system in northern Nigeria in their increasing levels of difficulties	82 82%	9 9%	9 9%	100 100%
10	Building effective partnerships between the Christian Education sector and the greater community may help to develop opportunities for people and create a sense of shared responsibility for their safety and development	53 53%	18 18%	29 29%	100 100%
11	People who educate about Christian values need to carefully think of creative ways of preparing their students for the work of ministry in the context of a world largely characterized by enormous mutual hatred, suspicion and mistrust, resulting in increasing fragmentation and destruction	64 64%	22 22%	14 14%	100 100%
12	People who educate about Christian values need to take the matter of cultural differences and God' concern for justice and righteousness seriously in curbing religious conflict and terrorism	56 56%	17 17%	27 27%	100 100%
13	People who educate about Christian values must realize that their role includes preaching Christ in order to build an atmosphere conducive to obedience to Christ, as well as resolving arguments that stand in the way of God's knowledge	62 62%	20 120%	18 18%	100 100%
14	To build a community of deep Christian consciousness in our contemporary Christian Education, the Bible must be the central focus in curbing religious conflict and terrorism	55 55%	17 17%	28 28%	100 100%
15	Christian Education is intended to assist its constituents – the church, culture and academia – in creating a Christian worldview that can endure all distortions of biblical reality	56 56%	20 20%	24 24%	100 100%

- A reliability test was carried out using a statistical package SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences).

OPINION	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15
SA	50	35	37	32	32	33	39	27	58	23	28	30	34	27	30
A	22	30	29	34	33	32	31	30	24	30	36	26	28	28	26
N	10	10	20	13	15	17	9	14	9	18	22	17	20	17	20
D	7	11	11	18	16	10	13	17	4	15	12	16	13	20	9
SD	11	14	3	3	4	8	8	12	5	14	2	11	5	8	15

- Cronbach's Alpha Test: Test of Reliability

- This is used to measure internal consistency (reliability). It is commonly used when one wishes to determine if the scale used for a questionnaire/survey is reliable. It simply provides an overall reliability coefficient for a set of variables (e.g. questions). A score that is above 0.7 shows a high internal consistency.

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Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.980	.989	15

- From above, we can see that Cronbach's alpha is 0.980 (approximately 1), which indicates a high level of internal consistency (that is, it is considered very reliable).

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Q1	280.00	23431.000	.845	.	.980
Q2	280.00	24791.000	.927	.	.977
Q3	280.00	24066.500	.965	.	.976
Q4	280.00	24378.500	.926	.	.977
Q5	280.00	24479.500	.956	.	.977
Q6	280.00	24529.500	.981	.	.976

Q7	280.00	23897.500	.970	.	.976
Q8	280.00	25865.000	.927	.	.978
Q9	280.00	21906.500	.878	.	.983
Q10	280.00	26481.000	.839	.	.980
Q11	280.00	24575.000	.854	.	.978
Q12	280.00	25777.500	.996	.	.978
Q13	280.00	24692.000	.964	.	.977
Q14	280.00	25917.500	.892	.	.979
Q15	280.00	25867.000	.884	.	.979

- The above shows that Cronbach's Alpha is greater than 0.8 and approximately 1 (having a high level of correlation) for all questions. This implies that all the questions are valid for this analysis.
- Also, analyzing further using the ITEM-TOTAL STATISTIC. It can be observed that the corrected Item Total Correlation with least values 0.839, 0.845 and 0.854 (Q10, Q1 and Q11 respectively) infer that building effective partnerships between the Christian Education sector and the greater community may help to develop opportunities for people and create a sense of shared responsibility for their safety and development, meanwhile more broadly effective Christian Education policies should focus on communities where youth are exposed to conflict.
- Conclusively, people who educate about Christian values need to carefully think of creative ways of preparing their students for the work of ministry in the context of a world largely characterized by enormous mutual hatred, suspicion and mistrust, resulting in increasing fragmentation and destruction.

Item-Total Statistics

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It can be seen from the above, that is, in the investigation of the extent of influence the Christian Education can make to curb religious conflict and terrorism in northern Nigeria. The high percentages in responses of the interviewers (with 24%, 21%, 19% and 18% for D, A, C and B), which are factors of Christian Education, presented a notable influence of at least 82%. It, therefore, can be concluded that "Peaceful Inter-Faith and Cultural Relationship" and "Effective Christian Education Policies" will curb religious conflict and terrorism in northern Nigeria.

From the above bar chart, it can be seen that "wrong teaching" and "human rights abuses" (29% and 21% respectively) are higher than all other reasons that have hindered Christian Education influence on religious conflict and terrorism in northern Nigeria. From table 5 above, it is seen that the Cronbach's Alpha is greater than 0.8 and approximately 1 (having a high level of correlation) for all questions. This implies that all the questions are valid for this analysis. Also, analyzing further using the ITEM-TOTAL STATISTIC. It can be observed that the corrected Item Total Correlation with least values 0.839, 0.845 and 0.854 (Q10, Q1 and Q11 respectively) infer that building effective partnerships between the Christian Education sector and the greater community may help to develop opportunities for people and create a sense of shared responsibility for their safety and development, meanwhile more broadly effective Christian Education policies should focus on communities where youth are exposed to conflict.

Conclusion

Conclusively, wrong teachings influence the mayhem in the society. Wrong perspective to life and society as are reflected in the teachings and approaches of the notable religions in Nigeria are terrible. These establish argument of Gofwen, Takaya and other scholars who consider religion as a major problem. It is pertinent to note that the people who educate about Christian values need to carefully think of creative ways of preparing their students in the context of a world largely characterized by enormous mutual hatred, suspicion and mistrust, resulting in increasing fragmentation and destruction.

Finally, and resulting from the ITEM-TOTAL STATISTIC above, it can be seen that Cronbach's Alpha If Item Deleted (that is, if the questionnaire excludes those questions) with least values 0.976, 0.976, and 0.976 (Q3, Q6 and Q7 respectively) infer that; quality Christian Education is the key to creating a society that is free from social, economic and political injustices; and unnecessary human rights abuses, which fuel religious conflict and terrorism and people in northern Nigeria will be better able to question opinions, create intelligent thoughts, and participate in the useful discussion if they are given the proper Christian Education to think critically.Hence incorporating Christian Education into school curricula will provide students with the principles and communication skills they need to discuss their grievances peacefully in a diverse community in terms of race, faith and culture.

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LEADERSHIP STYLE AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF EBELE GOOD LUCK JONATHAN AND MUHAMMADU BUHARI'S ADMINISTRATIONS

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ABSTRACT
This study investigates the assessment of political leadership and implications for national security in Nigeria's fourth republicwith a specific focus on Former President Good-Luck Jonathan and President Muhamaddu Buhari's Administration. The objectives of the study examinedthe effect ofpolitical leadership on national security. The study employed secondary data in gathering information from books, newspapers, Journals, magazines, and internet sources. Transformational Leadership theory was adopted in this study. It was found in the study that the state of insecurity which manifested inits variousforms such as terrorism, militancy, kidnapping, corruption, poverty, unemployment, violation of human rights, and underdevelopment of some regions in the country is a result of political leadershipby various Nigerian leaders in their respective administration and this has seriouseffects on the security of the country. The study proposesthat politicalleaders ofthe Nigerian state should protect the interest of their people rather than their own personal interests.

Introduction

Political leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping a nation's policies, institutions, and responses to security challenges. The leadership's ability to formulate and implement effective security strategies, promote good governance, and foster national unity is instrumental in ensuring the safety and well-being of the citizenry. In the Nigerian context, understanding how political leaders have managed these responsibilities and their implications for national security is of paramount importance (Odeyemi, 2014).

The fourth republic has seen the rise of various political leaders, each with their own style, approach, and vision for the country. These leaders have had to grapple with a range of security issues in different geo-political zones,

from the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East to inter-communal clashes in the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta militancy in the South. Furthermore, economic challenges, such as fluctuating oil prices and corruption, have exacerbated security concerns. With political leadership regarded as either being too slow in reacting to the challenges or lacking the ability to tackle them (Ogele 2021b).

In recent decades, Nigeria has witnessed significant shifts in political leadership, with each administration facing distinct security dilemmas and adopting varying approaches to ensure national security. The administrations of Former President Goodluck Jonathan (2010-2015) and President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-2023) serve as crucial case studies for this research due to their respective periods of governance, each marked by distinct policy choices and security strategies (Muahmmed, 2020).

Jonathan's administration, amidst growing concerns over Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern region, grappled with balancing national security imperatives against the need for regional stability and human rights considerations. This period witnessed the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls, an event that drew international attention to Nigeria's security challenges and underscored the complex decision-making process involved in handling such crises (Soetan, 2017).

On the other hand, President Buhari assumed office with promises of heightened security measures and intensified efforts to counter corruption and insurgency. His tenure has seen a continued focus on Boko Haram, as well as the emergence of other security concerns, such as farmer-herder conflicts and separatist movements in the southeast. Buhari's administration aimed to restore a sense of security while also navigating the delicate balance between military action, dialogue, and socioeconomic development (Murtala, 2018).

Numerous measures have been implemented to address this aberration. Past administrations have initiated military operations, implemented peace and reconciliation programs, and embarked on socio-economic development projects in affected regions. Additionally, legislative frameworks have been established to enhance national security coordination and response. Civil society organizations have played an active role in advocating for peace and providing humanitarian assistance to affected communities. International partners have offered technical and financial support to bolster Nigeria's capacity to counter security threats. Despite these multifaceted efforts, the problem persists, demonstrating a resilient and deeply rooted challenge that requires further investigation (Okorie, Bitrus, & Ukata, 2020).

In spite of the comprehensive efforts to curb the abnormality, Nigeria continues to grapple with security challenges that threaten its stability and development. These challenges persist in various forms, including the persistence of insurgent movements, the escalation of farmer-herder conflicts, the emergence of separatist movements, and the ongoing threats to economic infrastructure. Furthermore, the effectiveness of different political leadership strategies in addressing these challenges remains a subject of debate. This enduring problem underscores the necessity of a rigorous and nuanced examination of the interplay between political leadership, the security dilemma, and national security within the Nigerian context.

Existing literature has explained extensively how issues such as Political leadership, corruption, and governance have affected the development and posed a threat to national security in Nigeria. These studies have helped us to understand how the political leaders in the Nigerian state have mismanaged the country’s natural resources for their own personal aggrandizement without pursuing the developmental visions and strategies of development and this has retarded development in all sectors of the economy of the Nigerian state and also posed a more significant threat to the country’s national security (Ricarddo, 2013; Omodia, & Aliu, 2013; Awofeso & Odeyemi 2014; Nwogugu & Oluranti, 2015,). However, some gap still exist; existing literature has not adequately provided us an explanation of how different political leaders in Nigeria’s fourth republic have adequately failed to perform their responsibilities and the effects of these on the National security of the Nigerian state have not been adequately delved into.

This study seeks to address this persistent problem by conducting a comprehensive

assessment of the leadership styles and security strategies employed by Former President Goodluck Jonathan and President Muhammadu Buhari, with a view to shedding light on the complex dynamics of political leadership and national security in Nigeria. Thus, to effectively execute this paper in addition to the introductory parts encompasses the theoretical framework of analysis, Conceptual clarifications, PoliticalLeadership, and issues of National security in both Goodluck Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari's administration as well as the conclusion and proposal for achieving a viable political leadership that will engender the security of the Nigerian state.

Conceptual Clarification

Political Leadership

Political leadership is one of the most widely experienced and intuitivelyor tacitly understood phenomena – like great power competition, Olympic rivalries, climate change, the right to develop, or central human rights controversies about trade-offs between security and civil and political rights (Masciulli, Molchanov, & Knight, 2020). Most political leadership researchers agree on several components that must be included in the concept of political leadership. These elements include the personality and traits of a leader or leaders, including her or his ethical and cultural character; the traits and ethical-cultural character of the followers with whom the leader interacts; the societal or organizational context in which the leader–follower interaction occurs – general culture, political culture, political climate, norms, and institutions; the agenda of collective problems or tasks which confront the leaders and followers in particular historical situations (certain problems/challenges may elicit bonding between leaders and followers); the nature of the leader's interpretive judgment, (the ability of the leader to interpret a given situation and act in such a way that meets the expectation of the followers); the material as well as intangible means that the leaders use to attain their ends and/or their followers‟ goals; encompassing the technique that leaders adopt to gain the willing support of their followers (Peele, 2005).

In addition to being a unique aspect of "social leadership" in general, as we argued above, political leadership shares a great deal of similarities with the higher levels of military, legal, organizational, religious, and ideological leadership. According to Masciulli, Molchanov, and Knight, the latter category encompasses leadership in the areas of parenting, business, education, science and technology, athletics, medicine, culture, the arts, and religion. (Masciulli, Molchanov, & Knight, nd). This is a broad definition of political leadership that encompasses the entire political leadership category in our discourse, extending well beyond the elected and appointed public officials who are typically considered to be political leaders in our culture. This is especially important in the current political climate because those in the political class who do not support the national government's ruling party prefer to politicize concerns about national security, sacrificing the interests of the country on the altar of political expediency.

Aransi (2009) raises the idea of variations among political leaders in terms of their capacity to perform in line with public expectations and the determinants of such performance. Aransi (2009: 119) writes that "the difference between two political leaders in the same position today rests relatively little on differences in policy direction and very largely on other behavior, which can be labeled „leadership styles‟. In Nigeria, there are no clear-cut differences in policy direction, as there are no specific programs that can be linked exclusively to any particular political party. Elected officials at national and state levels and other political leaders adopt whatever leadership styles they believe would endear them to the citizenry. This is very apposite in the Nigerian context, as there are no differences in ideology amongst the registered political parties. This has encouraged the frequent carpet crossing from one party to the other, by politicians with intentions of contesting for public office.

National Security

For a nation, security connotes conditions of peace, stability, order, and progress. National security has been construed in different ways, each of which emphasized vital factors underlying ideals. Brennan (1961) holds that national security is the protection of national survival, while Ray (1987) says that national security is to be understood in terms of the desire and capacity for self-defense. Ochoche (1998) holds that national security focuses on the amassment of military armament, personnel, and expenditure. All the above definitions show that National security has

changed over time. It was expanded to include international economics, long-term goals of national development and reconciliation. They are very important for the security of any nation. With this approach, Asad (2007) says "that national security cannot be narrowed down to exclusively military terms. Socio-economic and cultural aspects, problems of development and modernization, and national integration should be deemed important in considering".

In the words of Aigbovo and Igbinovia, (2014), security has been defined as the degree of protection against danger, damage, loss, and crime. It also refers to structures and processes that provide or improve security as a condition. Security is the state of being free from danger or threat, or the safety of a state or organization against criminal activity such as terrorism, theft, or espionage.

National security has been defined as the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of diplomacy, power projection, and economic and political power.Kronenberg (1973, p. 36 cited in Asamu 2006, p.126 in Nwogugu & Oluranti, 2015) defines national security as "that part of government policy having as its objective the creation of national and international political conditions favorable to the protection or extension of vital national values against existing and potential adversaries." National security, according to Imobighe (1990), is the absence of risk or dangers to a country's capacity to defend itself, uphold its treasured ideals and legitimate interests, and improve the welfare of its citizens.

According to Anyadike (2013), maintaining national security requires the deployment of economic policies, diplomacy (in multiple dimensions), power projection, and political authority by the government. It is thought that the idea originated in the United States of America following World War II. It used to be primarily concerned with military might, but over time, it has expanded to include non-military concerns like economic security, national security of the people, and all of the values upheld by the society at large. In order for there to be national security, a nation's population must be able to live in a free, secure, and comfortable environment and have access to the resources they need to do so. (In Nwogugu & Oluranti, 2015, Enahoro, 2004).

The authors mentioned above have given the idea of national interest, preservation of national interests against internal and external attack, as well as the quality of life for citizens, two important aspects. With this in mind, Aliyu (2009) offers a definition of national interest that incorporates both viewpoints when he states that national security extends beyond military readiness to defend the country to the issue of ensuring a good life for the populace. A country can maintain its sovereignty and protect its political, economic, social, and other interests in a sovereign manner both internally and in relations with other states. It is not only about the security of national territory and infrastructure but also, about the good life, the basic values which keep the community together and advancement in the quality of life available to the individual regardless of their social status.

Theoretical Framework: Transformational Leadership Theory

Transformational Leadership Theory is a widely recognized and applied theoretical framework in the fields of leadership and management. It was first introduced by James MacGregor Burns in 1978 and further developed by Bernard Bass in 1985. This theory posits that effective leaders can inspire and motivate their followers to achieve exceptional outcomes beyond their self-interest. Transformational leaders serve as role models and gain the trust and admiration of their followers through their personal qualities and values. They lead by example and set high ethical standards. For example, a political leader in Nigeria's Fourth Republic who is seen as a symbol of integrity and who promotes ethical governance can be considered an idealized influence.

Transformational leaders serve as role models and gain the trust and admiration of their followers through their personal qualities and values (Bass, 1985). They lead by example, displaying high ethical standards and integrity. These leaders are perceived as charismatic figures who inspire trust and admiration, fostering a strong sense of identification and loyalty among their followers (Bass, 1985). Transformational leaders articulate a compelling vision of the future, inspiring and motivating their followers to work towards shared goals (Bass, 1985). They use persuasive communication and enthusiasm to

energize their followers, making them feel personally invested in achieving the vision.

Transformational leadership theorists posit that Transformational leaders encourage creative thinking and problem-solving among their followers (Bass, 1985). They create an environment where innovative solutions to complex challenges are welcomed and supported. By promoting intellectual stimulation, leaders empower their followers to think critically and generate new ideas. Transformational leaders pay individual attention to the needs and development of their followers (Bass, 1985). They provide coaching and mentoring, recognizing the unique strengths and weaknesses of each follower. This personalized approach helps followers reach their full potential.

Transformational Leadership Theory posits that leaders who exhibit these core components can create significant positive change within organizations, teams, or even entire nations. It is a dynamic and influential leadership style that has been widely studied and applied in various contexts, including politics, business, and social organizations. By inspiring followers to transcend their self-interest and work towards a common vision, transformational leaders have the potential to achieve remarkable outcomes and leave a lasting impact on their followers and organizations (Bass, 1985; Burns, 1978).

Transformational leaders, as per the theory, excel in articulating a compelling vision of the future. In the context of Nigeria's Fourth Republic, political leaders can use this aspect of transformational leadership to inspire the nation with a clear and comprehensive vision for national security. This vision should encompass not only military aspects but also address socioeconomic, political, and communal dimensions of security. Nigerian political leaders can engage in dialogue with citizens, stakeholders, and experts to create a shared vision of national security that goes beyond addressing immediate threats and focuses on long-term stability and prosperity.

Applying Transformational Leadership Theory to the appraisal of political leadership and its implications for national security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic can lead to more visionary, inclusive, and effective approaches to addressing security challenges. By embodying the principles of transformational leadership, political leaders can play a pivotal role in strengthening national security and promoting stability and prosperity in Nigeria.

Political Leadership and Issues of National Security during President Good-luck Ebele Jonathan

BBC News, The Punch, May 5th, 2010, Akinlade andPurefoy cited in Adebogun, Ogbonna, and Nnabuihe, (2017) asserted that after President Yar'adua's death on May 5th, 2010, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, hitherto Vice-President and Acting President was sworn in as Alhaji Yar'adua's successor on May 6th 2010, becoming Nigeria's 14th Head of State, while his vice, a former Kaduna State Governor, Mohammed Namadi Sambo, an architect, emerged on 18th May 2010. After becoming the Nigerian President, the populace, therefore have great expectations of him. But there seems to be a general disenchantment with him, especially for his "kids' glove" approach to handling the then endemic and hydra-headed corruption in the country and the issue of insecurity. Especially as it relates to the "Boko Haram" insurgency in the North Eastern part of the country and Kidnapping.

Jonathan's administration was faced with a post-election crisis in 2011 and the Boko Haram insurgency in North-eastern Nigeria. Boko Haram, officially known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, was founded in the early 2000s, but it gained significant momentum and became more prominent during President Goodluck Jonathan's tenure, which began in 2010. The group's core ideology is rooted in a radical interpretation of Islam and a desire to establish Sharia law in Nigeria. The North East region was ravaged by the terrorists with gradual escalation to other parts of the north - Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Kano and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Jonathan-led administration was widely criticized by Nigerians for allowing the insurgence to fester and blamed the menace of Boko Haram on the regime (Jega, 2002). The impunity of Boko Haram reached a climax with the abduction of more than 200 girls at Chibok Secondary School, Borno State on April 14, 2014. Under President Jonathan's leadership, Boko Haram evolved from a relatively localized insurgency to a more formidable and adaptable force (Obi, 2015). The group adopted new tactics, such as suicide bombings and

abductions, further complicating efforts to combat them (Igwe, 2014).

Also, under the Jonathan administration, Nigeria faced long-standing socio-economic challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and a lack of access to education in many regions. These issues created fertile ground for radicalization and recruitment, especially among disaffected youth who saw Boko Haram as an alternative (Nwozor, 2013). Despite the President's promised succor for the populace, youth unemployment was over 65% and a national unemployment rate of 23.9% as of December 2011. Also, power supply was nearly non-existent despite claims to the contrary, which he (the President) made ina CNN interview with Christiane Amanpour in January 2013, the economy was not strong enough to withstand the stress and storms of poverty, inequality, and unemployment which widened by the day; industries had gone moribund, and incidence of absolute poverty was indicated at 65%. It was widely observed that Nigeria did not meet the Millennium Development Goals, targets set by the International Comity of Nations as indices for measuring the development of developing nations like Nigeria which the target was in 2015.

The Jonathan administration was criticized for its perceived inability to address corruption and provide effective governance. This eroded public trust in the government and created space for extremist groups like Boko Haram to thrive. Oluokun (2014). Note that Nigeria is ethnically and religiously diverse, and these divisions have at times fueled conflicts. Boko Haram exploited these divisions, positioning itself as a defender of Muslim interests against what it portrayed as a corrupt and oppressive Christian-dominated government. According to Smith (2015), the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria found fertile ground in the socio-economic challenges that plagued the country, including high levels of poverty and unemployment. The group capitalized on these grievances to recruit disaffected youth.

Furthermore, the International Crisis Group's report (2013) highlights the role of weak governance and corruption in Nigeria exacerbating the insurgency, eroding public trust in the government, and providing an opportunity for extremist groups to gain support. It's essential to recognize that the Boko Haram insurgency did not emerge solely during the Goodluck Jonathan administration, but it escalated significantly during this period due to a combination of domestic and international factors.

The Government's Response to the Boko Haram Insurgency during Goodluck Jonathan's and Muhammadu Buhri's Administrations

The government's response to the Boko Haram insurgency during President Goodluck Jonathan's administration was a critical aspect of managing the security crisis. In response to the escalating violence and insecurity caused by Boko Haram, President Jonathan's administration declared a state of emergency in three northeastern states: Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa (Oyinlola, 2017).This declaration allowed for the deployment of additional security forces to the affected areas and granted them expanded powers to combat the insurgency (Yusuf and Abubakar, 2018).Recognizing the transnational nature of the Boko Haram threat, President Jonathan's government sought international assistance and cooperation in addressing the crisis. Nigeria engaged in joint military operations with neighboring countries such as Cameroon and Chad to combat the insurgency's cross-border activities (Nwafor, 2017.). In addition, the Nigerian government implemented various counterterrorism measures, including increased intelligence gathering, surveillance, and border security efforts. These measures were aimed at disrupting Boko Haram's operations and preventing the group from acquiring weapons and funds (Onapajo, 2019).

Also, President Jonathan's administration extended an amnesty offer to Boko Haram members, encouraging them to lay down their arms and embrace a peaceful resolution (Obi, 2019). This approach aimed to reduce the group's recruitment efforts and weaken its ranks by offering incentives for defection. The government also explored avenues for political dialogue and reconciliation with Boko Haram leaders, negotiations aimed at securing the release of abducted individuals and achieving a ceasefire periodically took place, though these efforts faced significant challenges and skepticism (Onapajo, 2019).

Despite these efforts, the government faced criticism for perceived inadequacies in addressing the Boko Haram insurgency. Some critics argued

that the government's response was slow and ineffective, leading to public frustration and skepticism regarding its commitment to security. One of the most prominent criticisms was the perceived ineffectiveness of the government's response, especially in the early stages of the insurgency (Igwe, 2014). Critics argued that the government struggled to contain Boko Haram's escalating violence and that security forces were ill-equipped to deal with the insurgency. There were also allegations of corruption and mismanagement within security forces, including reports of funds meant for counterterrorism efforts being misappropriated. Such allegations eroded public trust in the government's ability to address the insurgency effectively (Adeniyi, 2018).

The government's counterterrorism measures, including the declaration of a state of emergency, were criticized for potential human rights abuses and violations. Reports of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and abuses by security forces raised concerns. These actions alienated local communities and fueled sympathy for the insurgents. Lack of effective communication and collaboration hindered the response to the insurgency. Coordination between different security agencies and branches of government was often cited (Onapajo, 2017)

In summary, the government's response to the Boko Haram insurgency during President Jonathan's administration involved a combination of security measures, international cooperation, political initiatives, and counterterrorism strategies. While these efforts were implemented to address the crisis, they also faced significant challenges and criticism (Jega, 2020). The effectiveness of these responses and their impact on national security remained central questions during this period.

During President Muhammadu Buhari's administration in Nigeria, which began in May 2015 and till May 2023, political leadership and issues of national security remained at the forefront of the country's challenges. President Buhari inherited the ongoing Boko Haram insurgency, which remained a significant security concern during his tenure (Jega, 2020). The insurgency continued to affect the northeastern region and presented complex security challenges. Nwosu (2017) asserts that despite the fact that the problems predate the Buhari government, Nigerians have unfairly criticized it for its actions and inactions in the face of ongoing conflicts.

Apart from the Boko Haram insurgency, Nigeria experienced an escalation in conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and farming communities during this period (Obi, 2019). These conflicts had serious implications for national security and social cohesion. The Agatu Massacre in Benue State was one of the most well-known attacks purportedly carried out by Fulani herdsmen during the Buhari administration. Over 300 members of the villages were massacred in February 2016, and about 7,000 people were left homeless. According to certain sources, suspected herders killed numerous people in 10 Agatu communities at the beginning of 2016. Along with these murders, there were claims of rape, the burning down of homes and other property, and other crimes. The attacks, according to their leader, were retaliation against the Agatu people for the 2013 murder and cattle theft of a senior Fulani member. That the president took more than a week to denounce the incident, order an investigation, and that his spokesperson expressed because "[the President] is not a (sic) talkative," he has taken a quiet stance on the problem, which has infuriated many Nigerian

Moreover, the government and security organizations have come under fire for either inaction or plain complicity with the herdsmen. In a conversation, Mr. Sule Audu, the assemblyman for Agatu in Benue State, accused the military of letting the Fulani herdsmen to occupy the destroyed settlements while their cattle, numbering over 100,000, were allowed to graze freely on the farmers' land. The Fulani president gave his assailants more ammo because they perceived his lack of action as tacit support for the murderers. On April 25, 2016, alleged armed Fulani invaders raided the town of Ukpabi Nimbo in Enugu State, murdering numerous people. This garnered widespread censure and brought attention to the danger of the war igniting further security flashpoints. Should the deaths continue, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra, an organization pushing for the restoration of the separatist Republic of Biafra, may become involved. The government considers the group to be treacherous. Retaliatory attacks have been threatened by several

communities in the South-East (Anyadike, 2013). (Anyadike, 2013).

Similar clashes between herders and farmers have been observed in other parts of the nation (Nwosu, 2017). It is perplexing that virtually no successful prosecution or conviction has been obtained in any of these episodes of herdsmen murdering and wanton damage of property. To add to the people's sense of betrayal, Nasir el-Rufai, the governor of Kaduna State and a powerful friend of the President, agreed settling them to stop killing the predominantly Christian southern Kaduna people. In December 2016, Kaduna was engulfed in a crisis involving Fulani herders and inhabitants of southern Kaduna. The most concerning feature is that the attacks occurred within the state's 24-hour curfew. (Nwosu, 2017).

The Southern Kaduna Killings were allegedly Fulani herdsmen's retaliatory attacks for earlier murders, similar to the Agatu Crisis. Many people believe that the governor, a Muslim Fulani, emboldened the herders even if the settlement was given in good spirit by paying fellow Muslim Fulanis rather than bringing them to justice. Even a UN assessment on attacks carried out in Nigeria by herders decried "the complete impunity enjoyed so far by the perpetrators." Despite the Nimbo Massacre allegedly being committed by approximately 500 armed herdsmen, reports also claimed that 5 people were detained in connection with the incident. It is unsettling when attacks and retaliations may be carried out in a nation with little to no repercussions for the culprits. (Nwosu, 2017).

The specter of a fully-armed Fulani herdsman is new, according to some worried Nigerians, and the most puzzling question surrounding the conflicts is how cattle herders acquire sophisticated weapons like the AK-47 (semi-) gun. Several factors, including the Libyan Crisis and the free flow of firearms after Ghaddafi's death, gun running, and local politics have been blamed for the relatively easy access of Fulani herdsmen to dangerous weapons The transhumant Fulani from abroad are believed to be responsible for the recent wave of herdsmen-inflicted violence. If this is the case, it indicates a deeper issue that has dogged previous Nigerian administrations and continues under the current Buhari administration: the absence of efficient border security. Foreigners can travel as far south as Enugu and Osun State to wreak havoc. Even ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) regulations demand for a transition to ranching and do not support unrestrained and/or armed grazing. (Nwosu, 2017 in Ogbette, Attamah & Okoh, 2018).

To be fair to the Buhari administration, it appears like they are trying to stop such attacks. The grazing law is currently up for debate in the National Assembly. The measure aims to create grazing reserves in each state to enhance livestock productivity and avoid disputes between ranchers and farmers. The law appears to have little support from many Southern states, though, given the contentious nature of the issue. Many claim that their lands would be taken over in order to suit Fulani commercial interests, which is why they view the measure as unfair. Even more concerning is the fact that some Fulanis oppose the bill, claiming it violates their right to free movement. It appears that the federal government has not yet launched any systematic education campaign to allay these worries, real or imagined, nor proposed an alternative workable solution. (Nwosu, 2017).

Lack of a comprehensive and well-coordinated national grazing strategy could result in anarchy, where separate states decide their own fate. One example is the anti-grazing law that Ekiti State passed. The regulation, which forbids grazing outside of defined areas and hours as well as with firearms, has been denounced by the umbrella group representing the herdsmen, the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association. A careful examination of the issues reveals that some of the disagreements are motivated by claims of livestock rustling. Herdsmen were forced to carry weapons because they believed the established communities were robbing them of their animals and murdering their friends and children. According to Mohammed Abdullahi, the chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association in Plateau State, "The Fulani use the AK47 for defense since the government has failed to protect them." Such self-defense, while unacceptable, is a criticism of Nigeria's security system (Nwosu, 2017). What the police and other appropriate security services are doing to either prevent or quickly respond to attacks by Fulani herders is another security-related matter. The Southern Kaduna Killings are an example of how large-scale massacres and looting can occur during

a 24-hour curfew. This is abhorrent and indicates either a weak security apparatus or, worse yet, active collusion by security agencies. The government's overall inability to convict the majority of the violent offenders on both sides not only fails to dissuade future attacks but also fosters deadly weapons races on both sides of the war (Nwosu, 2017).In addition, secessionist movements and calls for restructuring Nigeria's federal system was significant contributor to ethnic and regional tensions in the country. These issues had implications for political leadership and national security during President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its leader, Nnamdi Kanu, emerged as a prominent secessionist movement during this period, advocating for the secession of the southeastern region of Nigeria to form the independent state of Biafra (Omodia, 2012). IPOB's activities, which included protests and calls for civil disobedience, led to increased tensions and security challenges in the region. The Nigerian government labeled IPOB as a terrorist organization, further intensifying the conflict. In addition, calls for the restructuring of Nigeria's federal system gained momentum during President Buhari's administration. Advocates argued that restructuring could address issues of governance, resource allocation, and regional autonomy, reducing ethnic and regional tensions. Debates on restructuring included discussions about devolving more powers to states and addressing perceived imbalances in the distribution of resources (Obi, 2019).

Gap in Literature

The appraisal of political leadership and its implications for national security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic is an important and complex subject that has garnered some attention from scholars and analysts. However, there are notable gaps in the existing literature that deserve further exploration and research. While there have been studies examining specific aspects of political leadership or national security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic, there is a lack of comprehensive explanation of how different political leaders in Nigeria's Fourth Republic have failed to perform their responsibilities and the effects of these on the National security of the Nigerian state have not been adequately delved into.

Findings, Summary and Recommendations

The achievementof Peace and tranquility at all levels (National)in the Nigerian state would be possible if the leaders in this country aimed at providing and promotingthe social well-being of the people. Government which serves as the agency through which the will and purposes of the state would be realized should endeavor to accomplishthis goal by effectively adopting a type of leadership style that will help in realizing the goals of the stateto avoid any conflict between the state and its people which may eventually trigger into violent-conflict because if this occur, it may leads to the absence of peace and if thereis absence of peace in the country, certainly, the attainment of national security is utopia in nature.

The following are therefore recommended for the safety and protection of the Nigerian citizens and properties by their political leaders;

First, the study recommends that the leadership styles adopted by the Nigerian leaders in administering the country shouldtherefore be used in fostering and engendering her national security.

Second, the spirit and principle of the rule of law should be adhered to by the leaders before making and implementing any policy.

Third, Nigerian leaders should shift from being personal rulers to selfless leaders. And leaders in the Nigerian state should endeavor to protect the interest of their people rather than their interests.

Fourth, Nigerian leaders should endeavor to effectively perform their functions as the machinery ofthe state to prevent further social disconnections between the state and her citizens and the prevention of further springing up of other militant groups which may affect the national security or survival of the Nigerian state.

Fifth, the Nigerian state should increase the percentage of the derivation of the Niger-delta region to end the crisis and enhance development in the region.

Sixth, there should be provisions for employment opportunities for unemployed Nigerians by the Nigerian government and leaders.

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CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA: ROLE OF THE TEACHER

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ABSTRACT

The ability to manage a classroom effectively is increasingly becoming a fundamental need in any quest for effective teaching and learning worldwide. In Nigeria, the urge is about the same as the issue of effective classroom management has become crucial and recurring in educational discourse. Teachers play vital roles in the lives of the students in their classrooms. Effective teaching and learning can hardly be noticed in a poorly managed classroom. A well-managed classroom requires a teacher who is characterized by high knowledge of content, context, pedagogy and personal discipline. This paper, therefore, examined classroom management in Nigerian Secondary Schools and the role the teacher has to play. Various discussions were given on these roles amongst which are: the teacher having good knowledge of his subject so as to manage the classroom effectively; the teacher making use of varied methods of teaching in order to make the classroom interesting; and the teacher always comporting himself in the classroom. It was suggested amongst others that teachers should encourage their students in the classroom by praising them verbally as this will motivate them to learn more. Also, that management of schools should improve the classroom management skills and approaches of teachers by setting up many seminars/workshops.

Introduction

It is no exaggeration to say that classroom management has been a primary concern of teachers ever since there have been teachers in classrooms. However, the critical examination of effective classroom management is a major concern to teachers. Teachers play vital roles in the lives of the students in their classrooms. They are best known for the role of educating the students that are placed in their care. Beyond this, teachers serve many other roles in the classroom. Teachers set the tone of their classrooms, build a warm environment, mentor and nurture students, become role models and listen and look for signs of trouble. Regardless of the roles they assume, teachers shape the culture of their classrooms, improve student learning, and influence practice and production.

The ability to manage a classroom effectively is increasingly becoming a fundamental need in any quest for effective teaching and learning worldwide. In Nigeria, the urge is about the same as the issue of classroom management effectiveness has become crucial and recurring in educational discourse. Effective teaching and learning cannot take place in a poorly managed classroom. According to Clark (2012), a well-managed classroom requires a teacher who is characterized by high knowledge of content, context, pedagogy and personal discipline. Ogunnu (2010) opines that the success of effective classroom management is dependent on the teacher's personal attributes evident in his

or her standard of impeccable ethical and social conduct.

The classroom environment where the teacher is expected to exercise control has an important role in teaching and learning (Akubue, 2009). Teachers as instructional planners are faced with a variety of tasks and duties associated with the classroom environment. As managers, teachers are expected to manage the teaching-learning process and ensure that desirable outcomes are achieved for the purpose of fulfilling predetermined goals and objectives. A lot of secondary school teachers in our country are facing problems in managing their classrooms. Perhaps, the single most important aspect of teaching is classroom management. The students are described to be different and some of them tend to act superior to the school management system, even to the teachers. They show less respect to the teachers, refuse to get involved in the learning sessions and even misbehave in the schools. In order to make sure the learning environment goes well, the teachers have to come up with certain guidelines in managing their classrooms.

Classroom management is a term used by teachers to describe the process of ensuring that classroom lessons run smoothly despite disruptive behaviour by students. The term also implies the prevention of disruptive behaviour. It is possibly the most difficult aspect of teaching for many teachers. This problem is not only faced by our local teachers here in Nigeria, but it is believed to be happening worldwide. In 1981, the US National Educational Association reported that 36% of teachers said they would probably not go into teaching if they had to decide again. A major reason was "negative students' attitudes towards learning and indiscipline in students" (Enebeli, 2019 citing Wolfgang and Glickman, 1997).

According to Moskowitz and Hayman (1996) cited in Ubeku (2019), once a teacher loses control of his classroom, it becomes increasingly more difficult for him to regain that control. The time the teacher takes to correct misbehaviour caused by poor classroom management skills results in a lower rate of academic engagement in the classroom. From the students' perspective, effective classroom management involves clear communication of behavioural and academic expectations, as well as a cooperative learning environment.

Classroom management is related to issues of motivation, discipline and respect. Many teachers establish rules and procedures at the beginning of the school year in order to control the students. According to Gootman (2018), rules give students concrete direction to ensure that their expectations become reality. They also try to be consistent in enforcing these rules and procedures. Many would also argue for positive consequences when rules are followed and negative consequences when rules are broken. Sometimes, this application is working in order to manage the classroom effectively but at the same time, failure also occurs.

According to Sule (2015), a real teacher never underestimates his students. He strongly believes that every student has his/her own potential to prove. Teachers are great advisers in making students' choices to build their career. He is the only person who believes that students can achieve something in their lives, enjoys the success of his students with over-joy and satisfaction, can help the students to turn their weaknesses into strength and as well show that success needs lots of sacrifices through life. It is to be noted that with all these attributes of the teacher, managing the classroom is still a major concern of most teachers today. It is against this background that this paper examined the roles of a teacher in classroom management.

Nature of Classroom Management

Classroom management refers to all the things the teacher does to organize his students' space, time and materials so that teaching and learning can take place optimally. It is the process by which teachers and schools create and maintain appropriate behaviour of students in classroom settings. It also involves maintaining order, discipline and decorum in the class at all times. It is the reflection of the learning environment of a group of individuals within a classroom setting. A teacher's classroom-management system communicates information and represents the kinds of instruction that will take place in a particular classroom. In order to be effective, teachers must acquire excellent classroom management skills (Lewis, 2016). The nature of classroom management and classroom instruction

is especially easy to be seen and understood from a student perspective. Students have at least two cognitive demands on them at all times: academic task demands which are understanding and working with content and also social task demands by interacting with others concerning that content. This means that students must try to understand the content and find appropriate and effective ways to participate in order to demonstrate that understanding to the teacher and the whole class. The teacher must facilitate the learning of these academic and social tasks.

Classroom management also involves maintaining the learning environment through decision-making concerning students and the classroom. Maintaining a learning environment requires teachers to actively monitor their students. Active monitoring includes watching students' behaviour closely, correcting inappropriate behaviour before it gets worse, dealing consistently with misbehaviour, and attending to students' learning. In terms of monitoring both students' behaviour and learning, effective teachers regularly survey their class or group and watch for signs of students' confusion or inattention. Maintaining effective management involves keeping an eye out for when students appear to have problems in any field while learning (Emmanuel, 2020). A teacher needs to cater for all actions in order to create, implement, and maintain a learning environment within the classroom. Everything a teacher does has implications for classroom management, including creating the setting, decorating the room, arranging the chairs, speaking to the students and handling their responses, putting routines in place, developing rules, and communicating those rules to the students. These are all aspects of classroom management (John, 2014). An essential part of managing the classroom is to encourage students to do their best and to be excited about what they are learning. There are two factors that are critical in creating such a motivational climate - value and effort. To be motivated, students must see the outcomes of the work that they are doing and the work others do. Effort is the time, energy, and creativity a student uses to develop the work (Brophy, 2016).

Classroom management is crucial in classrooms because it supports the proper execution of curriculum development, developing best teaching practices, and putting them into action. Classroom management can be explained as the actions and directions that teachers use to create a successful learning environment; indeed, having a positive impact on students achieving given learning requirements and goals (Murphy, 2020). From the observations made so far, it becomes clear that classroom management concerns large variety of clear-cut activities such as maintaining order and discipline among students, setting rules and regulations during classroom activities, proper arrangement of classroom furniture and students, adequate allocation of instructional and classroom materials to students, proper use of corrective and punitive measures on students, use of motivational strategies to stimulate learning experiences of students, reduction of noise level among students and providing students with encouragement during and after lesson periods.

Characteristics of Classroom Management

The characteristics of a good classroom manager are common to virtually every good teacher and essential to students' achievements. According to Shawer (2020), the following are the aspects of classroom management:

Respect: An important aspect of classroom management is respect. Before any instruction begins, a mutual amount of respect must be developed between the students and teacher. Students understand that there are certain rules that they must follow to ensure their success. Similarly, teachers must understand that students are not necessarily willing to give respect to a teacher without feeling they have a reason. Setting guidelines in the classroom will help develop the respect that is needed for students to do their best.

Consistency: Order and organization make a classroom run smoothly. Having a set of consistent procedures and routines that the students are familiar with, will help the classroom run like a well-oiled machine. The less time that students have to be off task, the more likely they will be able to have quality classroom management.

Proximity: Proximity helps teachers manage what is going on in the classroom. Walking around the classroom and standing next to students who may be causing problems will usually eliminate the problems quickly. It is important for teachers to know that their standing in one place in the

classroom will make students feel as if they are allowed to do what they would like.

Seating Arrangement: Classroom management can be affected by how the seats are arranged in the classroom. The teachers need to think about the order of the room and how it will affect what they expect of the students. The seating arrangement needs to be organized in such a way that the teacher can easily move around the room and monitor students' behaviour.

Trial and Error: Any style of classroom management is going to involve some trial and error. Finding out what works with students and allowing the class to develop into a safe and secure environment takes time. The most important element of classroom management is allowing the students an opportunity to understand that the rules are part of giving them the best education possible.

Efficient use of Time: The teacher takes time before school starts to create routines and procedures which saves time in the long run. When the students know what to do, it becomes a natural part of the routine. After a few weeks, he does not need to tell them what to do again. The students know and get their planners out, write any homework or assignments and gather all their materials at the end of the day.

Creativity: Classroom management can be affected by how well teachers encourage their students to be creative throughout each lesson. Creative activities allow students to express what they have learnt in a new way. These synthesizing and personalizing of knowledge consolidate learning and create an experience that remains with the students long after the class.

Roles of a Teacher in Classroom Management

Brown (2017) mentions that "teachers can play many roles in the course of teaching and this might facilitate learning. Their ability to carry out these roles effectively will depend to a large extent on the rapport they establish with their students, and of course, on their own level of knowledge and skills." According to Shaka and Bello (2018), one of the roles of a teacher is to motivate learners to develop ability and aspiration to learn. This can be done by planning and preparing teaching and learning activities that take account of the needs and well-being of individual learners as well as groups of learners. Helping students to govern their own behaviours in ways that help them to learn by promoting good methods of classroom discipline is a long standing role of all teachers. There are a number of ways that a teacher can promote good discipline in the classroom. Be fair, positive and consistent.

Teachers are facilitators of students' learning and creators of productive classroom environments in which students can develop the skills they might need at present or in future. However, before one begins to understand the evolving roles of a teacher in managing the classroom, it is better to outline some of the most popular teachers' roles. Harmer (2017) states that it makes more sense to describe different teachers' roles and say what they are useful for, rather than make value judgements about their effectiveness. Here are some of the most common teachers' roles in managing the classroom according to Harmer (2017):

1. A Controller: The teacher is in complete charge of the class, what students do, what they say and how they say it. The teacher assumes this role to manage the classroom by controlling the level of noise making, ensuring that the students are aware of the teacher being the centre of focus, giving instructions to the students on what to do and what not to do as well as inspiring them through his knowledge and expertise.

2. A Prompter: The teacher encourages students to participate and makes suggestions about how students may proceed in an activity. The teacher should be helping students only when necessary. When learners are literally 'lost for words', the prompter can encourage them by discreetly nudging students. Students can sometimes lose the thread or become unsure on how to proceed. The prompter in this regard can prompt but always in a supportive way.

3. A Resource Centre: The teacher is a kind of walking resource centre ready to offer help if needed, or provide learners with whatever language they lack when performing communicative activities. The teacher must make himself available so that learners can consult him when (and only when) it is absolutely

necessary. As a resource centre, the teacher manages the classroom by guiding learners to use available resources such as the internet, for themselves.

4. An Assessor: The teacher assumes this role to see how well students are performing or how well they performed. Feedback and corrections are organized and carried out. There are a variety of ways we can grade learners. The role of an assessor in classroom management gives teachers an opportunity to correct learners. However, if it is not communicated with sensitivity and support, it could prove counter-productive to a student's self-esteem and confidence in learning.

5. An Organizer: This is perhaps the most difficult and important role the teacher has to play in managing the classroom. The success of many activities depends on good organization and on the students knowing exactly what they are to do next. Giving instructions is vital in this role as well as setting up activities. The organizer can also serve as a demonstrator. This role also allows a teacher to get involved and engaged with learners. This keeps the classroom very lively and active.

6. A Participant: This role improves the atmosphere in the classroom when the teacher takes part in an activity. However, the teacher takes a risk of dominating the activity when performing it. Here, the teacher gives the class an activity to perform and he also partakes in it. This role enables the teacher to manage the activities of the students effectively thereby improving classroom management.

7. A Tutor: The teacher acts as a coach when students are involved in project work or self-study. The teacher provides advice and guidance, and helps students clarify ideas and limit tasks. This role can be a good way to manage the classroom by paying individual attention to a student.

When a teacher has a complete knowledge and acquisition of the above roles, such a teacher should be able to manage the classroom effectively for effective teaching and learning to take place. The teacher should not only know these roles but he should also know when and how to apply them for effective classroom management (Harmer, 2017). In order to manage the classroom effectively, the teacher has to combine the following roles with classroom management:

- **Knowledge of the Subject Matter**: A good teacher has incredible knowledge of and enthusiasm for the subject matter he is teaching. He is prepared to answer questions and keep the material interesting for the students. According to Erickson (2016), a good teacher should have knowledge of the subject matter. This is the most common role a teacher plays in the classroom. Subject knowledge has a very important role to play in managing the class because high-quality teaching rests on teachers' understanding of the subjects they are teaching, knowing the structure and sequence of concepts, developing factual knowledge essential to each subject and guiding their students into the different ways of acquiring knowledge. A teacher is giving the curriculum to follow which states guidelines. The way the teacher teaches matters a lot as this will help him to manage the classroom. Hence, the teacher is expected to teach in many ways including lectures and small group activities. When students know that the teacher has grasp knowledge of his subject, they respect the teacher and make the teaching interesting, ready to ask questions for further clarification or answer questions when asked. This keeps the classroom lively.

- **Reward and Reinforcement**: The teacher has a role to play by the use of reward and reinforcement. A teacher should always encourage his students to exhibit positive behaviours to learning and discourage negative behaviours. This can be achieved through the reward and reinforcement system. It is important teachers implement and refine strategies focusing on reducing behavioural issues in order to maximize potential for learning and ensure smooth classroom practice. When a student exhibits good behaviour in the classroom, such a student should be encouraged to continue. This can be achieved through reward and reinforcement. This will motivate the student to continue his good behaviour and also motivate other students to emulate that student. Reward here can mean many things e.g. telling the class to

clap for the student, praising the student verbally, appointing the student as the class monitor, etc (Nwosu, 2021). This helps to manage the classroom effectively.

- **Varied Methods of Teaching**: Effective teachers recognize that the key to effective classroom management is to keep the students actively engaged in the learning process. These teachers design curriculum and learning activities with individual student's needs in mind. According to Emmanuel (2020), the teachers should use a wide range of methods to teach in order to make the class interesting. The teacher can start with a short activity that focuses the students' attention before the actual lesson. Students learn more effectively when they know they are supposed to be learning and why.

- **Good Classroom Arrangement and Easy Accessibility to Students**: The teacher plays the role of managing the class and ensuring good students' behaviour, effective study and work habits, and an overall sense of respect in the classroom. Classroom management can be affected by how the seats are arranged in the classroom. The teacher needs to think about the order of the room and how it will affect what they expect of the students. According to Shawer (2020), the classroom seats (students' chairs and desks, teacher's chair and table, including the board) should be arranged and organized in such a way that the teacher can easily move around the room and monitor students' behaviour. This will enable him to know those who are behaving well, who are following the teaching and those who need corrections or who are misbehaving.

- **Punishment as and when due**: According to Shaka and Bello (2018), punishment is sometimes required if a student chooses to break the rules of the classroom. If the teacher chooses to correct the behaviour by using punishment, it is important to focus on correcting the behaviour for future learning rather than just punishing the student. This corrective measure helps in the classroom management as it promotes peace and effective learning within the classroom. While the word punishment has a negative connotation, the intention behind the word stems from a positive place as negative behaviours often turn positive after application of this measure.

- **Interaction and Involvement of Students during Teaching**: The teacher should do everything possible to transform the students from passive observers to active learners. Students learn more and retain more when they are actively involved. Sule (2015) asserts that a teacher should make a habit of calling on individual students by name to answer questions without first asking for volunteers. This keeps the whole class awake and alert. The teacher should not let more than five minutes go by without getting one of the students to speak. The students should always be on their toes knowing that they might be called at any moment to answer a question.

- **Effective Use of Instructional Materials**: Teaching materials are the resources the teachers used to deliver instruction. These teaching materials support students' learning and increase their (students) success. According to Sule (2015), instructional materials include any tool a teacher uses in his classroom to help foster learning. There are many kinds of instructional materials, but some of the most used ones are traditional resources, graphic organizers, teacher-made resources as well as use of technology. The traditional resources include textbooks and workbooks. Instructional materials needed for the day should be selected and stored in such a way that the teacher can easily lay his hands on them when needed. This is necessary in order to avoid disruption of lessons by running here and there for instructional material. When there are instructional materials, the students are kept busy thereby managing the classroom effectively. The technological instructional materials can enhance students' learning especially with the use of computers and other digital aids to facilitate learning.

- **Teacher's Comportment**: As an effective classroom manager, a teacher should be well prepared for lessons, anticipate

difficulties and react immediately before the problems escalate. A teacher needs to comport himself well when handling his students as this may have either a positive or negative impact on effective teaching and learning. A well comported teacher gains the respect of his students thereby having proper grips of their behaviour in the classroom. This is an effective way of managing the classroom.

- **Attractive Dressing**: Sometimes, teachers just wear what they wear because it is comfortable or just what they have. The implication of what teachers wear to class may impact negatively on them and their students. The more formal a teacher dresses to class, the more likely they are to have higher cognitive and abstract thinking, and the more likely students will have high regard for them. This enables the teacher to manage the class effectively. When students have little or no regard to their teachers due to their shabby dressing, such teachers cannot effectively handle the classroom (Ubeku, 2019).

Classroom Management and its Effects on Teaching and Learning

The structuring of the learning environment is essential for teachers and students. In fact, the physical arrangement of the classroom can affect both student and teacher behaviour in promoting good methods of classroom discipline. A well-managed classroom does not just appear out of nowhere. It takes a good deal of effort to create—and the person who is most responsible for creating it is the teacher. We live in an era where research tells us that the teacher is probably the single most important factor affecting students' achievement.

Although the effect classroom management can have on students' learning achievement is clear, the dynamics of how a teacher produces such an effect are not simple. Rather, the effective teacher performs many functions in effective learning in the classroom. These functions can be organized into three major roles according to Michael (2018):

1. Making wise choices about the most effective instructional strategies to employ,
2. Designing classroom curriculum to facilitate student learning, and
3. Making effective use of classroom management techniques.

The first role deals with instructional strategies and their use. Effective teachers have a wide array of instructional strategies at their disposal. They are skilled in the use of cooperative learning and graphic organizers; they know how best to use homework and how to use questions and advanced organizers, and so on. Additionally, they know when these strategies should be used with specific students and specific content. Although cooperative learning might be highly effective in one lesson, a different approach might be better in another lesson.

The second role associated with effective teaching is classroom curriculum design. This means that effective teachers are skilled at identifying and articulating the proper sequence and pacing of their content. Rather than relying totally on the scope and sequence provided by the district or the textbook, they consider the needs of their students collectively and individually and then determine the content that requires emphasis and the most appropriate sequencing and presentation of that content.

The third role involved in effective teaching is classroom management. Effective classroom management has been recognized as a crucial element in effective teaching. If a teacher cannot obtain students' cooperation and involve them in instructional activities, it is unlikely that effective teaching will take place. In addition, poor management wastes class time, reduces students' time on task and detracts from the quality of the learning environment. Good classroom managers are teachers who understand and use specific techniques to manage the classroom for effective teaching and learning to take place. Awareness of and training in these techniques can change teachers' behaviour, which in turn changes students' behaviour and ultimately affects students' achievement positively.

Proper classroom management creates an ideal environment for learning. This is important for teachers' and students' safety, happiness and productivity. This kind of environment enhances learning as well as social/emotional

development. Managing a classroom is more than simply establishing a set of rules. Classroom management is important because it directly affects the students' ability to learn. It impacts a teacher's ability to be effective and actually enjoy teaching. Most importantly, a well-managed classroom highly impacts students' academic success. When questioning in the classroom focuses on enabling students' learning, teachers deliberately prepare, manage and respond to students' responses. This ensures that teachers can take advantage of opportunities in lesson to consolidate students' understanding.

Conclusion

Classroom is a very important physical plant designed to achieve quality teaching and learning for the improvement of standards in education. It is characterized by high expectations, excellence, standards and a caring environment. It is specifically meant for special qualitative interactions, facilitation and pedagogical instructions between the teachers and the students and where it fails, distractions set in. This distractive environment has a greater influence on the participants regardless of how the students are organized for learning. Classroom learning friendly environment promotes high academic learning, experience, satisfaction, morale, tone of the learner and attainment of goals in secondary schools. This can only be achieved through effective classroom management.

Classroom management is an important aspect of teaching and learning where students are encouraged to learn and achieve specific academic outcomes within or outside the classroom environment. Teachers are to show good examples and be a model to students because they are like a signpost in the lives of the students they teach. The teacher as the chairman of classroom affairs has the duty and obligation to ensure efficient and effective classroom management. He must take cognizance of variance and differences in the students' background (i.e. ideas, goals, socio – economic, preferences, abilities and religion etc.). These make teacher's roles more challenging. The classroom teacher must be skillful in learning management in order to succeed. The aim of classroom management is to maintain a positive, productive and friendly learning environment. This is very necessary because there cannot be an effective teaching and learning process without an effective classroom management.

Suggestions

The following suggestions were made to foster effective management of the classroom:

a) Teachers should encourage the students by praising them verbally. It can motivate them to learn more.

b) Teachers should provide varieties of skills, backgrounds, languages, and levels of cooperation to the students. They should manage the classroom by empowering students to be active learners in the class. This will keep the classroom always alive and awake.

c) Teachers should try other approaches that will be best suited to the individuality of the learners. Theyshould also establish a positive relationship with their students. This will help them to be great managers of the classroom.

d) Management of secondary schools should improve the classroom management skills and approaches of the teachers by setting up many seminars/workshops.

e) Management should conduct a special meeting with their teachers to discuss the classroom and behavioural problems of students so as to tackle them promptly. Also, they should seek the help of the guidance counselor to monitor the behavioural problems of each student.

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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES CLIMATE CHANGE: AN EXPOSITION OF HERDSMEN TERRORISM IN TIVLAND OF BENUE STATE

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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to examine the scramble for environmental resources as a precipitating factor in the rise in herdsmen activities in Nigeria. The paper is informed by the fact that since the beginning of the 21st century, there has been an astronomic increase in the number of herdsmenactivitiesthat have resultantly led to the destruction of lives and properties. Scholars have identified a lot of factors that must inform the wanton destruction of villages and communities by maundering herdsmen in Nigeria. Although, environment factors are interrogated as exacerbating agents, literature on the nexus between the scramble for environmental resources, climate change and the seasonal changes that have characterized the activities of herdsmen have remained feeble. Thus, the work is aimed at contributing to the existing literature on the impact of environmental factors on conflicts in Tivland of central Nigeria. Using both qualitative and quantitative sources of historical data, the paper establishes that the struggle for environment resources coupled with climate change have informed the unwarranted killing, maiming and ransacking of Tiv communities by herdsmen. This, the paper argues, is eminent in the changes in the occurrence of these conflicts. Before now, clashes between herders and farmers was witnessed between the periods of December to March, owing largely to changes in environments in the Sahel region. However, with the continuous environmental changes that are evident with desert encroachment and silting of the lake chad basin, the demography of the conflicts has changed to an all year around conflict. To mitigate these conflicts, the paper advocates for environmental campaigns on the impact of environmental factors on Herders-Farmers conflicts and calls on religious leaders to dissuade the minds of their adherents about the religious motives of the conflicts. This will ultimately erase the fear of cultural imperialism that have constituted as a knock in the wheel of efforts in addressing the herdsmen malady.

Introduction

Extant literature is replete of how the scramble and control of environmental resources can fuel crisis amongst groups.[23] Similarly, literature has shown the role these resources have played in the socio-economic developments of states. They determine the economic lifestyle of people, groups and communities. In Nigeria, environment resources are abounded—they range from Rivers, mineral deposits, uranium, coal, tin, gold, limestones and iron. Mineral deposit like crude oil, for instance, have remained Nigeria's major source of income. Because of the centrality of these resources to the socio-economic and political development of states, the struggle for their control among groups and sometimes the state has largely remained a perennial problem. Besides, they are now threatened by changes in the atmospheric condition like climate change. Climate change, for example, have affected environmental resources as evidenced with the shrinking of the lake chad basin from 45,000km^2 to 3000km^2 within the last three decades.[24]Again, changes in the atmospheric condition has informed the south ward migration of groups like herdsmen from the Sahel region to the transitional region or Middle belt region of Nigeria. With the apparentimpact of climate change on environmental resources, the aftermath has resulted to conflicts—struggle over the control of these resources.

As climate change have had implications on environmental resources in Nigeria, scholars like Ovuyovwiroye[25],Faniran[26]have reconstructed the impact of climate change on Nigeria's socio-economic and political trajectory. In fact, scholars likeItuma&Chilaka[27]demonstrates how the scramble for natural resourcesas a result of climate change can incubate and harsh conflicts among groups. In North central Nigeria and especially in Tivland, the close of the 20th century witnessed conflicts between herdsmen and farmers. Scholars like Azaigba[28] have examined the nature and character of these conflicts and advance a plethora of reasons that must have occasion these conflicts. While the paper acknowledges earlier works on the how the control of the abundant environmental resources fuel conflicts in Nigeria, the paper equally contributed towards this regard. But specifically, the paper argues and established that seasonal changes in the occurrence of Herders-farmers conflicts in Tivland of Nigeria is because of environmental factors. This factors have informed the all year migration of herdsmen to areas in Tivland that will support their pastoral occupation.

Tivland in Geographical Perspective

Tivland is located in Benue state of Nigeria. Tivland covers fourteen local governments in the state viz: Makurdi, Guma, Buruku, Gboko, Gwer, Gwer-East, Tarka, Logo, Kastina-ala, Ukum, Kwande, Ushongo, Konshisha and Vandeikya. The population of the Tiv is pegged at over two million and they are the most populous ethnic group in Benue state.[29] Geographically, Tivland lies on both sides of the River Benue and occupies an area of

[23] S. Tonah, "Managing Farmer-Herder Conflict in Ghana's Volta Basin" *Ibadan Journal of Social Science*. Vol. 4, No. 34, 2006, 33-34. Also, B. Roger, "The Expansion and Adaption of Fulbe Pastoralism to Sub Humid and Humid Conditions in Nigeria" *Cashiers D'etudes Africaines*. Vol. 34, No. 135, 1994, 197-205.

[24] C. Udeh, "How Climate Change is Provoking Clashes Between Herdsmen and Farmers in Nigeria" *Ecologist: The Journal for the Post-Industrial Age*.www.theecologist.org/2018/feb/22/how-climate-change/provoking-clashes-between-herdsmen-farmers-in-nigeria//. Accessed 08/09/2021.

[25]O. A. Ovuyovwiroye, "Overview of Climate Change Impacts in Nigeria"www.tandfonline.com>abs. Accessed 08/09/2020.

[26]A. Faniran, "Land, Land Degradation an Global Environmental Change: What Every Citizen Must Know" in A. Osuntokun, (ed), *Dimensions of Environmental Problems in Nigeria*. (Ibadan: Davidson Press, 1997), 50.

[27]S. O. Ituma and F. Chilaka, "Climate Change and Conflicts in Nigeria: A Theoretical Examination of the Worsening Incidences of Conflict Between Fulani Herdsmen and Farmers in Nigeria" in *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*. Vol. 2, No. 1, 2012, 110-124.

[28]K. T. Azaigba, "Herders and Farmers Conflict in Central Nigeria: A Review of Contending Antidotes," in *Kaduna Journal of Humanities*. No. 3, 2017, 191.

[29]"Nigeria Census-Nigeria Data Portal," accessed 17 July 2017, https://www.nigerias.opendataforafrica.org>statepopulation.

above 30,000 square kilometres and stretches from about 6^0 30' to $8^0$10'north latitudeand 8^0 to 10^0east longitude. Most ofTivland is 2440 meters above sea level. Tivland is a transitional zone and share common borderswith Jukun and Chamba of Taraba state in the East. To the west are the Idoma and Igala of Benue and Kogi states respectively. To the north, the Tiv share borders with the Alago and Koro of Nasarawa state. To the south the Tivshares borders with the Bekkawra, Abi ethnic groups categorized by Wegh as Udam in Cross River State.[30]The land lies within the Guinea Savannah Region and it is characterized with alluvial plains, fresh water and vegetation the supports crop and animal farming.[31]The abundance of agricultural resources in Tivland has earned Benue State the appellation of "The Food Basket of the Nation". Linguistically, Tiv belongs to the Niger-Benue Congo family. Several traditions of origins suffice Tiv migration and existence. However, their Bantu origins is not disputed by scholars.

Theoretical Underpinning

Several theoretical postulations such as the frustration-Aggression,[32] and plural,[33] theories have been used to explain the lethality that has characterized herdsmen/farmers relations in Tivland and Nigeria.However, this chapter shall examine and adopt the social conflict theory and the eco violence theory. The anchorage of these two theories in informed by their analytical similarities in explaining the herdsmen/farmers conflicts. The social conflict theorysees social life as a competition and focuses on the distribution of resources and power which are not evenly endowed by nature[34] (environment). Proponents of the theory view society as a gathering of people of diverse needs and interests with limited resources to meet their needs. This creates inequality that generates social conflict and social change.[35] Karl Marx is considered the father of social conflict theory.[36] Social conflict theory basically looks at struggles for power and control in the society as a major causal factor of conflict. Conflict occurs when two or more actors oppose each other in social interaction, reciprocally exerting social powers in an effort to attain scarce or incompatible goals and prevent the opponent from attaining them. The basic tenet of the theory is that two opposing groups in the society always struggle for limited or scare resources that nature (environment) has bestowed on mankind.

Extrapolating from the above, struggle over environmental resources which are scare and are now threatened by changes in the atmospheric condition have often resulted to conflicts among groups. This glaring reality have informed Thomas Homer-Dixon argument about the relationship between environmentalresources, migration and conflicts as evidenced in his Eco Violence theory. Thus, according to him:

> *Decreases in the quality and quantity of renewable resources, population growth, and unequal resource access act singly or in various combinations to increase the scarcity, for certain population groups, of cropland, water, forests, and fish. This can reduce*

[30] S. F. Wegh, Between Continuity and Change: Tiv Concept of Tradition and Modernity. (Enugu: SAAP Press Limited, 2003), 32.

[31]Benue in Historical Perspective. (Makurdi: A Publication of the Ministry of Information and Culture, 2003), 2.

[32]P. N. Oli, C. Ibekwe, and N. I. Uche, "Prevalence of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria" in International Journal of Innovative Studies in Sociology and Humanities. No. 1, 2018, 33-34.

[33] M. B. Ajibefun, "Social and Economic Effects of the Menace of Fulani Herdsmen Crisis in Nigeria," in Journal of Educational and Social Research.Issue 8, No. 2, 2018, 133-134.

[34]U.Egbuta, "Understanding the Herder-Farmer Conflict in Nigeria," accessed 28 December 2018, https://www.accord.org.za.

[35]U. Egbuta, "Herder-Farmer Conflict."

[36]U. Egbuta, "Herder-Farmer Conflict."

> *economic productivity, both for the local groups experiencing the scarcity and for the larger regional and national economies. The affected people may migrate or be expelled to new lands. Migrating groups often trigger ethnic conflicts when they move to new areas, while decreases in wealth can cause deprivation conflicts.*[37]

Arising from the above, theherder/farmer conflictscan be explained within the context of changes in atmospheric condition in the world and Nigeria has since necessitated the mass migration of nomads into the Benue valley and Tivland in search for greener pasture that will support their occupation.

The migration of the nomads into Benue Valley and Tivlandis informedby the fact that for the cattle occupation to be practiced and sustained amidst environmental challenges like drought in the Sahel region is by securing fertile regions within the Benue Valley, Tivland and other places in Southern Nigeria. Therefore, in the light of the Social Conflict theory and Eco-Violence theory, the on-going conflict between herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria and Tivlandcan be understood within the context of struggle for the control of scare resources that are now threatened by environmental challenges like climate change.In such scenarios, as argue by Ekah and Okpalaeke, each group struggles to attain or acquire more resources and because they are scare, struggle ensues between them.[38] In Tivland which is the study area, the close of the 20th century and the 21stcentury opened with struggles between herdsmen and farmers over the rich and alluvial plains of Tivland of Benue State.Ochefu rightly observes that, the alluvial plains of the Benue valley and the riverhave subjected the area and her inhabitants to numerous attacks from herdsmen.[39]Again, in areas such as Guma, Gwer-west, Kwande, Buruku, Logo, Makurdi (Adaka) that have suffered from incessant attacks from herdsmen, there is the prevalence of fresh water and green pasture.[40] It is in this connection that the paperadopted the Social conflict and Eco violence theoretical assumptions in explaining the cruelty that exist in herdsmen/farmers relations in Tivland of Benue State.

Historicity of Herdsmen/Farmers Conflicts in Tivland

The history of herdsmen/farmers conflicts is as old as man. In fact, Kertyo argues that the history of the conflict can be traced to the Bible.[41]The

[37] T. F. Homer-Dixon and J. Blitt (eds),Eco violence: Link Among Environment, Population and Security. (Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1998), 55.

[38] J. A. Ekah and P. C. Okpalaeke, "Identifying Conflict Early Warning Signs (CEWS) in Farmer-Herders Conflicts in Nigeria: Bekwarra Local Government Area in Perspectives, 2000-2015" *Kaduna Journal of Humanities.*www.researchgate.com. Accessed 10/11/2019.

[39]Y. A. Ochefu, "Farmers and Herders: Political Economic Implications of the Fulani Herdsmen/Farmer Conflicts in the Benue Valley," (Paper Presented at a two-day Symposium Organized by the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in Collaboration with YavniellaKonzult Titled "Displaced, Traumatized and Neglected: A Serious Humanitarian Crisis in Benue State at J. S. Tarka Foundation, Makurdi From Monday 14th to Tuesday 15th January 2019, 11.

[40] I.Ayu and M. Dura, "Grazing Reserves or Ranches: Where Lies the Panacea to Herdsmen/Farmers Conflicts?" A Memo Submitted to the Benue State Committee on Agriculture, Security, Human Rights and Legal Reforms. 2014, 4.

[41] P. M. Kertyo, "From Mutuality to Hostility: A Historical Analysis of the Changing Patterns of Herdsmen/Farmers Conflicts in Nigeria" A Paper Presented at the 2019 Humboldt Kolleg Conference with the theme: Nigeria's Resource Wars from 6th to 10th May 2019. 1.

Bible recorded in clear terms the differences in Cain (farmer) and Abel (herder) relations that ultimately resulted to the killing of Abel by Cain.[42] Again, the Bible have recorded the acrimonious relations that characterized Abraham's and Lot's herders over access to land resources (environment) and grazing reverses.[43] Apart from the Cain and Abel, Abraham and Lot episodes, there exist some skirmishes in herders and farmers relations during the ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian and Greek Civilizations.[44] In Sub-Saharan Africa, conflicts between herders and farmers was and have become a common feature of economic activities[45] as evidenced in countries like Mali, Senegal, Ghana etc. In Nigeria, conflicts between the two groups also existed before Nigeria's autonomous existence in 1960[46] Interestingly, these conflicts were feeblish, seasonal and to a larger extend, never threatened the harmonious existence of these groups as A. Utsaha argues for the case of Northern Nigeria:

> *In the early 1950s, conflicts between herders and farmers existed in areas like Doma, Awe, Guma, Keana, Lafia, Wukari. These conflicts were not frequent. Whenever conflicts occurred, they were settled amicably without the use of guns. Herders lived and interacted freely with the local communities (farmers) that accommodated them.*[47]

Arising from the above quotation, its crystal clear that before the 21st century, Herdsmen-Farmers were feeble. The 1950s witnessed signs of early conflicts between herdsmen and Tiv farmers as evidenced in Guma. The conflicts never experienced the gruesome murder of people. In fact, they usually occur during dry seasons.

The metamorphization of these clashes to armed conflicts is a development that can be traced to the 1980s. A focus group discussion with elders of Torkula village reveals that:

> *During the late 1980s, conflicts between the Nzorov people and the (TseDamkor), a name use to describe the people of the area that are believed to be the direct descendants of Usman Dan Fodio began to manifest. At the earliest stage, the conflicts were addressed as preparators of the conflicts on both sides were punished using traditional conflict resolution mechanisms….later, specifically towards the close of 1990, the conflicts assumed catastrophic dimension that resulted to the death of (Tyoor) kindred head of*

[42] In the Biblical Book of Genesis, Cain and Abel are the first two sons of Adam and Eve. Cain, the first born, was a farmer, and his brother Abel was a Shepherd. The brothers made sacrifices to God, each of his own produce, but God favoured Abel's sacrifice instead of Cain. (Genesis 4). Though, many will interpret the account to mean spiritual relationship with God, but the account thus explained the animosity that exist between a farmer and a herder. For details, Consult the *Holy Bible King James Version*. (India: Franchrix Publishers, 2010), 3-4.

[43] The Biblical Book of Genesis: 13 have reported the quarrels between Abraham's and Lot's herders. For details, consult the *Holy Bible King James Version.* 10-11.

[44] B. Chatwin, "Nomad Invasion" in B. Chatwin, (ed), *What Am I Doing.*(London: Picador, 1989), 216.

[45] A. Ofuoku and B. I. Isife, "Causes, Effects and Resolutions of Farmers-Nomadic Cattle Herder Conflict in Delta State, Nigeria" in *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*.No. 2, 2018, 47-54.

[46] "Fulani Grazing and Settlement," 20 March 1958, No. VN.72/3/239.

[47] Interview with AwambeUtsaha, born 1938, Ex-Service Man, Daudu, Guma, 11 September 2018.

NzorovZakiIordyeAkaahena, his son and 14 others by armed Fulani herdsmen.[48]

The 1980s actually saw the intensification of these conflicts. They began in Tivland in 1986 as Tiv versus Alago crisis in Awe, when Doma local government and Nasarawa state were not created. It resurfaced in 1989 and 1990 spreading towards 1991 as Doma/Awe and Tiv crisis.[49]

From the above accounts, armed conflicts between the two groups stated in the 1980s. This is particularly true of developments like the "*IjovIpupuu*" episode in which out of anger, arising from destruction of farms by Fulani cattle, the Iharav people of Sengev district went for a reprisal attack that resulted to the killing of 80 cows.[50] From the late 1980s, the conflicts were fierce, they were relaxed during the 1990s only to resurface at the beginning of the 21st century. In fact, as argue by Agba and Mgbanyi,[51] beginning from the second decade of the 21st century, central Nigeria and Tivland was characterized by attacks from herdsmen who ransacked Tiv and other indigenous farming population in the area. The periods between 2012 to 2013 witnessed armed attacks by herdsmen on farming communities like, Anguhar, Abaim, Gjir, Tse-Ugbulugh, Tseikeah, Adeke, Adaka, TseBume in Tivland. Similarly, the same periods evidenced herdsmen terrorism in villages like Ukpaim, Umenger, Agasha, Udei, Kaseyo, Yogbo, Turan in Tivland. The attacks continued at reached its peak in January 2018.

Scramble for Environmental Resources and the Seasonality of Herdsmen/Farmers Conflicts

The herdsmen/farmers conflict is as old as man. P. Oli,[52] K. Azaigba,[53] R. Blech,[54] Y. Ochefu,[55] F. Asogwa[56] H. Degri[57] have interrogated herdsmen terrorism and identified a number of factors which are geopolitical, economic and

[48]Focus Group Discussion with Elders of Torkula Village, Daudu, Guma, 11 September 2018.

[49] Interview with Chief Daniel AyuaAbomtse, born 1962, Traditional Ruler, Naka, Gwer-West, 16 September 2018

[50] Interview with KwaghgbaIorhom, born 1979, Farmer, Naka, Gwer-West, 16 September 2018.

[51] T. P. Agba and D. Mgbanyi, "Perspectives on Terrorism in the North Central Nigeria Area Since 2001" A Paper Presented at the National Conference on Terrorism, Insurgency and Economic Development in Nigeria, organized by Centre for Peace and Development Studies, Benue State University, Makurdi from 29th to 30th November 2016. 7-8.

[52] Perpetua Nneka Oli, Christopher Ibekwe, and Nwankwo I. Uche, "Prevalence of Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria" *International Journal of Innovative Studies in Sociology and Humanities* 3, no. 1 (2018): 33-34.

[53] Azaigba, "Herders and Farmers Conflict in Central Nigeria," 191-199.

[54] Roger Blench, "The Expansion and Adaption of Fulbe Pastoralism to Sub humid and Humid Conditions in Nigeria," *Cahiers D'etudes Africaines* 34, no. 135 (1994): 197.

[55] Yakubu A. Ochefu, "Farmers and Herders: Political Economic Implications of the Fulani Herdsmen/Farmer Conflicts in the Benue Valley" (paper presented at a two-day symposium on "Displaced, Traumatized and Neglected: A Serious Humanitarian Crisis in Benue State" organized by the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in collaboration with Yavniella Konzult at J. S. Tarka Foundation, Makurdi, 14-15 January 2019), 3.

[56] Felix C. Asogwa and Nneka Ifeoma Okafor, "Herders-Farmers Conflict and National Security in Nigeria," *South East Journal of Political Science* 2, no. 2 (2016): 30-32.

[57] Ibrahim Hamman Degri, "Managing Herdsmen and Farmers Conflict in Nigeria," in *Defence, Security, Economy and Development in Nigeria*, ed. Shuaibu Ibrahim et al. (London: Bahiti & Dalila Publishers, 2017), 540-557.

climatic as precipitating factors for herdsmen terrorism in Nigeria and Tivland. Blech, for instance, argues and demonstrated how the search for natural resources occasioned herdsmen-farmers conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa. Relatedly, Oli also argues how the conflicts between Herders and farmers are heightened as result of environmental factors such as desert encroachment.

In fact, struggle for environmental or natural resources or changes in the atmospheric condition have always informed these conflicts. For instance, as argue by Gordon Childe in Michael Smith, cultural change can be driven by environmental change.[58] It therefore means, environment changes can inform the migration of people to other places that will support their occupation. Again, the biblical account of the discrepanciesthat existed between Abraham'sand Lot's herders were as result of the scramble for natural resources—they all desired to have access to fertile lands. In North central Nigeria and Tivland, the struggle for access to land have always precipitate conflicts. Although, the fatality was minimal but began to increase at the beginning of the 21st century as K. Azaigba observes:

> *Before the year 2000, conflicts between herders and farmers over land witnessed few fatalities in terms of human lives due to the use of low-profile weapons. Conflicts were also settled using traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. Reasonable number of Fulani herdsmen were permitted to settle in host communities across the central region.*[59]

The fact that herdsmen were allowed to settle in host communities cannot be disputed. However, the narrative significantly changed as herdsmen did not only want to settle but have control over land in the study area. Thus, the attempts by herdsmen to have control of the Benue Valley and Tivland has exacerbated the conflicts as N. Gbashinbo illuminates:

> *The geographical location of the Benue State has long attracted herders to the region. The region is characterized with fertile land, alluvial plains, swamps, streams, River Benue with her tributaries of Kastina-ala and Buruku…it is the geographical features of the area in terms of natural resources that have subjected it to incessant attacks by herders who want to conquer and subdue it.*[60]

The struggle for the control of geographical features of the state is induced by environmental exigencies like climate change and the desertification of the Sahel region. Stressing the overwhelming importance of this factor, especially the desertification of the Sahel region. Desertification of northern Nigeria has affected the raring of animals like cows. The shrinking of the Lake Chad has informed the south wards migration of herders to other parts of Nigeria as L. Mohammad points:

> *Lake Chad that used to provide water and other resources to more than 30 million people in four countries, including Nigeria, in the early 1960s has shrunk by about 90 percent, from twenty-five thousand square kilometers to two thousand five hundred square kilometers, thus forcing those affected to move south in search of resources. These and other reasons, like*

[58] M. E. Smith, "V. Gordon Childe and the Urban Revolution: A Historical Perspective on a Revolution in Urban Studies" in The Town Planning Review. Vol. 80, No. 1, 2009, 3-29.

[59] K. T. Azaigba, "Herders and Farmers Conflict in Central Nigeria: A Review of Contending Antidotes"191.

[60] Interview with Nensha Gbashinbo, born 1978, Civil Servant, Agasha, Guma, 28 September 2018.

> *desertification, have altered the resource landscape, heightened competition for dwindling resources and raised the possibility of clashes between farmers and herders.*[61]

An instructive development that have characterized the south wards' migratory movement of herders from the Lake Chad region to other parts of the country especially in Tivland is the battle for control of farmlands and other natural resources that are inherent in the area. Tivland has enormous natural resources that are now scrambled by herders.

The changing climatic condition, is no doubt taking a toll on the survival of herdsmen and farmers business. The desert encroachment from the Sahara towards the Sahel region and other associated climatic conditions have continued to affect the livelihood of herdsmen as they push further south in search of available space, pitching them against farmers communities in Tivland. As earlier noted, Tivland is characterised by good vegetation, stable water and flood plains. The availability of greener pasture and water in communities in Makurdi, Guma, Gwer and Gwer-West, Logo, Kwande, Buruku Local Government Areas have long attracted herdsmen.[62] For instance, the greener pasture and water plains in Villages like Uvir, Shaghav, Nyiev, Turan, Ayilamo, Mbatie and Mbalagh have attracted Fulani herdsmen who have overtime ransacked and occupied such villages for purposes of cattle grazing.[63] It was the presence of greener grass around the River Buruku areathat occasioned herdsmen attacks in Mbaapen council ward of Buruku local government in 2015.[64]Again, the presence of the River Benue—which is the state's major geographical featurewith its tributaries of Buruku and Kastina-ala and several major streams such as Angbo, Usase, Aneli and Guma have informed some attacks by herdsmen especially in communities that are have these streams domiciled. The attack in Mbanyagbev council ward of Tarka local government was occasioned because of the grazing of farm crops around the Angbo stream by cattle.[65]

Arising from the above, the struggle for these areas have impacted on the seasonality of the conflicts. Before, now, herdsmen annually move from north to south with their cattle in search of grazing field. The movement was seasonal—from October to February. The seasonality of the movement was anchored on a combination of factors that were anchored on drought and the early cessation of rainfall in the Sahel region. Commenting on their movement to Tivland Amin Musa argues:

> *As a growing up child, my father together with two of us and our cows move to Tivland during the months of October and November. Each time we arrive Tivland, we were received and land was allotted to us. The reason for the movement was because of the unavailability of greener grass for our cow to graze because of loko chi senyi (Harmattan period). Clashes between us and Tiv farmers were only noticed*

[61]"Farmers/Herders Clashes Triggered by Environment, Not Ethnic/Religious Issues—Lai Mohammed," *Vanguard*, 10 March 2018, https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/03/953761/

[62] "Report submitted by Chief Daniel AyuaAbomtse, Ter Tyoshin II to the Presidential Committee on Herdsmen/Farmers Crisis in Nigeria on a Visit to Benue State" February 2018, 6-13.

[63] Interview with Chief Daniel AyuaAbomtse, born 1962, Traditional Ruler, Naka, Gwer-West, 16 September 2018.

[64]Interview with Buter Igbatov, born 1967, Farmer, Mbajor, Buruku, 15 March 2019.

[65]Interview with Dominic AduguDamkor, born 1968, Farmer, Wannune, Tarka, 17 February 2019

during this period but they were settled peacefully.[66]

From the above, herders were seen in Tivland in villages in Guma, Gwer-west, Makurdi during these periods. The month of October-December mark Southwards movement of herds down to Tivland as a result of scarcity of water and greener pastures in Northern States. This southwards movement by Fulani herdsmen was intensified from January to February with longer grazing hours and frequent visits to water resources.[67] While the month of March to April marks the peak of southwards movement into villages in Tivland.These months were characterised by influx of herdsmen in Tiv farming communities. May to June which is characterized by rainfall witnessed the mass exodus of Fulani herds from Tiv. However, with climate change and its resultant effect on the environment, the movement pattern has been markedly altered—their migration is not seasonal as it was before and are now domiciled in Tivland. The alteration in the migratory pattern of herdsmen and the desire to have direct control over environmental resources in Tivland have informed the "all-round" nature of conflicts among these two groups. This has led to the wanton destruction of goods and properties worth billions of naira. Similarly, the change in the seasonality of the conflict has impacted negatively on inter-group relations between the Tiv and Fulani. The presence of Fulani in Tivland is greeted with suspicion and fear.

Conclusion

From the foregoing analysis, the struggle for the control of environmental resources have occasion conflicts among groups and states. For instance, the biblical accounts of the discrepancies that existed between Abraham's and Lot's herders suffice the importance of fertile lands in cattle occupation and how the desire to have direct control to such land among people, groups or communities can exacerbate conflicts. In Tivland, these conflicts existed. Although, during the 1950s and even up to the early 1980s, they were seasonal, feeble and never witnessed the wanton destruction of life and property. In most cases, they were settled amicably. Reasons for the seasonal and feeble nature ofconflicts between herders and farmers in Tivlandare anchored on the mass exodus of herders in Tivland following the returns of rains in the Sahel region. However, with changes in the atmospheric conditions and its resultant effect on the environment, conflicts over the control of environmental resources between herdsmen and farmers have led to conflicts in Tivland. Although, the conflicts were seasonal—between the months of October to February, the changes have even altered seasonality of the conflicts and the migratory patterns of herdsmen into Tivland. To mitigate these conflicts, the paper advocates the ranching system of animal husbandry and calls on religious leaders to dissuade the minds of their adherents about the religious motives of the conflicts. This will ultimately erase the fear of cultural imperialism that have constituted as a knock in the wheel of efforts in addressing the herdsmen malady.

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[66]Interview with Amin Musa, born 1978, Herder, Ugba, Logo, 15 June 2019.

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AN INTERROGATION OF SPINSTER'S NIGHT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS IN WUKARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF TARABA STATE

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KEYWORDS
Spinster's Night, Implications, Wukari Local Government Area, Taraba State

ABSTRACT
This paper examines spinster's night and its implications in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. It discussesthe implications of spinster's night in the area. Theorigin and developmentof spinster's night in Wukarialso came into focus. It analyzes the organization and challengesof spinster's night in the area. It concludes and made recommendations. The study relied on both primary sources like oral interviews and archival materials and secondary sources like books, theses, articles, newspapers, journals, etc. The study finds out that spinster's night is part and parcel of most marriagesin Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. The study demonstrates that spinster's night is an important component of Wukari socio-economic sphere as it provides employment to many people in the area and doubled as a veritable tool for social interaction, cross-fertilization of ideas, celebration, and commemoration.In conclusion, the data synthesize from our sources support the claims that spinster's night, for all intents and purposes, is an important component of Wukari socio-economic sphere.

Introduction

Spinster's night is a typical bachelorette party held for a lady who is shortly about to enter the marriage institution. Simply put, it is a bachelorette party held for a woman (the bride-to-be) who is about to get married. The main difference between bachelorette party and spinster's night is that while bachelorette party is oftenheld on the night before the bride's wedding and is attended only by women, spinster's night is oftenheld some weeks or months before the bride'swedding and is attended by all and sundry. Spinster's night is modeled after the centuries-old bachelor's party, which is historically is a dinner given by the bridegroom to his friends shortly before his wedding. Although the practice of giving a party to honour the bride-to-be goes back for centuries, the term spinster'snight itself did not begin until the 1980s [1][2][3]. Initially, spinster's night was seen as a weekend away or a night out that is planned by the bride's close friends, and, typically, her maid of honour. However, nowadays the term is used for a wide variety of parties mainly celebrating the bride-to-be new journey into marriage and avenue for soliciting funds or fundraising for buying items (usually cooking utensils, Jewries, clothes etc.) required by the bride for the marriage. Some brides from some Christian denominations like Christian Reformed Church Nigeria (CRC-N), Living Faith Church, Omega Fire Ministry, and The Praise Church among otherswill choose to have this party before the big day whilst others from church like Evangelical Church Wining All (ECWA) question the importance of having one in the first place, and instead have a send-forthparty in the church premises, one or two Sundays to the D-day. This paper deals with spinster's night andits implications in Wukari Local Government Area, to assessits origin and development, organization, and implications.

Indeed, the significance of the spinster's night becomes obvious from the following facts. Each week, Mondaythrough Sundayduring the peak period from October to April, spinster's night parties are held at various locations in the study area. The numbers and regularity of the spinster's night parties agitate the mind, as the following questions beg for answers: When and how did this spinster's night develop in the area? Why are some denominations in support and some against it? What are the purpose and significance of this spinster's night? How is the spinster's night organized? What is the impact of spinster's night in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State? In the sections following, attempts are made to answer these and other related questions.

An Overview of the Study Area

The area which forms the subject matter of this paper is Wukari Local Government Area which lies within latitude latitude 7° 52' N and longitude 9° 46' Eand is located in the Southern part of the State. It is bounded by Gassol Local Government to the North and Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State to the South. In the east, it shares boundary with Ibi Local Government Area of Taraba State. While it's Western boundaries are shared by Takum and Donga Local Government Areas of Taraba State. It also shares a little portion of its boundary around Abako along Takum road, with Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State [4][5]. Wukari Local Government Area was created in 1976 and has a total land area of 4,308 km² and the National Population Figure of 2006 put the state population at 241,546. The Local Government experiences a tropical climate while the local vegetation is the guinea savannah type. It is marked by dry and rain seasons. The rainy season commences in April and lasts till October. While the dry season lasts from November to March. The average rainfall is 1.350mm. The harmattan; dry, cold and dusty wind is the driest period and occurs from the months of December to February with humidity put at 13% [4][5][6]. The area is good for the cultivation of roots and grains crops like yam, cassava, corn, rice, soya beans, and millets serving as both food and cash crops – a practice that has considerably changed the luxuriant vegetation of the area remote past. The people are also involved in other vocations; as in white-collar jobs, art, and crafts. The administrative status of the local government headquarters has generated jobs and attracted more from other areas for civil purposes, trading, and farming [4][5][6]. The area is endowed with a very rich cultural heritage. This could be seen in the system of traditional marriage, cultural dances, masquerades, festivals, age groupings, chieftaincy institutions, arts, and the religions of the people.

The Origin and Development ofSpinster's Night in Wukari Local Government Area

It is not possible to point with certainty to the exact date of the commencement of spinster's night in Wukari Local Government Area. Its emergence and development span through 20th and 21st centuries. Informants observed thatspinster's nightis modeled after the centuries-old bachelor party, which is historically is a dinner given by the bridegroom to his friends shortly before his wedding. Although the practice of giving a party to honor the bride-to-be goes back for centuries, the term spinster'snight itself did not begin until the 1980s [1][2][3]. Initially, spinster's night was seen as a weekend away or a night out that is planned by the bride's close friends, and, typically, her maid of honor. However, nowadays the term is used for a wide variety of parties mainly celebrating the bride-to-be new journey into marriage and avenue for soliciting funds or fundraising for buying items (cooking utensils, Jewries, clothes etc.) required by the bride for the marriage. This is a sort of fundraising achieved through organizing a party in honour of the bride-to-be by thelady who is shortly to enter marriage and her friends. As part of an effort to raise funds and facilitate their weddings, some brides-to-be organized a bachelorette party known as *spinster'snight* [1][2][3]. The practice is thatspinster's nightis always organized within individual bride-to-be financial strength and ability. This notwithstanding, it is not compulsory for every bride-to-be to organize a spinster's night [1][2][3]. At the same time, a bride-to-becould organize a send-forth party andspinster's night.

The Organization and Challenges of Spinster's Night in Wukari Local Government Area

It is a very hectic process to plan an amazing spinspinster's night party in Wukari, but it is not impossible. It begins with making up a complete spinster's night party planning list, which will help you to accomplish all the tasks that are needed on time for a spinster's night party. The organization

of the spinspinster's night is based on individual bride-to-be financial strength and ability. Thespinster's night party is typically hosted by the bride-to-be, although it is possible for a friend(s) to host a spinster's night party in honour of the bride-to-be. While it is normally the duty of a hostess to pay for the entertainment she gives her guests, it is common for participants to share the costs of this event. Whether the bride-to-be bears the cost/pays her share, or whether her share is divided between other participants, is determined by the organizers and the bride-to-be during the early stages of the planning process. Participating in a spinster's night party is always optional, and some brides decline these parties altogether. Spinster's night is a party that remains ingrained in the mind of the bride-to-be and everyone involved. There are several considerations to take into account when planning a spinster's night party. Therefore, the first step in planning a spinster's night party is considering the basic requirements and cost involvements in executing the party putting the individual bride-to-be's financial strength and ability into consideration. This is followed by choosing a date, time, and venue for the event and printing and sending out the invitations.

A spinster's night party is typically held in the evening, usually about a month (or at least a few weeks) before the wedding, depending on whichever thebride-to-be's financial strength and ability, and what she and her friend had agreed to do away with or perform. A spinster's night party is aimed at celebrating the bride-to-be new journey into marriage and soliciting funds or fundraising for buying items (cooking utensils, Jewries, clothes etc.) required by the bride for the marriage. This is a sort of fundraising achieved through organizing a party in honour of the bride-to-be by thelady who is shortly to enter marriage institution and her friends. The event often proves to be elaborate and cost-intensive. These include venue, decoration of the venue, disc jockey (DJ), and a Master of Ceremony (MC) which must be provided no matter their cost and the number of invited guests. On the other hand, the cost of things such as soft drinks, alcohols, wineand small chops catering can vary depending on the number of invited, and uninvited (but present) guests [7][8][9].

The choice of venue also matters. Event centres/venues are costly. Venues are charged on an average ₦10, 000.00 to over ₦40, 000.00 for events such as spinster's night partiesand other ceremonies in the area. The event centres/venues take on characters of their own for each occasion through decorations done by officially designated interior decorators that are also paid for (differentiated from the fees paid for the event centres/venues). So, it is required of the celebrants to adorn chairs, tables, and the walls (the whole hall) with tapestries and other forms of beautification. However, this does not come cheap as it goes from a modest ₦5, 000.00 to above ₦20, 000.00 depending on the spending power of the celebrants [1][2][8]. Aspinster's night party is not complete without photo-shoots. In the days gone by, the 'ordinary' and economical photographer comes around and takes his shots on the special days. After the events, he comes back with an album of pictures and everybody is happy. These days the photographer is more of a theatre director, an image enabler of sorts.

The caterers' role in making the spinster's night plan a reality cannot be ignored. They ensure that the bride-to-be's day is fulfilled by taking care of the guests' appetite. Catering is usually a benchmark for measuring a bride-to-be's financial capacity or that of the celebrants' families. So, it is not out of place to have a big budget for catering activities [1][3]. Making food and drinks available on a bride-to-be's day is important, but ensuring that the food and drinks are served with little or no wastage and that everyone is equally taken care of becomes more important. These are the added responsibilities of the chief caterer who oversees a sizeable catering crew with the duty of serving food, drinks, and other related activities.

The joy of every bride-to-be hosting a spinster's night party in Wukari is to see that her plans came to fusion and everyone in attendance of her spinster's night party goes back happier than they came. However, unforeseen circumstances can impede having a perfect spinster's night party, and here are five (5) of the many challenges that could be faced by a typical bride-to-be organizinga spinster's night party in Wukari.Cost of hosting or organizinga spinster's night party [1][2][7][8]. Spinster's night parties in Wukari have become very big events with deep economic implications. They have evolved into expensive projects, no matter how modest the average hosts intend them to be. We cannot take away the fact that this new trend has helped in driving and expanding the economy over the past twenty years. Many businesses have grown and thrived on the backdrop of the contemporary spinster's night party. Almost every vendor today gets paid

upfront before work is done. Most of them demand more than half of their money upfront. This is because most of them end up being owed so much money after the party is over because clients refuse to pay on time or at all.

Additionally, weatheralso militates against the organization of an amazing and successful spinster's night party. Having bad weather on your spinster's night party day is a complete nightmare and more so to the event planner (if any) who perhaps has to make quick changes in a short time [2][10]. Open door spinster's night parties are mostly affected by rain or thunderstormand a very windy day could ruin it all. Spinster's night parties held in event centres/venues are not totally immune to these challenges as they often lead to low attendance and late commencement of their parties and thereby defeating the aim of organizing the party which is to celebrate the bride-to-be new journey into marriage and solicit for funds or fundraising for buying items required by the bride for the marriage.

Besides the above, choosing a date is another problem in planning aspinster'snight party in Wukari.There are several considerations to take into account when planning the date of the party. While it is tempting to just choose a date, especially during the peak period from October to April, of organizing spinster's night party when the entirewhole town is engulfed in the ceremonies, this is not an appropriate choice [11][12]. The bride-to-be needs to choose wisely and ensure that her date is not clashing with that of her close friends which she intends to invite to her party asa plannedspinster's party by any of her friends on the same night, would conflict with her party. So, in choosing a date for the party, it is good to choose wisely and in a consultant with friends and family to avoid clashes [3][7][12]. Furthermore, the attitude of vendors (disc jockeys, master of ceremonies(MCs), interior decorators, and caterers) is also a problem. The attitude of vendors isa major problem in organizing an amazing and successful spinster's night party. They are hardly certain about the demand and supply process, so you have to make sure you are on their necks to make sure the party goes as planned. The hosts have to communicate with vendors always towards the party and make sure they are on time with their supplies [10][11].

Finally, insecurity, with its resultant splitting of the economic and social life of the people, posed a challenge to the organization of an amazing and successful spinster's night party. For instance, the various feuds between the Christians and Muslims between 2013 – 2015 and the recent Tiv-Jukun Crises between 2019 and 2020affected the organization of an amazing and successful spinster's night party [1][3][8][11][12]. There were ill-feelings and apathy between the Christians and Muslims andTiv-Jukun and, this really had an adverse impact on the organization of an amazing and successful spinster's night party in the area and retards the socio-economic development of the Local Government. Spinster's night party could not hold as regular as used to for fear of insecurity any time a dispute occurred or curfewimposedin the area during crises to curtail the crisis on ground [1][7][11].

The Implications of Spinster's night in Wukari Local Government Area

Spinster's night parties in Wukari have become very big events with deep economic implications. They have evolved into expensive projects, no matter how modest the average bride-to-be/host intends them to be. We cannot take away the fact that this new trend has helped in driving and expanding the economy over the past twenty years. Many businesses have grown and thrived on the backdrop of the contemporary spinster's night. The occasions are usually much more than events for raising funds to facilitate their weddings; they are meeting points for the continuation of lineage rites and socio-political regrouping of people that have previously dispersed [1][10][11]. They are usually clearly designed to honour the brides-to-be, functioned not merely as a means of raising funds to facilitate weddingsbut doubled as veritable tools for social interaction, cross-fertilization of ideas, celebration, and commemoration.

Over the past two decades, the combination of the above spinster's nightprocesses has given birth to the emergence of a reasonably sized economy which has had positive effects on the Wukari economy. The spinster's night is the end result of a number of economic activities, without which the event may not turn out as anticipated. Spinster's night, in contemporary Wukari, is big business aided by the financial concept of its importance. In the past, medium or large scale spinster's night; used to be the preserve of the middle class and the affluent. They usually took place then in church premises or open fields with modest emphasis on funfair, extraneous

additions, and financial outlays. There was a level of conservatism to the way spinster's night parties were approached and organized [2][3][7][8]. But now with the present level of celebration, there are implications for the society and those involved or planning to be involved.

It is also necessary to know that spinster'snight has contributed immensely to the socio-economic development of the area in diverse ways through revenue mobilization, the attraction of additional functions due to the concentration of activities, support in the sustainability of the society, and livelihood within and outside the area. It stimulates thedevelopment of auxiliary interior decorators, disc jockeys, master of ceremonies (MCs) and caterers. It is not clear when these auxiliary creative artists/vendors developed in the process, but the significance of such a development is that it creates jobs for disc jockeys, master of ceremonies (MCs), interior decorators, and caterers; it also shows the innovative capacity of Nigerians creative artists/vendors as those who respond to changing circumstances [10][11][12].

Expenses incurred on spinster's night process within the Wukari environments are on the high side and they continue to climb. Most brides-to-be who go through the process do so not from the ease of their pockets. They only want to satisfy their immediate families and the public. Some do it to tell the world that they can measure up with others so that they are not underrated, jettisoned, or deprived of their rights in society. It has rippling effects on the preparation for marriage. One of the effects that the bride-to-be or host may face is a lack of finance tobuy items required by the bride for the marriage and contribute meaningfully to the success of the wedding. This is partly due to low attendance and partly due to the financial capacity of the attendee. In a few times, the bride-to-be would have gone for a loan to prosecute the party process. Repayment for this would usually start the month after the party and can last for six months or a few years [1][10]. Throughout this period, the bride-to-be or host must learn and practice financial management to a great extent. If this is not well done and managed with a lot of understanding and patience, moredifficulties can occur.

This implies that brides-to-be must exercise caution and look before leaping. They must be well prepared not only for the spinster's night process but also for the marriage and married life. No matter what is spent during the process, some funds must be kept aside for the latter. As much as possible, brides-to-be should not be enticed by families and friends to overspend. They must have a spinster's night budget that fits and suits their pocket for the present and the near future. This they must stick to. They must not spend to meet up with any Jones. They must remember it is their lives and the consequences are theirs to carry.

Conclusion

It is clear from the foregoing that spinster's night is part and parcel of most marriages in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. It is an important component of Wukari socio-economic sphere as it provides employment to many people such as interior decorators, disc jockeys, master of ceremonies (MCs), and caterers in the area and doubled as a veritable tool for social interaction, cross-fertilization of ideas, celebration and commemoration. The occasions are usually much more than events for raising funds to facilitate their weddings; they are meeting points for the continuation of lineage rites and socio-political regrouping of people that have previously dispersed. Intensive field studies of economic and social implications of spinster's night in various communities of Taraba State are necessary; however, if we are to understand fully the implications of spinster's night in the State, the need for comparative research requires particular emphasis. Such research is vital to a deeper knowledge of the spinster's night and its implications for developmental processes. Only then can we appreciate the real contribution of spinster's night to development in the area.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGIES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF DISASTER RISK BEYOND FLOOD IN NIGERIA

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KEYWORDS
Public Relations, Disaster Risk Reduction, Flood Management, Risk Communication, Community Engagement

ABSTRACT
This study explores the application of Public Relations (PR) strategies in promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives beyond flood management in Nigeria. It aims to provide insights into the benefits and challenges of extending PR strategies to encompass a broader range of disaster risks and identify effective PR approaches for enhancing public awareness, community engagement, and behaviour change towards disaster resilience. The research methodology of this discourse involves conducting a thorough analysis of existing literature, case studies, and best practices within the realm of public relations (PR) and disaster risk reduction (DRR). The research findings highlight the importance of integrating PR into DRR initiatives to shape public perceptions, raise awareness, and foster a culture of resilience. The study identifies key PR strategies such as risk communication, community engagement, and partnerships as effective tools for promoting DRR. It emphasizes the need for tailored PR approaches that consider diverse contexts and target audiences. The research concludes that comprehensive PR strategies can support and strengthen global disaster risk reduction efforts by safeguarding communities from the impacts of disasters and promoting sustainable development. The study recommends the integration of PR into DRR policy frameworks, the utilization of social media platforms for risk communication, and the establishment of partnerships with media organizations and community groups. However, the key findings and recommendations of this study will contribute to the development of PR strategies that can effectively support DRR initiatives.

Introduction

Disasters indeed pose significant threats to human lives, infrastructure, and socio-economic stability. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), disasters have the potential to cause large-scale loss of life, displacement of populations, destruction of infrastructure, and economic setbacks (UNDRR, 2019). The field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has emerged as a critical discipline to address these challenges and build resilient communities.

DRR encompasses a wide range of activities aimed at reducing vulnerabilities, enhancing preparedness, and promoting adaptive capacities to minimize the impacts of disasters. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, a global blueprint for DRR, emphasizes the importance of understanding and managing disaster risks, enhancing early warning systems, strengthening disaster response capabilities, and promoting resilient infrastructure and sustainable development (UNISDR, 2015). These activities are essential for mitigating the adverse consequences of disasters and ensuring the well-being of communities.

While technical and policy-driven approaches have traditionally been the focus of DRR initiatives, effective communication and engagement strategies are vital components that should not be overlooked. The importance of communication in DRR is recognized by various organisations and institutions. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) highlights the significance of communication in promoting risk awareness, influencing behaviour change, and empowering communities to take proactive measures (IFRC, 2011). Similarly, the UNDRR emphasizes the role of communication and public awareness campaigns in enhancing disaster resilience (UNDRR, 2019).

Communication and engagement strategies are crucial for several reasons. Firstly, they help in raising awareness among communities about potential risks and the actions they can take to protect themselves. Effective communication ensures that people have access to timely and accurate information, enabling them to make informed decisions during disasters. Secondly, communication plays a vital role in fostering a culture of resilience by encouraging individuals and communities to adopt proactive measures and develop disaster preparedness plans. It facilitates knowledge sharing, capacity building, and the exchange of best practices. Lastly, communication strategies contribute to building trust, cooperation, and collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, communities, and the private sector, thereby enhancing overall disaster resilience (IFRC, 2011; UNDRR, 2019).

Incorporating effective communication and engagement strategies in DRR initiatives can have a significant impact on reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience. By disseminating information, promoting risk awareness, and empowering communities, these strategies facilitate informed decision-making and proactive actions, which are essential for minimizing the impacts of disasters and saving lives (IFRC, 2011; UNDRR, 2019).

Thus, Public Relations (PR) is widely recognized as a strategic communication discipline that encompasses various tools and approaches to engage the public, disseminate information, and influence perceptions and behaviours Cutlip, Center, and Broom (2013). It involves crafting and implementing communication strategies to establish mutually beneficial relationships between organisations or institutions and their target audiences Grunig and Grunig, (2009).

In the context of disaster risk reduction (DRR), PR has predominantly been applied in flood management campaigns. These campaigns have demonstrated positive outcomes in terms of raising awareness and fostering community participation. For example, a study Qu, Li, Jiang, Xu, and Zhang, (2018) examined the use of PR strategies in a flood risk communication campaign in a vulnerable community. The study found that through effective messaging, community engagement activities, and collaboration with local stakeholders, the campaign was successful in improving flood risk awareness and encouraging behaviour changes among residents.

However, there is a need to explore the application of PR strategies in promoting DRR initiatives beyond flood management, encompassing a broader range of disaster risks. This study aims to address this gap by providing

insights into the benefits and challenges of extending PR strategies to enhance public awareness, community engagement, and behaviour change towards disaster resilience.

Conceptual Clarification

Public Relations (PR) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Public Relations (PR) can be defined as a strategic communication discipline that aims to build and maintain positive relationships between organizations, individuals, or entities and their various stakeholders. According to Cutlip, Center, and Broom (2013), PR involves the management of communication between an organization and its publics to create, maintain, and enhance mutual understanding and goodwill.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), on the other hand, refers to the systematic efforts and measures taken to minimize the vulnerabilities and risks associated with disasters. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) defines DRR as the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events (UNDRR, 2009).

Public Relations (PR) plays a crucial role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives by facilitating effective communication and promoting understanding among various stakeholders. Through strategic PR practices, organizations and authorities involved in DRR can disseminate information, raise awareness, and engage the public in risk reduction efforts (Qu et al., 2018).

Effective communication is a fundamental aspect of PR in DRR. As highlighted by Ledingham and Bruning (2011), open and transparent communication is essential for building trust and maintaining positive relationships with stakeholders during crises. PR professionals utilize various communication channels, including traditional media, social media, public events, and community engagement, to effectively reach and engage the public in DRR initiatives (Ledingham & Bruning, 2011).

In the context of DRR and PR strategies focus on promoting risk awareness, educating the public about potential hazards, and encouraging proactive measures to minimize vulnerabilities. This involves crafting compelling messages that convey the importance of disaster preparedness, emphasizing the role of individual and community actions in reducing risks, and providing clear guidelines for emergency response (Ledingham & Bruning, 2011).

Additionally, PR in DRR aims to foster collaboration and coordination among different stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, communities, and businesses. By facilitating effective communication and information sharing, PR professionals help in aligning efforts, sharing best practices, and promoting the adoption of standardized approaches to disaster risk reduction (Ledingham & Bruning, 2011).

Thus, PR in DRR involves strategic communication practices that aim to enhance understanding, raise awareness, and encourage proactive measures among stakeholders. By utilizing effective PR strategies, organisations and authorities involved in DRR can contribute to building resilient communities and minimizing the impact of disasters.

Importance of PR in DRR Initiatives

PR plays a crucial role in DRR initiatives by facilitating effective communication, raising public awareness, and promoting community engagement. According to Calandra and Wong (2019), PR serves as a vital tool for disaster managers to communicate critical information to the public, increase their understanding of risks, and encourage preparedness and resilience. It helps bridge the gap between authorities, organizations, and the public, fostering trust and cooperation.

PR strategies are instrumental in shaping public perceptions and behaviours towards disaster risks. As noted by Zeng, Du, and Xie (2016), PR campaigns can influence individuals' risk perception, motivate them to take preventive actions, and foster a culture of resilience. By

effectively communicating the significance of DRR initiatives and their benefits to communities, PR contributes to enhancing overall disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

Furthermore, the importance of PR in DRR initiatives can be seen in its ability to effectively coordinate and disseminate information during all stages of disaster management. As highlighted by Liu, Li, and Jiang (2020), PR professionals play a key role in crisis communication, providing timely and accurate information to the public, media, and other stakeholders. They act as a central point of contact, ensuring that consistent messages are communicated across various channels and platforms.

During the preparedness phase, PR strategies are crucial in educating communities about potential hazards, promoting early warning systems, and encouraging the adoption of preventive measures. This aligns with the findings of Jenkins, Delicado, and Figueiredo (2018), who emphasize the role of PR in enhancing community preparedness through targeted campaigns and educational initiatives. By delivering clear and accessible information, PR professionals enable individuals to make informed decisions and take appropriate actions to protect themselves and their communities.

In the response and recovery phases, PR continues to play a vital role in managing public perception, providing updates on relief efforts, and facilitating community support and involvement. According to Li and Chau (2019), effective crisis communication through PR channels helps in mitigating panic, minimizing misinformation, and ensuring a coordinated response. By maintaining open lines of communication, PR professionals foster transparency and trust, which are essential for successful recovery and rebuilding efforts.

With the evaluation outlined above, it is easy to comprehend that PR's importance in DRR initiatives cannot be overstated. Through effective communication, awareness-raising, and community engagement, PR strategies contribute to enhancing disaster preparedness, response capabilities, and community resilience. By coordinating information, managing public perception, and facilitating crisis communication, PR professionals play a crucial role in ensuring that DRR efforts are effective, inclusive, and well-supported by the public and stakeholders.

Benefits and Challenges of Extending PR Strategies to Broader Disaster Risks

Extending PR strategies to encompass a broader range of disaster risks offers several benefits. Firstly, it enhances public awareness and understanding of various hazards, as stated by Prasetya, Handayani, and Rosmansyah (2018). By utilizing PR techniques such as risk communication and educational campaigns, stakeholders can be informed about different types of disasters, their potential impacts, and the appropriate measures to mitigate risks.

Secondly, PR strategies promote community engagement and participation in DRR initiatives. According to Filatova, Ryzhkova, Zeng, and Rozenberg, (2019) involving the public in decision-making processes and fostering a sense of ownership can lead to more effective and sustainable DRR efforts. PR facilitates two-way communication, allowing communities to share their concerns, knowledge, and experiences while also empowering them to contribute to disaster resilience-building activities.

However, there are challenges associated with extending PR strategies to broader disaster risks. One challenge is the complexity and diversity of the target audiences. As highlighted by Owen, Videras, and Weller (2020), different demographic groups may have varying levels of risk perception, information needs, and communication preferences. Tailoring PR approaches to address these diverse audiences requires careful consideration and research to ensure effectiveness.

Another challenge is the potential for information overload and fatigue. In a study by Velotti, Bongelli, and Ciacchini (2020), it was found that repeated exposure to disaster-related messages can lead to desensitization and reduced attention. Therefore, PR practitioners need to strike a balance between providing relevant information and avoiding information overload, ensuring that messages are concise, clear, and engaging.

In light of the assessment provided above, it can be inferred that extending PR strategies to

broader disaster risks brings benefits such as increased awareness, enhanced community engagement, and improved risk perception. However, challenges related to diverse target audiences and potential information overload must be addressed to ensure the effectiveness of PR in DRR initiatives.

Literature Review

Public Relations (PR) strategies play a crucial role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) by shaping public perceptions, raising awareness, and fostering engagement. The strategies include: Risk Communication, Community Engagement, Partnership, Utilization of social Media and Integration into DRR Policy Frameworks.

1. Risk Communication:

Effective risk communication is essential in DRR to ensure that the public receives accurate and timely information about potential risks and necessary actions. According to Lwin and Murayama (2019), risk communication involves the exchange of information, advice, and opinions between experts, officials, or agencies and people who face a threat to their well-being or are responsible for dealing with it. This two-way communication process helps to build trust, manage public expectations, and foster a sense of personal responsibility in disaster preparedness and response.

2. Community Engagement:

Community engagement is a key PR strategy that empowers local communities and encourages their active involvement in DRR efforts. Barton and Horita (2020) emphasize the importance of community engagement in disaster resilience, stating that "involving communities in decision-making, planning, and implementation of risk reduction measures increases local ownership and builds community capacity." Engaging communities fosters a sense of shared responsibility, encourages local knowledge and expertise, and strengthens social networks, leading to more effective and sustainable DRR outcomes.

3. Partnerships:

Partnerships between PR practitioners, media organizations, and community groups enhance the reach and impact of DRR messages. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (United Nations, 2015) underscores the significance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, stating that "successful disaster risk management depends on coordination mechanisms within and across sectors at all levels." By partnering with media outlets, PR practitioners can leverage their influence and communication channels to disseminate DRR information to diverse audiences. Collaborating with community groups and organizations also facilitates tailored messaging and grassroots engagement, ensuring that DRR initiatives resonate with local contexts and priorities.

4. Utilization of Social Media:

Social media platforms have revolutionized PR strategies in DRR by enabling direct and interactive communication with the public. Jülich, Weller, and Muttarak (2020) highlight the role of social media in crisis communication, stating that "social media has become a key tool for information dissemination, emergency management, and community engagement during disasters." Platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram provide real-time updates, facilitate public dialogue, and enable PR practitioners to address concerns, provide instructions, and mobilize support during emergencies. Additionally, social media campaigns and targeted messaging can effectively raise awareness, promote behaviour change, and encourage community participation in DRR activities.

5. Integration into DRR Policy Frameworks:

Integrating PR into DRR policy frameworks ensures that communication and engagement strategies are systematically incorporated into disaster management processes. Gaurav, Unnikrishnan, and Leiras (2019) argue that integration of communication and engagement into DRR policies and programs is essential for effective and coherent disaster risk management. This integration ensures that PR efforts align with overall DRR objectives, leading to consistent and coordinated communication initiatives. By embedding PR strategies into policy frameworks,

governments and organisations can promote a culture of resilience and prioritize effective communication as an integral part of DRR activities.

Taking into account the analysis provided above, it becomes clear that PR strategies such as risk communication, community engagement, partnerships, and the utilization of social media platforms are instrumental in enhancing disaster risk reduction efforts. These strategies facilitate effective communication, public participation, and behaviour change, ultimately contributing to the development of resilient communities. Integrating PR into DRR policy frameworks ensures the systematic and coordinated implementation of communication initiatives, maximizing their impact in reducing disaster risks.

Case Studies and Best Practices for DRR Initiatives Using PR Strategies

When it comes to disaster risk reduction initiatives, public relations strategies play a crucial role in raising awareness, promoting preparedness, and fostering community engagement. Here are some key considerations and potential best practices:

1. Effective Messaging and Targeted Communication: According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) report titled "Words into Action: A Guide to Developing Disaster Risk Reduction Messaging," clear and concise messaging is crucial (UNDRR, n.d.). The report recommends tailoring messages to different target audiences, considering their specific needs, cultural backgrounds, and literacy levels (UNDRR, n.d.).

2. Engaging Stakeholders: The Pacific Community emphasizes the importance of involving stakeholders in the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction initiatives in their publication "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific: A Guide for Community Engagement and Risk Communication" (Pacific Community, n.d.). The publication suggests engaging community leaders, local organisations, government agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to foster ownership and ensure alignment with community needs (Pacific Community, n.d.).

3. Utilizing Traditional and Digital Media: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) highlights the significance of using both traditional and digital media channels to reach diverse audiences (IFRC, n.d.). Traditional media, including newspapers, radio, and television, can effectively reach older or less tech-savvy individuals, while digital platforms such as social media, websites, and mobile apps can engage younger populations and provide real-time updates (IFRC, n.d.).

4. Storytelling and Personal Narratives: The World Bank's publication "Communications for Disaster Preparedness: A Field Guide" suggests incorporating personal narratives and real-life stories as a powerful tool to capture people's attention and foster empathy (World Bank, n.d.). Using personal stories of individuals affected by disasters can illustrate the importance of preparedness and inspire action (World Bank, n.d.).

5. Collaboration and Partnerships: The UNDRR's "Making Cities Resilient" campaign emphasizes the significance of collaboration and partnerships in promoting disaster risk reduction initiatives at the city level (UNDRR, n.d.). Building partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and private sector entities can enhance the effectiveness of public relations strategies (UNDRR, n.d.).

PR's Role in Shaping Public Perceptions and Raising Awareness

The role of PR in shaping public perceptions and raising awareness is widely recognized. According to a study by Sriramesh and Vercic (2003, p.246), PR plays a crucial role in managing organisational image and reputation, which directly influences public perceptions. They argue that "public relations activities are aimed at creating and maintaining positive perceptions of an organisation among its publics." This highlights the strategic function of PR in shaping public

opinion and influencing how an organization is perceived.

One-way PR achieves this is through effective communication strategies. According to Jiang, Xiao, and Zhang (2021), communication strategies play a significant role in public relations for disaster risk reduction. Effective communication enhances information dissemination, community engagement, and trust, which in turn facilitate community participation in DRR initiatives. By engaging in dialogue with various stakeholders and considering their perspectives, PR professionals can shape public perceptions in a more informed and ethical manner.

Furthermore, social media platforms have become integral to PR efforts in recent years. As noted by Tsetsura and Botan (2016, p.162), social media has transformed the PR landscape, providing new opportunities for organisations to disseminate information, engage with audiences, and raise awareness. They argue that "the integration of social media into public relations strategies allows organizations to reach and engage with their publics more directly and instantaneously than ever before." Through social media platforms, PR practitioners can create and share content that enhances public understanding and influences perceptions.

In addition, research by Golan and Yang (2019, p.119) highlights the role of storytelling in PR. They assert that effective storytelling can capture attention, engage emotions, and shape public perceptions. According to their study, "storytelling in public relations seeks to influence public opinion and to raise awareness through the artful crafting and dissemination of messages." By crafting compelling narratives that resonate with the target audience, PR professionals can shape public perceptions and raise awareness about specific issues or causes.

PR Approaches for Enhancing Community Engagement and Behaviour Change

When it comes to enhancing community engagement and behaviour change through public relations (PR) approaches, several strategies and techniques can be employed.

One effective PR approach for enhancing community engagement is the use of social media platforms. According to Stacks (2019), social media has become a vital tool for organizations to connect with their target audience and foster community engagement. By leveraging platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, organisations can share relevant information, initiate discussions, and encourage community participation. For instance, a study by Lovejoy and Saxton (2012) found that non-profit organizations that actively used social media platforms experienced higher levels of engagement and increased behaviour change among their community members.

Another important PR approach is the implementation of community-based participatory communication (CBPC) strategies. CBPC involves collaborating with community members, understanding their needs and perspectives, and involving them in the decision-making process (Freimuth, Linnan, Potter, & Brouwer, 2013). This approach allows for the development of tailored messages and interventions that resonate with the target audience. According to Slater, Rouner, and Domenech-Rodriguez (2014), CBPC strategies have been successful in promoting behaviour change by addressing the unique cultural and social dynamics of a community.

Utilizing opinion leaders or influencers is another effective PR approach to enhance community engagement and behaviour change. Opinion leaders are individuals who have a significant influence on others' opinions and behaviours within a community (Rogers, 2003). By engaging with opinion leaders, organisations can leverage their credibility and persuasive power to promote positive behaviour change. A study by Valente, Pumpuang, and Lee (2015) demonstrated that opinion leaders played a crucial role in disseminating health-related information and encouraging behaviour change among community members.

Research Methodology

This study explores the application of Public Relations (PR) strategies in promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives beyond flood management in Nigeria. It aims to provide insights into the benefits and challenges of extending PR strategies to encompass a broader range of disaster risks and identify effective PR approaches

for enhancing public awareness, community engagement, and behaviour change towards disaster resilience. The research methodology of this discourse involves conducting a thorough analysis of existing literature, case studies, and best practices within the realm of public relations (PR) and disaster risk reduction (DRR). It was organised under research deign, in the quantitative techniques. The secondary research methodology was adopted for this research which involves the analysis of pre-existing literary works done by various scholars and also from various internet websites as touching the topic under study.

Theoretical Framework

a) Integration of PR into DRR policy framework:

One theoretical framework that supports the integration of public relations (PR) into disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy frameworks is highlighted by Masud, Rahman, and Khan (2018, p.123). They state that "integrating PR into DRR policy frameworks can enhance public awareness, understanding, and engagement in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts." This framework emphasizes the importance of effectively communicating risk-related information to the public through PR strategies in order to promote resilience and encourage proactive actions.

One study conducted by Puguh and Beirman (2017, p.56) also advocates for the integration of PR into DRR policy frameworks, stating that "PR plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between policymakers and the public, ensuring that accurate and timely information reaches the affected communities, thus fostering trust, cooperation, and resilience." This framework emphasizes the role of PR in facilitating effective communication between stakeholders, improving risk perception, and promoting community engagement in disaster risk reduction efforts.

b) Utilisation of Social Media Platforms for Risk Communication:

The use of social media platforms for risk communication in disaster management is supported by several researchers. According to Sutton, Palen, and Shklovski, (2015, p. 456). "social media platforms offer unique opportunities for disseminating timely and accurate risk-related information to a wide audience during emergencies." Their research highlights the potential of social media in reaching diverse populations, facilitating two-way communication, and enabling real-time updates, which can enhance risk communication efforts.

The study conducted by Zhang, Leung, and Liang (2017, p.89) supports the use of social media platforms for risk communication during disasters. They found that "social media platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook, have been effective in disseminating critical information, coordinating relief efforts, and mobilizing public participation in disaster response and recovery." This research highlights the role of social media in enabling rapid and widespread information sharing, facilitating public engagement, and fostering collective action in times of crisis.

c) Establishment of Partnerships with Media Organisations and Community Groups:

The establishment of partnerships with media organisations and community groups as a theoretical framework for effective risk communication is discussed by Palen and Liu (2018, p. 89). They argue that "collaborating with media organisations and community groups can help leverage existing networks and channels to disseminate accurate and relevant risk information to the public." This framework emphasizes the importance of engaging trusted local media outlets and community leaders to amplify risk messages and foster community resilience.

They argue that "collaborating with media outlets and community organisations can enhance the capacity to disseminate information, increase public understanding of risks, and foster community engagement in disaster preparedness and response." Comfort, Ko, Zagorecki, Zhang, Pfefferbaum, and Norris, (2019, p. 456). highlight that media organisations possess the expertise in framing and delivering risk messages effectively, while community groups have local knowledge and networks that can facilitate targeted and culturally appropriate communication. By establishing partnerships, disaster management agencies can leverage these strengths to enhance the reach and impact of risk communication

efforts, ultimately promoting community resilience.

Conclusion

Effective communication and engagement strategies are crucial components of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives. Public Relations (PR) plays a significant role in promoting DRR by facilitating communication, raising awareness, and fostering community engagement. Extending PR strategies beyond flood management to encompass a broader range of disaster risks offers benefits such as increased awareness, enhanced community participation, and improved risk perception. However, challenges related to diverse target audiences and information overload must be addressed for PR to be effective in DRR initiatives. PR strategies such as risk communication, community engagement, partnerships, utilization of social media, and integration into DRR policy frameworks are instrumental in enhancing DRR efforts.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and insights from the study, the following recommendations can be made:

1. Incorporate PR Strategies into DRR Policy Frameworks: Governments and organisations should integrate PR strategies into DRR policy frameworks to ensure the systematic and coordinated implementation of communication initiatives. This integration will help prioritize effective communication as an integral part of DRR activities.

2. Tailor Messages to Diverse Target Audiences: PR practitioners should tailor their messages to address the diverse needs, risk perceptions, and communication preferences of different demographic groups. Conducting research and understanding the specific characteristics of target audiences will ensure that communication approaches are effective and resonate with the intended recipients.

3. Utilize Traditional and Digital Media Channels: PR efforts should utilize both traditional and digital media channels to reach diverse audiences. Leveraging traditional media outlets such as newspapers, radio, and television, alongside digital platforms like social media, websites, and mobile apps, will enable effective communication and engagement with different segments of the population.

4. Incorporate Personal Narratives and Real-Life Stories: PR campaigns should incorporate personal narratives and real-life stories to capture people's attention, foster empathy, and inspire action. Sharing stories of individuals affected by disasters can help illustrate the importance of preparedness and resilience and make the messaging more relatable to the target audience.

5. Foster Collaboration and Partnerships: PR practitioners should collaborate with various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector, to enhance the effectiveness of communication initiatives. Building partnerships and engaging multiple sectors will increase the reach and impact of PR efforts and promote community ownership of DRR initiatives.

6. Monitor and Evaluate PR Efforts: It is essential to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of PR strategies in DRR initiatives. Implementing feedback mechanisms, conducting surveys, and measuring key performance indicators will provide insights into the impact of communication efforts and help refine strategies for better results.

By implementing these recommendations, organisations and governments can enhance their PR approaches in DRR initiatives, effectively communicate risks, raise awareness, and foster community engagement and behaviour change towards building resilient communities.

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IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON THE SECURITY OF RECORDS AMONG ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Electronic Records Management System, Records Security, Records Management, Administrative Staff

ABSTRACT
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become an important tool in the day-to-day running of any office. For the past two decades, fast changes have been taking place in the office environment as a result of technological advancement. The role of the administrative staff in organizations has tremendously changed due to these changes in technology. In today's business organizations including tertiary institutions, administrative staff are exposed to office technology and are the chief organizers of the office most especially with regard to records management – from creation, utilization, storage, safety and final disposition of such records among others. These attributes put the administrative staff at the centre of playing a very important role in the efficient management of records as well as the office as a whole. The use of ICT has made the administrative staff to be part of today's dynamic office. However, the efficiency and effectiveness of performing their functions as records managers depend mainly on the availability of technological gadgets in managing such records as well as strategies put in place to secure such records. It is based on this premise that this study intends to systematically investigate the impact of electronic records management system on the security of records among administrative staff of the Public Polytechnics in Edo State, Nigeria. The study will adopt a positivist research paradigm and a quantitative research approach. The study will be underpinned by the Information Security Model to ascertain the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the records.

Introduction

Organizations need functioning records and archive management in order to succeed in the present-day business environment that is characterized with uncertainty, high risk, denial and increased crime rate. Records are the corporate memory of the organization that created them and they are used to supplement human memory. Records is documented evidence of our daily activities. It is a document, regardless of form or medium created, received, maintained and used by an organization (public or private) or an individual in pursuance of legal obligation, or in the transaction of business of which it forms a part or provides an evidence (Shepherd, 2016).

In this modern age, the continuous increase in the volume of information has transformed the manner in which organizations, both public and private carry out their businesses. Significant changes have taken place in the nature of the information being generated, stored, processed and distributed. Although technology can help to manage the creation and the processing of information, if used without understanding the records and information management principles, it will only invite haphazard effects (Ashantti, 2019). Records is seen as information created, received and maintained as evidence and as asset by an organization or person, in pursuit of legal obligations or in the transaction of business. While there are many purposes of and benefits to records management, it is to be highlighted here that a key feature of records is their ability to serve as evidence of an event. Proper records management can help preserve this feature of records (Popoola, 2020).

Records management has to do with everything involving how records are controlled right from when they are created down to when they are finally disposed of. It involves how records are created, received, maintained, used and finally disposed of. It is very important for the success of any business organization. When we say a record, we are simply referring to a document that involves business transaction which has to be documented. This may be letters, memoranda, reports etc., that exist both in the paper form and electronic form. Records in paper form may be physically saved in cabinets, boxes or other means while records in digital form may be saved using electronic storage devices or cloud (Lyman, 2014). Many companies have records that are confidential. Records management improves the security of those records. Many records management systems feature security protocols that protect these sensitive documents. This adds a measure of accountability for employees, ensuring that documents are handled as they should be. Records security covers the tools and processes that organizations use to protect records. This includes policy settings that prevent unauthorized people from accessing business or personal information. Ambira, Kemoni & Ngulube (2019) carried out a study and found that security of records ensures that records are protected from unauthorized activities, including inspection, modification, recording and any disruption or destruction. The consequences of security incidents include theft of private information, data tampering and data deletion. Security is one step in records management plan, but one of the most important. The creation and utilization of records in educational institutions including polytechnics in Edo State are some of the key factors that contribute to the strengthening of quality service delivery in such institutions. Reliable and timely information leads to effective management policies and planning. This improves the general records management of a country thus serving as a vital element for the overall growth and development of the institutions in managing and improving quality service delivery (Ahmed, 2020; Abdullah, 2017).

Good records management supports good data governance and data protection. Wider benefits include supporting information access, making sure that you can find information about past activities and enabling the more effective use of resources. Some studies carried out by Joshi & Singh (2017) shows that some of the consequences of poor records management include poor decisions, failure to handle information securely and inefficiencies. Security of records supports good data governance and is itself a legal data protection requirement. Poor record security leaves the systems and services at risk and may cause real harm and distress to individuals in particular and the institutions in general (Joshi & Singh, 2017).

The role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in improving the general management of information cannot be downplayed. This is affirmed by the ability of ICTs to capture, store, retrieve, analyze and transmit large volumes of information across various

locations. The adoption of ICTs in records management has not only been crowed generally as eminent in improving the reliability and effectiveness of records, but it has also been gloated for strengthening service delivery through its various tailor-made innovative applications and programmes such as the electronic records (Yusuf, 2014). Records management has gone through series of advancements for a long time now as a result of the adoption of ICT. This has improved the way tasks are performed in organizations (Alex, 2017).

Electronic Records Management (ERM) has become mandatory for government agencies in applying electronic records in administration to encourage E-government. Most organizations have huge allocation for ICT development. Mismanagement of records seems to be the main problem caused by poor records-keeping and lack of attention. Not all government departments possess electronic records management policy; some electronic records are far from complete, clear or easy to access. Many organizations are carrying out electronic records management without any policy in place (Umi & Zawiyah, 2019). There is a low support for records management that has led to a lack of training, tools and guidelines for all staff, as well as poor integration of records management and Information Technology (IT) disciplines (Rick, 2016).

Polytechnic records, whether in manual or automated form, houses the institutions' information that describes all aspects of students' management. It is an essential tool in running the day-to-day activities of the institutions. It is needed in carrying out business operations both within and outside the institutions. The introduction of Information Technology (IT) into businesses, educational institutions and government agencies has resulted in an information explosion and caused an increase in records volume of incredible proportions. Educational institutions are mostly affected by this growth as much of the information is channeled into businesses and government offices in the form of records for administrative effectiveness. Records managers and other category of staff in all the establishments, private or public institutions and government offices need records and archives for planning, decision making and control.

Security of Records

Security is the degree of protection against danger, loss, and criminals. It goes without saying that records should be protected both from damage and unauthorized access. The method of security depends entirely on the storage method that had been adopted. Where computers are used, confidentiality can be maintained by giving password to a document or file which makes it difficult for another user who does not know the password to gain access to the file. Most organizations now store their information in the computer thereby creating more space in the office. The level of security required for a record will vary, depending on the content of the record. Some records may have a very low level of sensitivity, requiring very little or no security. Others will have a high level of sensitivity, needing high security. The accessibility of a record should depend on its level of sensitivity. When you have decided how sensitive a record is, you will need to think about who needs to have, and who should have access to that record. Further, if data/information needs to be sent to a third party or other location, either within or outside the organization, then all necessary security precautions should be taken to protect it in transit. This will include sending in the most appropriate format, or packaging appropriately, and addressing correctly (Ashantti, 2019).

Authenticity of records applies to both hard copy and electronic records. There are some specific difficulties with maintaining the integrity of electronic records, for instance records kept on email, or data contained in a database, both of which can be changed easily. Measures to be taken should include: Controlling access to the record or data, knowing who has responsibility for and access to the record or data, preventing accidental or malicious change as far as possible, checking the accuracy of the information or data recorded, at regular intervals. Organizations should consider which format or medium to keep records in, and choose that which is most likely to be the most secure. In order to guard against loss they may need to back up their documents, particularly if they are vital or business critical in some way. Records should be stored safely and securely, both electronically and physically. Sensitive documents should not be left on the desk or computer screen when unattended. Organizations should consider the best method of disposal of the records, at the end of their lifetime.

Implementing the proper security measures to make sure that your critical records are not vulnerable to a breach should be one of the top priorities of any employee in charge of records management security. If one aspect of security measures breaks down, it will expose the company to the risk of a data breach, which could result in large fines, a damaged reputation, and may cause the business to go into liquidation. Security threats in records management come from all directions ranging from malware and data breaches to theft, fire or flood, making it essential to incorporate multiple types of security in records management. Records management requires appropriate protections for both paper and electronic information. There are three main parts to records management security - ensuring protection from physical damage, external data breaches, and internal theft or fraud (Fletcher, 2016).

Proper records management should entail security of the records. Security of records includes personal records of staff and students, records relating to teaching and research (particularly prior to publication), records of the institutions' activities etc. As a general rule, if the loss or unauthorized access or editing of the records could cause damage to the institutions or stop the administrative staff from doing their work, it will need greater security. Electronic records are particularly vulnerable to unauthorized or inadvertent change and loss. Administrative staff have a responsibility to consider security when handling records in the course of their work.

Security of Electronic Records Management System

Electronic records management is a subset of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), which entails sophisticated electronic approach of managing official records in organizations. Electronic records management system is the management of electronic and non-electronic records using computer hardware and software (Ngoepe, 2014). Electronic records management includes 'the creation, use, maintenance, protection and disposal of electronically created records for the purposes of providing evidence of business activities (Ambira, Kemoni & Ngulube, 2019). Organizations are fast moving toward electronic records management due to advancements in paperless office procedures. In order to prevent unauthorized access, alteration, theft, or physical damage to electronic records, electronic record protection practices are needed to place limitations on user access to computer systems and to have control over the physical storage of electronic records. Electronic records protection involves the use of computer application and tools to ensure security of digital records. An example of record protection application is Microsoft Access (MS Access). MS Access provides security features that prevent unauthorized users from trying to gain access to confidential database information and loss of data in case of a system crash. Examples of record protection practices include use of password on documents, token, smart card, biometric (fingerprint/face) encryption and so on. MS Access is among the record management applications being used mainly in offices, banks and companies where various categories of staff work (Lawrence, 2010).

Electronic records protection practices include firewalls, passwords, encryption, security copies and access rights for each user category and tools are used for securing electronic records confidentiality, integrity, accuracy and trustworthiness. Electronic records protection is the application of paperless management principles supported by specialized information technology systems used to safeguard business and personal information of an organization. Protection of electronic records require planning, budgeting, organizing and other managerial activities evolved in order to achieve adequate safety and security of official information. In the same view, an electronic records protection system is primarily a software-based methodology, used by an organization to manage all its records, regardless of format over the entire records life cycle (Ile & Ojohwhoh, 2020).

The importance of electronic records management practices in polytechnics demands administrative staff of such polytechnics to stay in touch with electronic records protection practices. Security of official information is becoming a serious threat in many polytechnics in Nigeria as a result of traditional paper filing system of record management practices adopted by administrative staff. Information has always been a valuable resource for all kinds of organizations, but now more than ever, in the current knowledge and innovation economy, academics and professionals accept that information and its good management are vital for the survival and development of businesses, as an essential asset for the proper

management of organizational knowledge (AIIM, 2018).

Electronic record management systems provide a well-established access control measures which only allows authorized access of records stored in the database. Through measures such as encryptions and setting up of passwords and pins, the system prevents unauthorized access to confidential records/data. This ensures that sound service delivery is uninterrupted as the records' availability, integrity and authenticity is always well guaranteed. Interestingly, organizations will realize the effectiveness of information governance in long term when productivity, user confidence, trust and service delivery is acknowledged. The authority in place that defines on the access, retrieval or storage procedure only becomes relevant when there is shared responsibilities and collaboration for greater results in the organization (Oliverio, Pasewark & White, 2015).

Confidentiality, integrity and availability of ERMS are the measures adopted for Security of ERMS from the Information Security Model propounded by Thomas, B. in the 1970s. Security of records is the preservation of confidentiality i.e. protecting records from unauthorized access and disclosure; integrity which is safeguarding the authenticity, accuracy and completeness of records; and availability i.e. ensuring that the records and associated services are available to authorized users when required (Joshi & Singh, 2017). Appropriate protection is required for all forms of records, paper or electronic, to ensure business continuity and efficiency, and to avoid breaches of statutory, regulatory or contractual obligations. Public tertiary institutions especially polytechnics in Edo State and their records systems face security threats from a wide range of sources, including computer-assisted fraud, sabotage, vandalism, theft, fire or flood. Damage caused by breaches such as computer viruses and computer hacking is becoming increasingly common and sophisticated these days. They are increasingly exposed and vulnerable to security threats.

Polytechnics producing hundreds of records each day means that after a given period of time, the records accumulate huge volumes of paper records. This may bring about difficulty in locating some records and safety of the records as well as poor integration of records management and Information Technology (IT) usage. This becomes the major challenge for paper records. This has also led to the challenge of retrieval of information within these institutions as it is always very difficult (at times impossible) to locate some records. All these anomalies may lead to the loss of image of such institution. Hence, the need to investigate the impact of ERMS on the security of records among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State, Nigeria.

Summary of Gaps in Literature

Although there is literature on e-records management, many of those studies were conducted in fields other than tertiary institutions, including the mainstream civil service, businesses, and other organizations (Malanga & Kamanga, 2018). The limited studies that have already been conducted in this field, however, offer a bleak image of the condition of e-records management in tertiary institutions. The relationships between governance, audit, risk and record keeping are a central concern of the discipline of records management. Previous researches conducted were carried outside Africa and very few in Nigeria. Studies focusing on investigating the impact of security of ERMS seem to have receive less attention. Hence, the uniqueness of this work which aims at investigating the concept among administrative staff in Public Polytechnics in Edo State, Nigeria. This is the gap this study has identified to fill in the research.

Statement of the Problem

The awareness of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its associated facilities have grown rapidly in the management and service delivery of tertiary institutions over the last few decades. Paper-based records are fast giving way to electronic records in most developed countries and crawling gradually into the developing countries including Nigeria. The electronic records management system is designed to alleviate the limitations associated with the paper-based records management system and helps improve the quality of immediate retrieval of information within the sector. Unfortunately, the implementation of large-scale information technology projects such as electronic records management system seems to be associated with high failure rate. This challenge can be perceived to be even higher in developing countries including Nigeria. Preliminary investigation

showed that some public tertiary institutions in Nigeria still use the traditional record management system. In this traditional record management system, the greatest issue is the safety of the increasing number of tertiary institutions' records which has been the major challenge that many institutions keep battling with. Although, several studies have been carried out on implementation of ERMS across the globe (Pan, 2017; Ambira, Kemoni & Ngulube, 2019), however, study focusing on security of ERMS seems to have received less attention. For this reason, this study seeks to investigate the impact of security of electronic records management system among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to examine the impact of security of electronic records management system among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State. However, the specific objectives are to:

1. Determine the level of confidentiality of Electronic Records Management System among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State.
2. Determine the level of integrity of Electronic Records Management System among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State.
3. Determine the level of availability of Electronic Records Management System among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State.

Research Questions

The following questions are raised to guide the study:

1. What is the level of confidentiality of Electronic Records Management System among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State?
2. What is the level of integrity of Electronic Records Management System among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State?
3. To what extent are the records of Electronic Records Management System available among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State?

Methodology

The survey research design was adopted for this work. A descriptive survey design describes a condition or phenomenon as it exists naturally without manipulations. This method is appropriate because it is found useful in the collection of data on phenomena as employed by earlier scholars that share similar context with that of this study[1].

The population of this wok comprised of Two Hundred and Forty-five administrative staff in Public Polytechnics, Edo State, Nigeria. The two (2) Public Polytechnics in Edo State are Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi and Edo State Polytechnic, Usen. This is represented on the table below:

Table 1: Population of Respondents

S/N	Public Polytechnics	Population
1.	Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi	190
2.	Edo State Polytechnic, Usen	55
	Total	245

Source: field work, 2023

The stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used to select a sample size of 74 (seventy-four) administrative staff. This represented 30% of the population. The population and sample are represented in the Table 2 below:

Table 2: Population and sample size of Respondents

S/No	Public Polytechnics	Population	Sample
1	Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi	190	57
2	Edo State Polytechnic, Usen	55	17
Total		245	74

field work, 2023

The instrument for data collection was the structured questionnaire titled: Security of Electronic Records Management System Scale (SERMS Scale). The instrument is a structured questionnaire adapted from previous empirical studies. This study also adopted the Likert scale design which allows the respondents to provide their opinion about the issue under study. The instrument is made up of two sections. Section A contains the demographic information of respondents which is self-developed. The Bio-data of respondents will be measured through five (5) factors, namely gender, age, marital status, educational qualification and years of experience. Section B was designed to collect data on Security of Electronic Records Management System by administrative staff. The 12 items were adapted from existing literatures. The scale used a 4-point response format of SA – Strongly Agree, A – Agree, D – Disagree, SD – Strongly Disagree.

Face and content validity was used for this work with the input of some experts in the field of information management. The items for the instrument were gathered through related literature review and adaptation from questionnaires that have been used by other researchers. Corrections made were incorporated in constructing the final questionnaire.

The instrument was subjected to a reliability test to check internal consistency of all items measuring the variable in the study. The reliability of the instrument was done through a pilot study using 20 copies of the questionnaire which were administered to office managers in Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja. Data obtained were analyzed and compared to determine the reliability consistency of the items.

A primary data was collected to address the objectives of the study through a structured questionnaire in line with existing literatures. This instrument worked well with a descriptive survey research mainly because it supports the collection of data regarding opinion and perception of respondents at a point in time on current issues. The copies of questionnaire were administered by the researcher with the assistance of three research assistants. The research assistants were briefed on the purpose of the research and how to administer the instrument. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to the office managers of the two polytechnics and were retrieved same day. The whole exercise was done within two weeks. The data were analyzed using the descriptive statistics (simple percentage and mean).

Data Analysis

Data were collected by distributing the seventy four copies of the questionnaires to the respondents in their various institutions and the questionnaires were all retrieved. The analysis is done thus:

Table 3: Gender Analysis of Respondents

S/No.	Gender	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Male	20	27
2.	Female	54	73
Total		74	100

Table 4: Age Analysis of Respondents

S/No.	Years Range	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	20 – 30	15	20
2.	31 - 40	26	35
3.	41 – 50	18	25
4.	Above 50	15	20
Total		74	100

Table 5: Marital Status Analysis of Respondent

S/No.	Marital Status	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Single	28	38
2.	Married	46	62
Total		74	100

Table 6: Educational Qualification Analysis of Respondents

S/No.	Years Range	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	NCE/ND	09	12
2.	HND/B.Sc	46	62
3.	M.Sc/MBA	19	26
4.	Others	-	-
Total		74	100

Table 7: Working Experience Analysis of Respondents

S/No.	Years Range	Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	0 – 10	14	19
2.	11 - 20	31	42
3.	21 – 30	17	23
4.	Above 30	12	16
Total		74	100

Table 8: Tabular Analysis of Responses to Research Question One

What is the level of confidentiality of Electronic Records Management System among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State?

Items	Statement	Variables	Responses	Percentage (%)
1.	Confidentiality of ERMS promotes best practices of managing records.	SA A D SD	41 25 6 2	55 34 8 3
Total			74	100
2.	Ensures security of the database management.	SA A D SD	40 34 - -	54 46
Total			74	100
3.	Ensures rights and privileges in access to specific database.	SA A D SD	40 23 5 6	54 31 7 8
Total			74	100
4.	Promotes authenticity and integrity of the system.	SA A D SD	53 21 - -	72 28
Total			74	100

Table 9: Tabular Analysis of Responses to Research Question Two

What is the level of integrity of Electronic Records Management System among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State?

Items	Statement	Variables	Responses	Percentage (%)
1.	Data integrity in the ERMS positively affects the efficiency of our operations and the quality of our decisions.	SA A D SD	62 12 - -	84 16 - -
Total			74	100
2.	Integrity requires awareness of unclean data from the pre-implementation stage of the ERMS.	SA A D SD	23 29 13 9	31 39 18 12
Total			74	100
3.	I understand the concept and the value of integrated data available from the ERMS.	SA A D SD	34 23 12 5	46 31 16 7
Total			74	100
4.	Integrity requires control of unclean data from the pre-implementation stage of the ERMS.	SA A D SD	19 30 14 11	26 40 19 15
Total			74	100

Table 10: Tabular Analysis of Responses to Research Question Three

To what extent are the records of Electronic Records Management System available among administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State?

Items	Statement	Variables	Responses	Percentage (%)
1.	ERMS has eased the management and retrieval of information.	SA A D SD	36 38 - -	49 51 - -
Total			74	100
2.	ERMS brings efficiency through time management.	SA A D SD	25 45 4 -	34 61 5 -
Total			74	100
3.	The use of ERMS brings about quick retrieval of records.	SA A D SD	25 30 15 4	34 41 20 5
Total			74	100

4.	ERMS ensures records are only available to authorized users.	SA A D SD	11 14 28 21	15 19 38 28
Total			74	100

Results

This section deals with the results obtained from the analysis of data. 49 questionnaires were issued out to the various respondents in their schools and they were all retrieved representing a 100% retrieval rate.

The following results emerged from the demographic data:

- That females are more among the population study.
- That the respondents with the age ranges of 31 – 40 years are more among the population study.
- That there are more married respondents among the population study.
- That respondents with HND/B.Sc holders are more among the population study.
- That the respondents that have worked between the ranges of 11 – 20 years are more among the population study

The following are the results from the responses to the three research questions:

1. That administrative staff ensures that records stored with ERMS are of utmost confidentiality.
2. That the use of ERMS by administrative staff ensures that the integrity of information is enhanced.
3. That the use of ERMS ensures that information is easily and readily available and in the same format when required as well as enhancing their safety.

Discussion of Findings

Administrative staff of Public Polytechnics in Edo State ensures that records stored using ERMS are secured and are of utmost confidentiality as confidentiality promotes best practice for managing the records. This finding agrees with Ambira, Kemoni & Ngulube (2019) who asserted that security of records ensures that records are protected from unauthorized activities, including inspection, modification, recording and any disruption or destruction. When records are kept confidential from unauthorized usage, their authenticity is guaranteed. This is because confidentiality of records ensures that records are kept from unauthorized access or disclosure.

The use of ERMS by administrative staff ensures the security of the records by ensuring that the integrity of records is maintained. Data integrity in the ERMS positively affects the efficiency of operations and the quality of decisions. This is because integrity of records safeguards the authenticity, accuracy as well as ensuring the completeness of such records.

The use of ERMS by administrative staff ensures the security of the records by ensuring that information is easily and readily available and in the same format when required as well as enhancing their safety. This is because available of records ensures that the records are available to authorized users when they are required. This finding agrees with Joshi & Singh (2017) who outlined some of the consequences of poor records management to include poor decisions as a result of failure to handle information securely and easy retrieval. The use of ERMS has eased the management and retrieval of information thereby bringing efficiency through time management. It has also brought about quick retrieval of records as well as ensuring that records are only available to authorized users.

Conclusion

Information management has gone through series of advancements for a long time now as a result of the adoption of ICT. This has improved

the way tasks are performed. The adoption of technology has changed the management of information in tertiary institutions as the institution in Edo State now use ICT in managing their information in order to cope with the increase in the volume of information they generate. Technology has helped to manage the creation and the processing of information in tertiary institutions in Edo State.

Offices of the tertiary institutions in Edo State are well equipped with ICT devices that facilitate productivity, accuracy and efficiency of work. The availability of these facilities in these institutions and the ability of office managers to use the facilities had a great impact on their performance. The result of such performance is quick retrieval of information as well as enhancing the security of such information. The use of ICT in managing information in tertiary institutions has transformed the office managers' office from paper more to paper less thereby enhancing economy of space as storage of information is being done in the computer system without making use of papers.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of this work, the following recommendations were made:

i. Management of tertiary institutions in Edo State should be made to understand that the knowledge and application of digital methods in managing information is very vital for the security of such records as it ensures quick and easy retrieval as well as safety of information.

ii. Since the world of work is changing so rapidly, there is a constant need for retraining the office managers in the use of ICT gadgets for the security of records and total management of information.

iii. Management of the institutions should ensure that the office managers should constantly update their skills and knowledge of these new technologies in order to cope with the challenges associated with their use.

iv. Management of institutions should provide facilities for ICT security programmes to be fully incorporated and implemented in tertiary institutions so that office managers can be trained and equipped to face the challenges of records management in modern business offices.

v. Information and Communication Technology needs electricity to be effective. It is a known fact that power supply is not stable in Nigeria. The government should try to see that power supply is stable.

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ENVIRONMENT AND CONFLICTS IN NIGERIA: CAUSES AND TRENDS OF FARMERS – HERDERS CONFLICTS

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KEYWORDS
Environment, conflict, Pastoralism, and violence

ABSTRACT
The nomadic pastoralists and sedentary farmers' conflict is one of the reoccurring security challenges Nigeria. The constant insecurity and overbearing uncertainty which had come to characterise Nigeria's existence compelled scholars to focus their attention on formulating an all- encompassing explanation of the phenomenon. This paper is a contribution in this direction. The paper appraises the roles of the environment in the frequent farmers- herders' conflict which has led to the loss of lives and property in Nigeria. In so doing, it analyses the nature of the Nigerian environmental factors and its changing dimensions which is claimed to have induced the migration of the nomadic pastoralists in search of pasture and water – a process that has led to recurring conflict with sedentary farming communities. The paper argued that dispute over environmental resources among pastoralists and farmers is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria. The conflict has a long and complex historical background. Notwithstanding the scarcity of environmental resources as the basic reason for the conflict, the paper also demonstrated that the proliferation of light arms by non-state actors and communication devices, inefficient state policies, climate change and lack of courage to take difficult but decisive decision by government precipitated these conflicts. The inter-disciplinary method was used through archival, internet, textbooks as well as oral sources were carefully reinterpreted in the writing of the paper.

Introduction

The environment is the part of the earth's surface and atmosphere in which living and non-living things live; it is the physical world which has such features as land, water bodies including oceans, rivers and lakes etc. Other features of the environment include air, sunshine, moonlight among others. Much of the properties of the environment directly or indirectly support life and livelihoods. Man lives in the environment, and being an economic animal explores it to achieve his economic needs that it can enhance his sustainability. Human societies across the globe rely upon the environment for its features which

are referred to as environment resources, in their bid for survival[68].

The industrial revolution of the 18th Century in Europe has since then driven rapid growth of human population as it causes technologies that enhances food production and supply and hygiene; improved health, education, poverty eradication strategies etc across societies of the globe. Human population growth in turn has affected environmental resources negatively, as it has caused extensive use of environmental resources to meet the economic and survival needs of the large populations. It has been rightly argued that the tremendously use of environmental resources is an economic problem[69]; such use can lead to environmental degradation, resources scarcity and affects the environment's functions including resources supplier, life support system, and waste assimilator[70].The negation of these functions of environmental resources further posses the challenge of conflict over resources control and use. Nigeria has over the years been grasped by this scenario as the population has continued to grow above available environment resources.

Nigeria and her population has been engaged in various economic activities including fishing, industrial production, civil service, merchants, farming among others, all of whom depend on the environment. The cumulative activities of the economic actors in Nigeria and across the globe generally have impacted negatively on the environment, which in turn has become a source of tension between the different economic actors and even nations. One of the dominant economic activities across the globe is food production whose primary source is agricultural production, which involves the production of food crops and animals. These activities are largely dependent on environment's resources including soil, its fertility, water and fodder. However, population growth and environmental change has driven these resources to scarcity above demand thereby causing competition on the available ones. Available literature concerning the earliest forms of relationship between the farmers-herders in Nigeria pointed to the fact that it was cordial and based on mutual cooperation[71].Other literature, however, contends although conflicts has been a feature of the relationship between the two groups, they were minimal both in terms of incidence and the degree of use of force hence the impact[72]. This later argument is more plausible since interest differentiation has been an inherent feature of human existence, and where there is clash of interests there would also be conflict. Accordingly, therefore, sedentary farmers-herders' conflicts are not a new thing in Nigeria, and elsewhere but have remained a phenomenon in the relationship between the two groups. They have however been transformed from mere conflicts to violent and coordinated conflicts with the characteristics of war. The purpose of this paper is not to do a comparative analysis of the pre transformational conflicts regime of sedentary farmer –herder conflicts in Nigeria with its transformational era. It has instead answered the

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[72]TernaPaiseAgba. 2022. An inquiry into the causality of Fulani herdsmen terrorism in Central Nigeria: A theoretical exposition. Yet to be published paper. Also see Suliman M. 1999. The rationality, irrationality of violence in sub-Saharan Africa.In *Ecology, politics and violent conflict.*Pp. 28-29. London: A development and peace education book in cooperation with institute for African alternatives(IFAA)

question of why has the conflicts transformed into violence characterised by the use of sophisticated arms in an organized manner; and the consequences been large scale human deaths, displacements, territorial displacements, maiming and socioeconomic disruptions. It has addressed the puzzle of what are the triggers and exacerbations of this violence.

A Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

In analysing the topic, the paper is guided by the general framework of Environmental system, social conflict and materialist theories. The three theories are integrated in order to throw more light on the topic in question as a form of conflict brought about by environmental factors and considerations for materialist gain. As stated in the introductory part, every feature of the environment such as land, trees, grass, water, various types of soil, air etc is referred to as natural or environmental resources. While some of these features can be easily noticed on the surface of the earth crust others are buried in the ground or submerged into waters or deposited on water beds (oceans, rivers etc floors). From a scientific point of view, the environment is the sole supporter for human existence such that without it human existence would be impossible. All of what humans use in keeping themselves alive are secured from the environment, for instance food, water, housing, medicines, and electricity which are just a minute of the mentions.

Among pastoralists include sedentary pastorals who rear the animals in enclosed premises, and the nomads who raise their cattle by roaming about with them. People have always used the term nomad to mean herder; however, these concepts are not the same thing even as they are close in meaning. While a nomad is the pastoralist who roams about over a long geographical space and time with his herd of animal to cater for them, the herder is the pastoralist that takes care of his animal in the country side in a relatively smaller geographical space and time. The seasonal changes in climate and other factors is a major driving force for pastoral nomads. In Nigeria, for instance, the nomads move from the more desiccated parts of the country-the north, towards the more wet parts in the south during the dry season. In the same vain they migrate back to the north in the rainy season when the north begins to have sufficient rain to support their animals. During the rainy season the south becomes too wet and could hurt the hoof of cattle hence cause them disease. This seasonal migration is a ritual with nomadic pastoralists. Thus, while a herder may not necessarily be a nomad, every nomad is a herder. Nomadism in its strict sense is an art, that involves other occupations too, for instance fishermen, labourers, traders' etc.[73].

Since human existence is propelled by environmental resources, the quest for their exploitation have become intense arising from the ever growing human populations and the insatiable quest to live sustainable and luxurious lives. Man's exploitation of the environment's resources over the years has impacted it negatively. This negative impact is described as environmental abuse/degradation. The abuses in turn cause global warming that manifests in environmental or climate change. Global warming is the condition of increased level of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other green house gases around the world[74], that in turn (warms) cause unprecedented rise and undesirable levels of temperature. While the warming causes high temperatures in some regions across the globe, it causes aerosols in others particularly in the Northern Hemisphere which tend to cool the atmosphere[75]. The sources of CO_2 include vehicle exhaust fumes, burning fossilfuel, falling of trees which absorb CO_2. Other sources of green house effect include for instance nitrogen oxide from vehicles and power plants and agricultural fertilizers and pesticides; chloroflocarbon is emitted from refrigerators and aerosols; methane gas is remitted from cows and household and industrial waste. When these green house gases

[73]See Abba GanaShetimma. 2018. Managing pastoral nomadism in Nigeria: A historical review. In *Proceedings of the first national conference on The dynamics of pastoral nomadism in contemporary Nigeria: Problems, policies and prospects.*Pp 95-113. Editors: A.M Gani and N.E Attah. Federal University of Kashere.16- 17 August 2018.

[74]Brown, S.P.A.1998. Global warming policy: Some economic implications. *Economic Review.*Fourth quarter, pp.26-35

[75] For some of the manifestations of climate change see Watson. R. T. 2000. Report of the intergovernmental panel on climate (IPCC).Presented by the chair of the ipcc at the six conferences of parties to the United Nations Framework convention on climate change.13 November.pp.1-20.

come in contact with sun light they undergo chemical change that react with water vapour to create acid rain which represent environmental change. Aside long rising temperatures and acid rain other forms of environment/climate change arising from global warming include long term changes in wind, atmospheric pressure, precipitation-rain and snow, and humidity. Others include desertification, desiccation, flooding, erosion, drought, ice, ice melting, forest fires, landslides, loss of land fertility, rising sea levels and a host of others.

Conflict is a social phenomenon that exists in human relations: relationship to authority, political space, land and economic materials[76].It emerges when two or more parties perceive that their interests are incompatible as such expresses that incompatibility through hostile attitudes or actions that damage the other parties' interest which could be political, money, territory, land, values, religious etc[77]. Conflict is an inherent feature in human interaction arising from the diverse interests in human needs in his quest for sustainable existence. Conflict is not necessarily dysfunctional to human development when it is positively adopted as a means of creating a balance in diverse interest situations. Conflict becomes dysfunctional when violence is used as a means of achieving the interest between parties. Accordingly, while conflicts may be expressed through other hostile but non-violent means, violent conflicts tend to adopt violent strategies including the use of arms in the execution of conflict. Violence entails actions executed by force which are intended to cause destruction, death, pain, maim, etc. Violent conflicts are, therefore, one of major drivers of displaced populations, human deaths, ill-health and poverty in Nigeria[78].

Many theorists have explained the sedentary farmers-nomad herders' violence in Nigeria from the lens of environmental changes induced migration[79].The Fulani nomadic herders are indigenous groups in the Nigeria's arid/semi arid region whose expanse is the fringes of Northern Nigeria covering such states as Sokoto, Borno, Zamfara, Katsina, Yobe, Kano down to areas such as Adamawa, and Bauchi states of the Nigerian federation. The theorists argue that owing to the desiccated nature of these areas which manifest into shortage of grass and water to support cattle life, the herders wander about to locate spots that have such advantage. Meanwhile such spots are not empty spaces, but are occupied by sedentary populations whose major economic activity is cultivation of crops. In the quest to use the cultivators' spaces for grazing conflicts then emerges. They argued that the constant friction over farming and grazing spaces between the two economic groups is as result of the impacts of the manifestations of global warming-environmental or climate change. Such theorists contend that environmental changes such as desiccation, erosion, decreased rain pours, high temperatures, shortage of grass and fodder for sustainable support of animal life and the lives of the nomads themselves have caused the nomads to seek for territories that would support them and cattle rearing. This leads to their encroachment of sedentary farmers' lands hence a clash of interest emerges which if not properly managed escalate to violence between the two[80].

[76]Rummel, R.J. 1975. *Understanding conflict and war.the dynamic psychological field*. Vol 3.Berverly Hills, Carlifornia: Sage publications.

[77]Creative Associates.2014.Conflict prevention, a guide to understanding conflict and peace.In http://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/.../ghail/understanding.htm Accessedon June 13, 2014. Also read World Research. 2015. Migration and violence in divided societies: Non Boko-Haram violence against Christians in the Middle-Belt region of Nigeria. *Working Paper.* No.1. Abuja, Nigeria: Nigerian conflict security analysis network(NCSAN), for more extrapolations on the sources of conflicts.

[78]Agba, T. P. (2021). Displacement and confinement: voices from Abagana and Daudu IDPs camps. In Afaha Philip., Attah, N. &Otoabasi, A. Editors.*Fortress of tents: dynamics of population displacement in Nigeria.* (Pp.417-443).Abuja: Brandmore communication.

[79]World Research. 2015. Migration and violence in divided societies: Non Boko-Haram violence against Christians in the Middle-Belt region of Nigeria. *Working Paper.* No.1. Abuja, Nigeria: Nigerian conflict security analysis network(NCSAN)

[80]The arguments for global change as driver of cultivators-nomad herders' conflicts in Nigeria read Hassan. H. Bdliya.2018. Climate change, receding lake Chad and the challenges of farmers/herders in Nigeria. In *Proceedings of the first national conference on The dynamics of pastoral nomadism in contemporary Nigeria: Problems , policies and prospects.*Pp 81-94. Editors: A.M Gani and N.E Attah. Federal University of Kashere.16- 17 August 2018, also I.

The Trends of the Conflicts

Pastoral nomadism is age long practice in Africa including Nigeria. In the Nigerian region, pastoral nomadism is nearly an exclusive occupation of the Fulani ethnic group[81] "who ostensibly still hold onto the Neolithic culture of cattle rearing"[82].The history of Fulani herdsmen grazing and conflicts with sedentary farmers in the Nigeria area predates the colonial era, as most often in the course of grazing, the animals strayed into farms of the people and destroyed crops either by eating them up or by running over it. This phenomenon caused conflicts between the Fulani and the farmers. Criminal elements between the two provoked instances of conflict for example some dubious herdsmen may let their cattle to eat up or destroy crops of a farmer and if the farm was far away in the bush (where no homestead was close), such a farmer was beaten or at times even killed or raped (if it were a woman) by the herdsman trespasser, upon demand for compensation by the farmer. Similarly, sedentary farmers on their part at times provokingly robbed the cattle herders when they trespassed on their farms or simply rustled the cattle without provocation from the herder. This was done especially when the herder was alone or when they were not enough to repel the sedentary turned rustlers. Still, some unscrupulous elements at times could rustle a cow of the Fulani especially when such cattle strayed[83].

The conflicts however, never escalated into full blown violence as they were settled through traditional dispute resolution mechanisms or constituted authority. Accordingly, both the pastoralist nomads and sedentary farmers complemented each other in their spheres of economic, political and social endeavours[84].This relationship extended to the colonial era up to the two decades covering the post-colonial era. However, beginning from the early 1980s the relationship started showing serious strain. From the late 1990s the relationship greatly deteriorated and at the turn of the 21st Century it collapsed.

The violent conflicts regime between the herders and sedentary groups in Nigeria's post - independence history is wrongly traced to the conflict events in the central Nigeria's region over time; being the transition belt between the extremely wet Southern region and the extremely dry Northern region. This region it was claimed, has been described as a 'grossly marginalized region with an endangered species on the brink of extinction and cultural annihilation'[85] and have witnessed the intermittent flare of violence conflict for over twenty years, pitting Muslims against Christians, indigenes against settlers, one ethnic group against the other[86]. Such violence emanated from conflicts over the central Nigeria's

L.Bashir. 2018. Managing a clash of civilization: Issues and policies pastoral nomadism in contemporary Nigeria. In *Proceedings of the first national conference…*pp. 9-32, and Isah Mohammed Abbas. 2018. Contest for survival between Fulani pastoralists and farmers: Charades of conflicts and dilemma in Nigeria. In *Proceedings of the first national conference…*pp.65-80

[81]I. L.Bashir. 2018. Managing a clash of civilization: Issues and policies pastoral nomadism in …p.11, Drake, N., Mustapha S., Simon A., Jan F., Osama H.,Kevin W., and Ahmed E., 2011. DMPXV:Paleohydrology and paleoenvironment: Initial results and report of 2010 and 2011 fieldwork. *Lybian studies.*42. Pp. 139-149, also eatalIsah Mohammed Abbas .2018. Contest for survival between Fulani pastoralists and farmers…p.65.

[82]. I. L.Bashir. 2018. Managing a clash of civilization: Issues and policies pastoral nomadism in …p.11

[83]Sale Osek . 2014. Oral interview.,KwaghgandeAbelakpan .2014. oral interview, also Suleiman S. 2012. The dynamics of intergroup relations and conflict management in Northern Nigeria: A historical overview 29, andSuliman M. 1999. The rationality, irrationality of violence in sub-Saharan Africa.In *Ecology, politics and violent conflict…*Pp. 28-29.

[84]I. L.Bashir. 2018. Managing a clash of civilization: Issues and policies pastoral nomadism in …p.11

[85]Odafe, George.2003. The Middle belt in Nigeria's retrogression. *The gadfly magazine.*Vol.4. No.6. p.106

[86]See Agba. T.P. 2012.National integration in Nigeriasince 1999: Issues and implications for democratization and nation building. *African Journal of Cultural, religious, educational and environmental sustainability(AJCREES).* Vol. 1. No. 2. p99. Also see the various articles in Olayemi, A., O. O. Okpeh., and Je' adeyibe D. Gwamman. Eds. 2006. *Intergroup relations in Nigeriaduring the 19th and 20th Centuries.*Makurdi: Aboki publishers.

minority groups' attempts to wrench themselves free from their perceived political domination by the combined Hausa and Fulani group[87]. However, the conflict between herders and farmers is not restricted to central Nigerian area along, it is also common in the far-Northern region. Once it happened in the 'far-north' it is easily resolved due to the common faith and belief of the contending parties.

Thus, the phenomenon of nomadic herders-sedentary farmers' violence grasped the entire country, it is, however, more pronounced in northern Nigeria with high level flash points in the north central region including parts of central and southern Kaduna state, Plateau, Southern part of Bauchi state, Adamawa, Taraba, Nasarawa and Benue states. Others include Kogi, Kwara and Niger states and the federal capital territory since 2010[88].For example, in Plateau State, which has rich tourism and agricultural potentials, several communities including Dogo- Nahawa, Zot, and Rassat and Kutgot were attacked on 7th March, 2010, by the Fulani herdsmen terrorists[89]. On September 5th, 2011 Zakaleo Village, in Babale, Jos North Local Government was attacked by the Fulani nomadic herdsmen. "The attackers came by midnight when the villagers were soundly asleep, surrounded the village and opened fire on the unsuspecting villagers by burning their houses and shooting at sight any villager who attempted to escape. The attack left scores of the villagers dead including a 74-year old man, his wife and two grandchildren. Four of the deaths were burnt beyond recognition when the invaders set their houses on fire and locked the doors from outside"[90].Such barbarous and dastardly attacks have remained a current decimal in the socioeconomic life on the Plateau up to date. Similarly, in Kaduna state particularly in its central and southern parts where there exist very fertile lands and adequate water to support both plant and animal lives; the Fulani herdsmen has perpetually carried out attacks on the sedentary communities. This narrative is the same in Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba states[91]. It should be emphasized that most of these attacks carried out by the herders were reprisal attacks which were done against them by the farming communities: killing their cattle, women and children. For instance in a village of Dong near Numan, Adamawa State, mere altercation between a Fulani herder and a Bachama farmer on 4th December 2017, led to the killing of about 40 Fulani herders, most of whom were old men, women and Children. [92] When the corpses were brought to Numan for burial, it almost lead to war in the State.

The methods of operation of both the nomadic herders and the farmers are cruel, barbaric and inhuman. The herders most often storm and surround a village and homesteads in the midnight when the unsuspecting sedentary farmers and villagers have slept off. They then set the houses ablaze and lay siege some distance away from the inferno to shoot at anybody who attempted to escape from the fire. Or to save their bullets they simply get hold of the attempted escape and slaughter him or her with the machete[93]. On the other hand, the farmers normally kill the whole cattle of the herders, kill old men, children and raped their women, even pregnant women were not spare.

The violence has also been alleged to involve the use of military personnel of the Nigerian Army from both sides. The perpetrators most often colluded with some undisciplined and corrupt officers and men of the Nigerian armed forces to attack the sedentary farmers and villagers or herdsmen[94].Brian TilexOrtese emphasized this

[87]Ogoh Alubo.2006. *Ethnic Conflicts and Citizenship crisis in the Central Region* .Ibadan: Programme of Ethnic and Federal Studies, University of Ibadan,; also OkwudibaNnoli, , 2003."Ethnic Violence in Nigeria: A Historical Perspective", *Communal Conflict and Population Displacement in Nigeria* in, ed., OkwudibaNnoli.Enugu: PACREP.

[88]See World Research. 2015. Migration and violence in divided societies: Non Boko-Haram violence against Christians in the Middle-Belt region of Nigeria. *Working Paper.* No.1. Abuja, Nigeria: Nigerian conflict security analysis network(NCSAN)

[89]*The Nation,* Thursday March 11th2010, pp.1-2

[90]*Tell*, Sept. 19th2011,p.2

[91]See World Research. 2015. Migration and violence in divided societies: Non Boko-Haram violence against Christians in the Middle-Belt region of Nigeria. *Working Paper.* No.1. Abuja, Nigeria: Nigerian conflict security analysis network(NCSAN)

[92] Interview with Innawuro Buba 2018

[93]Oral interview with Adamji Samuel 2014.

[94] Oral interview .Stephen Angel, 2014

fact in his open letter to President Goodluck Jonathan when he reported that "at some point the two Commanding Officers of NASME Barracks, Makurdi, and 72 Special Forces Battalion, Makurdi, were Fulani and there was serious concerns of bias in the intervention of the military"[95]. In a suit No.FHC/MKD/CS/55/2013 between Grace Igbavenda and 4 others Vs Nigerian Army, at the Federal High Court, Makurdi, five widows sued the Nigerian Army, the Chief of Army Staff, the Commanding Officer of 72 Special Forces Battalion, one Staff Sergeant Auta Mohammed and the Attorney General of the Federation for complicity in the murder of their husbands by Fulani herdsmen. The plaintiffs accordingly, complained that Staff Sergeant Auta Mohammed led a team of 6 soldiers to accompany 34 youths from Imande Dem, Guma Local Government Area of Benue State to search for bodies of two Tiv youths earlier killed by Fulani herdsmen. At some point there in the bush, the soldiers asked the 33 of the youths to squat in the grasses and wait while they (soldiers) advanced with one of the youths when suddenly some Fulani herdsmen emerged and opened fire on the un-armed squatting youths, killing 5 while the armed soldiers did not respond, but rather ordered them to remain squatted in the grass while the attack lasted. The soldiers were even said to have driven away the youths that ran towards them for refugee but asked them to go and fight their battle[96]. The same allegation was lebelled against the Bachama farmers whom Hamman Manu accused of using military personnel and retired military officers to kill them at Dong.[97]

In other circumstances, the nomadic herders resort to ambushing mourners either in wake keep in honour dead sedentary farmers or during burial ceremonies of dead members whom they have earlier killed and shot sporadically at the gathering thereby killing as many people that their bullets can hit in the crowd. The perpetrators of the violence also engaged in guerrilla warfare tactics by laying ambush for their opponents. For instance while the nomadic herders lay ambush at farms sites of a sedentary farmer(s), the sedentary farmer lays ambush on suspected routes of the nomadic herder, and as the unsuspecting cultivator or herder to engaged in his activity, he or she was shot at from the bush[98]. The nomadic herdsmen especially rape women of the sedentary farmers under the watch of their husbands or fathers who after witnessing the devilish act perpetrated on their wives/daughters/sister etc are at times then murdered; they tear open the bellies of pregnant women and leave the foetus to fate[99].These examples and many more others which for want of time and space forms the trajectories and trends of violence between nomadic herders and sedentary farmers in Nigeria.

The incidence of violence in the nomadic herders-sedentary farmers' conflict have being very high even as they are ceaseless such that as at 2018, Benue state alone had 726 attacks from nomadic herders, followed by Adamawa with 540, Plateau 492, Zamfara 489, Taraba 453, Kaduna 414, Nasarawa 196 and Niger 94. Others included Kogi 66, Enugu 46, Delta 22, CrossRiver 16, Oyo 13, Edo 9, Ebonyi 4, Abuja 2, Ondo 2, Rivers 2, Ekiti 1, Anambra 1, and Abia 1[100]. These figures might have grown in leaps now that is has been five years after they were generated as the phenomenon of the violence has never ceased since then.

Humanitarian and Economic Toll of the Conflict

It is obvious that the violent skirmishes between the nomadic herders and sedentary populations in Nigeria birthed tremendous humanitarian and economic toll. The study by World Research succinctly provided the data of the violence in terms of its incidences, dates of incidents, location, number of casualties, number of people injured, and displaced and the number

[95]Ortese, B. T. 2014. An Open Letter to President Goodluck Jonathan Appealing to the Federal Government Intervention in the on-going attack on Tiv people in Nassarawa and Benue States and annexation of our land by Armed Fulani herdsmen and Hired mercenaries from Nasarawa and other northern states and neighbouring African countries. retrieved on 6th August 2014, from *https//www. Facebook.com/briantilex/posts/836965789653735*

[96]Ibid.

[97]Oral interview , Hamman Manu 2018

[98]Oral interview.Obonogo John. 2014.

[99]Oral interview.IliasuMaigoro. 2014

[100]Amnesty International Report 2018 cited in Godwin Ajeinu Abu. 2019. Dealing with herdsmen/farmers conflict in Benue state, Nigeria. Being a paper presented at the symposium themed: *Displaced, traumatized and neglected: An emerging humanitarian crisis in Benue state.* YAVNIELLE ENT LTD and Benue state emergency management agency. JS Tarkaa Foundation, Makurdi.14-15th January 2019, p.13

of property destroyed[101].Similarly the International crisis Group argue that the violence have caused huge populations displacements and impacted negatively in many spheres of socioeconomic and political spheres. Agricultural and food production has become crippled. While thousands of herders are displaced and cannot find enough fodder, thousands of farmers who fear attacks are unable to attend to their farms. This therefore has contributed largely to the food deficits, food prices inflation and hunger been experienced in Nigeria at the moment. As at 2018, it was argued that food production in Benue, Nasarawa, and Taraba states was estimated to drop by 33 percent to 65 percent in that year[102]. The displaced populations lacked access to health, just as they lacked access to education.

Accordingly, it has been stated that from September 2017 through June 2018, farmer-herder violence left at least 1,500 people dead, many more wounded and about 300, 000 displaced[103]. These figures may be conservative after all as a result of improper data sourcing and politicization of issues in Nigeria. Some of those injured became incapacitated in engaging in their productive ventures which has then thrown them into poverty. The displaced have became vulnerable to poverty of different forms including hunger, lack of income, health poverty, non access to educations etc. While some of them are staying with kin in safer places, a vast majority of them are still in internally displaced person's camps (IDPs) which are characterized by very appalling conditions including severe inadequate shelter, food and are at risk of communicable diseases[104]. As rightly reported, the camps are overcrowded and lack safe water; poor sanitation which most often leads to the death of communicable diseases like measles, diarrhoea etc[105]. The escalating humanitarian challenges caused by the violence has "overwhelmed the capacities of the states... governments 'resources are badly overstretched , undercutting their ability to provide medical care, food, clothing and infrastructure in the camps"[106].

The Exacerbating Forces of the Violence

The consensus argument is that global warming, which has evolved as a result of human activities on the environment has led to the depletion of environmental resources including land and water hence their scarcity. Thus, imbalance in availability and demand of these resources has formed the basis for violence between the nomadic herders and sedentary farmers. However, insight into the trends of the violent conflicts between these two has clearly indicated that other factors including population growth/demographic changes, proliferation of arms, weak governance, and lack of nationalistic feeling and patriotism, have contributed immensely to the success of the violence.

Added to these are the government policies of promoting agricultural cultivation such as Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) and Green Revolution among others. These programmes were aimed at improving the production of crops in Nigeria. The implication of this is that, more lands were put into cultivation without regard to the plight of the nomadic herders. Even what in Fulani sources was referred to as *burtali*[107] were cultivated

The Nigerian civil war 1967-1970, the prolonged military rule in Nigeria which militarized the Nigerian society, and the deployment of Nigerian troops to other west African states for peace keeping missions are perceived as a cause of the leakage of arms into the hands of unscrupulous elements in Nigeria including cultivators and herders. Related to the above factor is the fact that Nigerian borders are so porous and with the active connivance of unpatriotic and corrupt officials mercenaries and unauthorized weapons from Chad, and Niger are smuggled into the country[108]. The weak nature

[101]World Research. 2015. Migration and violence in divided societies…pp. 30-35

[102]*The Punch.* 2018. *Herdsmen: Anxiety in states over food shortage.*4February 2018, also *Sunday Sun*.2018. Food shortage looms, 3. June 2018, and *Daily Sun.*2018. Herdsmen's killings: Hunger, starvation imminent in Taraba. 20 July 2018.

[103]International Crisis Group. 2018. Stopping Nigeria's spiraling farmer-herder violence. *Africa Report.*No. 262. 26 July 2018. p.12

[104]Agba

[105]*The Guardian*. 6 April 2018. Measles outbreak in IDP camp kills seven children.

[106]Stopping Nigeria's spiraling farmer-herder violence…pp12-13

[107]Burtali is road designated for the herders and their cows to use for their seasonal movement.

[108]Federal Government of Nigeria. 2003. *Strategic conflict assessment: Consolidated and zonal*

of governance in Nigeria that is clutched in corruption, ethnicity and religious bigotry is also a good driver to the success of herders-farmers conflicts in the country. For instance, the security personnel whose major role is to ensure the security of lives and property of the citizens as well as ensure that justice prevails in the society are the very ones that most often compromise their official roles. Those who are supposed to ensure security and justice in many instances are both inefficient and corrupt that the transgressors are not apprehended either because they cannot or are paid to look the other way hence breed the culture of impunity.[109] Poor or weak governance have caused the state not to able to sustainably support the nomads pastoralists, elsewhere, the appropriate support has been to create ranches for pastoralists. Poor governance had also caused the failure of the grazing routes, just as it has caused or placed certain individuals and groups above the laws of the country. The implication is that such individuals can propagate and perpetrate impunity, lawlessness and crime without recourse to justice and laws of the land. Weak or poor governance has caused the handling of the violence both in the official and at the individual levels in partial manner along religious and ethnic lines.

Finally, ethnicity, religious and cultural divides are also prime factors in driving the success of the violence. Hardly will a Muslim, Hausa or Fulani man sees it as wrong and immoral if violence is orchestrated by Muslim, Hausa or Fulani herdsman, likewise the Christian or traditionalist sedentary person will see it as wrong and barbaric if his group leash violence.

Conclusion

Nomadic pastoralists' herders and cultivators' conflicts have undoubtedly reached violence level in Nigeria. These two socio economic groups have embraced violence in achieving conflict-pursuing their interests. The violence has had negative socioeconomic implications on Nigerians, politically, it serves as severe threat to the corporality of the Nigerian nation. The sum of all these is the underdeveloped condition Nigeria is currently thriving; poor access to food, education and health services, insecurity of life and property and of the environment etc. Existing literature have pointed to the implications of global warming as being the drivers of the nomadic herder pastoralist and cultivators' violence conflicts in Nigeria which has almost reached apogee level. Such argument in the existing literature is not disputable. The ever desiccating nature of the environment, continued loss of lands due to erosion, and loss of soil fertility among other environmental challenges caused by global warming have actually caused many pastoralists across the globe, to be on the move in search of water and fodder for their animals. The search is not on empty spaces since land is not empty but occupied by sedentary populations hence the contestation for the land resources between the two groups. However, this paper has found that the interplay of other forces including population explosion, poor governance which manifests in corruption; ethnic and religious divides, and Nigeria's porous borders which allows for proliferation of arms and influx of mercenaries into the country have heightened the violence between nomadic herders and sedentary populations.

For all intents and purposes, open grazing in Nigeria has outlived its usefulness and therefore need to be abolished. It is in this light that the anti – open grazing law enacted by the immediate past governor of Benue State, Mr Samuel Ortom as plausible. Be that as it may, the governor in his action and utterances demonstrated his hatred towards the herders, as such the law was misinterpreted. If the anti-open grazing law is being successfully in checkmating farmers – herders conflict, the herders need to be compensated by providing them with grazing area and facilities for effective pursue of the economic activities provided. Until this is done, we have not heard the end of farmers – herders conflict in Nigeria.

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[109]*Strategic conflict assessment*…p.19.

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RESPONSES OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES TO POOR INFRASTRUCTURE IN GOMBE METROPOLIS, NORTH EAST NIGERIA, 1963-2013

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ABSTRACT
Beginning from the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, the nexus between infrastructure and growth of manufacturing has been well established in the literature. As such, poor infrastructure has been identified to have negative effect on industrial development as evident in low capacity utilization and collapse of industries. However, response of manufacturers to infrastructure deficiencies is rarely analyzed in most of the literatures. This gives an impression that manufacturers adopt a lets-wait-and see attitude towards poor infrastructure. It is against this backdrop that this paper interrogates the responses of manufacturing firms to infrastructure decadence within the context of Gombe metropolis in North East Nigeria. Gombe remains a city with overwhelming infrastructure decay which affects its industrialization process. Thus, there is compelling need to explore how the manufacturers in Gombe face the challenge of infrastructure deficits. A historical method of inquiry based on the use of primary and secondary sources was adopted. The result showed that manufacturers responded to poor public infrastructure through private provisioning, requested public electricity, water supply, factor substitution, output reduction, relocation, and closure. The paper finally contends that collapse of industries due to poor infrastructure in Gombe metropolis was a long and protracted one not sudden or overnight occurrence as often assumed and popularized.

Introduction

One of the recurring decimal in human history from the sedentarization of man to the unbundling of the power sector in Nigeria in 2013 has been man's ability to respond to challenges posed by his environment. The challenge posed by the annual flooding of the river Nile made ancient Egyptians to build canals and dykes[110], while the periodic invasion of the Mongols partly inspired the construction of the Great Wall of China.[111] Unfortunately, this ingenuity of man to response to challenges is downplayed in most of the literature on infrastructure and industrial development in developing countries. Thus producing the linear argument by many scholars that infrastructure deficit leads to collapse of manufacturing industries. For instance Winch, Luger and Butter provide an overview of the critical relationship between infrastructure and manufacturing in United Kingdom and show how manufacturing depended on infrastructure.[112] On their part Azolibe, and Okonkwo, focus on infrastructure development and industrial sector productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Their research findings reveal that infrastructure influences industrial productivity in sub-Saharan Africa. They observed that the low level of industrial sector is largely due to their poor electricity, transport, water supply and sanitation.[113]Nadabo examined the nexus between infrastructure development and manufacturing sector performance in Nigeria. His findings show that poor infrastructure has negative impact on manufacturing sector performance in Nigeria and thus called for improvement of the quality of infrastructure in Nigeria.[114]Thus, despite the fact that infrastructure impact on manufacturing developed as shown by some scholar butit wrongly portrays manufacturers as helpless spectators in the face of dwindling infrastructure and the negative attendant consequence on their investments. This paper demonstrates that owners and managers of manufacturing industries in Gombe metropolis did not adopt a lets-wait and attitudes towards excruciating deficits in public infrastructure. They did so by adopting strategies to mitigate the impact of epileptic electricity supply, poor transport infrastructure, and decay telecommunication system.

Gombe Metropolis is located between latitude '10° to 100 20'Nand longitude 11°01 and 110 19'E.[115]The area comprises of Gombe town (the capital of Gombe State), Gombe Local Government Area, some parts of Akko 2 LGA and Kwami LGA, and cover an area estimated at 45 km[116]. It shares common boundaries with Kwami Local Government to the north and Akko Local Government Area to the south east and south west. The metropolis is a multi-cultural society consisting of different ethnic groups such as the Fulani, Hausa, Tera, Tangale, Bolawa, Waja, Igbo, Yoruba, and Kanuri tribes, with Islam and Christianity as the two dominant religions. The total population of Gombe metropolis was 266,844 in 2006 and increased to almost double (400,000) in 2010.[117] The core part of the metropolis is the most densely populated area with 260 persons per square hectare and coincidentally the most densely part of the metropolis in terms of buildings.

The Gombe State Designation of Urban Areas Order of 2nd August, 1998 as amended by the Order of 11th November 1999 designates the urban centres; with Gombe having radius of 15 kilometres from its geographic centre. This therefore defines the legal planning Area of

[110]G. Mokhtar, (Ed),*Ancient Civilizations of Africa* , Heinemann -California –Unesco,1981,P.153

[111]G. Mokhtar, (Ed),*Ancient Civilizations of Africa, Op.Cit*

[112]Luger N., Butter, A and Winch *Infrastructure and Manufacturing: Their Evolving Relationship* (2019)

[113]Azolibe, C.B. and Okonkwo, J.J. *Infrastructure Development and Industrial Sector Productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa* Journal of Economics Development Vol. 22 no.1 (2020)

[114]Nadabo, Shamsuddeen Yusuf *Nexus Between Infrastructure Development and Manufacturing Sector Performance in Nigeria: The Moderating Role of Institutional Quality* (2020)

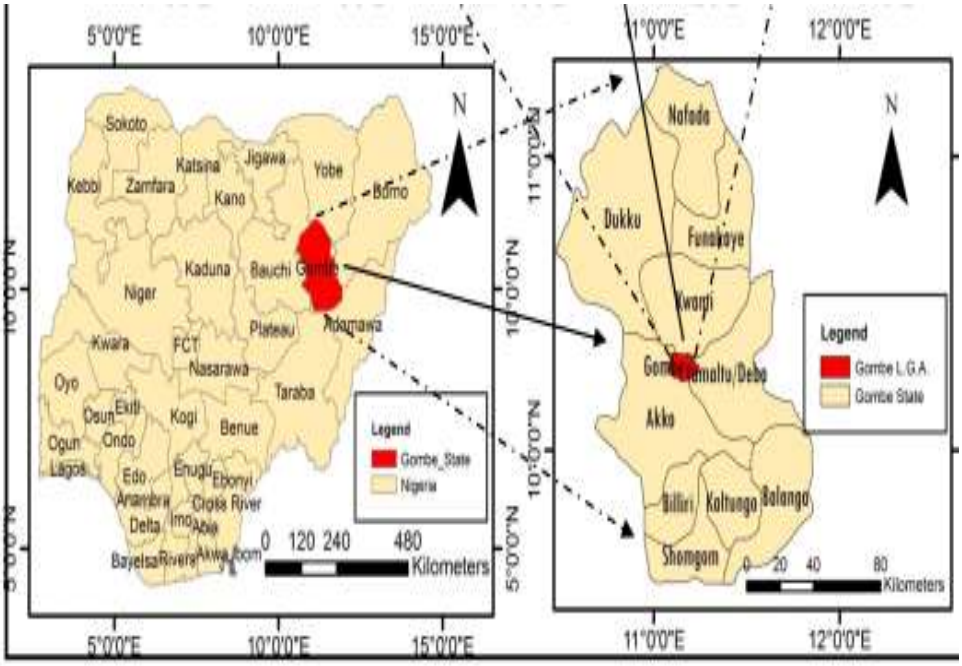
[115] Excerpt from Gombe State Ministry of Land and Survey, 2003

[116]Y. C. Makadi, D. Gideon & L. A. Mbaya, "Application of Geographic Information System (GIS) in Monitoring Gully Erosion in Gombe Metropolis, Gombe State, Nigeria" *International Journal of Advanced Research in Social Sciences, Environmental Studies & Technology* | IJARSSEST ISSN Hard Print: 2536-6505 | ISSN Online: 2536-6513 Volume 3, Number 1, August, 2017

[117] Excerpt from National Population Commission, 2006,p.1

Gombe Metropolis.[118] However, this order was revoked on 13th July, 2020 when Executive Order number 4 came into effect. The new order stipulates that all land within 20 kilometres radius of Gombe Local Government headquarters has become an urban area[119]. The industrial landscape of Gombe metropolis had industries such as Gombe Oil Mill incorporated in 1973; Dukson Soap Factory, 1992, Landa Sack Factory, 1994, Gombe Fertilizer Blending Company, 2000, Niko Plastic Industry in 2001, Gombe Dadaka International Flour Mill, 2011 and DemmoAluminium established 2012 among others.

Map of Nigeria showing Gombe State



Source: *Ministry of Lands and Survey, Gombe State, 2014.* ***See also*** *B. R. Hashidu, "Effects of Road Transport Development on Urban Growth and Commerce in Gombe Metropolis": An M.Sc. Research Proposal presented to the Department of Geography, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, March,2015,P.6*

Definition of Terms

Manufacturing

Manufacturing is the systematic production, generation or creation of finished articles such as hoes, cutlasses, clothes shoes, cars etc., from raw materials by hand using hand tools or machines. As such manufacturing could be fabricative, analytical or synthetic. This paper considers the simple meaning of manufacturing as "things made by hand".[120] This is because; the modern conception of the word misleadingly brings to mind only factories and machines. This approach

[118] Excerpt from *Gombe Master Plan*, p.4

[119] Excerpt from *Tribune Newspaper*, 20th July, 2020

[120] W. Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Panaf Publishing Abuja, 2009. P.47

helped us accommodate the so-called small- scale industries in our discourse.

Infrastructure

The word infrastructure is a combination of the Latin prefix "infra", meaning "below", and "structure". It is an umbrella term for many activities referred to as "social overhead capital" by such Development economists as Paul Rosenstein Rodan, RagnarNurkse, and Albert Hirschman. Neither term is precisely defined, but both encompass activities that share technical features (such as economies of scale) and economic features (such as spillovers from users to non users).

[121] Infrastructure in a simple parlance is the foundation upon which the structure of an economy is anchored. It is the essential systems and facilities that promotes the smooth running of an economy as well as improve the quality of life of the people. Thus infrastructure is defined as a complex of capital goods which are not consumed directly rather they provide services only in combination with labour and other inputs. According to Jochimsen et al, it is the sum of national, institutional and personal facilities and data which are available to the economic agents,[122]and are capable of of providing goods and services essential for enabling , sustaining and improving the societal standard of living. Infrastructure enables geographic concentration of economic resources and provides wider and deeper markets for output and employment. The necessity of infrastructure as a prerequisite for development of the manufacturing sector cannot be overemphasized. Thus the adequacy or inadequacy of infrastructure determines the success or failure of countries in industrialization, diversification, commercial expansionand improvement of environmental condition.[123]The paper focuses on electricity and water supply

Synopsis of Infrastructural Deficiencies in Gombe Metropolis

Electricity was introduced into Gombe in 1961 and since then, many areas were gradually connected with the national grid. As at 2013, Gombe State was benefitting from the 132/33 KV allocated to the North Eastern Region from the National Grid power line originating from Shiroro.[124]

In terms of electricity supply, our interviewees have concurred that the demand was higher than the supply. This led to load shedding, and frequent power outages which crippled many industrial establishments. It should be noted that the initial installed capacity of 200 KVA did not improve even when the population of Gombe town and neighbouring settlements reached more than 60,000 as at 1963.[125]The subsequent installation of a 330 KV transformer at TashanDukku substation on 17th November, 1979 did not meet the requirements of households and industries, including the Gombe Oil Mill which commenced production two to three years earlier.[126]Although more areas such as BCGA, Nasarrawo, Yelanguruza, Commercial Area and Malam In na were connected, load shedding and black out became the rule rather than exception. It should be noted thatblackouts occurred for a variety of reasons. Electricity is sent from power-generating plants to a country's users through an intricate network of wires interconnected by transformers and substations. A fault or failure at any point can mean a loss of power for all downstream users. Sometimes the faults are due to downed wires or short circuits. More commonly in the developing world, utilities intentionally shut power to parts of the grid to protect sensitive.[127]Not only do wires heat up when placed under excess loads, but so too do transformers which can explode spectacularly. Transformers are critical nodes in the power grid, stepping up power to the high voltages necessary for efficient transmission

[121]Excerpt from World Development Report 1994 entitled "Infrastructure for Development", Oxford University University,p.2. It is interesting to note that as late as 1973, the editors of *Urban Studies* eliminated "infrastructure" from a paper R. Prud'homme was contributing to this well-written British journal, and replaced it with "social overhead capital"

[122][122]Jachimsen, R. Gustafsson K. Art Infrastrukur. In :Gorres=Gese;;schaft (Hrsg) Staatslexikon. 10/Bd,6 Aufi, Feiburg/Br, (1970) Sp. 339-348

[123]World Bank 'infrastructure for Development', World Development Report, New York Oxford University Press 1994

[124]Interview with Alhaji Musa YahayaUmaru, aged 52 , Acting Chairman, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, and Commodity Board, Gombe State Chapter on 26th September, 2018

[125] Interview with AlhajiYayaHammari on 25th September, 2018

[126] Interview with AlhajiYayaHammari on 25th September, 2018

[127] B. Min, *Power and the Votes*, Op.Cit, p.44-45

across large distances, and stepping down the voltage at service drops to the 220 or 110 volts useful for household use. A blown transformer is expensive and laborious to replace.[128]

Gombe town has been suffering from shortage of water since the precolonial period as noted by Karima Muhammad[129]. Before the completion of Gombe Regional Water Supply Scheme from Dadinkowa Dam, presence of water drums was the feature of many houses in Gombe metropolis as people awaited the arrival of water tankers from Kwadon village. However, settlements such as Bomala, WuroBiriji and WuroShi'eo have greater potentials for borehole drilling due to the availability of groundwater. This is similar tothe Greater Lagos region, where the water supply situation presents a picture much different from that of power generation, because an abundant supply of groundwater at low depths below the surface is ubiquitous in the area.[130] It is important to note that the water discharge from the Dadinkowa Dam did not commensurate with the number of inhabitants of Gombe which grew from 18,500 in 1952, to 47,265(57th in the country) in 1963 and 300,000 in the late 1990s.[131] Within a span of eighty (80) years, Gombe grew from the size of village with about 300 inhabitants to a state capital of approximately 300,000 inhabitants(i. e. average annual growth rate of 5.9%) [132].

In terms of transport infrastructure, Gombe metropolis depends almost exclusively on road transportation for intra-city, inter-city, communal Linkage, community-farm linkage and Freight activities. The railway, which was of tremendous assistance in the 1970s and 1980s, has collapsed. As at 2004, Gombe State has about 572.20 Kilometer of rural and semi-urban road network and 302.82 kilometers of urban road network.[133]Although there was an increase in connectivity in Gombe metropolis from 1.61 in 1996 to 1.70 in 2005 and 1.80 in 2014,[134]deficit in road infrastructure could be observed in the metropolis, especially settlements located at the outskirt of Gombe town. In addition, the closure of Gombe-Biu road due to Boko Haram insurgency also slowed down trade in locally manufactured produce.

Responses to Power Failure

In their seminal study in 1992, Alex and Anas classified the responses of Nigerian firms into four categories according to the source of their power: (i) 'NEPA only" or captive firms which purchase all their electricity from NEPA and thus have no private investments to generate their own power; (ii) "NEPA main" or stand-by firms which rely on NEPA normally but switch to their own generators during periods of breakdown in NEPA's supply; (iii) "Own Generators Main" or firms with the public supply as stand-by which normally use their own generators to insure an adequate power supply, but switch to NEPA during periods when the reliability of NEPA power is considered high; (iv) 'Own Generators Only" or self-sufficient firms which never use NEPA power.[135]

It should be noted that some of the categories of responses mentioned by Alex and Anas were also identified in Gombe metropolis. For instance, Oil and Rice Millers of Nassarawo industrial

[128] B. Min, *Power and the Votes,*Op.Cit, p.44-45

[129] K. M. Abubakar, "A History of Water Resources Development in Gombe Town, 1919-1960", M.A Dissertation, Department of History, GSU, 2018,p.47

[130] K. S. Lee and A. Anas, *Impacts of Infrastructure Deficiencies on Nigerian Manufacturing: Private Alternatives and Policy Options*, Infrastructure and Urban Development Department, Report of the research project, "A Study of the Impacts of Infrastructural Deficiencies on the Nigerian Industrial Sector and Their Policy Implication World Bank, February 1992, p 11-8

[131] E. Oyedele, "Problems and Prospects of Urbanization", *Op.Cit* , P.19

[132] Excerpt from, "The New State Capital Gombe" by HeikoBalzerek , Department of Geography, University of Heldeberg, Germany in HeikoBalzerek Et-al, "Man-Made Flood Disaster in the Savanna Town of Gombe / NE Nigeria The Natural Hazard of Gully Erosion Caused by Urbanization Dynamics and their Peri-Urban Footprints"

[133]SEEDS Committee's Final Report, Op.Cit, P.115-116

[134] B.R. Hashidu, "Effects of Road Transport Development on Urban Growth and Commercial Activities in Gombe Metropolis, Gombe State Nigeria" M.Sc. Geography Dissertation, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, January, 2015

[135]K. S. Lee and A. Anas, *Impacts of Infrastructure Deficiencies on Nigerian Manufacturing: Private Alternatives and Policy Options*… ,P.11-13

clusters relied solely on electricity supplied by the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JED). [136]The fact that the cluster was on a blue line and about 18 hours supply was guaranteed, the manufacturers became 'contented' captive. While more than half of the 78[137]Satchet water industries such as Gombawa Table Water, Demas, Mamsa, DiyamKwadon, andNasab used generators when there was power outage. This implies that private provision of power was another response of small and medium industries in Gombe metropolis to infrastructural deficits. This was in tandem with responses of firms in other parts of Nigeria. According to the figures by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), of the N796 billions spent to fuel generators in 2008, members of MAN spent over ₦350 billion. This excludes amount spent on maintenance and repairs and acquisition of new generators.[138] Our interviews have revealed that Niko Plastic Industry and Dadaka International Flour Mill among others relied solely on public supply of electricity as they did not purchase generator. This implies that their machines remained idle in the period of blackout.

Our field work also revealed that some industries were illegally connected to the grid on the claim that they could not afford to pay the exorbitant electricity bill. To further ensure 'secrecy' during production, these industries began production at night strategy. However, additional sources have shown that this illegal connection was done in connivance with JED staff who were bribed.

PowerSupply on "Special Request"

To cushion the effect of unstable electricity supply so as to remain in business, some small and medium scale industries in Gombe Metropolis adopted a strategy of requesting for electricity supply for certain hours. Our interviews revealed that this was done based on negotiation with management of power distribution companies. In some instances, this deal was sealed with some staffs that were not necessarily in the top management cadre. Under this arrangement, power supply was made available for four to six hours depending on the agreement. An interviewee revealed that an undisclosed amount was paid. While in some instances, the cash payment was accompanied with 'gifts', especially the good produced by the negotiating factory. Factories such as Dukson Soap and Detergent Factory, and Niko Plastic industry have admitted adopting this strategy. In fact, in the case of the former, soap and detergents were given to the NEPA (now JED) staff to strengthen the deal.[139]

Output Reduction

According to Alex and Anas 1992, this response to infrastructural deficiencies is perhaps the most common and the only possible response in the very short run. The firm reacts to the infrastructure deficiency (such as a power interruption) by temporarily shutting down its operations and thus producing a lower level of output over a period. For example, if a firm cannot afford to have its own electric power generators, it has no choice but to reduce output during periods of power interruption.[140] In Gombe metropolis, industries such as Dadaka international Flour Mill reduced their output by about 30% to mitigate the impact of fluctuation in power supply. The same applies to Gombe Oil and Landa Sack Factory. As mentioned ealier, this strategy was temporary as firms could not continue to reduce their outputs for long. Because such response was injurious to their profit turn over. Therefore, the measure was to delay the inevitable (i.e the collapse of the factory) or purchase of generator/improvement in public supply of electricity or relocation.

Furthermore, the implication of continuous output reduction by existing firms could be contagious given that births of new firms will be reduced if prospective entrepreneurs expect that they might have to shut down because of infrastructure inadequacies soon after they set up

[136]Interview with Alhaji Abbas Aliyu, Financial Secretary, Gombe Oil Millers Association on 17th October, 2019

[137] Excerpt from Gombe state University Economic Survey Report, 2013,p.54

[138]B. ChimaOnuoha "Factors Militating Against the Global Competitiveness of Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria" in the *American International Journal of Contemporary Research Vol. 3 No. 4; April 2013,P. 58*

[139]Interview with Anonymous on 28th September, 2019

[140]K. S. Lee and A. Anas, *Impacts of Infrastructure Deficiencies on Nigerian Manufacturing: Private Alternatives and Policy Options* p.111-1

plant.[141] This is what is described in this thesis as an "industrial stillborn".

Factor Substitution

This involves a situation where by a firm substitutes away from the use of the poorly provided service by adjusting its mode of production in favor of those inputs and raw materials which are fewer infrastructures intensive. The use generator in sealing some bags at Dadaka International Flour Mill is one example of this response.[142] However, it is pertinent to note that this approach was rarely adopted by Nigerian firms. On this, Anyanwu laments that:

> *… Industries in Nigeria cannot acquire modern machines that have reduced processes. Most of them, especially textiles, cement, bakery, leather, paper manufacturing and many others are all producing with machinery that were procured in the 1960s and 1970s, giving rise to frequent breakdown and reduction in capacity utilization rates. Low technology is responsible for the inability of local industry to produce capital goods such as raw materials, spare parts and machinery, the bulk of which are imported. Hence there is very low value added and low productivity.*[143]

Responses to Water Supply Problem

Historically, Gombe town has been wrestling with problem of water scarcity; therefore, this challenge was faced by all manufacturing industries from 1963 to 2013. However, the settlements surrounding Gombe town had lesser problem of water because the water bearing quality was better and had low fluoride content. But in all cases, industries supplemented the unstable water supply by drilling private bore holes. Some industries like Gombawa Water factory obtained their water supply from Kwadon, a town about 8 km from Gombe Town. Each tank cost ₦ 3500 as at 2013 as confirmed by Usman Isa Yau. Some rice millers relied on water vendors such as *Engaruwa*, *MasuKus-Kus,MasuTanki* or private boheroles[144].

Relocation

The firm may relocate to a site with better infrastructure services. Such relocation can occur within a city or from one region to another. Many Large and strategic Industrial establishments were forced to close down. Dunlop, Michelin, Many Textile Companies are examples in this case. Within the last five years (1987-1992,) casualties to retrenchment in Nigeria numbered over 1 million. It is estimated that over 800 companies, including multinational, have relocated all or part of their manufacturing facilities outside Nigeria where they can get a more reliable power supply Coca Cola's only concentrate factory in Ogun State to Switzerland in 1998 Nestle & Unilever have made similar arrangements[145]

However, Alex and Anas revealed that Nigerian firms rarely move to new locations from the initial site as 50 percent of the firms had been at their present location since[146] A typical example of relocation could be seen the relocation of Oil mills scattered in different parts of Gombe metropolis to one location- Nassarawo industrial cluster. Apart from this, there was near absence of relocation of industries in Gombe metropolis. This trend is not confined to Gombe as absence of mobility in Nigeria was also observed by Alex and Anas considering that the average annual mobility rate observed in large cities in other developing countries is about 5 percent. The relative immobility of Nigerian firms is tandem with the fact that the capacity, regularity and quality of infrastructure vary from bad to worse within and across Nigerian cities. This tends to limit the gains in infrastructure quality that can be achieved by moving to new locations. Nigerian firms instead undertake their own extensive capital expenditures and incur regular operations and maintenance outlays to provide their own

[141] Interview with AlhajiAbubakarDanburam, Former Manager, Landa Sack Factory Gombe, 27th May, 2018

[142] Interview with AlhajiAbubakar, Procurement Manager, Dadaka International Flour Mills, Gombe on 17th October, 2019

[143]C. M. Anyanwu ,*Productivity in the Nigerian Manufacturing Industry*, Research Department,Central Bank of Nigeria, P.129

[144]Interview with AlhajiAbubakar, Procurement Manager, Dadaka International Flour Mills

[145]K.S. Lee and A. Anas, Impacts of Infrastructure Deficiencies on Nigerian Manufacturing, Private Alternatives and Policy Options, World Bank Discussion Paper, February, 1992,p. 111

[146]K.S. Lee and A. Anas, Impacts of Infrastructure Deficiencies on Nigerian Manufacturing, p.111-3

services. The high setup cost with a large amount of initial capital investment for own service provision would make it difficult for the firms to move.[147]Another problem with relocation is that it often involves trading one infrastructure deficiency for another.[148]

It should be noted that in the history of industrial development in Gombe State and Gombe metropolis in particular, in addition to infrastructural decay, political considerations also influenced the relocation of industries. For instance Gombe Flour Mill project was modified and relocated to Bauchi on political ground. The idea of establishing a flour mill in Gombe was conceived due to availability of raw material (i.e maize). Because World Bank-Assisted Agricultural Development Project in Gombe led to the popularization of maize production in Gombe, an area hitherto dominated by millet production.[149] Following this production switch, a Flour Mills Project was to be established in Gombe to process the quantities of maize being produced but for the relocation.

More so, Gombe Asbestos Company was also relocated to Bauchi in 1976. The initial motivation for the project was proximity to, and presence of raw materials at Ashaka Cement Company[150]. Finally, large cotton seed production in Gombe, and the neighbouring areas of Biu, Guyuk and Numan, motivated the Northern Nigerian Government to conceive the idea of establishing a textile industry in Gombe.[151] According to Yusuf Ibrahim Gamawa, a feasibility study for the project was carried out by MessrsPolcomex of Warsaw under the former North Eastern State Government (NESG) and Arewa Textile came in as technical partners. However, following a "doubt" expressed by some of the stakeholders on the viability of the project, the then Federal Ministry of Economic Planning Development struck out the project. Although, in subsequent years, the project was reinserted in the fourth national development plan, 1980-1985 and Spinning Mill started, it suffered neglect and thereafter abandoned altogether.[152] However, it is important to note that, relocation of industries was done in collaboration with elites from Gombe. The foregoing discourse has shown that just as in the case of industrial location, political factors greatly influenced the relocation of industries as typified by the examples of the three eclipsed factories[153] given above. This implies that poor infrastructure alone cannot explain why industries relocate.

Closure

According to MAN Survey in 2013, out of the 450 large, medium and small industries that existed in Kano State in the early 1990's, only about 120 were in operation with only 45-50% capacity utilization. In the Kaduna sector of MAN which includes Katsina, Abuja and Niger, out of 105 industries, 72 are operational while 33 have closed shop.In the Jos sector of MAN, which includes Bauchi and Borno, out of 54 industries, 38 are operational. See appendix.[154]

In Gombe Metropolis, more than 90% of the industries established from 1973 to 2013 have closed shops. This development was partly informed by poor infrastructure especially electricity supply. It is important to emphasize that closure of firms did not occur overnight as manufacturers devised many strategies to stay in business. For instance, Gombe Oil Mills has been wrestling with infrastructural challenges since the

[147]K.S. Lee and A. Anas, Impacts of Infrastructure Deficiencies on Nigerian Manufacturing

[148]K.S. Lee and A. Anas, Impacts of Infrastructure Deficiencies on Nigerian Manufacturing p.111-4

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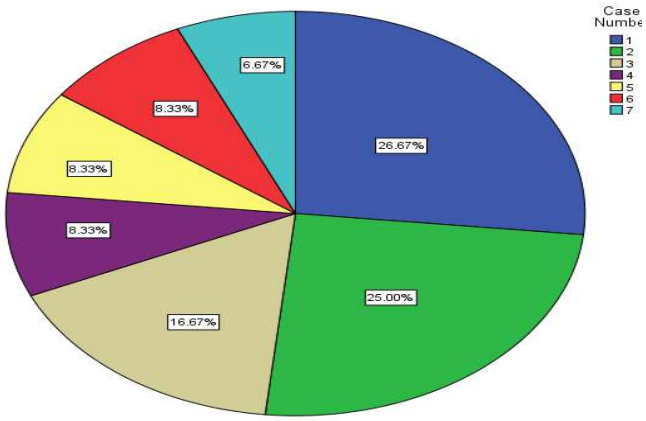
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commencement of production in 1976, but it was closed in 2000s. Other industries such as Landa Sack Factory, Frotline Oil Mill, and Dukson also suffered the same fate. It should be noted that other factors such as corruption and embezzlement of funds, inadequate spare parts, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), financial constraints have among other factors contributed to the collapse of many firms in Nigeria and Gombe metropolis in particular. More so, there are evidences to show that closure of industries also induced what could be termed as manufacturing apathy, given that investors became increasingly unwilling to set up new firms due to the closure of existing firms as a result of challenges bordering on infrastructure. The figure below gives a percentage of causes of manufacturing apathy in which lack of capital and epileptic electricity supply have 26.67% and 25.00% respectively.

Figure 1: Pie Chart on the Percentage of Interviewees' views on Causes of Manufacturing Apathy in Gombe State



Key:

[1] = Lack of Capital.

[2] = Epileptic Power Supply.

[3] = Weak Political Will.

[4] = Long gestation period of profit.

[5] = Crisis of Confidence/ Erosion of Trust.

[6] = Disdain for interest attached loans.

[7] = Poor Managerial Skills.

Source: *Authors' Field Work, 2018*

Conclusion

This paper has so far contextualized infrastructural deficit within global and national spheres to show that poor infrastructure is ubiquitous and its attendant consequences hampered the development of firms with varying degrees and magnitude. In line with the findings of Alex and Anas in 1992, the evidences in Gombe metropolis demonstrate that firms responded to infrastructural challenges through private provisioning, illegal connections, and electricity supply on special request. Other responses identified were factor substitution, output reduction, relocation and closure. It has been contended that incidences of relocation were rare, and relocation of industries such as Gombe Flour Mill, Gombe Textile and Gombe Asbestos Factory was informed more by political consideration than by poor infrastructure. While closure of firms such as Gombe Oil Mill, Landa Sack Factory, Frontline Oil Mill and Dukson Soap and Detergent factory did not take place overnight as owners of those firms have been exerting efforts to ensure their enterprises remained functional. However, in most cases, the firms closed shop as a last resort. Finally, the chapter argued that other factors such as weak political will, corruption and embezzlement, financial constraints, lack of spare parts and other challenges brought about by or exacerbated by the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) were critical in explaining the collapse of many firms in Gombe Metropolis.

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S/N	Name of the Interviewee	Age	Occupation/Rank	Date of the Interview
1.	AlhajiDahiruBubaBiri	64	Former Commissioner, Ministry of	2nd May, 2018

			Agriculture, Gombe State	
2.	AlhajiAbubakarDanburam	62	Former Manager, Landa Sack Factory Gombe	27th May, 2018
3.	Dr. Garba Muhammad Bajoga, Gombe	64	Former Manager, Bauchi Meat Factory and Retired Permanent Secretary	22nd June, 2018
4.	Professor AbdullahiMahadi,		Former Vice Chancellor, Gombe State University, Gombe	15th June, 2018
5.	Alhaji Mohammed Mohammed,	40	General Manager, Niko Plastic Industry Limited, Gombe on	18thSeptember,2019
6.	AlhajiYayaHammari,	73	WazirinYeriman Gombe)	25th September, 2018
7.	MallamUsman Hassan,	40	secretary, Gombe State Oil Millers Association	10thSeptmeber, 2018
8.	Alhaji Musa YahayaUmaru,	52	Former Chairman, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria,	26th September, 2018
9.	Alhaji Abbas AbubakarAliyu	36	Financial Secretary, Gombe Oil Millers Association	17th October,2019
10.	AlhajiAbubakar	35	Procurement Manager, Dadaka International Flour Mills, Gombe	17th October,2019

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EFFECT OF ANCHOR BORROWER PROGRAMME ON FARM PRODUCE OF BENEFICIARIES IN LAPAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA 2016-2021

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Anchor Borrower Programme, Farm Produce, Farmers, Agrarian communities

ABSTRACT
The effect of the Anchor Borrower Programme on the agricultural output of its beneficiaries is of utmost importance. The program has significantly improved the productivity of beneficiaries in Nigeria through the provision of credit facilities and extension services. This research specifically examined the effect of the Anchor Borrower Programme on the farm produce of beneficiaries in agrarian communities in the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State from 2016 to 2021. The research employed a descriptive survey research design with a population of 5,800. The sample size of 377 was randomly selected using Slovin's formula, and Information was gathered using a formalized questionnaire. The study used descriptive statistics, including simple percentage, frequency count, mean, and standard deviation, to address the research questions. Regression analysis was employed to test null hypothesis 1 with an alpha level of 0.05 significance using SPSS20, while chi-square was utilized for null hypothesis 2. The outcomes of the research hypotheses revealed a significant impact of the Anchor Borrower Programme on the farm produce of farmers in the study area. Consequently, based on these findings, the research concludes that the Anchor Borrower Programme has a notable effect on the farm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State. The program has played a crucial role in substantially increasing the agricultural output of its beneficiaries in the specified area. As a recommendation, it is suggested that the Anchor Borrower Programme should be expanded to encompass more farmers, aiming to further enhance farming output in agrarian communities within the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State.

Introduction

Over the preceding decades, the Nigerian economy prospered primarily through the agricultural sector, which was widely recognized as the principal catalyst in the early 1960s, with the aim of fostering economic growth and development. After the identification of oil resources in the 1970s, marked by a subsequent oil boom, there was a notable reduction in the share of the agricultural sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This decline stemmed from a pronounced shift away from agriculture towards oil. However, this shift led to a range of economic challenges, including but not limited to food insecurity, a reliance on imports, insufficient provision of raw materials for industries, heightened levels of borrowing, a deficit in the balance of payments, elevated rates of unemployment and inflation, rural-urban migration, and depreciation of the exchange rate, among other consequences (Olughu, Umar & Ajayi, 2018).

To address the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and revitalize its importance, previous administrations introduced agricultural and rural development programs, albeit encountering several obstacles. In an effort to enhance agricultural development, elevate the livelihoods, and increase productivity among Smallholder Farmers in Nigeria, the Federal Government, Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) was initiated in 2015 in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). (Olughu et al., 2018).

The primary objectives of the program include supplying smallholder Farmers with both in-kind and cash farm inputs, with the objective of enhancing production, elevate their livelihoods, and ensure a stable supply byproviding inputs to agro-processors throughestablishing robust linkages among Anchor Companiesengaged in processing and Smallholder Farmers. The commencement of the scheme is in accordance with the developmental role of the Central Bank of Nigeria, aiming to stimulate increased agricultural output and mitigate the adverse impacts of food importation on the nation's foreign reserves (Wijaya et al., 2020).

The program was initially rolled out in 14 states, including Kebbi, Sokoto, Niger, Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa, Kano, Zamfara, Adamawa, Plateau, Lagos, Ogun, Cross-River, and Ebonyi, under the Anchor Borrowers Programme.The Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) specifically targeted farmers engaged in cultivating a diverse range of crops, including cereals (such as rice, maize, wheat), cotton, roots and tubers (comprising cassava, potatoes, yam, ginger), tree crops (including oil palm, cocoa, rubber), legumes (such as soybean, sesame seed, cowpea), vegetables (particularly tomatoes), sugarcane, and livestock (encompassing fish, poultry, ruminants) according to the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2016. This initiative, launched by the Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria, aims to establish economic linkages between Smallholder Farmers (SHE) and reputable large-scale processors. The overarching objectives include increasing productivity, enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and optimizing the capacity utilization of the processors (Olughu et al. 2018).

This study is prompted by the necessity to evaluate the impact of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on the agricultural output of farmers in agrarian communities situated in Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State.

Statement of the Problem

The impact of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on the productivity of farmers in Nigeria is substantial and has been a focal point in numerous studies assessing its efficacy. A study conducted by Akinbile and Akingbade (2023) delved into the contributions of the Anchor Borrowers Programme to the productivity of rice farmers in Ekiti State. Their research revealed a discernible increase in rice farmer productivity associated with the ABP's participation or intervention in the state. Likewise, Ayinde, Fatigun, Ogunbiyi Ayinde, and Ambali (2018) conducted a study evaluating the Central Bank's intervention in rice production in Kwara State, Nigeria, specifically focusing on the Anchor Borrowers Programme. The study highlighted a positive impact on the income of beneficiaries, attributed to an increase in yield. The observed increase reached 3.94 metric tons per hectare of rice farm, indicating a significant improvement in productivity resulting from the ABP intervention.

These studies collectively underscore the positive influence of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on farmers' productivity, particularly in rice cultivation, and emphasize its role in enhancing agricultural output and the economic well-being of beneficiaries in Nigeria. However, there is a scarcity of empirical studies on the effect

of ABP in improving farm produce among farmers in Niger State, especially in the specific study area. It is against this backdrop that this study investigates the effect of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on farm produce in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria, spanning the period from 2016 to 2021.

Research Questions

i. What is the effect of Anchor Borrowers Programme onfarm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

ii. What are the implementation challenges of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

Research Hypotheses

H_{O1}: Anchor Borrowers Programme has no significant effect onfarm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

H_{O2}: There is no significant challenges in the implementation of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

Concept of Anchor Borrowers Programme

The Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) stands as a pivotal intervention initiative launched by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to address the challenges encountered by farmers by supplying essential agricultural inputs. These inputs encompass a variety of items such as farm equipment, fertilizer, water pumping machines, seedlings, cash, and extension services. Operating on a financial model, the program involves anchor firms collaborating with CBN, NIRSAL (Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending), and State Governments to organize out-growers and ensure their adherence to contractual terms, thereby preventing side-selling. Various stakeholders, including government agencies, farmers' associations, the Bank of Agriculture, and individual farmers, actively participate in this collaborative initiative, with CBN serving as the central coordinating entity and financial intermediary (Nkwede, 2014).

In line with its developmental functions outlined in Section 31 of the CBN Act 2007, the Central Bank of Nigeria established the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) to create economic linkages between smallholder farmers (SHFs) and reputable companies (anchors) involved in the production and processing of key agricultural commodities. At the core of the program is the provision of loans, both in kind and cash, to smallholder farmers. This strategic approach aims to bolster agricultural production, generate employment opportunities, and curtail the nation's food import bill, thereby contributing to the conservation of foreign reserves (CBN, 2021)

Objectives of Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP)

The Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) is guided by a comprehensive objective that centres on creating economic linkages between smallholder farmers and processors, with the ultimate aim of enhancing agricultural output and ensuring stability in food prices (CBN, 2021). The specific objectives further expound on this overarching goal:

i. **Increase banks' financing for improved agricultural productivity:** The ABP seeks to enhance the level of financial support provided by banks, fostering an ecosystem that encourages value chain financing. This approach is intended to stimulate increased agricultural productivity.

ii. **Reduce the nation's food import bill:**The program strives to diminish dependence on imported food items by employing strategies such as import substitution and enhanced domestic value addition. This approach aims to play a pivotal role in reducing the nation's overall food import bill.

iii. **Create a new generation of farmers:** The ABP aims to support innovative financing mechanisms that facilitate smart agriculture. By doing so, it endeavours to encourage and nurture a new generation of farmers equipped with modern and efficient agricultural practices.

iv. **Deepen financial inclusion and promote commercial farming:** The program aspires to expand financial inclusion by

transitioning smallholder farmers from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. This involves providing them with the necessary support and resources to engage in farming as a viable business, thereby contributing to the overall economic development of the agricultural sector (CBN, 2021).

Effect of Anchor Borrower Programme on Agricultural Development in Nigeria

The impact of the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) on agricultural development in Nigeria has undergone extensive scrutiny through various studies. Despite facing criticisms, a substantial body of evidence supports the program's positive outcomes, particularly in the adoption of improved rice varieties by farmers and the subsequent increase in the income of beneficiaries, signifying the program's successful realization of its objectives (Umar et al., 2019; Ayinde et al., 2018).

Researchers like Evbuomwan and Okoye (2017) have commended the ABP for its role in enhancing the success, popularity, and consumption of locally grown rice. This positive trend manifested in a collaborative effort between the Lagos and Kebbi State Governments, resulting in the branding of "Lake rice." The success of the ABP in rice production has spurred the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to broaden the program's coverage, extending its scope to encompass other crops and livestock. This expansion underscores the program's adaptability and success in contributing to various facets of agricultural development in the country.

Okeke's study (2019) offers valuable insights into the impact of the Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP) on rice farmers in the study area. The research revealed that the ABP played a role in enhancing the income and farm output of rice farmers, with access to the ABP significantly influenced by the socio-economic characteristics of rice farmers. While there were no significant differences in farm income between beneficiary and non-beneficiary rice farmers compared to a random sample, differences emerged in the acquisition of productive assets. Beneficiary rice farmers acquired fewer productive assets than what a random rice farmer from the sample would have earned, while non-beneficiary rice farmers acquired more, indicating variations in the distribution of productive assets.

Balogun et al.'s study (2021) further supports the positive impact of the ABP, revealing profitable outcomes for both ABP beneficiaries and non-ABP beneficiaries, with ABP beneficiaries making more profit. This underscores the suggestion that expanding the ABP to encompass all categories of farmers in Nigeria could serve as an effective intervention to boost profit and income across the agricultural sector.

Implementation Challenges of Anchor Borrowers Programme

Despite the notable accomplishments of the Anchor Borrowers Programme, akin to several other agricultural interventions in Nigeria, the initiative grapples with challenges. Many farmers express dissatisfaction, citing hurdles in accessing loans and discrepancies in the allocated amounts under the programme (Balogun et al., 2021). Despite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) disbursing N43.92 billion through 13 participating institutions, some of these entities impede farmers' access to the facility. Certain institutions prove unwelcoming to farmers due to intricate transaction procedures and a lack of consideration for crop gestation periods. Additionally, some banks contend that the CBN has not provided specific guidelines on loan disbursement. Agro-input distribution also exhibits inconsistencies, with variations in farmers receiving fertilizers, while others are denied this crucial support (Coker et al., 2018).

Moreover, certain criteria for programme participation may inadvertently exclude core poor and vulnerable groups, particularly women, who struggle to meet the farm-holding requirement of 1 to 5 hectares due to disadvantages in asset ownership (Coker et al., 2018; World Bank 2012; African Development Bank 2014). The farmer registration process incurs costs, and concerns arise about the completeness of the linkage to the Growth Enhancement Support database under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, as some states consider fresh farmer registrations. Initiating a new database is seen as a significant waste of public resources, highlighting government inconsistency in the agriculture sector. Furthermore, interactions with stakeholders suggest a predominant focus on funds disbursement and recovery, with insufficient attention to the revolving nature of loans post-recovery—an essential sustainability aspect of the programme that requires early consideration to prevent unmet expectations (Coker et al., 2018).

Theoretical Framework

This research is anchored on Max Weber's Modernization Theory, which traces its origins to the ideas of the German sociologist Max Weber (1864–1920). The foundational concepts laid down by Weber were further developed into the modernization paradigm by Harvard sociologist Talcott Parsons (1902–1979). Modernization theory seeks to elucidate the process of modernization within societies, depicting a transition from 'pre-modern' or 'traditional' to 'modern' societies. The theory primarily focuses on internal factors within a country and posits that, with appropriate support, nations considered 'traditional' can undergo development similar to more advanced countries. While modernization theory held a dominant position in the social sciences during the 1950s and 1960s, it later experienced a decline. However, there was a resurgence after 1990, although it remains a controversial model (Knobl, 2003).

The overarching goal of modernization theory is to identify the social variables contributing to social progress and societal development while explaining the process of social evolution. It emphasizes not only the process of change but also the responses to it, taking into account internal dynamics, social and cultural structures, and the assimilation of new technologies. The theory posits that traditional societies will progress as they adopt modern practices. Advocates argue that modern states tend to be wealthier and more powerful, providing their citizens with a higher standard of living. The necessity or preference for modernization is often justified by developments such as advancements in data technology and the need to update traditional methods in transport, communication, and production.

Critiquing modernization theory becomes challenging due to the implied notion that these developments dictate the limits of human interaction, rather than the reverse. The theory suggests that human agency determines the pace and intensity of modernization. Instead of being influenced by tradition, societies undergoing modernization are purported to adopt forms of governance guided by abstract principles. Traditional religious beliefs and cultural traits, according to the theory, diminish in importance as modernization takes root (Henry, 1971).

Methodology

The research was conducted in the agrarian communities of Lapai Local Government area in Niger State, Nigeria, utilizing a descriptive survey research design. The study encompassed a population of 5,800 beneficiaries across ten agrarian communities within Lapai Local Government area. The sample size for the study was determined to be 377, selected randomly using Slovin's formula. The primary tool for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Effect of Anchor Borrowers Programme on Farm Produce Questionnaire (EABPFPQ)." To ensure the quality of the instrument, it underwent face and content validity assessments by three experts from the Department of Political Science at Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai. The instrument's reliability was evaluated using Chronbach Alpha statistics, resulting in a coefficient of 0.89, indicating a high level of consistency. Descriptive statistics, including simple percentage, frequency count, mean, and standard deviation, were employed to analyze the data, providing insights into the research questions. Additionally, inferential statistics, specifically regression analysis facilitated by the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), were used to test the null hypotheses at an alpha level of 0.05 significance. This comprehensive methodology aims to uncover the effects of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on farm produce, contributing valuable insights to the research objectives.

Model Specification

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$$

Where,

Y = Dependent variables (Increase in Farm inputs/yield of farmers)

α= Interception

X_1 = Independent variable (Anchor Borrower Programme). β_1 = Regression coefficient.

ε = error of the estimate.

Result and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents

Gender of Respondents		
Male	321	91
Female	33	9
Total	**354**	**100**
Output per Farmer before APB Intervention		
1-10 bags	302	86
11-20	34	10
21 and above	18	6
Total	**354**	**100**
Output per Farmer during APB Intervention		
20-30 bags	100	28
31-40	152	43
41-60	66	19
61 Above	36	10
Total	**354**	**10**

***Source**: Field Survey September, 2023*

Table revealed that 321 representing 91% of the respondents were male farmers, while the remaining 33 representing 9% of the respondents were female farmers. This finding support the finding of Balogun et al., (2021) who reported 52.8% of Male farmers and 47.2% of Female farmers. The table also indicates that 302 representing 86% of the respondents farm output is between 20 to 30bags, 152 representing 43% of the respondents farm output is between 31 to 40bags, 66 representing 19% of the respondent farm output is between 41 to 60bags, while the remaining 36 representing 10% of the respondents has farm output of between 61bags and above. The analysis above indicates that majority of the farmers (321) are male with minority of (33) female farmers. The analysis further indicated that there is increase in farm output of farmers after ABP intervention.

Table 2: Effect of ABP on farm produce of farmer in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

S/N	Effect	Mean (X)	Std. Dev	Decision
1	I believe that farm output in my community was low before the implementation of ABP	3.12	0.62	Accepted
2	I believe that farm output in my community has increased due to the implementation of ABP	2.66	0.50	Accepted
3	There is a noticeable difference in farm output before and during the implementation of ABP	3.12	0.62	Accepted
4	The productivity of ABP beneficiaries has being improving over the years (2016-2021)	3.12	0.62	Accepted
5	With the help of ABP, beneficiaries are able to embrace mechanized farming which has assisted them in cultivating more hectares of farmland	3.12	0.62	Accepted
6	There is increase in the production of farm produce like rice and cassava as a result of assistance and service rendered by ABP	2.12	0.23	Accepted
7	The Anchor Borrowers Programme has contributed to the overall improvement of agricultural practices in Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State	3.77	0.73	Accepted

8	With ABP assistance beneficiaries are able purchase adequate fertilizer and agro-chemicals that boost the production of their farm produce	3.12	0.62	Accepted
9	I attribute the increase in farm output in my community to the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP)."	3.12	0.62	Accepted
10	I believe that the increased farm output due to ABP is sustainable in the long term	3.12	0.62	Accepted
	Grand Mean	**3.98**	**1.19**	

Source: Field Survey September, 2023

Result in table 2 revealed that the entire respondent agreed to all the ten items on the table. The table recorded a mean range from 3.12 and 2.66. The table recorded a grand mean of 3.29 and 1.07 standard deviation on the ten items indicating that majority of respondents shared the same opinion that Anchor Borrowers Programme has contributed immensely in improving the productivity of beneficiaries in the agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State from2016-2021. The analysis above indicates that before the intervention of ABP programme the productivity of farmers or farm yield while practicing subsistence farming was very low as an average farmer produces few bags like 1-20bags. But the productivity ABP beneficiaries has being improving over the years (2016-2021), with the help of ABP, the beneficiaries were able to embrace mechanized farming which has assisted them in cultivating more hectares of farmland they are able to produce 50bags and above, there is increase in the production of farm produce like rice and cassava as a result of assistance and service rendered by ABP, with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able diversify into various forms of farming that makes them to be very productive and that with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able purchase adequate fertilizer and agro-chemicals that boost the production of their farm produce, paid their children school fees, purchase of motorcycle which help them movement to school and hospital and building of additional residential houses.

Table 3: Implementation challenges of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

S/N	Challenges	Mean (X)	Std. Dev.	Decision
1	The challenging process of obtaining inputs	2.12	0.23	Accepted
2	Delayed distribution of credit Inadequate credit availability	3.77	0.73	Accepted
3	Inadequate credit availability	3.45	0.86	Accepted
4	Inadequate training on sustainable crop production practices	3.12	0.62	Accepted
5	Poor training on sustainable crop production practices	3.12	0.62	Accepted
6	Delay in release of proceed	2.12	0.23	Accepted
7	High cost of inputs	3.77	0.73	Accepted
8	The loan recovery rate was very poor as result of flood, pest and diseases which damages crops thereby preventing the beneficiaries from paying	3.12	0.62	Accepted

9	Inability of ABP to cover larger percentage of real farmers especially female farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area	3.45	0.86	Accepted
10	Poor processing and storage facilities	2.12	0.23	Accepted
	Grand Mean	**3.87**	**1.34**	

Source: *Field Survey September, 2023*

Result in table 3 shows that the entire respondent agreed to all the ten items on the table. The table recorded a mean range from 3.45 and 2.77. The table recorded a grand The mean score of 3.89 and a standard deviation of 1.34 across the ten items suggest a noteworthy consensus among respondents regarding the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021. A standard deviation close to zero signifies that data points are closely clustered around the mean. The analysis indicates that the majority of respondents share similar opinions on the challenges faced during the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the study area.

The identified challenges include a rigorous process for accessing inputs, delayed distribution of credit, credit insufficiency, inadequate quality of extension staff, insufficient training on sustainable crop production practices, delayed release of proceeds, poor loan recovery rates due to factors like floods and pest infestations damaging crops, the inability of the Anchor Borrowers Programme to cover a larger percentage of real farmers, especially female farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, and inadequacies in processing and storage facilities. These challenges collectively underscore the complexities and difficulties faced by farmers participating in the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the study area. Addressing these issues is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the program in supporting agricultural development and livelihoods in the study area.

H_{O1}: ABP has no significant effect onfarm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

Table 4 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.544[a]	.544	.143	1.00213

a. Predictors: (Constant), dependent_y

The table 4 above is a summary of the model which shows relationship that exists between the studied variables which is Anchor Borrower Programme and farm produce of farmers. The analysis shows a significant impact as r = 0.544(54%). This shows that Anchor Borrower Programme has significantly improves/increases the farm produce of farmers in the study area.

Table: 5 ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	4.515	1	4.515	.3.234	.035[b]
	Residual	13.231	2	13.231		
	Total	17.746	3			

a. Dependent Variable: (Independent_x)

b. Predictors: (Constant), (dependent_y)

Table 5 indicates that the p-value is 0.039, which is less than the alpha value of 0.05 and is significant at the 1.0% level. This suggests that the model is statistically significant, as evidenced by F=3.234 and p=0.035. Consequently, the Anchor Borrower Programme is considered a good predictor of the increase in farm produce among farmers in the study area. Therefore, the null hypothesis, which posits that the ABP has no significant effect on the farm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria, from 2016-2021, is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. This implies that the Anchor Borrowers Programme has a statistically significant impact on the increase in farm produce for farmers in the specified region during the mentioned timeframe.

H_{o2}: There are no significant challenges in the implementation of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

Table 6: Chi-square Computation

O	E	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$\Sigma \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
270	354	-84	7056	19.9
84	354	-270	72900	205
300	354	-54	2916	8.2
54	354	-300	90000	254.2
				X^2 =487.3

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

Where

O = Observed frequency,

E = ExpectedFrequency

X^2 = Chi-square

In Table 6, the critical value of 394.62, obtained from the chi-square table at an alpha level of 0.05, is compared with the calculated value of 487.3. The calculated value exceeds the critical value of 394.62. Therefore, the researcher rejects the null hypothesis, which posits that there are no significant challenges in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian

communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria, from 2016-2021. Instead, the alternative hypothesis, asserting that there are significant challenges in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the specified area during the mentioned timeframe, is accepted. This implies that the challenges identified in the study are statistically significant, highlighting the complexities and obstacles faced in the execution of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the given region.

Discussion of Findings

The analysis above indicates that before the intervention of ABP programme the productivity of farmers or farm yield while practicing subsistence farming was very low as an average farmer produces few bags like 1-20bags. But the productivity ABP beneficiaries has being improving over the years (2016-2021), with the help of ABP, the beneficiaries were able to embrace mechanized farming which has assisted them in cultivating more hectares of farmland they are able to produce 50bags and above, there is increase in the production of farm produce like rice and cassava as a result of assistance and service rendered by ABP, with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able diversify into various forms of farming that makes them to be very productive and that with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able purchase adequate fertilizer and agro-chemicals that boost the production of their farm produce, paid their children school fees, purchase of motorcycle which help them movement to school and hospital and building of additional residential houses.

The analysis above indicates that rigorous process of accessing inputs, late distribution of credit, insufficiency of credit, inadequate quality of extension staff, poor training on sustainable crop production practices, delay in release of proceed, poor loan recovery rate due to flood, pest and diseases which damages crops, inability of ABP to cover larger percentage of real farmers especially female farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area and poor The challenges identified in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) in the study area, particularly regarding processing and storage facilities, align with similar findings reported by Badejo et al. (2018). Badejo et al. highlighted that despite the perceived benefits of the program, implementation arrangements for the ABP are still unclear due to limited awareness, overlapping roles of stakeholders, issues with updated databases, a lack of credible monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and the potential prevalence of elite capture.

Furthermore, the current study's findings resonate with the research conducted by Okeke et al. (2019), which revealed that beneficiaries of the Anchor Borrowers' Programme experienced significantly higher income and farm output compared to non-beneficiaries. Additionally, the study is consistent with the findings of Olarewaju (2019), who reported that awareness about the ABP has a positive influence on farmers' participation and the yield of rice grown.

These collective findings emphasize the multifaceted nature of challenges in the implementation of agricultural intervention programs such as the ABP. They underscore the importance of addressing issues related to awareness, stakeholder roles, database management, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and equitable distribution of benefits to ensure the effectiveness and success of such programs in supporting farmers and enhancing agricultural productivity.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, this study concludes that the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) has a significant impact on the agricultural output of farmers residing in agrarian communities within the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State. The program has played a crucial role in enhancing the productivity of its beneficiaries, evident in improved farm activities, increased output and yield, the broadening of farming activities, and the facilitation of the adoption of mechanized farming systems. The research also affirmed the existence of considerable challenges in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme within the study area. Notable hurdles include insufficient credit availability, a lack of quality in extension staff, inadequate training in sustainable crop production practices, delays in the release of proceeds, high input costs, and the program's inability to encompass a larger proportion of genuine farmers, particularly female farmers in agrarian communities within the Lapai Local Government Area.

Recommendations

Based on the results, the following suggestions were put forward:

i. Anchor Borrower Programme should increase number of enrolment of farmers and credit facilities in order cover more farmers and increase their productivity,

ii. More female farmers should also be enrolling by ABP to bridge the gap between male farmers who benefited from the programme;

iii. Farm inputs and credit facilities must be provided to farmers in a timely manner to ensure prompt preparation for farming activities.

iv. Qualified and experienced extension workers should be employed to provide appropriate training on sustainable crop production practices to beneficiaries,

v. Provision should be made by ABP on how to minimize the effect of flood, pest and diseases which damages crops, to ensure prompt payment of loan by the beneficiaries.

vi. Farm input and seed should also be subsidized or be made affordable by ABP;

vii. Processing and storage facilities should be made available by Lapai Local Government Area in collaboration with ABP to minimize spoilage.

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BRITISH COLONIAL PUNISHMENTS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF NATIVE AUTHORITY PRISON AND CRIME CONTROL IN IDAH DISTRICT, 1929-1945

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ABSTRACT
This paper examines British colonial punishments in northern Nigeria, with a specific focus on the Native Authority Prison in Idah district. Prior to the advent of British administration, Idah was renowned for its indigenous methods of punishments that were rooted in its customs and traditions. These indigenous punishments never alienated offenders from their community, and the idea of incarceration without timely prosecution and integration of offenders was unheard of in the area. However, pre-colonial punishment in Idah was not only predicated on peace-building, but it also had the potential to transform offenders after the process of justice administration and dispensation. While, this was peculiar to those who committed minor offenses, perpetrators of serious crimes such as murder, homicide, and arson were immediately made to face the consequences of their actions, which were mostly total banishment from both the immediate community and adjoining settlements. The study argues that, beyond the fact that the Native Authority Prison was built to sustain colonial labour, which was a common phenomenon at that time, the Native Authority Prison created a new form of asymmetrical power relations in Idah district, a society which had previously been paternalistic in nature. The paper employs the qualitative research methods alongside the exploration of historical primary sources such as oral interviews and archival data as well as secondary sources which include both published and unpublished literature such as books, journal articles and processed internet materials.

Introduction

Idah is an ancient town situated in Igalaland, northern Nigeria and it serves as the traditional headquarters of the Igala people. It holds the distinction of being the seat of the Attah of Igala and also the largest town in Igalaland positioned on the Eastern bank of River Niger, approximately 104 kilometres south of Lokoja.[155] During the colonial era, Idah was one of the major districts created under the Igala Division of Kabba Province, and it also doubled as the administrative seat of Igala Division. Presently, it operates as the headquarters of Idah Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria.

Crimes are a universal phenomenon throughout human society with an age-old history; and every society has its means of controlling them. Conceptually speaking, crimes refer to acts that break the law and are punishable by the law.[156] In most pre-colonial Nigerian societies, those behaviours that were considered a crime traditionally were generally regarded as abominations. Typically, what people considered abominations varied from culture to culture but generally, behaviours or acts such as murder, theft, adultery, and rape, among others were considered serious crimes. Offenders in these categories of crime were held responsible according to community sanctions.[157]

In pre-colonial Igala society, particularly Idah, certain laws were made by the Attah, about crimes and punishments which were meted out accordingly. For example, murderers were faced with capital punishment while thieves were sold into slavery,[158] and so on. Hence, members of the families given such underlining, monitored closely the activities of one another to ensure good conduct so not to drag the name of the family to shame with such criminal activity.

Unlike in pre-colonial period, the colonial administration introduced its criminal justice system in Nigeria which involved the use of police, courts, and prisons for effective crime management. For instance, "the 1916 Native Authority Ordinance gave the Native Authorities power to establish police force to check offences and arrest culprit, court to try them and prison to detain them".[159] Meanwhile, Afeadie suggests that colonial powers in Africa functioned as coercive organs which the colonial authority achieved through certain instruments such as police forces and judicial institutions like prisons.[160] Prisons are often referred to as correctional and reformative centres. They are places/facilities where offenders are either kept for punishment or until their trial at the court of law. [161] Imprisonment entails putting someone in prison or curtailing certain rights they would normally have by confining or restraining them within a particular place. [162] It is therefore expected that recidivism and crime rates will decrease if the objectives of imprisonment are achieved.

Absolute separation or imprisonment of offenders was unusual in most societies in Africa including Idah before the arrival of colonialism. In other words, diverse cultures across Nigeria did not consider imprisonment an acceptable form of punishing offenders. Perhaps only a few number of communities practiced it; however, separation of offenders from the community was occasionally employed as crucial to secure community safety, and there was never incarceration of offenders for an extended period of time.[163]

The central argument of this paper has been consolidated by Bernault's view which traced the origin of prison to three main sources: firstly, the

[155] Daniel A. Akubo, "The Historical Development of Idah Town to 1960". Unpublished M.A Dissertation, Department of History, Bayero University, Kano, 1983, 9.

[156] Abdulrahman B. Dambazau, *Criminology and Criminal Justice* (Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited, 2007), 8.

[157] Vivian Saleh. & C. Ume, "An Evaluation of the Penal System: Criminal Justice in Nigeria". In Vivian Salleh (ed) *Colonial System of Control: Criminal Justice in Nigeria*. (Canada: University of Ottawa Press, 2008), 55.

[158] Daniel A. Akubo 'The Historical Development of Idah Town to 1960, 9.

[159] Loveday H. Omu, *Basic Principles of Penology in Nigeria*. (Port Harcourt: School of Nursing, Anyifovy Complex. 2007).

[160] Philip Afeadie, Brokering Colonial Rule: Political Agents in Northern Nigeria, 1886-1914 (Saabracken, Germany: Verlag Press, 2008), 9.

[161] Taslim O. Elias, *The Prison System in Nigeria.* (Lagos: University of Lagos Press, 1968), 5.

[162] Henry C. Amadi, *Essential Correctional Service Techniques* (Oweri: Delight Concept Publisher. 2019), 14.

[163] Vivian Saleh & C. Ume, "An Evaluation of the Penal System: Criminal Justice in Nigeria," 2008, 57.

gaols set up in costal forts and garrisons established at about 16th century; secondly, the devices used for physical confinement during the slave trade; and finally the military lock-ups deployed during imperial conquests in the 1880s.[164] According to him, only after the 1910s did colonial authorities begin to build a permanent network of specialised facilities throughout colonies. Yet, the new prisons did not entirely disconnect from earlier models because the British administrators were not ready to reform it. Thus, colonial prisons emerged as places of captivity rather than custody reviving far from Europe-specific breed of penal archaism.

Several works have been done on the colonial Prison system in Northern Nigeria but no one has explained how it led to social dislocation in the society. Fortunately, prison institutions are a colonial social legacy. Hence, there is need to interrogate its social perspective. Thus, this study is an attempt to examine the historiography of Idah prison and the role played in the control and prevention of crimes between 1929 and 1945. The period under review was noted for high rate of crime in Igalaland including Idah due to the effect of the world economic depression and the Second World War on the area and Nigeria in general. The thrust of this paper hinges on the fact that colonial prison in Idah district created social distancing and further polarized the society, which as well did not reduce criminality.

Crime and Social Control in Pre-colonial Idah District

The nature of crimes which were prevalent in pre-colonial Idah like other parts of Igalaland include theft which involved mostly stealing of domestic animals like goat, chicken, sheep as well as farm produce. There were also cases of highway robberies in the land. Most of the victims of this were long distance traders and farmers who were sometimes robbed of their properties. Other notable crimes which the criminal elements engaged in include rape, adultery, murder, arson, kidnapping among others although these were occasionally recorded in the pre-colonial Idah society owing to the fact that people hardly commit such capital crimes since they knew the implication which was usually total banishment of the offender from the community.[165] While some people engaged in crime out of necessity (that is, lack of basic necessities), some others took to crime out of greed.

Long before colonialism in Idah and Igalaland generally, the people had several ways of dispensing justice which was in relation to maintenance of law and order. Akubo, in his study furnished us with a detailed analogy of certain laws that were put in place by the Attah in relation to crime control. For instance, Murder was punishable by death as anyone who was found guilty to have killed another person was instructed by the Attah to be killed while thieves were to be sold to slavery; men who committed adultery with an Attah's wife was either killed, castrated or thrown alive into the River Niger; If a man committed arson he would be sold as a slave while those who were accused of witchcraft had to drink sasswood.[166] These and several other punishments were the order of the day in Idah district.

The foregoing measures were strictly in accordance with the societal moral values and members of family watch over the activities of one another to ensure good behaviours and prevent dragging the family's name to shame. In addition to the family role in commanding good behaviours among members, the servants and the eunuchs of the Attah and some of the senior chiefs helped in the protection of their persons and property. They were also on the watch out for any slightest public disturbance or unrest. In situation of such occurrence, they would be dispatched to restore and maintain peace instantly.

Masquerade was an important agent of crime control in Idah and the entire Igalaland. Masquerades are people who wear unique mask and clothe as costume. The concept of Masquerade in Igala Kingdom is the same as *Ibegwu* (ancestral spirit or reincarnation) who are believed to possess supernatural powers. The *Ibegwu* is believed to be the spirits of the dead relatives who had lived a good life. As a matter of tradition which commands high respect for Masquerades among the Igala, it is a taboo to reveal the face behind the mask or to say that masquerades are human beings. Only the male elders and the initiated members of the

[164] See Florence Bernault, The Shadow of Rule: Colonial Power and Modern Punishment in Africa, accessed, 19/11/2023, https://wwwresearchgate.net/publication/338265547.

[165] Patricia Abah, "A History of Crime Prevention in Igala Division, 1900-1960," Unpublished M.A Dissertation, Kogi State University, Anyigba, 2021, 43-44.

[166] Daneil A. Akubo "The Historical Development of Idah Town to 1960". Unpublished M.A. Dissertation., Department of History, Bayero University, Kano, 1983, 39-40.

masquerade institution have the real knowledge of the face behind the mask.[167] The high level of secrecy attached to masquerade gave it the power it exercised on the people regarding the maintenance of law and order.

There existed different types of masquerade with their distinct functions. There was the royal, the ancestral, the ritual performing, the religious, and the social masquerades. These various types of masquerades performed different roles ranging from spiritual and political to social matters, including maintenance of peace and security in their domain. But with regards to crime prevention, the masquerade called the *Egwu Ajamalede*, could detect anti-social behaviours among people without any information. For instance, if these masquerades appear in a place where stolen properties are kept they could detect and alert the public. Offenders such as thieves, murderers, and fornicators among others who are capable of tarnishing the image of the community were mercilessly dealt with by the *Ajamalede* masquerade.[168] The actions of the masquerades were to deter people from unacceptable behaviours in society.

In a related development, shrine and deity (Ebo) was another important agent of crime control in Idah. Ordinarily, in Africa before the advent of Islam and Christianity, the worship of God and ancestors through shrines was a popular practice under the African Traditional Religion. There were family and clan idols or shrines in all parts of Igalaland which were believed among the people to possess the power of life and death, fortunes and misfortunes, or good and evil. As a matter of tradition, the shrines were offered all kinds of sacrifices from time to time to be active in the discharge of their duties. The sacrifices or veneration is usually performed during the annual *Ibegwu* (Ancestor) festival.[169] The shrines and deities provided the medium through which the living appeased the ancestors, which is the spirit of the dead, and sought their intervention in averting sudden death, ill luck, and ill health among other calamities that could befall the living persons.

Shrines and deities aided in punishing offenders through diverse ways which were mostly dangerous. Shrines and deities were kept in both farms and homes by the Igala people to watch over their properties against thieves and burglars. Individual(s) who stole such items placed under the watch of the shrines and deities were meant to face several consequences. The spirits from the shrines had the power to kill and inflict instant calamities such as madness, accident especially falling mysteriously in the bathroom and from the palm tree.[170] Moreover, the shrine performed judicial functions. It served as courts where the innocence of individuals accused of criminal acts were tested and verified. Such accused individuals were meant to publicly swear before the shrine or deity. Those found guilty were either to die or face any other punishment within a stipulated time.[171] The prompt and unforgiving action of the shrines was greatly feared by people and therefore served as a vehicle for the maintenance of law and order among people. Hence, despite the lack of a standing modern police force and other law enforcement agents, crimes were greatly frowned upon and discouraged among the Igala people of Idah like in other parts of the area.

The Anecdotes of Native Authority Prison in Idah District

Prisons and Imprisonment are designed and used for various purposes. These include, to punish, to correct and rehabilitate, and to incapacitate. The objectives sought after include deterrence, restitution, reformation and social defence.[172] From the previous analysis of the pre-colonial crime control mechanism, there was no evidence of the existence of any prison or a particular place where offenders in the area were locked up as punishment for their offenses or crimes in Idah before 1901. The emergence of Idah prison was a total brainchild of the British colonial authority. As observed by Elder Ocholi Atabo, prisons were first established in Nigeria by the

[167] Tom A. Miachi, *The Incarnate Being Phenomenon in African Culture; An Anthropological perspective on the Igala in North Central Nigeria*. (Ibadan; Kraft Books Limited, 2012), 81-83.

[168] Tom A. Miachi, *The Incarnate Being Phenomenon in African Culture; An Anthropological perspective on the Igala in North Central Nigeria*, (Ibadan; Kraft Books Limited, 2012), 82-87.

[169] Interview, Ejeh Adukwu, 84 years, retired Civil Servant and Farmer, Idah on 12/01/2021.

[170] Tom A. Miachi, *The Incarnate Being Phenomenon in African Culture; An Anthropological perspective on the Igala in North Central Nigeria*, 86.

[171] Tom A. Miachi, 112.

[172] Etannibi Alemika, Trends and Conditions of Imprisonment in Nigeria, *International Journal of Offenders, Therapy and Comparative Criminology,* Vol. 37, No. 2, 1995, 147-162.

British in areas where serious resistance was offered against colonial rule. For instance, the establishment of Kano Central Prison in 1903 following the British conquest that year after serious resistance from the People of Kano. Idah being the seat of Attah (king) of the Igala kingdom was another area that revolted vehemently against the British incursion. The reason for this resistance was that, if the British were allowed to conquer and rule this area, the position of the Attah would be undermined as it soon became the case after the British recorded victory over Idah in 1896. However, despite the military conquest of Idah in 1896, the people ensured that the Attah stool was fortified against any colonial interference, hence this has made the people continue to offer resistance and sabotage colonial policies.[173] Following the official British proclamation of the protectorate of Northern Nigeria in January 1900, the British implemented their policy of effective occupation which prioritized colonial rule and the spread of English institutions which eventually brought about what Abdulkadir describes as 'coercive infrastructure' such as police, prisons, native courts and several others, to enforce and promote colonial policies.[174]

It was in light of the above that Idah prison was built in 1901 with a capacity to house 102 inmates. Offenders especially those who disregarded colonial policies from the entire Igala Division were kept in prison upon their arrest and prosecution by the Native Authority police.[175] Such offenders included those who were unable to pay their taxes, those who sabotaged colonial policies through deliberate refusal to obey instructions and destruction of colonial infrastructures, as well as those who were involved in murder and other criminal offenses.[176]

Idah prison was headed by a Chief Warder (Keeper) who reported to the Head of the prisons in Lokoja. While the Head of Prisons in Lokoja reported to the Director of Prisons in Enugu and subsequently in Lagos. It was not until 1968 when all Native Authority Prisons were unified and taken over by the Nigerian Government when the prison started having Superintendent as its head.[177] The prison staff were mainly ex-soldiers of exemplary conduct and long service ensuring discipline and effective administration.[178]

Table 1: Showing the Officers (Ex-Soldiers) in Charge of Idah Native Authority Prison in the 1920s

S/N	Name	Registration/Unit Number	Position/Status
1	Cpt. Bargain Dabai	No. 873. 1st Bn "19534"	Chief Warder
2	Cpt. Momodu Zaria	No.891. 1st Bn	Warder
3	Pte. Momo Sokoto	Ist Bn	Warder
4	Pte. Bako Yola	No. 19553 1st Bn	Warder
5	Pte. Amasha Aiyangba	No. 6892 2nd Bn	Government Messenger

Source**:** NAK/LOKOPROF/104 "Annual Report on Igala Division, 1929"

The table above presents a comprehensive list of ex-soldiers other than reservists who were staff of the Idah N.A. Prison in the 1920s. Cpt. B. Dabai served as the Pioneering Chief Warder of the Prison and three other ex-servicemen worked with him as Warders and one other as government messenger for the entire Idah District. The officers were all indigenous Nigerians who were to demonstrate their military experience in the prison to maintain discipline and good conduct

[173] Interview with Ocholi Atabo, Idah, on 05/05/2020.
[174] Mohammed S. Abdulkadir, "An Economic History of Igalaland, 1896-1936" Unpublished PhD Thesis. Department of History, Bayero University, Kano. 1990, 370.
[175] Interview with Ocheni Zekeri, Anyigba, on 02/05/2020.
[176] NAK/LOKOPROF/1555. "Annual Report on Igala Division for 1940-41,"11.
[177] Interview with Yakubu Ashiakaa, Idah Custodial Centre. Idah, Kogi State. On 13/01/2021.
[178] NAK/LOKOPROF/ 104. "Annual Report of Igala Division for1929.

among prisoners.[179] The Native Authority Prison in Idah district played an important role in enforcing the collection of taxes and forced labour which allowed colonial powers to hijacked and put under their control significant portion of the local economy. This is of course being why imprisonment and other punishment were introduced in order to punish Native Africans who refused to comply with the European law. Hence, beyond conviction of the offenders, colonial administration were primarily after bureaucratic efficiency, anticipated economic gains and the needs to enforce native collaboration and ensured total submission by natives to colonial powers.[180]

Native Authority Prison as Colonial Control in Idah District: An Appraisal, 1929-1945

The period between 1912 and 1930 witnessed the most significant change in the history of what is now known as Nigeria. The amalgamation of Northern and Southern protectorates in 1914 was a turning point. The amalgamation culminated in the 1916 Prison Ordinance and regulations. The prison ordinance empowered the governors to declare any building, a prison.[181] Prisons in Nigeria were categorized based on the type of prisoners they accommodated; convict prisons for those whose sentence were more than two years, provincial prisons for those serving short terms up to six months, and the native authority prisons such as the one under study at Idah district could be regarded as maximum prison. At the central level were government prisons for holding mainly offenders convicted under the British pattern of supreme and provincial courts.[182]

Crime is a ubiquitous phenomenon across all human societies and every society has its means of controlling them, hence, this is not to say that one control measure is inferior or superior to another. Crimes are anti-social behaviours and acts that violate the law, which is punishable by the law. They are illegal actions that every society frowns upon.[183] In the colonial Idah District like other parts of Nigeria, behaviours such as murder, rape, theft (or having stolen goods), and disobedience to colonial policies among others were classified as crimes because they went antithetical to the societal norms and colonial authority interests in particular.

No doubt, various degrees of anti-social behaviours (crimes) existed in pre-colonial Igala society, which became more prevalent in an organized manner under colonial rule. Several factors contributed to the transformation of crimes in Idah like other British territories in Africa. As noted the colonial incursion into the land which took the form of military conquest with the use of advanced weapons by the British forces like the West African Frontier Force played a key role.[184] This was made possible as many of the weapons used against the indigenous people later ended up in the hands of civilians who used them to further perpetrate criminalities in their environment.[185] Additionally, the efforts of the local Blacksmiths who fabricated or manufactured surplus weapons like Dane guns used to resist the British invaders further complicated the spate of crime in Igalaland.

More so, the colonial economic policies that undermined the economic vibrancy of the natives also compounded the situations of crime in the Igala Division. The imposition of high taxation on the indigenous people compelled many of them to turn to crime such as theft or robbery just to meet up with payment of their taxes and be set free from punishment. For instance, 48 out of 86 persons sentenced in 1933, and 43 out of 79 sentenced in 1935 in Idah prison were charged with theft and high-way robbery.[186] The decade following colonialism was reported for its high rate of crimes in Igalaland.[187]

[179] NAK/LOKOPROF/ 104. "Annual Report of Igala Division for1929.

[180] See Florence Bernault, The Shadow of Rule: Colonial Power and Modern Punishment in Africa, accessed, 19/11/2023, https://wwwresearchgate.net/publication/338265547. 60.

[181] Noe Otu, Colonialism and the Criminal Justice in Nigeria, *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice,* 302, accessed 20/11/2023, https//www.tandofline.com/loi.

[182] Noe Otu, Colonialism and the Criminal Justice in Nigeria, 2011, 302.

[183] Abdulrahman B. Dambazau., *Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited, 2007, 8.

[184] Patricia Abah, "A History of Crime Prevention in Igala Division, 1900-1960, 69.

[185] Patrcia Abah, 69.

[186] NAK/LOKOPROF/24. "Prison Statistics, Igala Division.

[187] Danladi Abah, "Cotton Production and Trade in Igala land of Central Nigeria, 1900-1986". Unpublished Ph. D Thesis, Department of History, Benue State University, Makurdi, 2019, 222-228.

Unlike the pre-colonial period, the colonial administration introduced its criminal justice system in the area which involved the use of police, court, and prison for effective management of crimes. For instance, "the 1916 Native Authority Ordinance gave the Native Authorities power to establish a police force to check offenses and arrest culprit, court to try them and detain them."[188] However, the establishment of these institutions in the Idah District was meant to enforce and implement Native rule since the people had been known for their resistance. Despite the popularity of this view among scholars, it can be argued that the institution of prison, was to some extent helpful in the fight against crimes.[189]

The Native Courts which came into existence in Igalaland in 1919 were responsible for the trial of cases charged by the Native Administration Police. The court was also saddled with the responsibility of sentencing individuals who were guilty of crimes brought before it accordingly. Its collaboration with other arms such as the police and prison helped in the reduction of criminal cases in Igalaland. For instance, in 1929, a session of the Idaho Division of the Native Court was held with eight cases before it. Three cases were related to robbery with violence on the part of soldiers on leave. The cases were later transferred to the High Court at Idah which led to the sentencing of the soldiers to five years imprisonment each with hard labour.[190]

Prisons in every society are established to keep away people who commit crimes thereby enhancing the security of the general society.[191] Idah prison which was built in 1901 was one of the earliest prisons built by the British colonial government in Northern Nigeria. [192] In 1943, about 53 prisoners were transferred from Ankpa prison to Idah prison while 26 prisoners were transferred from Dekina prison to Idah prison to serve longer terms of imprisonment.[193]

Table 2: Idah Prison Statistics between 1929 and 1945

Year	Awaiting Trial	Sentenced	Admitted	Total No. Of Prisoners	Sentence expired	Discharged by order	Transferred out of the prisoner	Execution
1929	10	69	298	377	153	122	-	-
1930	12	73	307	392	142	34	-	-
1932	8	74	210	292	159	21	-	-
1933	3	86	273	362	201	47	-	-
1935	-	79	302	381	168	23	-	-
1938	15	72	207	294	118	19	-	-
1939	-	25	182	207	108	40	-	-
1940	-	59	219	278	166	52	-	-
1941	-	60	280	340	223	68	2	-

[188] Mohammed S. Abdulkadir, "An Economic History of Igalaland, 1896-1939" Unpublished PhD Thesis. Department of History, Bayero University, Kano, 001990, 370.

[189] Tekena Tamuno, *The Police in Modern Nigeria, 1861-1965: Origin, Development and Role* (Ibadan: University Press, 1970).

[190] NAK/LOKOPROF/2076

[191] Patrcia Abah, "A History of Crime Prevention in Igala Division, 1900-1960," 101-102.

[192] NAK/LOKOPROF/24, Prison Statistics, Igala Division.

[193] NAK/LOKPROF/71. Native Administration Prison Regulations.

1942	-	46	247	293	205	25	2	-
1943	-	62	267	329	269	13	2	-
1944	-	47	194	241	195	11	1	-
1945	2	31	379	412	270	13	38	-

Source: NAK/LOKOPROF/24, "Prison Statistics, Igala Division".

The table above displays the statistics of Idah N.A Prison from 1929 to 1945. Regrettably, the statistics for the years 1931, 1934, 1936, and 1937 are missing as all efforts to retrieve the files by the researchers proved abortive. Such items considered in the table above include the number of prisoners awaiting trial, sentenced prisoners, the total number of prisoners admitted for each year, the number of prisoners whose sentences expired, those discharged by order, prisoners transferred out of Idah prison to higher prisons, and those to be executed.[194] With regards to awaiting trial, the number of prisoners in the prison was minimal, in most cases less than 10 with some years recording 0 except for the years 1929, 1930, 1938, and 1946 with 10, 12, 15, and 16 awaiting trial inmates respectively. This indicates that due process was followed to a great extent in hearing cases against accused persons by the courts before sentencing those found guilty to imprisonment.[195]

By 1929, 153 prisoners had completed their jail term while a total of 122 prisoners were discharged by order of the government through the Director of prisons. In 1930, a total of 142 prisoners were discharged from the prison following the expiration of their sentence, while 34 were discharged by order. In 1932, 159 prisoners had their sentences expired and 21 were discharged by order. In 1933, the number of prisoners who had their sentence expired was put at 201 with a total of 47 discharged by order. In 1935, 168 prisoners were discharged on the expiration of the sentence while 23 were released by order.[196]

In 1938, a total of 118 prisoners had their sentences expired, while 19 prisoners were discharged by order.[197] In 1939, 108 prisoners were discharged on the expiration of their sentence, and 40 others were discharged by order. In 1940, 166 prisoners had their sentences expire while 52 others were discharged by order. In 1941, 223 prisoners were discharged following the expiration of their sentence, while 68 were discharged by order. In 1942, a total of 205 prisoners had their sentence expired and 25 others were discharged by order. In 1943, 269 prisoners were discharged on the expiration of their sentence and 13 others were discharged by order. In 1944, a total of 195 prisoners had their sentences expired, while 11 prisoners were pardoned and discharged by order. In 1945, a total of 270 prisoners were discharged following the expiration of their sentence, and 13 others were discharged by order.[198]

As required by prison regulations, prisoners with major charges were transferred out of Idah prison to higher prison especially the maximum prison at Lokoja. For instance, in 1941, 2 prisoners were transferred from prison, in 1942, 2 were also transferred from prison, in 1943, 2 were transferred also, in 1944 only 1 was transferred and in 1945, 38 were transferred out of the prison to the Lokoja government (maximum) prison. When one studies the cases of transfer of prisoners among the three prisons within Igala Division, one would agree that the number of prisoners transferred out of Idah prison was low compared to cases of transfer from both Ankpa and Dekina prisons.

This confirms the report that Idah prison was the central prison in the entire Igala Division. One of the reasons for the high number of total prisoners housed in Idah prison was the transfer of prisoners from both the Ankpa and Dekina prisons to Idah. For instance, while only 2 prisoners were transferred from Idah to Lokoja prison in 1942, 22 and 12 prisoners were transferred from Ankpa and

[194] NAK/LOKPROF/713." Native Administration Prison Regulations.
[195] NAK/LOKPROF/713." Native Administration Prison Regulations.
[196] NAK/LOKOPROF/24. "Prison Statistics, Igala Division.
[197] NAK/LOKPROF/713." Native Administration Prison Regulations.
[198] NAK/LOKPROF/713.Native Administration Prison Regulations.

Dekina prisons respectively to Idah Prison.[199] It is interesting to note that no single prisoner was executed at Idah prison. This is because the British banned capital punishment throughout the country. The prison answered specific needs, the length of custodial sentences differed from that of the ones in the metropolis. Between 1910 and 1950 arbitrary detentions of adult male population were common. This has confirmed the claim that colonial authority invented imprisonment to perfect their socio-economic and political exploitation of their colonies.

Conclusion

This article establishes that the colonial government succeeded in polarizing Idah district by utilizing imprisonment as a weapon of social dislocation. This was borne out of the fact that the Native Administrators poorly implemented prison policy, hence, the local people misconstrued what the colonial Prison stood for. Furthermore, certain factors such as the reintegration and reformation of ex-prisoners that could have helped them to go back to the society and start a new life at the expiration of their jail term was not taken into consideration. This is contrary to the pre-colonial criminal justice system whose tenet was tailored towards peace-building and integration rather than separation of offenders from their community. Idah Native Authority Prison generally served the British administration by providing a serene atmosphere for colonial policies to thrive. In this paper, we have demonstrated the roles of Native Authority Prisons in the control and prevention of crimes such as stealing, murder, rape, homicide, forgery among other criminal acts in Idah District. Therefore, it is worth noting that, Native Authority Prison created new asymmetrical power relations among the people and further dislocated their social structure in Idah district.

[199] NAK/LOKOPRO/24. "Prison Statistics with Annual Report; Igala Division."

TRANS-BORDER TRAJECTORIES AND HUMAN SECURITY IN NIGERIA: NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST IN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT
The balkanization of Africa into various constituent states by the colonialists is not without obnoxious consequential effects on the continent, namely: improper border demarcation and arbitrary separation of social or ethnic groups. Similarly, the so-called delineated international borders are porous and countries exposed to various forms of human insecurity. However, successive governments have in collaboration with leaders of neighbouring countries and independently adopted different measures to checkmate irregular trans-border movements and related security disquiets but to no avail. Therefore, this article evaluates trans-border trajectories and human security in Nigeria. It particularly looks at the nexus between historical borderland nuances and food insecurity in northeast and northwest Nigeria since 2014. The paper adopted documentary method of data collection which relies on secondary sources such as journal articles, textbooks, conference and seminar papers, newspapers, etc. Analysis was done within the periscope of Lee's migration model using content analysis method. The paper opined that poor consideration of aged-long historical ties among border communities, coupled with borderland nuances between Nigeria and neighbouring countries implicated in the rise of insecurity that has displaced and claimed the lives of thousands of people and valuable property. It further argued that trans-border related insecurity such as banditry, Boko Haram onslaughts impacted negatively on food production, availability, accessibility and stability in the study area. It thus recommends for an all-round development along with formidable modern security in every part of the country, borderland communities' peculiarities and socio-cultural historical ties be given more meaningful consideration in every respect.

INTRODUCTION

The contemporary "independent" states in Africa were *ab-initio* fragmented societies that settled (lived) in clusters of families, clans, communities, kingdoms, emirates, caliphates, etc. with different forms of authority (government) and leadership styles that were fashioned and functioned according to their respective traditions, socio-cultural practices and environments. Their settlements and social interaction was characterized by either, or combination of ethnic and religious affinity while cultural and economic exchanges do not only cut across members of the same settlement, but also of nearby communities, kingdoms or caliphates as the case may be. The present day Nigeria for example is a conglomeration of autonomous communities, kingdoms, empires, emirates, etc. inhabited by people of diverse ethnic groups, religious and cultural compositions that were more or less forced into one country through colonialism. One of the common features of pre-colonial Africa was shifting and indeterminate frontiers for obvious reasons.

However, the arrival of European invaders into the continent, its subsequent partitioning at the Berlin Conference of 1884/5 and colonial scheme undermined most of African heritage. It should be noted that there are some benefits attributed to colonialism in Africa no matter how unintended those gains might be. Yet, there are still more challenges that have been attributed to the indiscriminate and arbitrary boundaries bequeathed to the continent at independence. For instance, apart from political and economic problems of colonialism, tribalism, ethnic wars, etc had also been associated with arbitrary manner that African states were delineated which complicated social relations within and across borders. To this effect, Kissinger (2001: 203) remarked that "in no other continent did national borders emerge so directly and intrinsically from the way the imperial powers delineated their spheres of control."

Thus, replete with conspicuous domestic challenges and contradictions, citizens of especially contiguous borderland engaged in one form of trans-border movement or the other for solution to their internal disorder or in attempt to take economic advantage across their shores. This process in most cases involves both skilled and unskilled labour power. Related studies revealed that while the factors impelling migration have changed in intensity rather than substance, international migration is undertaken to eliminate wages disparities in the sending and receiving countries. According to De Haan (2007), "…the movement of labour would lead to the elimination of disparities and equalization of development." In other words, migration is mutually beneficial, especially to the sending countries. The importance of this assertion is that through this process, particular disparities in wage differentials will be minimized. This perspective of trans-border movement has been criticized in many respects. Other studies linked trans-border movements with search for good governance, expectation of higher incomes and living conditions including better health and education which may be lacking in their respective permanent residence or country of origin. Other factors are socio-cultural, conflict, war, hardship, etc (Nyberg-Sorensen *et al.,* 2002; Olajide, 2013; John, 2019; Thet, n.d.). Nevertheless, cross-border movement around Nigeria's borders with her neighbours has not been without economic and security problems.

Although successive governments have unilaterally and in collaboration with leaders of neighbouring countries made several efforts to mitigate associated challenges. Nigeria in particular has applied kinetic and non-kinetic measures such as unilateral military operations, Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), borderland closure, establishment of Nigeria Border Community Development Agency (NBCDA), etc to address various issues associated with irregular trans-borders movement but to no avail. Armed banditry and kidnapping have been on the increase; despite huge spending on the fight against Boko Haram insurgency, the terrorist group has continued to unleash terror on their victims. Worse still, smuggling of contraband articles including Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), irregular cross-border activities had not been put to an end. Similarly, extant literature revealed that Nigerian governments had recorded some achievements in the campaign against these vices but such success are often short-lived (Babatola, 2015; Olisah *et al.,* 2022). In fact, recent happenings have prompted scholars, analysts to describe the nation's economy as hash and bleak on the people while the security of lives and property is said to be fragile. Certainly, there are so many questions that readily come to mind. However, the broad objective of this paper is to evaluate trans-border trajectories and human

security in Nigeria. Specifically, it focuses on the nexus between borderland alongside historical nuances and food insecurity in northeast and northwest Nigeria since 2014. The paper is organized in the following major headings: Introduction, theoretical lens of the study, methods of data collection and analysis, findings and analysis, conclusion and recommendations, respectively.

Operationalization of Key Terms

Trans-border trajectory in this study encompasses processes, movements, entry-exit routes, economic, socio-cultural ties and activities spanning beyond geographic areas of a nation's sphere of control. Such territorial space are replete with complex characteristics such as sharing borderland beyond the delimited boundaries with contiguous countries, their social and economic life being impacted directly, notably due to their proximity, socio-cultural groups and activities exist on both sides of border communities, etc. (Adejuyigbe, 1989: 27-36). It is associated with conventional and unconventional, spontaneous and complex patterns of migration (movement) of people between two or more geo-political entities.

Human security is an all-encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety; participating fully in the governance of their country, enjoying the protection of fundamental rights, having access to resources and basic necessities of life, and inhabiting an environment which is not detrimental to their present and future health and economic wellbeing (Hussein, Gnisci & Wanjiru, 2004). It is a shift and broader perspective of state-centric notion of security. It is people and community oriented. According to Tadjbakhsh (2013: 44), "once the referent object and subject of security is moved down to individuals, the notion of 'safety' then broadens to a condition beyond mere existence to life worth living; hence, well-being and dignity of human beings." Thus, human security covers three broad components – i.e. freedom from (a) fear, (b) want, and (a) indignity. Freedom from fear encompasses such conditions that allow individuals and groups protection from direct threats to their safety; that is, direct or intended violence. Freedom from want entails protection of basic needs, quality of life, livelihoods and enhanced human welfare, while freedom from indignity is a condition in which individuals or groups are assured of the protection of their fundamental rights, free to make choices (political, social), take advantage of opportunities in everyday life.

Therefore, human security is characteristically people-centered, multi-sectoral, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention oriented. It considers a broad range of conditions which threaten survival, livelihood and dignity of *man*. It identifies the threshold below which human life is threatened. It focuses on various aspects of insecurities and their causes. In specific terms, the measurable perspectives of human security or insecurity are as noted in Tables 1 and 2 (Hussein *et al.,* 2004; Tadjbakhsh, 2013; UNTFHS, 2009, 2016).

Table 1: Parameters of human security

S/N	Variables of Human Security	Indicators
1.	Food security	Food is readily available for all people at all times – i.e. it is regularly produced & available, directly & economically accessible, stable, physically & bio-nutritiously utilized, etc
2.	Economic security	Assured basic income, access to employment, economic resources and opportunities, etc
3.	Health security	Free from deadly diseases. Availability of good medical facilities, accessible and affordable healthcare for the citizenry
4.	Environmental security	Conducive environment which is spared from desertification, indiscriminate deforestation, degradation and other environmental threats that endanger people's lives or means of survival
5.	Personal security	Free from all forms of physical violence including human trafficking, child labour, terrorism
6.	Community security	Social cohesion and harmony. Free from tension or fear emanating from ethnic, religious and other social groups like family, community, organisation, political party, etc.

7.	Political security	Assured human rights protection, justice & freedom of expression, inclusion in governance, etc

Table 2: Human insecurity

S/N	Human Insecurity Variables	Indicators
1.	Food insecurity	Hunger, famine, sudden rise in food prices, lack of, or low food supply, inaccessible, etc.
2.	Economic insecurity	Poverty, unemployment, dearth or lack of access to credit and other economic opportunities
3.	Health insecurity	Deadly diseases such as Ebola, COVID-19 pandemic; unsafe food, malnutrition, lack of access to basic healthcare, poor or lack of healthcare facilities
4.	Environmental insecurity	Environmental degradation, resource depletion, natural disasters, pollution, etc.
5.	Personal insecurity	Physical violence in all its forms; e.g. terrorism, human trafficking, child labour, kidnapping, threat to oneself e.g. suicide, drug abuse, etc.
6.	Community insecurity	Domestic violence, ethnic, religious and other identity-based tension, conflict, war, due to competition over limited opportunities and resources
7.	Political insecurity	Political repression, human rights violation, injustice, lack of constitutionalism & rule of law, all forms of exclusion in governance

Deducing from the above therefore, it follows that a shift on the indicators of human security (Table 1) enthrones a corresponding state of insecurity to the human person (Table 2). However, this study focuses on food insecurity in Nigeria that was occasioned by trans-border irregular movements and human threatening activities.

Theoretical Lens of the Study

Lee's Migration Model

This paper adopted the axiomatic explication of Everett Spurgeon Lee's (1966: 47-57) migration model which is known as "A Theory of Migration" or Push and Pull migration theory. The theory, as further explained in Kainth (2009: 82-116) holds that there are numerous factors associated with the decision to migrate or not from one place to another. It further argued that in each area, there are factors which push or repel people away, while on the other side there are factors which pull or attract people into it. These factors have been encapsulated in the following four broad perspectives:

- ⇒ Factors associated with the area of origin;
- ⇒ Factors associated with the area of destination;
- ⇒ Intervening obstacles, and
- ⇒ Personal factors.

It is very important to note that there are significant differences between the factors associated with the area of origin (the sending country) and those of prospective destination. Trans-border movement may take place after both of these factors had been weighed. According to the theory, a person relatively has a better and more realistic knowledge about the place of *Origin* than that of *Destination* which is somewhat superficial and inexact (Olisah, Solomon & Zachariah, 2022). The scholars further noted that factors related to *Intervening obstacles* have to be overcome before migration takes place. These include proximity between the two places, accessibility which relates to topography or physical barriers, transportation, migration laws, socio-cultural factors etc. Last but not the least, *Personal factors* are of utmost importance because instead of the actual factors associated with the place of origin and destination, the person's perception influences his decision to embark on trans-border movement or not; be it illegal or legal, voluntary or involuntary.

In other words, push factors exist at the point of origin and force people to leave for other places with seemingly solution to such factors as non-availability or inadequate economic opportunities, increasing rate of poverty, rapid population growth that surpasses available resources, *primitive* or poor living conditions, desertification, famine or drought, fear of political persecution, poor healthcare, hunger, climate change, natural disasters, education, conflict, terrorism, etc. On the other hand, pull factors include job opportunities and better living condition; availability of land for inhabitation and

agriculture; market where specific businesses thrive; political, religious and socio-cultural freedom to cohabit; better education and healthcare systems; better secured environment, etc. Push and pull factors are paired, that is, cross-border movement can occur if the reason for migrating from one's place of origin has perceived solution in the receiving destination. In terms of labour migration for example, the push factors are often characterized by lack of job opportunities, poor welfare, etc in sending areas or countries while the pull factors are job and economic opportunities available, better welfare package in the receiving destinations. For trans-border illegal entry and exit of persons alongside contraband goods, the push and pull factors include market for illicit businesses like narcotics, drugs, agricultural produce, used cloths and footwear, weak migration laws or administration, harboring environment, etc. (Kainth, 2009; Olisah *et al.,* 2022). It is imperative to note that in Africa, conflict and human rights abuses along with poor governance are among the key factors impelling much migration. It is therefore not a coincidence that conflict-ridden countries coupled with various forms of insecurity prevalent in the continent are often faced with severe economic difficulties which often induce both voluntary and involuntary migrations. Apropos this, Richmond (1994) observed that combination of such factors creates difficulties in maintaining a clear distinction between voluntary and forced migration.

The theory as explained in Olisah *et al.* (2022: 71-72) aptly describes why individuals move or migrate from place of origin to another. It is very much applicable to the current study. Practically, the push factors such as bad governance, human rights violation, inequalities, poverty, hash economic conditions, ethno-religious wars, political instability, natural disaster, unemployment or underemployment, etc prevalent in immediate environment often force people out in search of greener pasture elsewhere. Unfortunately, all the push factors are very common in almost every African country including Nigeria and her neighbours. Ironically, despite Nigeria's peculiar challenges, most citizens of especially neighbouring states perceived the country as a better haven in many respects. They viewed it as the United States of America *in* Africa where *milk and honey* seems to be flowing even in the streets of the country and thus some of them (including criminals) aspire to be in Nigeria in order to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. To them, Nigeria offers solution to their problems including illegal economic activities. In other words, Nigeria possesses various indicators of pull factors which attract them into the country. This reflects Lee's assumption on personal factors perspective of migration which states that "the individual's perception influences the actual act of migration." In terms of intervening factors, the porous nature of borders, lack of modern or poor management facilities, lackadaisical attitude, corruption and weak or lack of sincere synergy among related law enforcement agencies coupled with ECOWAS' Protocols and AfCFTA do not only make migration easy for legitimate activity, but also made irregular movements across Nigeria's borders possible.

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

To achieve the objective of this research work, we adopted historical research design and documentary method of data collection in which secondary sources such as journal articles, textbooks, conference and seminar papers, newspapers, etc. were utilized. Analysis was done within the periscope of Lee's migration model, using content analysis method as explained in Nwanolue and Egbuchulam (2018: 61-80).

Findings and Analysis

Borderland Historical Antecedent and Security Concern in Nigeria

Table 3 shows a list of selected settlements near international land borders between Nigeria and four neighbouring countries. As earlier noted, the demarcation of various states in Africa by its colonizers deliberately or unconsciously did not give considerable attention to ethnic and socio-cultural ties that existed among different groups of people, especially in settlements near the so-called international borders around the continent. Many of them were made to live apart from each other as citizens of different countries irrespective of their pre-historical or natural conditions which they shared even before the advent of European intruders and partitioning of the continent in Berlin between 1884 and 1885. For example, the Yoruba nation of the Old Oyo Empire that spanned through, and widely known to be one of the

largest Yoruba speaking language with high level of trade, military and political influence between mid-seventeenth and late eighteenth centuries in West Africa eventually found themselves in some parts of the present day Benin Republic and the likes (Forde, 1967; Afolayan, 2000). However, most of these people do not only continued with their known socio-cultural heritage, but also maintain economic exchanges with their counterparts near the borders spanning Nigeria-Benin, Nigeria-Cameroon, Nigeria-Chad and Nigeria-Niger Republic (Fig. 1 and Table 3). In fact, Opeyemi Quadri (2021) observed that "only those who are familiar with Katsina and Kano can differentiate between citizens of Niger Republic and those from Kano/Katsina" because of the proximity, economic ties and socio-cultural heritage they shared. This is also applicable to various people, communities and of course States in Nigeria that share land border closely with Benin Republic, Republics of Cameroon and Chad. Therefore, socio-cultural exchange alongside various kind of legitimate and illegitimate trades in commodity, illicit articles, etc. flow both ways of these countries with resultant effects.

Moreover, as shown in Table 3, so many settlements are littered around borderland straddling Nigeria and neighbouring countries. And due to their shared age-long ethnic affinity, cultural and economic ties, proximity, some of them do not even need airplane or visa, but just bipedal, motorcycle to cross into the opposite country within few minutes or hours. It follows that criminal elements also lean on these trans-border traces to sneak in for their unlawful transactions, to unleash terror and perpetrate evil or criminal activities in the country. Furthermore, these settlements intersect at least 16 states of the federation with four neighbouring countries as noted in Olisah *et al.* (2022: 78); and according to Quadri (2021), there are about 364 approved international border points, out of which 261 (71.70%) are located in the northeast and northwest with only 124 (47.51%) of 261 are manned by border officials. Similarly, Osimen, Anegbode, Akande and Oyewole (2017: 21) noted that there are over 1,978 illegal entry-exit routes around Nigeria's land borders with other countries through which criminal elements engage in human trafficking, smuggle with cars, arms and ammunitions, drugs and other contraband articles. This also may accounts for the inability of the government to end banditry and Boko Haram activity that has claimed over 30,000 lives, displaced millions of people, rendered thousands of them incapacitated and destroyed hundreds of thousands homes and valuable property in especially the northeast and northwestern parts of the country (Al Jazeera, 2021).

For example, the justification for the closure of land borders in 2019 by Nigeria's government revolved around (i) smuggling of agricultural produce and other illegal articles (ii) insecurity (iii) protection and promotion of local contents. In other words, the government closed its international borders with neighbouring countries in 2019 as a swift response to threats on the domestic economy and security, posed by trans-border irregular movements and illicit activities (Olisah *et al.,* 2022). Yet, smuggling, kidnapping, banditry, Boko Haram attacks and killings have not ended. Thus, so long as borderland historical antecedent and related issues remain unaddressed, illegal trans-border movements and related illicit activities will continue to thrive in the country with attendant consequences. This leads us to the next section of the study.

Table 3: Selected settlements near international land borders between Nigeria and other countries

Nigeria's Settlements near Border	Neighbouring Country's Settlements near Border	Neighbouring Country
Babana, Bani, Chikanda, Ebute Igboro, Idigny (Idiyin), Idiroko, Igbokofi, Ijale Ketu, Ilara-Ogudo, Imoto-Imeko Afon, Orieke, Owode Ketu, Samia, Suya, Swate, Yashikera	Adékambi, Basso, Ilara Kanga, Illikimou, Ketu, Kpankou (Panku), Mandécali, Néganzi, Nikki, Pobé, Porto-Novo, Segbana, Waria, etc.	Benin Republic
Backi, Belel, Buli, Dambaru, Danare, Djawe, Esuokon, Gamboru, Gembu, Gilego, Gurin, Hausari, Ikang, Kanyaka, Kirawa, Kojoli, Konkul, Kumshe, Lissam Sambo, Madagali, Maiha, Mbarka Manga, Meinari, Mubi, Musuma, Ngala, Okuri, Pambo, Rann, Sampa, Tapare, Tosso, Wuro Bokka, etc	Abatoum, Abong, Adere, Afade, Balkosa, Banki, Beka, Blame, Bodo, Bri, Bounderi, Dabilda, Demsa, Diba, Dodeo, Esengi, Fotokol, Gelere, Kérawa, Limani, Loua, Mainari, Mbaga, Mbenmong, Mogode, Ndoughoula, Obonye, Salpeo, Tamian, Tchamba, Ziguague, etc.	Cameroon

Baga, Doro Gowon, Bama, Bulalaibe, Kwatar Mali, Ngala, Rann, Saula Limati, Tunukalia, etc.	Bol, Kangalom, Kalom, Tétéoua, Koulfoua, Nguéléa, etc.	Chad
Arege, Babura, Baure, Dankama, Djibia, Dolé, Galadi, Gumsi, Jimojime Sule, Kalmalo, Kamba, Kangiwa, Karagu, Katsina, Kokoba, Kurusalia, Kwalaye, Kwashebawa, Lema, Machina, Mai'Adua, Margawa, Maigatari, Maiyama, Maribara, Meori, Nageda, Njikilamma, Rafin Tsaka, Rogogo, Ruawuri, Tagimba, Tunugara, Zango, etc.	Bakoraouni, Bana, Bangui, Bazaga, Bei Bei, Birni-N'Konni, Bosso, Dan Mairi, Diffa, Doguerawa, Doumbari, Doumega, Dunari, Faya Koura, Gamdou, Gofo, Guéza, Kabobi, Magaria, Mainé-Soroa, Maraka, Miskindi, Nassaraoua, Sabon Birni, Serkin Toudou, Tibiri, Toulatoula, Tsernaoua, Yelou, etc.	Niger Republic

Source: *Compiled by Authors (October, 2023)*



Fig. 1: Political Map of Nigeria showing surrounding countries and communities near borderland
Source: *Nations Online Project*

Impact of trans-border poor management on food security in Nigerians since 2014

The intrinsic nuances of trans-border communities played significant roles in Nigeria's economic and security situations in recent times. Worthy of note is the fact that even though interpersonal interactions around these borderlands had been beneficial to some citizens; it has raised serious security concerns to human existence in Nigeria. According to Quadri (2021), "Nigeria's borders also present challenges. Insecurity, especially from insurgent groups like Boko Haram, affects trade and economic activities in the northeastern borders with Chad and Cameroon." As a matter of fact, the former Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Lucky Irabor laments that;

> *The penetrability of our vast unmanned land areas – the north-east and north-west zones, particularly Borno, Yobe, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina states – with neighbouring countries such as Niger Republic and Chad among others has continued to be a key source of criminality and violent crimes in those parts of the country… Intelligence suggests that violence actors are using some of these normal border points to*

> *move freely from countries into Nigeria to cause mayhem (Quadri, 2021).*

He further noted that some of these security challenges include the infiltration of armed foreign herders into Nigeria through the land border and the smuggling of goods which has affected local production in Nigeria. This may explain why there was increased presence of herders and cases of clashes between them and crop farmers, especially in north-central and the southern parts of the country since 2015. To further buttress this point, Vanguard (2021: 5) reported that the Southern Governors (south-east, south-south and south-west combined) in their meeting lamented about prevalent insecurity in the southern part of the country as thus;

> *The incursion of armed herders, criminals and bandits into the Southern part of the country has presented a severe security challenge such that citizens are not able to live their normal lives, including pursuing various productive activities, leading to a threat to food supply and general security… population growth has put pressure on available land and increased the prospects of conflict between migrating herders and local populations in the South.*

The implication is that despites government's huge spending on security and various claims of successful operations by different security agencies, threat to human and national security remain questionable. The incessant violent attacks, do not only endanger people's livelihood who are mostly farmers, market men and women, but also involved destruction of valuable property including houses, displacement and killing of different nationals living in various international border communities and other locations (Table 4). This has severely affected food production, food availability, food accessibility, etc. which correspondingly lead to scarcity, hike in prices of food that further threaten the lives and living standard of the people, especially in the Northeast and Northwestern parts of the country.

The UN-Committee on World Food Security considered food security as when "all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies." On the other hand, food insecurity is a situation in which there is "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or the inability to acquire nutritious foods in socially acceptable ways" (Bickel *et al.,* 2000:6; IFPRI, 2021 April 28). In other words, food security or food insecurity hinges on issues surrounding production and supply (availability) of food, its stability, how accessible or affordable is it, and balance diet, both in short- and long-term basis; whether or not getting food means giving up other things of importance, etc. There is food security if these issues had been conquered and vice versa. In this study, two broad perspectives of the phenomenon of food security are contextually considered.

Table 4: Selected cases of threat to human lives associated with irregular trans-border movements in northeast & northwest sine 2014

Violent Attacks on Communities/States near International Border		Displaced People	Number of people abducted/ killed (civilians/security men)		Source
Selected communities in Nigeria	Date of Event		Abducted	Killed	
Kawuri (Borno State)	January 26, 2014	Uncountable	Undisclosed	85	RNA (2014, Jan. 28)
Chakawa (Adamawa State)	January 26, 2014	Uncountable		138	Ndahi Marama & Umar Yusuf (2014); Adejoro (2014, Feb); Agada (2014)
Many villages in Adamawa & Borno States	January 27, 2014	Not accounted		61	https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_in_Nigeria
Konduga (Borno State)	February 11, 2014	Uncountable	Undisclosed	39	Ross, Will (2014)
Izghe (Borno State)	February 15, 2014	Ransacked	Not accounted	121	https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_in_Nigeria
FGC Buni Yadi (Yobe State)	February 25, 2014	Not accounted		59	Hemba, Joe (2014)
Chibock (Borno State)	April 15, 2014	Undisclosed	Over 250	Unknown	https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_in_Nigeria
Villages in Gamboru Ngala (Borno State)	May 06, 2014	Over 40,000	Unknown	Over 200	IANS (2014, May 7)
Villages in Gwoza LGA, Borno State	June 02, 2014	Ransacked	Not accounted	Over 300	Umar, Nmodu, Oyoyo, Benjamin, Haruna (2014)
Damasak (Borno State)	November 24, 2014	Over 3,000	Unknown	50	https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_in_Nigeria
Baga (Borno State)	January 03 – 07, 2015	Uncountable	Over 2000 unaccounted for	At least 150	Baker (2015); Amnesty International (2015, Jan. 15)
Malari (Borno State)	Jan. & Sept., 2015	Unknown	Over 40	At least 20	BBC (2015, Jan. 3); TheGuardian (2015, Sept. 28)
Kwatar Mali & 2 other villages in Borno State	July 27, 2015	Not accounted	Undisclosed	At least 10	Hindustan Times (2015, July 30)
Maiduguri (Borno State)	March, 2015; Oct. 2016	Undisclosed	Not accounted	At least 63	https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016s_in_Nigeria
Madagali (Adamawa State)	January 12, 2016	Undisclosed		At least 7	
Rann (Borno State)	January 17, 2017; And Jan. 2019	Over 30,000	At least 6	Over 200	Haruna (2019); Obiejesi (2019); Al Jazeera (2019, Jan. 29)
GGS Technical College, Dapchi (Yobe State)	February 19, 2018	Not accounted	At least 115	Undisclosed	https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dapchi_schoolgirls_kidnapping
Bulaburin, Kofa, Dalori 2 (Borno State)	October, 2018	Over 25,000	Unknown	Over 30	Al Jazeera (2018, Nov. 1)
Tunga, Kabaje, Shinkafi and Kanoma (Zamfara State)	May 05, June 06 and June 09, 2019	Uncountable	Not accounted	At least 73	Adeyeye (2019); Premium Times (2019, May 28); The Tide (2019, June 7); Punch (2019, June 16)
Kalhu, Tsage, Geeri, Satiru (Sokoto State)	June 08 – 09, 2019	Undisclosed		43	Al Jazeera (2019, June 9); Punch (2019, June 9)
Gamboru (Borno State)	January 06, 2020	Undisclosed		38	Maina (2020)
Three places in Katsina State	April 18, 2020	Undisclosed		47	https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_massacres_in_Nigeria
Koshebe (Borno State)	November 28, 2020	Undisclosed		Over 110	TheGuardian (2020, Nov. 29); Deutsche Welle (2020, Dec. 2)
Seven villages in Kebbi State	June 03, 2021	Uncountable	Not accounted	88	The Week (2021, June 6)
About 6 villages in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara state	June 10 – 11, 2021	Undisclosed		At least 53	Al Jazeera (2021, June 12)

FGC Birnin-Yauri (Kebbi State)	June 17, 2021	Undisclosed	At least 70	Undisclosed	Al Jazeera (2022, Jan. 9)
Several villages in Anka & Bukkuyum LGs of Zamfara state	January 04 – 06, 2022	Over 10,000	Not accounted	About 200	Egbas (2022); Al Jazeera (2022, Jan. 9)
Damri, Sabon Garin, Kalahe (Zamfara State)	May 06, 2022	Uncountable	Not accounted	48	France 24 (2022, May 8)

Source: Compiled by Authors (October, 2023)

Food availability and stability: The availability of food for all people depends on many factors such as food production, supply, distribution and exchange (including importation) of food stuffs which further require safe environment, regular harvest, efficient trading, stable market systems, etc (FAO, 1997; Gregory *et al.*, 2005; Godfray *et al.,* 2010). However, threat on any of these perspectives readily metamorphous into the state of food instability – the inability to obtain or access sufficient, quality or nutritious food over time. The phenomenon of food instability manifests itself in three major ways: (a) Chronic or permanent situation which is a long-term persistent inadequate food, (b) Transitory, and (c) Seasonal situations of food insecurity which are conditions of food insufficiency or unavailability during certain periods of time due to various factors associated with *man* and nature (FAO, 1997). The prevalence of these variables increases the susceptibility of people to access food and thus threatens their mutual responsibility to survive.

Relating the current study, the incessant attacks, massive displacement and killing of people as well as merciless destructions of valuable property in many local communities and towns in the Northeast and Northwest Nigeria significantly threatened the availability and stability of food stuffs in these zones with spilling effects on other parts of the country, most especially the neighbouring areas or states. The worse hit states are Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi. It is very important to note that bulk of the population of Northeast, Northwest, and indeed neighbouring North-central is characterised by crop farming and day-to-day trading. Put differently, the persistent violent attacks, displacement, killing, etc of farming population as well as day-to-day traders by bandits and Boko Haram terrorists in states sharing borders with other African countries (Chad, Niger & Cameroon) drastically affected food production, supply, distribution and exchange in not only directly affected places, but in other areas as well.

The argument here is that security threats arising from border areas had successfully disempowered the urban and rural poor. The livelihood (farming) and normal business activities of the affected people had been disrupted or continue to face security threat and barriers with further implications on prices of goods (food items) in the market as a result of imbalanced supply and demand of already inadequate foodstuffs.

Food accessibility: This, according to Gregory *et al.* (2005) refers to the affordability and allocation of food, as well as the preferences of individuals and households comprising a community or society. It is important to note that in some cases hunger and malnutrition are not the function of lack or scarcity of food in a given society, but food price spikes and level of income (poverty) among members of a particular area. This implies that there may be available food stuff in an area but a sudden and persistent hike in their prices, poverty could limit access to food and so increase the vulnerability of the people to food insecurity. Sometimes, it could be the nature of the environment or prevailing situations of instability and other factors in the area. This further suggests that there are two broad perspectives of food access, namely: direct and economic food access. In any case however, the ability of the people to access or afford sufficient quality food with relative ease or cheaply saves spending on food over other essential materials and services which in turn accelerates good living condition and quality life for both young and old, man and women FAO, 1997; Garrett & Ruel, 1999).

However, studies revealed that victims of violent conflict or terrorist attacks are cutoff from optimal engagement in their hitherto livelihood or economic activities while taking refuge in refugee camps or other places as they sooner or later become *economic distress* on the host communities (Saheed & Egwaikhide, 2012; Zachariah & Olisah, 2020). It further increase or creates pressure and intense demand of food which often come along with great

consequences on food accessibility in neighbouring environments. Between 2014 and now for instance, there is over 900% increase in the price of local rice in neighbouring towns, cities and indeed states near their counterparts that have been plagued by the activities of Boko Haram terrorists and bandits. Prices of other local foodstuffs such as beans (all varieties), yam tubers, locally processed cassava products, maize, millet, animal products, and all other food used for human consumption have also exponentially shoot-up since 2014. This is because apart from population increase and other related variables, there is so much pressure on, and high demand of the available food in surrounding places where trans-border irregularities and related government's policy or response drastically affected stable food production, supply, distribution, exchange, etc.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study on trans-border trajectories and human security in Nigeria, demonstrates how borderland traces and historical ties among international border communities are closely linked with the phenomenon of food insecurity in the northeast and northwest since 2014. Specifically, the study points out that many communities and people in Nigeria, particularly those near international borders share aged-long historical cultural affinity and socioeconomic ties with their counterparts in the opposite neighbouring countries (Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin Republics) that were balkanized without genuinely taking into account those historical, and indeed structural and fundamental factors which exist among the people. This, in no small magnitude contributed to the porosity of borderland between contiguous states as typified by Nigeria and her neighbours. It is further linked with more or less free flow of contraband articles as well as illegal movements of people which include Boko Haram terrorists and bandits with consequential effect on the country's security and economic uprightness. Against which the government, in collaboration with its counterparts or single handedly devised various kinetic and non-kinetic measures to combat the menace of cross-border movement on the country.

Furthermore, available data showed that both colonial and post-colonial authorities pay little or no attention to peculiarities of international boundaries and the inhabitants thereof. It is thus the position of this article that almost (if not) all associated challenges of borderland and indeed human insecurity highlighted herein are symptomatic effects of failure or lackadaisical attitudes of colonial and post-colonial (indigenous) authorities toward age-long historical ties and peculiar nature of these areas and people. Hence, the study concludes that there exists a strong connect between borderland nuances and various indices of food insecurity in northeast and northwest Nigeria since 2014. In fact, banditry, Boko Haram onslaughts, smuggling as well as government's abrupt policy on cross-border movements do not only implicated in prevalent food insecurity, but also have significant effects on other aspects of human security in the study area and Nigeria in general.

It is recommended, therefore, that the government should prioritize the development of border communities in every respect without any neglect in providing *formidable modern security* around border areas as in advanced cities of the world. Nigerian government, leaders of neighbouring countries and indeed of other parts of the continent should enthrone good governance in their respective territorial jurisdictions. They should institute and ensure that sustainable development in all its entirety is spread across every part of their respective countries including communities near international border. On a final note, whatever policy or planned programme, security strategy, etc geared towards international borders and communities thereabout should take into account their peculiarities and their economic, socio-cultural historical ties opposite counterparts be given more meaningful consideration in every respect – from planning to implementation stage.

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THE RISING NATION - STATES AND THE POLITICAL STANCE OF THE HEGEMONY: A THEORETICAL REVIEW

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KEYWORDS
International, system, Capitalism, Structural, and Rebranding

ABSTRACT
After the USSR fell apart, the US exerted masterful economic pressure to stop the expansion of capitalism and reorganise the international system, opening it up to all countries. The emergence of China and other nearby governments, along with the quantifiable budgetary disadvantages of the US, marked a paradigm shift in the 21st century. The rapid rise of political and military might of diaspora states is the subject of this paper's analysis. China has built its internal institutions with the likely intention of upending the US status quo, which is why other countries have followed suit by renaming and reshaping their internal systems. effectively achieving peaceful development with the tools of technology at hand. Such as contemporary initiative, the application of soft and hard goods, and infrastructure tactics that could result in the pursuit of economic and military dominance and cause drastic changes in internal reformations. The study used the idealism theory and secondary data collection, which involves gathering information from books, newspapers, government bulletins, the interment, and other sources. The concepts of equilibrium, interdependence, consensus, diplomatic decision-making, trade links, and alliances among nations that have resulted in political and economic progress within the global arena were explained using the idealism framework. Additionally, the study looks at the hegemony attitude towards the developing world's states, as many of them have emerged in the twenty-first century to compete with superpowers, including China, Japan, India, and others.

Introduction

The modern international system is undergoing mutability advances that characterise the excess of globalisation and its characteristics, which is evident to nations. According to Waltz (2000), the international system began the projection of American dominance and influence through the growth of capitalism and democracy as an ideology across the world after the cold war, which led to the collapse of the USSR in the East. Many states have adopted capitalism as their philosophy in the modern era. whereby the US rose to prominence in the world's social, military, economic, and political spheres. Other countries have recently disputed and challenged this, including Japan and India. In particular, the rapidly growing military might and economic ties of China have revealed a significant comparative

deterioration with respect to American politics and economy.

This essay looks at how emerging countries, particularly China, are upending the existing quo in terms of politics, society, and the economy without resorting to direct conflict. defining the democratic process and interdependence using the idealism theory. implying that countries can rise to prominence in the political, economic, and social spheres without resorting to violence or going to war in order to compete with one another. China has strengthened its economic and military might, and it has promoted and expanded certain aspects of its private trade connections with its neighbours. sustaining economic stability over time, much like other nations like Japan, India, and others had done.

As a result, there was some political and economic hostility among the superpowers. Notably, in 2010 and 2011, China and the United States were able to exploit financial difficulties to their advantage and project an image of being more formidable economic rivals, challenging one another on issues like high tariffs, trade disputes, and economic negotiations. (Rsato and Schuessler 2022), which had caused the US to regress in its financial prudence as China gained prominence in the world economy and politics. This has also given other countries, like Japan, India, Russia, and others, a realistic chance to develop into economic powerhouses capable of projecting sustainable scales of reasonable economic input.

Russia, which had formally lost significantly in terms of economic might, had created a stronger position to define the balance of power with other nations, particularly the United States, as nation states began to emerge. competing with the US on a number of fronts, including politics, security, nuclear weapons, and other pertinent topics, both militarily and economically as a result of the riches generated by oil prices and President Vladimir Putin's idealistic ideals before to his ill-fated invasion of Ukraine in 2022, which prompted the US to cut off its economic ties. (Michel and James, 2004).

As a result, it's intriguing to note how China and other countries have risen to prominence in the global arena in relation to each other, balancing power through economic and military means. In opposition to its counterpart, the USSR and the US have experienced political hostility, trade embargoes, and industrial conflicts during the period of alliance and interdependence (Robert 2005).

Stated differently, the international system is witnessing a rapid expansion and strengthening of economic ties between nations, which has led to the adoption of globalisation and all of its aspects. This has given China and other nation states an incredible path to become the world's most powerful economy, theoretically rivalling the US military but not economically. This is the rationale behind He (2012)'s argument that, depending on the threat posed by small nations, an unfavourable matching strategy may be used against others in the form of policies or political input intended to undermine an established hegemony or growing power.

However, rising powers tend to enhance their efforts to increase their authority through wealth creation in order to project their power effectively and to balance their strategies for integrating internal and external synergy when the sense of hegemony is low. It is clear how China's economy is changing on a global scale and how quickly emerging tactics are attempting to balance political might with the US by leveraging trade dependency as a development weapon. Their president modified the formal government structure to accommodate current international situations, but he did not remove any of the previous internal materials.

It was believed that the USSR's global position was aggressive and that it posed a threat to Western political, economic, and social ties. In contrast to China, the modern world system embraces communism, which is a hindrance to capitalism. This is an intellectual evolution. The subsequent economic downturn in the United States led to the implementation of balancing methods, both internally through programmes involving the development of contemporary weapons technology and abroad through restructuring and the formation of dependable military alliances to challenge the status quo. (Hoslsti, 1998)

It makes sense that in today's society this would be considered a security risk. However, their absence will prevent the public from learning about the balancing coalition formed by China, the US, Japan, or India, all of which are becoming more powerful every day. Therefore, the main focus of this article is to investigate the United States' concern of economic competition and China's overtaking it in global trade. The emergence of nation-states poses a challenge to

the established hegemony. The superpowers' political position regarding the developing countries.

Theoretical Underpinning

The work used idealism theory as a framework to show how institutional instruments and soft power relate to tactics for peaceful accommodation and international development among nation states. Emmanuel Kant, Woodrow Wilson, Norman Engel, James T. Shotwell, and other important liberals from the past include John Lucke, Thomas Jefferson, John Swart Mill, and others. Politics, to these people, is a struggle towards consensus. The idealism projections state that every country has a legal right to democracy with regard to social ties, economic interdependence, and political ideologies (because consensus is the only path to development).claiming that these tools should be taken into account, especially by powerful nations, in order to help smaller governments rise and act as a counterbalance to aggressors.In order to further globalisation in everyone's best benefit, institutionalisation, egalitarianism, liberalism, the rule of law, democracy, and progressive development are necessary.

This is to preserve the global balance, in which each state has an equal chance to develop peacefully and pursue its own political, military, and economic goals without facing threats from the outside or from within or intervention from more powerful countries. The theory's proponents advocate for democratic institutions and structures, particularly President Woodrow Wilson's assertion that democracy values equality, interdependence, and communication over rivalry and conflict.

As stated by Hans Morgenthau in Politics Among Nations, "in contrast to the chronological history of realists, who project power force against power to measure development."Politics is defined as "the struggle for power among nations." (Realpolitik). The idealism social revolution in the modern international system was based on a diplomatic and gentle interpretation of the economy and a fair balancing of historical materialist concepts. For example, it is incorrect to view the current emergence of nation states as a threat to the status quo of hegemony. This will allow for a fair distribution of power so that each state can defend itself against outside aggressors.

The powerful governments keep posing questions and implementing plans to prevent emerging nations from achieving equality through a variety of means. such as disinformation campaigns, undemocratic foreign policies, threats, etc., particularly against the nations of Europe and other continents. (John, 2002) The purpose of this is to make those emerging states fearful. The government of North Korea, for instance, is still launching missiles into the sky in 2022 for political purposes and as a warning to other neighbouring states.

The Rising Nation-States and the Political Stance of the Hegemony

Many southern nations, as well as certain nations in East Asia and Europe, slowed down their usage of continuous collaboration or cooperation during and after the fall of the USSR. Richard, 1994. As a result, there were certain abnormalities that originated from different countries during social interactions or political interactions in the sphere of current hegemony towards the emerging power. The major powers will theoretically stop providing any political or economic support to the emerging power, which they can assess using comprehensive economic strategies to threaten the emerging powers in international affairs and prevent them from pursuing internal development, particularly the third-world countries in Africa that are currently exploited for their mineral resources.

Undermining the force emanating from these large states, countries are increasingly realising the need for diplomatic reprisal amongst states. As an example, China's peaceful rise has undermined US trade tariffs and policies, as well as other economic threats. China continues to be a worldwide financial powerhouse by concentrating on its industrial and internal development. Steve (2010).

To put it another way, it should be recognised that the balance of power is a reality that is subject to contestation and cannot be freely attained without outside influences that force it to question its rivalry. In line with Steven (2018). the goal of preserving equilibrium and preventing any nation from assuming domination over other societies. T.V. Paul (2004) noted in his publication that politics had an impact on the decision-making process. He identified three types of power balancing, including hard power balancing, which involves contestations and hash strategies balancing against one another. For instance, the high trade

tariffs and economic hostility between the United States and China.

The aforementioned method of balance of power characterises classic and neo-realism realist concepts that are limited to hard balancing within the international system. Whereby states make no concessions in the process of making decisions. According to realism projections, Hans Morgenthau believed that the only way to advance national interests in international politics was by the use of hard power input. Realists recognise that a state's use of soft power or limited power could leave it vulnerable to outside attackers. In the past, realists like Niccolo, Hobbes, and others suggested that leaders use force when engaging in political interactions within the international system. For instance, Niccolo counsel rulers in "The Prince," one of his writings, to "get power, retain power, and use power to acquire states interest." Put another way, the ultimate goal of hard (realist) power is to use the resources of national military empowerment to get or equalise the control and overriding state or an aggressive player. Because hard power uses excessive force that could spark a conflict between nations during political negotiations, it does not align with or serve the political interests of idealist conceptual analysis. Another type of power balance in which states create semi-alliances and mutual compatibility is known as limited hard power balance. comprising a minimal commitment to defence in the international system, together with minimal military capability and cooperation.

This technique involves equal financial and conventional input, limited hard power balance, and confidential information decision. This strengthens national state security and encourages cooperative international agreement. Daniel (2009). For instance, China and Russia have political, economic, and social ties in which neither country makes a significant effort to aid the other in times of conflict. Additionally, there is a collaboration between the United States and India without considerable military build-up or mutual danger. As opposed to the relationships between the US, North Korea, and Russia, where the basis for power balancing is the military buildup and the threat posed by neighbouring governments. gentle equilibrium focuses on reaching an agreement and diplomatically averting war by understanding one another's security strengths, corporations, and negotiating through legal organisations.

Concluding Thought

The study has demonstrated that the political, economic, and social struggles for survival form the foundation of the modern international order. Countries compete with one another over territorial interests and the best ways to defend their borders against outside invaders. Through the expansion of capitalism and liberal democracy among nation states following the demise of the USSR, the United States of America stood tall in the world system prior to the turn of the twenty-first century. whereas the militaries and economies of China and certain other nations were weak. However, with the rise of nations like China, India, Russia, Japan, and others, the 21st century has expedited the greater distribution of wealth and the maintenance of political, economic, and military strength. These nations, China leading the charge, oppose American hegemony.

The major players saw the rivalry between these countries as a threat to domestic security, therefore they employed strategies like high tariffs, propaganda, strict foreign policies, and programmes to contain their competitors. Nevertheless, China has shown the world that a country may flourish economically without resorting to force (realism) and can instead do so by using contemporary internal institutional resources like cutting-edge technology, growing infrastructure, interdependence, international trade links, and others. This is in line with the idealist's visions and description of politics as the struggle for agreement rather than direct conflict, rivalry, or weaponry. It also examines the ideas of restricted power, hard power, soft power, and balance of power. In this paper, the methodology relies on secondary sources due to the impossibility of obtaining original data. Without conflict, nations may rise in peace. Superpowers view adversaries as dangers to their security and internal affairs. China plans and takes action to maintain economic dominance in terms of international trade in this century, if not surpass it. The greatest threat facing the world now is the military and nuclear enmity between the United States and Russia. India has also positioned itself as one of the nations that is rapidly developing according to the world system's global scales

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WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS, SECURITY AND PEACE-BUILDING IN NIGERIA: AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF EUNICE SPRING OF LIFE FOUNDATION

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KEYWORDS
Peace Building, Women in Security, Benue State, Conflict Prevention

ABSTRACT
Not much literature exists on the contributions of women in security and peace-building in Nigeria – thus this article is a discussion of the contributions (present and potential) of women and women organizations in the security and peace-building process in Benue State by examining the programmes and activities of Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF); a Makurdi based non-governmental organization. The paper utilized both primary and secondary instruments to collect its data: questionnaire, books and journals. Findings show that through the advocacy and support of ESLF, nine (9) women were elected as chairpersons in nine (9) LGAs of the state and sensitizing and empowering youths led to an improvement in the security and peace of Benue communities. The study concluded that when women begin to contribute to the making of security and peace-building decisions and policies, security and peace in Nigeria and Benue State will improve. The paper recommends the promotion of women participation in security, conflict prevention, conflict management, conflict resolution and peace building.

Introduction

All over the world, it is common for women to be relegated to the background, sidelined or totally ignored in many areas of community decision and policy making including the very important area of security and peace-building. But for any community, country and indeed the world to make progress in its pursuit of these ideals, women should also contribute since their life experiences is different from those of men, who dominate. The importance of drawing from the experiences of women is critical to security and peace-building because "during conflict, inequalities are exacerbated and can manifest in many ways, including sexual and gender based violence, a lack of access to basic resources to meet needs, and increased responsibilities at a time when women are already overburdened" (UN Women, 2014). And as the most impacted during conflicts, only women can better narrate their experiences from which recommendations can be made. The difference in the experiences of women during conflict was first formally recognized by the United Nations in October 2000 when it passed Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 after finding out that women and children constitute more than 80% of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide.

Although so much need to be done in recognizing the role of women in contributing to security and peace-building, UN SCR 1325 changed the narrative which saw women only as victims needing protection to seeing women as agents of conflict resolution, security and peace-

building. The argument in support for this perspective is that after the peace keepers and/or peace enforcers who are mostly men leave the scene; it is necessary and important to engage women in building and maintaining peace as a primary and formal element in the affected community – and not only as an adjunct responsibility. It was for this reason that General David J. Hurley, a former Chief of the Defense Forces in Australia argues for the integration of a gender perspective into the peace and security efforts of countries, the protection of women and girls' human rights and the promotion of their participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution. Another international milestone that pushed for the inclusion of women in decision-making for security and peace prior to the SCR 1325 is the Beijing declaration and platform for action of 1995. Since the Beijing Conference of 1995 and the SCR of the year 2000, societies and countries across the globe are beginning to realize that without the contributions of women, it is almost impossible for security and peace to be achieved on a long term basis.

In Nigeria and most African societies, the important role of women towards improving security and building peace is better expressed or appreciated from the family angle since women are the wives and tenders of children. This is why mothers have the most influence on children than fathers. In Nigeria, most kidnappers, drug peddlers, bandits, thugs, cultists, armed robbers, militants, terrorists, arsonists, armed pastoralists, etc are males – and since women are the mothers and/or care givers of children, they have the most influence in 'catching them young' by early instilling in the boy child the virtues of peaceful living, making legitimate and honest means of livelihoods, contentment, abhorring crime and the individual and societal damaging effects of crime and criminality.

Nigeria is one of the most troubled countries in the world and nowhere else are women needed to contribute to improving security and peace than the country. The history of Nigeria cannot be written or told without the many incidences of violent crises and conflicts that have taken place in many parts of the country with the Nigerian military currently involved in fighting crime, terrorism and banditry in 34 of the country's 36 states and the federal capital territory, Abuja. Since July 2009 when it reared its ugly head, Boko Haram terrorists continue to claim lives and property in the country's North particularly in the Northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. Although the Nigerian military is now gaining some grounds in the fight against Boko Haram and breakaway groups like ISWAP and Ansaru, kidnapping, armed robberies and banditry has become the lived reality of Nigerians. On 28th March 2022, an Abuja to Kaduna train owned, operated and managed by the Federal Government of Nigeria was attacked by terrorists and nine (9) passengers were killed and hundreds abducted. The family of a Pakistani who was a victim paid N100 million for his release. In one case, N800 million in cash was paid to the terrorists for the release of seven (7) of the passengers. In June 2022, over forty (40) worshippers at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo, Ondo State were murdered in cold blood when terrorists invaded the church during a Sunday morning service. Some months ago, the Kuje Minimum Custodial Center, located 30 minutes to the international airport in Abuja the seat of the Federal government was attacked and many criminals including 64 Boko Haram terrorists were freed. The next day, the advance security team of the former Nigerian president; Muhammadu Buhari was attacked on its way to Katsina State.

As one of the 36 states in the country, Benue State; located in the North-Central geopolitical zone with an estimated population of 6.67 million people is not immune to the insecurity problems in Nigeria – because the state is one of the 34 states bedeviled with insecurity manifesting in armed robberies, kidnappings, armed pastoralist attacks, cultism, political thuggery and their attendant negative impacts on peace and peace-building. In a country with this kind of reality, why are there few literatures that discusses the present and potential contributions of women and women organizations to security and peace-building? Since women have different conflict experiences, should they not also sit at the table where decisions and policies for security and peace-building are made? Are there recommendations that can be implemented so that women become active stakeholders in the decision and policy making level of the security and peace-building architectures in Nigeria? It is from this background and questions that this article discusses women and their present and potential contribution to security and peace-building in Nigeria by examining the programmes and activities of Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF); a Makurdi based non-governmental organization that targets women

and youths in the twenty-three (23) local government areas of Benue State.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to discuss the contribution of women and women organizations (present and potential) in security and peace-building in Nigeria by examining the programmes and activities of Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF). Other specific objectives of the study include:

i. To find out whether the advocacy and enlightenment campaigns of ESLF is empowering and supporting women seeking elected political offices in Benue State.

ii. To find out the impact of ESLF workshops and seminars organized to sensitize and empower youths of Benue State.

iii. To find out whether there have been improvements in security and peace-building since ESLF began implementing its programmes and activities in Benue State.

iv. To make recommendations on ways to improve security and peace in Nigeria.

Research Methodology

The study utilized both secondary and primary instruments to gather its data. The secondary instruments are books and journals while the primary instrument is the questionnaire. The study used both random and purposive sampling techniques in arriving at its sample size. To choose the local governments where the research would take place, the names of the twenty-three (23) local government areas were written on sheets of papers and separated according to their senatorial zones; A, B, and C. The sheets were folded and dropped into three boxes marked "A", "B" and "C" and a blind-folded research assistant was asked to pick a sheet from each box. The three local governments are Makurdi, Gboko and Otukpo. The researcher and two research assistants each went to one local government area and fifty (50) respondents were purposively selected and administered the questionnaire in each local government area. Respondents were purposively selected because it is important that they understand the phenomenon being investigated. They were eighty (80) females and sixty (60) males whose age ranges from 25 years to 60 years and they are students, civil servants, university lecturers, teachers, farmers, traditional chiefs and market women. The questionnaire contains nine (9) questions and divided into two sections: Section A contains three questions on the demography of the respondents like age, sex and occupation while Section B has six questions that sought answers to the research questions.

Conceptual Clarifications

Security: Security is one of the most desired values for humans and animals as it has to do with the state of being free from danger or threat. Buzan (1984) described security as an underdeveloped concept because of difficulties of conceptual clarity on what it means. Although this is 2024, many still hold tight to Buzan's views concerning security because they agree that security means different things to different people per time, scope, situation and environment which make it difficult to have a one-fit-all-situation definition of the term. But in his contribution to clarifying the meaning of security and before Buzan's argument, Wolfers (1952) defines security as "the absence of threats to acquired values" while Baldwin (1997) argue that any definition of security must first address two questions: security for whom and security for which value? From a simplistic angle, the question of "security for whom" should be that it is for the safety of individuals, the state and the international system while "security for which value" identifies the purpose of security which is for the protection and the preservation of values such as physical safety, economic welfare, autonomy, psychological wellbeing, etc. It is based on this that in this article, we define security as the condition and situation where individuals living in Nigeria and Benue State are safe and secure from physical harm and enjoy both economic and psychological wellbeing.

Peace: Ikejiani-Clark and Ani (2009) describe peace as one of humanity's highest values and why it is one of the most sought after phenomenon by individuals, societies, countries and indeed the world. In many instances and situations, peace is viewed as the opposite of war (as different from conflict; because not every conflict is violent but most wars are

violent) from the knowledge that war is one of humanity's daunting problems. But peace is not only the absence of war as it also has to do with the establishment of positive, life-affirming and life-enhancing values and social structures (Barash and Webel in Tsuwa and Otsapa, 2014). Cussort (1989) made us see that like most social and behavioral concepts, defining peace is difficult because of how its definition always have rhetorical uses for political leaders who often benefit from the ambiguity of the term. However, and from a strict psychological angle peace is the state of mind where an individual or a group of people enjoy harmony and balance.

In his clarification of the meaning of peace, prominent peace scholar, Gunnar Johnson argues that what constitutes peace involves three categories: peace as a world without war, peace as world justice and peace as world order (Johnson, 1976). As noted earlier, it is common for most people to describe peace as the absence of war and war as the absence of peace but the concept of what peace means is not so simplistic. While peace is the absence of war, it does not end there. This is why one needs to ask: even when there is no war, is there structural violence (poverty, fear, deprivation, oppression, injustice, unemployment and marginalization)? This means that we cannot speak of peace in a society where most residents are poor, hungry, unemployed, marginalized and treated unjustly. Where there is no war but there is structural violence, what exists is negative peace because although bullets are not been fired nor bombs thrown, peace is threatened because those who are hungry, poor and frustrated are likely to become terrorists, armed robbers, bandits, cultists, kidnappers, etc thus endangering lives and property. The frustration-aggression theory makes case for this kind of situation. On the other hand, positive peace is a situation or condition where there is no war and structural violence is low – or absent. Drawing from Johnson (1976) three categories of the conceptualization of peace; we define peace as a Nigeria and Benue State without war, a Nigeria and Benue State where there is justice and a Nigeria and Benue State that is in order.

Peace-building: This connotes the prevention of the outbreak, continuation or resurgence of armed violent conflict through a combination of intentional political, economic, humanitarian and human right measures and initiatives. In building peace after a violent conflict had taken place, several measures and initiatives are rolled out on a short-term or long-term basis that would help maintain the peace by addressing the immediate and remote causes of a particular conflict. It is advised that for any measure and/or initiative geared towards the attainment of peace and peace-building to be successful; those directly involved in the conflict should be carried along from the beginning. This means that the peace-building measures and initiatives to be implemented at any given time should be locally owned by those affected by the conflict, even if the coordinating authority is state, national or international. This is important because for any peace-building programme or measure to become successful, it must be designed to meet with the specific needs of the locals such that it addresses the security and humanitarian needs that emanated out of the factors that led to the conflict in the first place.

The Peace Process and the Role of Women

There are three streams in the peace-building process sometimes referred to as the "peace process umbrella" – and they are classified into Stream One, Stream Two and Stream Three. **Stream One** is the place where high-level discussions, negotiations and decisions about peace are made. This stream is made up of principal actors who wield power in the political, economic and military dimensions of a society; the sectors that are critical to the peace building process. It is in Stream One that matters such as decisions and policies concerning military deployments, economic sanctions and embargoes, war, constitutional reforms, etc are made.

Stream Two is the civil society level involving engagements and discussions by civil society actors with political and government policy makers. Members of Stream Two engage in the peace process through organized protests and by lobbying those in government (those who are members of Stream One). Although actors in this stream do not have power to decide on issues of peace and its enforcement, they have the ears of some Stream One decision and policy makers.

Stream Three is the level involved with responding to the needs of those directly affected by violent conflicts in the communities. It is at this level that food and water and the provision of alternative livelihoods are carried out, making members of this level the closest to the people and those who fuel the feedback mechanisms that those in Stream One needs for

their decisions and Stream Two for their engagements or protests for peace and conflict resolution. Members of Stream Three are those tasked with the responsibility of executing and implementing the decisions of members of Stream One (as sometimes influenced and guided by the actions of those in Stream Two). It is at this level that Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF) operates in.

In these three streams of the "peace process umbrella", women are, in most societies and countries under-represented at the level of Stream One which is dominated by men. It is at the level of Stream Two and more at Stream Three that many women and women organizations and groups play active roles for peace and security.

Insecurity in Benue State (2013-2023): A Review of Some Nigerian Newspapers

For many years, but particularly since July 2009 when the Boko Haram insurgency and terrorism began in Nigeria no day passes by without reports of one terror attack or another across the country, particularly in the northeast and northwest geopolitical zones. However in recent years, the attacks have come in form of armed herdsmen attacks, banditry, armed robberies and kidnappings and today a gunshot is like a doorbell in most Nigerian cities, towns and villages. While terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria is most prevalent in the North-Eastern region in states like Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, armed banditry and kidnapping is commonplace in the North-Western region in states like Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina and Kaduna. In the North-Central geopolitical zone, the main security challenges are pastoralists and farmers' clashes/attacks, kidnappings, armed robberies and communal clashes in states like Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa In Benue State and for many years, no month passes by without reports of attacks by armed pastoralists in local government areas like Guma, Logo, Gwer-West, Gwer-East, Agatu and on the outskirts of Makurdi; the state capital.

Benue State is one of the 36 states in Nigeria and it was created in 1976. According to Godwin (2018), over 1600 people in Benue State were killed between 2013 and 2018 in attacks carried out by pastoralists. In the same period, the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BESEMA) reported that 117,771 people were internally displaced and relocated to eight camps within the state. One of the biggest insecurity tragedies in the state occurred on 1st January 2018 when 73 persons were killed by armed herders in Guma and Logo government areas. On 11th January 2018, the state government organized a mass burial ceremony for the victims in Makurdi, the state capital. In September 22nd 2022, the *Vanguard Newspaper* reported that 14 people were murdered and 30 were injured when armed herdsmen attacked Mchia and Mou communities in Logo local government area. The *Tribune Newspaper* on 19th October 2022 reported of the killing of 23 people in reprisal attacks in Ukum and Logo local government areas. There is no one single generally agreed reason for these attacks because while others see them as religious in nature; that is between Christians and Muslims, there are those who attach economic attributes to them; the contestations over grazing and farming rights by Fulani pastoralists and indigenous farmers.

On 15th September 2022, *ThisDay Newspaper* reported of the killing of thirteen people within a week in separate attacks in Guma local government area. In a statement on Facebook monitored by this researcher, the then Chief Press Secretary to the former governor of Benue State, Mr. Nathaniel Ikyur stated that the continuing insecurity in the state has created more than two million internally displaced persons housed in different internally displaced camps across the state but particularly in Agan in Makurdi Local Government Area and Daudu in Guma Local Government Area. In November 2017, consistent attacks by armed pastoralists forced the former governor of the state through the House of Assembly to pass a law prohibiting open cattle grazing across Benue State but attacks have not ceased. The insecurity situation that continues to disturb the security and peace-building efforts in Benue State is not limited to the activities of armed pastoralists as it also includes armed robberies, kidnappings, cultism and political thuggery.

On 30th August 2022, the *Tribune Newspaper* reported the arrest of three suspected armed robbers who had been terrorizing some parts of Makurdi, the state capital. According to the state police command spokesperson, items recovered from the suspects include one locally made pistol loaded with three rounds of live ammunitions, wraps of Indian hemp, assorted illicit drugs and charms. On 16th October 2022, three robbers were killed by policemen in the Afia axis of Ukum local government area where a gun, ammunition, machete and charms were

recovered. The recurring cases of charms are an indication that armed robbers operating in Benue State engage in spiritual fortifications before embarking on crime but clearly the charms are disappointing them. On February 10th 2022, The *Daily Trust Newspaper* reported that the Benue police authority had arrested and paraded nine (9) suspects in Makurdi for alleged involvement in cultism and armed robbery related activities. During investigation, they confessed to being members of the System Black Movement (SBM) Confraternity. The SBM is one of the many violent cult groups in Benue State that young people are involved with. Others are: Buccaneers, Black Axe, Second Son of Satan (SSS), Temple of Eden, White Bishops, Gentlemen Clubs, Executioners, Black Scorpion and Red Sea Horse. Their members are usually males between the ages of 16 and 35 who are secondary and tertiary students, artisans, commercial bus drivers and conductors, commercial motor cycle operators popularly known as "okada" and aspiring musicians.

On August 22nd 2002, the *Vanguard Newspaper* reported of the arrest of 18 suspected members of a kidnap syndicate along the Utonkon Road in Ado Local Government Area of the state. Instructive in this particular case is that the kidnappers were arrested after locals who sighted and suspected their movements in their community alerted the police. On 12th August 2022, officers of the Benue police command also arrested two suspected kidnappers along Gboko Road in Makurdi who confessed to targeting women.

Table 1: Victims of insecurity in Benue State, 2009-2022

Victims	Number Affected/Estimated cost
Persons killed	28,997
Police stations burnt	5
Houses destroyed (excluding thatched houses)	54,476
Markets	33
Farm produce destroyed	N21billion

Source: Duru (2023)

The table above shows the level of insecurity in Benue State from 2009 to 2022. However, it is important to note that these numbers are likely higher since many cases of attacks and destructions are not reported by their victims for reasons ranging from distrust for security officers and fear of victimization by their attackers. Benue State is an agrarian state where majority of the people depend on subsistence agriculture and continuing insecurity is increasing unemployment and individual and household multidimensional poverty that has negative impacts on security, peace and conflict resolution in the state.

Security and Peace-building in Benue State: Impact of the Programmes and Activities of the Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF)

Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF) is a non-governmental organization established in 2016 with its office in Makurdi, the capital of Benue State, North-central Nigeria. The foundation was established for the purpose of providing developmental efforts in Benue State from a non-political, non-religious and non-profit making standpoint without bias to race or creed to its pirmary target of women, youths, children, persons with disabilities and other marginalized persons. The foundation works with stakeholders across the 23 local government areas of the state towards contributing to the improvement of the health of the people of Benue State, create access to quality education for the less priviledged and the needy, contribute to promoting good and inclusive governance, promote improved agricultural production for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable and promote youth engagement in agricultural business through capacity building, resource mobilisation, advocacy, research and partnerships. The vision of the organization is to build a society without barriers to decent living with a mission to work with the poor and vulnerable towards improving their lives through networking and building their consciousness to reduce poverty, improve

health and education and improve agricultural practices. The goal of ESLF is to contribute significantly to improving the overall wellbeing of the poor and vulnerable, particularly women and youths by reducing the incidences of poverty, poor health services and poor access to education while mitigating their impacts on the lives of the target population through sustainable approaches.

One of the core programme areas of operation of ESLF is Governance - and according to its Programme Manager, Mr. Tine Agernor it is under this area that the organization organizes protests, advocacy outreaches and sensitization workshops that directly help to improve security and peace-building in Benue State because they believe that governance and development can only take place where there is security and peace. The organization outreaches the twenty-three (23) local government areas of Benue State, with councils like Guma, Makurdi, Agatu and Logo consistently under attack by armed pastoralists and kidnappers. There are also cases of political disputes and disagreements between rival political parties that lead to attacks and counter-attacks by hired thugs and arsonists.

Some of the programmes and activities of the ESLF include the following:

I. ESLF has been contributing to efforts at implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Project in Benue State. The WPS project is implemented by International Alert through UN Women with funding from the Norwegian Government.

II. In 2017, ESLF held a town hall meeting and a walk with youth in partnership with the National Youth Network on HIV/AIDs (NYNETHA) to mark the International Youth Day with the theme: Youths Building Peace.

III. Partnered other organisations to implement the Benue Youth Interactive Forum to mark the 2019 International Youth Day with the theme: Transforming Education. Over 400 youths drawn from the 276 council wards of Benue State brainstormed and made recommendations on ways of improving education in the State.

IV. Conducted advocacy to public officials and political leaders across Benue communities and this led to the appointment of seven (7) women as local government area chairpersons out of the 23 local government areas in the state. This is the highest number of women that have occupied political office at the local government level since the state was created in 1976. And due to the organization's high level advocacy before the 2020 Benue State local government election, nine (9) women were elected as chairpersons of local government areas.

V. Implementing an on-farm training of 50 farmers drawn from five (5) rural farmer cooperative groups (mostly women groups) on ginger cultivation on ESLF's Model Farm.

VI. Trained 50 women and youths in five (5) areas of food processing in partnership with the World Bank Centre for Food Technology and Research, Benue State.

VII. Currently working on a USAID funded project to enhance ease of doing agribusiness in Benue State with focus on rice, maize, soya-beans, cowpea and aquaculture value chains.

VIII. The annual Benue Women and Youth Economic/Entrepreneurship Summit held to build and strengthen knowledge and skills of about 6000 women and youth on opportunities for business in Benue and enterprise management through women and youth in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

IX. Over 1400 women and youths sponsored to acquire vocational skills training in their chosen areas of interest. Of this number, four (4) youths were sponsored to undergo Master vocational training in leather and fibre works in China and have since returned to Benue State and stepped down skills to other youth.

X. Provided eighteen (18) most needy trained beneficiaries with most of them being women with start-up packs to start their businesses.

XI. Facilitated a N100 million loan facility, domiciled in a microfinance bank and currently being disbursed to micro small

and medium enterprises involved in the agriculture value chain. Many women farmers across the state have accessed the loan with which they are engaged in various agric value chain activities.

XII. Over five hundred (500) rural farmers including women in five (5) communities of Raav, Taraku, Aondona, Howe and Angbarye benefited from inputs and their skills built on modern farming techniques. Harvest was shared using an agreed formula by the farmers on one hand and ESLF on the other. Crops cultivated included soya beans, maize, sesame, cassava and rice.

The programmes and activities of the Eunice Spring of Life Foundation speaks to the growing perspective that women should be more represented at the leadership and decision-making level - because every gender should be seated at the table of decision and policy-making concerning the security of lives and property of communities. Through its dogged advocacy and support for the participation, involvement and inclusion of women in active politics and government, nine (9) Benue women were recently elected as chairpersons in nine (9) of the twenty-three (23) local government areas of the state, which meant that these women became the chief security officers of their respective local council areas. Questioned about this, 140 respondents representing 93.3% agreed with the assertion that ESLF helped the women into office while 10 respondents representing 6.6% disagreed with the impact of the Foundation in this regard.

The ESLF is also a platform for the engagement, sensitization, education and the empowerment young people in Benue State, particularly males who are usually those who commit crimes and criminality in the state. These engagements through seminars and workshops are keeping many hitherto idle young people off the streets where they are vulnerable and susceptible to been used for crime and criminality. During these seminars, they are taught the importance of earning money legitimately and the benefits of staying away from crime. When asked about the impact of these seminars and workshops on youths of Benue, particularly on young males, majority of the respondents, 134 representing 89.3% of sample population are of the opinion that Benue State has witnessed a reduction in the number of young people who engage in crimes such as kidnapping, armed robbery, car theft, drug abuse and cultism because of ESLF. On whether the free education and enlightenment campaigns offered by ESLF has made young people in Benue State understand that they have nothing to gain from participating in activities that disturbs the peace of their immediate communities in particular and of the state in general, 138 respondents representing 92% of the sampled population agreed in the affirmative.

Asked if they have noticed any improvement in the security and peace in their communities and local government areas since the ESLF began implementing its programmes and activities, 124 respondents in Gboko, 98 respondents in Otukpo and 131 respondents in Makurdi say that the programmes and activities of ESLF has led to a reduction in the rate of political thuggery, armed robberies and kidnappings in their communities. On the impact of this improved security and peace on the socioeconomic life of their communities, majority of respondents; 124 representing 83.3% of the sample respondents in Gboko, 98 representing 65% of the sample respondents in Otukpo and 131 representing 87.3% of the sample respondents agree that many young people; indigenes and non-indigenes alike are now investing in the agricultural sector and this has led to a reduction in the number of idle youths available to be hired as political thugs, kidnappers, terrorists, armed robbers and cultists. Also, 76 respondents representing 50.6% of the sample respondents say that many of the women and youths they know who are beneficiaries of the ESLF farm trainings and empowerment programmes now own their own businesses while others are gainfully employed in companies.

Conclusion

For peace and the security of lives and property to improve in Nigeria and Benue State, it is important to promote the participation of women in the security, peace building and conflict prevention discussions and decisions of their communities, the state and country – because the current male dominated security setup is yet to proffer a lasting solution to the problem of rising insecurity. When women are empowered and given opportunities to head key security agencies like the police or army, they are able to directly impact on security and peace-building because their experiences of conflict

and strategies to managing conflict would be different from those of men. Through its advocacy for women inclusion in politics and the empowering of both women and youths in Benue State, Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF) is contributing to the improvement of security and peace-building in Benue State in particular and Nigeria in general.

Recommendations

Increasing the number of women in elective and appointive public office positions is important. In Nigeria and Benue State, men still dominate the Stream One category of the peace process umbrella so the decisions and policies made concerning security and peace-building do not take into cognizance the experiences of women. When women begin to contribute their knowledge and experiences at the Stream One level, a different approach to security and peace-building would be explored – and it is likely to be the ice-breaker. Along this line, more women should be encouraged and recruited into the military and the security agencies like the Police, Department of State Security (DSS), Customs, Army, Navy, Airforce, Immigration, etc – and assured that they would be treated equal as their male counterparts during promotion. This is important because Nigeria operates a central command and control security architecture and no woman has ever headed key security institutions like the Director of the DSS, Inspector General of Police, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Chief of Defense Staff or as the Minister of Defense. When women become a part of the policy and decision-making organs of Nigeria's political and security systems, a different perspective, strategy and approach to the protection of lives and property and how to build peace would be brought to the table.

A non-kinetic approach like financial empowerment and job creation that improves the socioeconomic condition and living standards of women and youths in Nigeria would go a long way in arresting insecurity and improve the prospects of peace-building. Millions of Nigerian youths are idle (unemployment rate is 12% in Benue State) and so they are vulnerable to becoming threats to security and peace-building. The Arab Spring that engulfed the MENA region began after 26 year old unemployed university graduate; Ahmed Bouzizi doused himself with petrol when the fruits he was hawking to eke out a living were confiscated by a police woman. Therefore, governments, corporate organizations and wealthy individuals in Nigeria must reinvent ways to productively and gainfully engage the youth bulge in state and country or the army of armed robbers, bandits, terrorists, cultists, kidnappers, etc would continue to grow – and one day, there would be a Nigerian Ahmed Bouzizi.

Funding non-governmental organizations whose programmes and activities directly impact on security and peace-building is encouraged. Thus, wealthy individuals, corporate organizations, local and international donors, Nigerian states and federal government should commit to financially supporting NGOs that advocate for the empowerment of women and youths since women have been identified as important to the security and peace-building of communities, states and Nigeria. This is important because financial constraint is one of the main obstacles NGOs in Benue State and Nigeria face.

Engaging locals in the planning and execution of peace-building initiatives and programmes is important. Any strategy that aims to build peace in any community, state or country that does not involve the local people is likely to fail because "he/she who wears the shoe knows where it pinches" and because "you cannot shave a man's head in his absence". The involvement of locals in the formulation, planning and execution of any security and peace-building strategy is very important because it is those directly affected by a crime or conflict that most understand the issues and are in the best position to narrate their experiences from which recommendations can be made.

The number of DSS, police and military officials in Benue and Nigeria is grossly inadequate per the population and size of the state (6.67 million people and 34,059 km^2) and country (225 million people and 923,768 km^2). The officers and men of the Nigerian police are less than 400,000 and there are 774 local governments in Nigeria. When we divide 400,000 by 774, we have approximately 517 police men for one local government area in Nigeria. So for Benue State with 23 local government areas, the number of police men in the state is 11,891 protecting the lives and properties of 6.67 million residents in the two hundred and seventy-six (276) council wards of the state. But these numbers are less because the duty of about a quarter of police officers is

guarding political and business VIPs while others are in administration- so in reality, less than 300,000 is available for community policing across Nigeria. The DSS and military are not better; the DSS are not more than 150,000 (with many guarding only VIPs) and the military not more than 200,000 (with some guarding only VIPs).

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EFFECT OF ANCHOR BORROWER PROGRAMME ON FARM PRODUCE OF BENEFICIARIES IN LAPAI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA 2016-2021

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Anchor Borrower Programme, Farm Produce, Farmers, Agrarian communities

ABSTRACT
The effect of the Anchor Borrower Programme on the agricultural output of its beneficiaries is of utmost importance. The program has significantly improved the productivity of beneficiaries in Nigeria through the provision of credit facilities and extension services. This research specifically examined the effect of the Anchor Borrower Programme on the farm produce of beneficiaries in agrarian communities in the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State from 2016 to 2021. The research employed a descriptive survey research design with a population of 5,800. The sample size of 377 was randomly selected using Slovin's formula, and Information was gathered using a formalized questionnaire. The study used descriptive statistics, including simple percentage, frequency count, mean, and standard deviation, to address the research questions. Regression analysis was employed to test null hypothesis 1 with an alpha level of 0.05 significance using SPSS20, while chi-square was utilized for null hypothesis 2. The outcomes of the research hypotheses revealed a significant impact of the Anchor Borrower Programme on the farm produce of farmers in the study area. Consequently, based on these findings, the research concludes that the Anchor Borrower Programme has a notable effect on the farm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State. The program has played a crucial role in substantially increasing the agricultural output of its beneficiaries in the specified area. As a recommendation, it is suggested that the Anchor Borrower Programme should be expanded to encompass more farmers, aiming to further enhance farming output in agrarian communities within the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State.

Introduction

Over the preceding decades, the Nigerian economy prospered primarily through the agricultural sector, which was widely recognized as the principal catalyst in the early 1960s, with the aim of fostering economic growth and development. After the identification of oil resources in the 1970s, marked by a subsequent oil boom, there was a notable reduction in the share of the agricultural sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This decline stemmed from a pronounced shift away from agriculture towards oil. However, this shift led to a range of economic challenges, including but not limited to food insecurity, a reliance on imports, insufficient provision of raw materials for industries, heightened levels of borrowing, a deficit in the balance of payments, elevated rates of unemployment and inflation, rural-urban migration, and depreciation of the exchange rate, among other consequences (Olughu, Umar & Ajayi, 2018).

To address the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and revitalize its importance, previous administrations introduced agricultural and rural development programs, albeit encountering several obstacles. In an effort to enhance agricultural development, elevate the livelihoods, and increase productivity among Smallholder Farmers in Nigeria, the Federal Government, Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) was initiated in 2015 in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). (Olughu et al., 2018).

The primary objectives of the program include supplying smallholder Farmers with both in-kind and cash farm inputs, with the objective of enhancing production, elevate their livelihoods, and ensure a stable supply by providing inputs to agro-processors through establishing robust linkages among Anchor Companies engaged in processing and Smallholder Farmers. The commencement of the scheme is in accordance with the developmental role of the Central Bank of Nigeria, aiming to stimulate increased agricultural output and mitigate the adverse impacts of food importation on the nation's foreign reserves (Wijaya et al., 2020).

The program was initially rolled out in 14 states, including Kebbi, Sokoto, Niger, Kaduna, Katsina, Jigawa, Kano, Zamfara, Adamawa, Plateau, Lagos, Ogun, Cross-River, and Ebonyi, under the Anchor Borrowers Programme. The Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) specifically targeted farmers engaged in cultivating a diverse range of crops, including cereals (such as rice, maize, wheat), cotton, roots and tubers (comprising cassava, potatoes, yam, ginger), tree crops (including oil palm, cocoa, rubber), legumes (such as soybean, sesame seed, cowpea), vegetables (particularly tomatoes), sugarcane, and livestock (encompassing fish, poultry, ruminants) according to the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2016. This initiative, launched by the Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria, aims to establish economic linkages between Smallholder Farmers (SHE) and reputable large-scale processors. The overarching objectives include increasing productivity, enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and optimizing the capacity utilization of the processors (Olughu et al. 2018).

This study is prompted by the necessity to evaluate the impact of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on the agricultural output of farmers in agrarian communities situated in Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State.

Statement of the Problem

The impact of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on the productivity of farmers in Nigeria is substantial and has been a focal point in numerous studies assessing its efficacy. A study conducted by Akinbile and Akingbade (2023) delved into the contributions of the Anchor Borrowers Programme to the productivity of rice farmers in Ekiti State. Their research revealed a discernible increase in rice farmer productivity associated with the ABP's participation or intervention in the state. Likewise, Ayinde, Fatigun, Ogunbiyi Ayinde, and Ambali (2018) conducted a study evaluating the Central Bank's intervention in rice production in Kwara State, Nigeria, specifically focusing on the Anchor Borrowers Programme. The study highlighted a positive impact on the income of beneficiaries, attributed to an increase in yield. The observed increase reached 3.94 metric tons per hectare of rice farm, indicating a significant improvement in productivity resulting from the ABP intervention.

These studies collectively underscore the positive influence of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on farmers' productivity, particularly in rice cultivation, and emphasize its role in enhancing agricultural output and the economic well-being of beneficiaries in Nigeria.

However, there is a scarcity of empirical studies on the effect of ABP in improving farm produce among farmers in Niger State, especially in the specific study area. It is against this backdrop that this study investigates the effect of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on farm produce in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria, spanning the period from 2016 to 2021.

Research Questions

I. What is the effect of Anchor Borrowers Programme on farm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

II. What are the implementation challenges of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

Research Hypotheses

H_{O1}: Anchor Borrowers Programme has no significant effect on farm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

H_{O2}: There is no significant challenges in the implementation of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

Concept of Anchor Borrowers Programme

The Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) stands as a pivotal intervention initiative launched by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to address the challenges encountered by farmers by supplying essential agricultural inputs. These inputs encompass a variety of items such as farm equipment, fertilizer, water pumping machines, seedlings, cash, and extension services. Operating on a financial model, the program involves anchor firms collaborating with CBN, NIRSAL (Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending), and State Governments to organize out-growers and ensure their adherence to contractual terms, thereby preventing side-selling. Various stakeholders, including government agencies, farmers' associations, the Bank of Agriculture, and individual farmers, actively participate in this collaborative initiative, with CBN serving as the central coordinating entity and financial intermediary (Nkwede, 2014).

In line with its developmental functions outlined in Section 31 of the CBN Act 2007, the Central Bank of Nigeria established the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) to create economic linkages between smallholder farmers (SHFs) and reputable companies (anchors) involved in the production and processing of key agricultural commodities. At the core of the program is the provision of loans, both in kind and cash, to smallholder farmers. This strategic approach aims to bolster agricultural production, generate employment opportunities, and curtail the nation's food import bill, thereby contributing to the conservation of foreign reserves (CBN, 2021)

Objectives of Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP)

The Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) is guided by a comprehensive objective that centres on creating economic linkages between smallholder farmers and processors, with the ultimate aim of enhancing agricultural output and ensuring stability in food prices (CBN, 2021). The specific objectives further expound on this overarching goal:

i. **Increase banks' financing for improved agricultural productivity:** The ABP seeks to enhance the level of financial support provided by banks, fostering an ecosystem that encourages value chain financing. This approach is intended to stimulate increased agricultural productivity.

ii. **Reduce the nation's food import bill:** The program strives to diminish dependence on imported food items by employing strategies such as import substitution and enhanced domestic value addition. This approach aims to play a pivotal role in reducing the nation's overall food import bill.

iii. **Create a new generation of farmers:** The ABP aims to support innovative financing mechanisms that facilitate smart agriculture. By doing so, it endeavours to encourage and nurture a new generation

of farmers equipped with modern and efficient agricultural practices.

iv. **Deepen financial inclusion and promote commercial farming:** The program aspires to expand financial inclusion by transitioning smallholder farmers from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. This involves providing them with the necessary support and resources to engage in farming as a viable business, thereby contributing to the overall economic development of the agricultural sector (CBN, 2021).

Effect of Anchor Borrower Programme on Agricultural Development in Nigeria

The impact of the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) on agricultural development in Nigeria has undergone extensive scrutiny through various studies. Despite facing criticisms, a substantial body of evidence supports the program's positive outcomes, particularly in the adoption of improved rice varieties by farmers and the subsequent increase in the income of beneficiaries, signifying the program's successful realization of its objectives (Umar et al., 2019; Ayinde et al., 2018).

Researchers like Evbuomwan and Okoye (2017) have commended the ABP for its role in enhancing the success, popularity, and consumption of locally grown rice. This positive trend manifested in a collaborative effort between the Lagos and Kebbi State Governments, resulting in the branding of "Lake rice." The success of the ABP in rice production has spurred the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to broaden the program's coverage, extending its scope to encompass other crops and livestock. This expansion underscores the program's adaptability and success in contributing to various facets of agricultural development in the country.

Okeke's study (2019) offers valuable insights into the impact of the Anchor Borrowers' Programme (ABP) on rice farmers in the study area. The research revealed that the ABP played a role in enhancing the income and farm output of rice farmers, with access to the ABP significantly influenced by the socio-economic characteristics of rice farmers. While there were no significant differences in farm income between beneficiary and non-beneficiary rice farmers compared to a random sample, differences emerged in the acquisition of productive assets. Beneficiary rice farmers acquired fewer productive assets than what a random rice farmer from the sample would have earned, while non-beneficiary rice farmers acquired more, indicating variations in the distribution of productive assets.

Balogun et al.'s study (2021) further supports the positive impact of the ABP, revealing profitable outcomes for both ABP beneficiaries and non-ABP beneficiaries, with ABP beneficiaries making more profit. This underscores the suggestion that expanding the ABP to encompass all categories of farmers in Nigeria could serve as an effective intervention to boost profit and income across the agricultural sector.

Implementation Challenges of Anchor Borrowers Programme

Despite the notable accomplishments of the Anchor Borrowers Programme, akin to several other agricultural interventions in Nigeria, the initiative grapples with challenges. Many farmers' express dissatisfaction, citing hurdles in accessing loans and discrepancies in the allocated amounts under the programme (Balogun et al., 2021). Despite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) disbursing N43.92 billion through 13 participating institutions, some of these entities impede farmers' access to the facility. Certain institutions prove unwelcoming to farmers due to intricate transaction procedures and a lack of consideration for crop gestation periods. Additionally, some banks contend that the CBN has not provided specific guidelines on loan disbursement. Agro-input distribution also exhibits inconsistencies, with variations in farmers receiving fertilizers, while others are denied this crucial support (Coker et al., 2018).

Moreover, certain criteria for programme participation may inadvertently exclude core poor and vulnerable groups, particularly women, who struggle to meet the farm-holding requirement of 1 to 5 hectares due to disadvantages in asset ownership (Coker et al., 2018; World Bank 2012; African Development Bank 2014). The farmer registration process incurs costs, and concerns arise about the completeness of the linkage to the Growth Enhancement Support database under the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, as some

states consider fresh farmer registrations. Initiating a new database is seen as a significant waste of public resources, highlighting government inconsistency in the agriculture sector. Furthermore, interactions with stakeholders suggest a predominant focus on funds disbursement and recovery, with insufficient attention to the revolving nature of loans post-recovery—an essential sustainability aspect of the programme that requires early consideration to prevent unmet expectations (Coker et al., 2018).

Theoretical Framework

This research is anchored on Max Weber's Modernization Theory, which traces its origins to the ideas of the German sociologist Max Weber (1864–1920). The foundational concepts laid down by Weber were further developed into the modernization paradigm by Harvard sociologist Talcott Parsons (1902–1979). Modernization theory seeks to elucidate the process of modernization within societies, depicting a transition from 'pre-modern' or 'traditional' to 'modern' societies. The theory primarily focuses on internal factors within a country and posits that, with appropriate support, nations considered 'traditional' can undergo development similar to more advanced countries. While modernization theory held a dominant position in the social sciences during the 1950s and 1960s, it later experienced a decline. However, there was a resurgence after 1990, although it remains a controversial model (Knobl, 2003).

The overarching goal of modernization theory is to identify the social variables contributing to social progress and societal development while explaining the process of social evolution. It emphasizes not only the process of change but also the responses to it, taking into account internal dynamics, social and cultural structures, and the assimilation of new technologies. The theory posits that traditional societies will progress as they adopt modern practices. Advocates argue that modern states tend to be wealthier and more powerful, providing their citizens with a higher standard of living. The necessity or preference for modernization is often justified by developments such as advancements in data technology and the need to update traditional methods in transport, communication, and production.

Critiquing modernization theory becomes challenging due to the implied notion that these developments dictate the limits of human interaction, rather than the reverse. The theory suggests that human agency determines the pace and intensity of modernization. Instead of being influenced by tradition, societies undergoing modernization are purported to adopt forms of governance guided by abstract principles. Traditional religious beliefs and cultural traits, according to the theory, diminish in importance as modernization takes root (Henry, 1971).

Methodology

The research was conducted in the agrarian communities of Lapai Local Government area in Niger State, Nigeria, utilizing a descriptive survey research design. The study encompassed a population of 5,800 beneficiaries across ten agrarian communities within Lapai Local Government area. The sample size for the study was determined to be 377, selected randomly using Slovin's formula. The primary tool for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Effect of Anchor Borrowers Programme on Farm Produce Questionnaire (EABPFPQ)." To ensure the quality of the instrument, it underwent face and content validity assessments by three experts from the Department of Political Science at Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai. The instrument's reliability was evaluated using Chronbach Alpha statistics, resulting in a coefficient of 0.89, indicating a high level of consistency. Descriptive statistics, including simple percentage, frequency count, mean, and standard deviation, were employed to analyze the data, providing insights into the research questions. Additionally, inferential statistics, specifically regression analysis facilitated by the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), were used to test the null hypotheses at an alpha level of 0.05 significance. This comprehensive methodology aims to uncover the effects of the Anchor Borrowers Programme on farm produce, contributing valuable insights to the research objectives.

Model Specification

$$Y = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon$$

Where,

Y = Dependent variables (Increase in Farm inputs/yield of farmers)

α = Interception

X_1 = Independent variable (Anchor Borrower Programme). β_1 = Regression coefficient.

Ɛ = error of the estimate.

Result and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Demographic Data of Respondents

Gender of Respondents		
Male	321	91
Female	33	9
Total	**354**	**100**
Output per Farmer before APB Intervention		
1-10 bags	302	86
11-20	34	10
21 and above	18	6
Total	**354**	**100**
Output per Farmer during APB Intervention		
20-30 bags	100	28
31-40	152	43
41-60	66	19
61 Above	36	10
Total	**354**	**10**

Source: *Field Survey September, 2023*

Table revealed that 321 representing 91% of the respondents were male farmers, while the remaining 33 representing 9% of the respondents were female farmers. This finding support the finding of Balogun et al., (2021) who reported 52.8% of Male farmers and 47.2% of Female farmers. The table also indicates that 302 representing 86% of the respondents' farm output is between 20 to 30bags, 152 representing 43% of the respondents farm output is between 31 to 40bags, 66 representing 19% of the respondent farm output is between 41 to 60bags, while the remaining 36 representing 10% of the respondents has farm output of between 61bags and above. The analysis above indicates that majority of the farmers (321) are male with minority of (33) female farmers. The analysis further indicated that there is increase in farm output of farmers after ABP intervention.

Table 2: Effect of ABP on farm produce of farmer in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

S/N	Effect	Mean (X)	Std. Dev	Decision
1	I believe that farm output in my community was low before the implementation of ABP	3.12	0.62	Accepted
2	I believe that farm output in my community has increased due to the implementation of ABP	2.66	0.50	Accepted
3	There is a noticeable difference in farm output before and during the implementation of ABP	3.12	0.62	Accepted
4	The productivity of ABP beneficiaries has being improving over the years (2016-2021)	3.12	0.62	Accepted
5	With the help of ABP, beneficiaries are able to embrace mechanized farming which has assisted them in cultivating more hectares of farmland	3.12	0.62	Accepted
6	There is increase in the production of farm produce like rice and cassava as a result of assistance and service rendered by ABP	2.12	0.23	Accepted
7	The Anchor Borrowers Programme has contributed to the overall improvement of agricultural practices in Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State	3.77	0.73	Accepted
8	With ABP assistance beneficiaries are able purchase adequate fertilizer and agro-chemicals that boost the production of their farm produce	3.12	0.62	Accepted
9	I attribute the increase in farm output in my community to the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP)."	3.12	0.62	Accepted
10	I believe that the increased farm output due to ABP is sustainable in the long term	3.12	0.62	Accepted
	Grand Mean	**3.98**	**1.19**	

Source: *Field Survey September, 2023*

Result in table 2 revealed that the entire respondent agreed to all the ten items on the table. The table recorded a mean range from 3.12 and 2.66. The table recorded a grand mean of 3.29 and 1.07 standard deviation on the ten items indicating that majority of respondents shared the same opinion that Anchor Borrowers Programme has contributed immensely in improving the productivity of beneficiaries in the agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State from 2016-2021. The analysis above indicates that before the intervention of ABP programme the productivity of farmers or farm yield while practicing subsistence farming was very low as an average farmer produces few bags like 1-20bags. But the productivity ABP beneficiaries has being improving over the years (2016-2021), with the help of ABP, the beneficiaries were able to embrace mechanized farming which has assisted them in cultivating more hectares of farmland they are able to produce 50bags and above, there is increase in the production of farm produce like rice and cassava as a result of assistance and service rendered by ABP, with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able diversify into various forms of farming that makes them to be very productive and that with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able purchase adequate fertilizer and agro-chemicals that boost the production of their farm produce, paid their children school fees, purchase of motorcycle which help them movement to school and hospital and building of additional residential houses.

Table 3: Implementation challenges of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021?

S/N	Challenges	Mean (X)	Std. Dev.	Decision
1	The challenging process of obtaining inputs	2.12	0.23	Accepted
2	Delayed distribution of credit Inadequate credit availability	3.77	0.73	Accepted
3	Inadequate credit availability	3.45	0.86	Accepted
4	Inadequate training on sustainable crop production practices	3.12	0.62	Accepted
5	Poor training on sustainable crop production practices	3.12	0.62	Accepted
6	Delay in release of proceed	2.12	0.23	Accepted
7	High cost of inputs	3.77	0.73	Accepted
8	The loan recovery rate was very poor as result of flood, pest and diseases which damages crops thereby preventing the beneficiaries from paying	3.12	0.62	Accepted
9	Inability of ABP to cover larger percentage of real farmers especially female farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area	3.45	0.86	Accepted
10	Poor processing and storage facilities	2.12	0.23	Accepted
	Grand Mean	**3.87**	**1.34**	

Source: *Field Survey September, 2023*

Result in table 3 shows that the entire respondent agreed to all the ten items on the table. The table recorded a mean range from 3.45 and 2.77. The table recorded a grand The mean score of 3.89 and a standard deviation of 1.34 across the ten items suggest a noteworthy consensus among respondents regarding the challenges encountered in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021. A standard deviation close to zero signifies that data points are closely clustered around the mean. The analysis indicates that the majority of respondents share similar opinions on the challenges faced during the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the study area.

The identified challenges include a rigorous process for accessing inputs, delayed distribution of credit, credit insufficiency, inadequate quality of extension staff, insufficient training on sustainable crop production practices, delayed release of proceeds, poor loan recovery rates due to factors like floods and pest infestations damaging crops, the inability of the Anchor Borrowers Programme to cover a larger percentage of real farmers, especially female farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, and inadequacies in processing and storage facilities. These challenges collectively underscore the complexities and difficulties faced by farmers participating in the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the study area. Addressing these issues is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the program in supporting agricultural development and livelihoods in the study area.

H_{O1}: ABP has no significant effect on farm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

Table 4 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.544[a]	.544	.143	1.00213

a. Predictors: (Constant), dependent_y

The table 4 above is a summary of the model which shows relationship that exists between the studied variables which is Anchor Borrower Programme and farm produce of farmers. The analysis shows a significant impact as r = 0.544(54%). This shows that Anchor Borrower Programme has significantly improves/increases the farm produce of farmers in the study area.

Table: 5 ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	4.515	1	4.515	.3.234	.035[b]
	Residual	13.231	2	13.231		
	Total	17.746	3			

a. Dependent Variable: (Independent_x)

b. Predictors: (Constant), (dependent_y)

Table 5 indicates that the p-value is 0.039, which is less than the alpha value of 0.05 and is significant at the 1.0% level. This suggests that the model is statistically significant, as evidenced by F=3.234 and p=0.035. Consequently, the Anchor Borrower Programme is considered a good predictor of the increase in farm produce among farmers in the study area. Therefore, the null hypothesis, which posits that the ABP has no significant effect on the farm produce of farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria, from 2016-2021, is rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis. This implies that the Anchor Borrowers Programme has a statistically significant impact on the increase in farm produce for farmers in the specified region during the mentioned timeframe.

H_{O2}: There are no significant challenges in the implementation of Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area Niger State, Nigeria from 2016-2021.

Table 6: Chi-square Computation

O	E	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$\Sigma \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
270	354	-84	7056	19.9
84	354	-270	72900	205
300	354	-54	2916	8.2
54	354	-300	90000	254.2
				X^2 =487.3

$$\text{Chi-square } (X^2) = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where
O = Observed frequency,

E = Expected Frequency

X^2 = Chi-square

In Table 6, the critical value of 394.62, obtained from the chi-square table at an alpha level of 0.05, is compared with the calculated value of 487.3. The calculated value exceeds the critical value of 394.62. Therefore, the researcher rejects the null hypothesis, which posits that there are no significant challenges in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area, Niger State, Nigeria, from 2016-2021. Instead, the alternative hypothesis, asserting that there are significant challenges in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the specified area during the mentioned timeframe, is accepted. This implies that the challenges identified in the study are statistically significant, highlighting the complexities and obstacles faced in the execution of the Anchor Borrowers Programme in the given region.

Discussion of Findings

The analysis above indicates that before the intervention of ABP programme the productivity of farmers or farm yield while practicing subsistence farming was very low as an average farmer produces few bags like 1-20bags. But the productivity ABP beneficiaries has being improving over the years (2016-2021), with the help of ABP, the beneficiaries were able to embrace mechanized farming which has assisted them in cultivating more hectares of farmland they are able to produce 50bags and above, there is increase in the production of farm produce like rice and cassava as a result of assistance and service rendered by ABP, with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able diversify into various forms of farming that makes them to be very productive and that with ABP assistance beneficiaries are able purchase adequate fertilizer and agro-chemicals that boost the production of their farm produce, paid their children school fees, purchase of motorcycle which help them movement to school and hospital and building of additional residential houses.

The analysis above indicates that rigorous process of accessing inputs, late distribution of credit, insufficiency of credit, inadequate quality of extension staff, poor training on sustainable crop production practices, delay in release of proceed, poor loan recovery rate due to flood, pest and diseases which damages crops, inability of ABP to cover larger percentage of real farmers especially female farmers in agrarian communities in Lapai Local Government Area and poor The challenges identified in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) in the study area, particularly

regarding processing and storage facilities, align with similar findings reported by Badejo et al. (2018). Badejo et al. highlighted that despite the perceived benefits of the program, implementation arrangements for the ABP are still unclear due to limited awareness, overlapping roles of stakeholders, issues with updated databases, a lack of credible monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and the potential prevalence of elite capture.

Furthermore, the current study's findings resonate with the research conducted by Okeke et al. (2019), which revealed that beneficiaries of the Anchor Borrowers' Programme experienced significantly higher income and farm output compared to non-beneficiaries. Additionally, the study is consistent with the findings of Olarewaju (2019), who reported that awareness about the ABP has a positive influence on farmers' participation and the yield of rice grown.

These collective findings emphasize the multifaceted nature of challenges in the implementation of agricultural intervention programs such as the ABP. They underscore the importance of addressing issues related to awareness, stakeholder roles, database management, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and equitable distribution of benefits to ensure the effectiveness and success of such programs in supporting farmers and enhancing agricultural productivity.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, this study concludes that the Anchor Borrowers Programme (ABP) has a significant impact on the agricultural output of farmers residing in agrarian communities within the Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State. The program has played a crucial role in enhancing the productivity of its beneficiaries, evident in improved farm activities, increased output and yield, the broadening of farming activities, and the facilitation of the adoption of mechanized farming systems. The research also affirmed the existence of considerable challenges in the implementation of the Anchor Borrowers Programme within the study area. Notable hurdles include insufficient credit availability, a lack of quality in extension staff, inadequate training in sustainable crop production practices, delays in the release of proceeds, high input costs, and the program's inability to encompass a larger proportion of genuine farmers, particularly female farmers in agrarian communities within the Lapai Local Government Area.

Recommendations

Based on the results, the following suggestions were put forward:

i. Anchor Borrower Programme should increase number of enrolment of farmers and credit facilities in order cover more farmers and increase their productivity,

ii. More female farmers should also be enroll by ABP to bridge the gap between male farmers who benefited from the programme;

iii. Farm inputs and credit facilities must be provided to farmers in a timely manner to ensure prompt preparation for farming activities.

iv. Qualified and experienced extension workers should be employed to provide appropriate training on sustainable crop production practices to beneficiaries,

v. Provision should be made by ABP on how to minimize the effect of flood, pest and diseases which damages crops, to ensure prompt payment of loan by the beneficiaries.

vi. Farm input and seed should also be subsidized or be made affordable by ABP;

vii. Processing and storage facilities should be made available by Lapai Local Government Area in collaboration with ABP to minimize spoilage.

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THE POLITICS OF APPOINTING POLITICAL AND CARREER DIPLOMATS' IN NIGERIA: Understanding the Nexus

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KEYWORDS
Ambassadors, Diplomacy, Foreign officers, National interest

ABSTRACT
Diplomatic appointment in Nigeria is an elite phenomenon and shrouded with many secrecies. The process of selection and confirmation of ambassadors for onward posting to their receiving states is a complex process. Though, there are literature on diplomacy and international relations with respect to foreign policy, but there are limited literature on the selection and confirmation process of ambassadors' in Nigeria. This paper examines the complex process of ambassadorial appointments and their role in promoting national interest of their respective states in foreign land. The paper also examines the relationship that exist between the two categories of ambassadors and the rights and privileges they enjoyed while discharging their duties in foreign land. The author used content analysis and interview of some professional experts in the field of law making and international relations. The findings of the paper shows that diplomatic appointment in Nigeria is complex. Both political and career ambassadors are deployed by the federal government of Nigeria through the ministry of foreign affairs in foreign land for representation and promotion of national interest. Diplomatic appointment in Nigeria is exclusively preserved for the President. However, it requires legislative (Senate) confirmation and security clearance. The paper recommends that the Nigerian government need to review the application of federal character principle and quota system in the appointment of ambassadors.

Introduction

Nigeria attained independence status on 1st October, 1960, from her erstwhile colonial power, Britain. It is essential to know; only independent nations have the right to operate foreign services or missions. However, before the actual independence, British started preparing Nigeria for international relations in 1957 when some selected group of people (12 in number) were carefully selected for special training with respect to international diplomacy and foreign relations in Britain (Saliu, 2016). Therefore, in a nutshell, Nigeria foreign service was a product of British policy that was deliberately planted during the colonial period through the independence. By foreign service, the author means a defined instrument for implementing foreign policies of nation states (Saliu, 2016). Diplomats are special people or members of foreign services of various nations of the world who work to connect their host nations with their parent countries. All countries around the world operate foreign services with

diplomats well train to serve and protect the interest of their mother country. They connect and stabilize relationship between nations around the world. Diplomatic missions are extremely important in the world in projecting the power and influence of countries. They equally facilitate the realization of national objectives of most or all modern states.

Diplomats are of two categories in Nigeria's foreign relation activities; there is what is called Career diplomats' and Political diplomats'. These two set of people are appointed by President of the federal republic of Nigeria to manage the country's national embassies overseas. Both political and career diplomats required the screening of the Nigerian Senate after been selected and recommended by the President of Nigeria. Career diplomats grow through the civil service career from the foreign Affairs Ministry to become Ambassadors. Career diplomats are trained professional. While on the other hand, political diplomats are people selected from among politicians who contributed to the emergence of the President and his party to power. There are many literatures on diplomacy and Nigerian foreign policy from inception of independence to date. But there are limited literature on the relationship that exist between the Career diplomats and Political diplomats. In the military era, the political diplomats were a silent issue because, there was no need for Senate approval and hence, not much was heard of this category of diplomats. But Career-professional diplomats have been in the existence since the creation of Nigeria.

Nigeria has long recognized the need to show more appreciation for the role of diplomatic missions in the execution of her foreign policy. This according to Saliu (2016) informed the establishment of one hundred and four missions represented in embassies, high commissions, permanent missions and Consulate General etc that the country has across the world which cut across 94 countries (Embassies, 2023).

In essence, this paper intends to examine the two categories of diplomats in the realm of foreign relation in Nigeria, with a view to establishing their relationship and how they operate side by side seamlessly. Additionally, the paper will examine the role, rights, privileges and opportunities accorded to diplomats in our modern world of today.

British colonial master began the process of training Nigerians on the activities of foreign service missions around the world even before independence. In 1957, a number of people were selected from the legal and teaching professions for specific training on International relations matters (Adeniji, 1990). The first batch of these foreign service officers were recruited and returned to Nigeria for take-off in 1958 and 1959 (Saliu, 2016; Akinyemi, 1989; Adeniji, 1990). All foreign service activities before 1957 was organized under the watch, supervision and approval of British government. However, by 1957, when regional autonomy was granted to the Western and Eastern regions, showed a clear road map that Nigeria will soon be release from colonial exploitation and therefore, to be entrusted with full powers of conducting her international diplomacy free from United Kingdom interference.

In this regards, the department of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations was first created in 1957 under the office of the Prime Minister of Nigeria (Fafowora, 2008). This office serves as a gateway to all foreign service activities of Nigeria until the attainment of Independence in 1960. The Prime Minister maintained the external affairs and commonwealth relations under his watch through his Secretary until 1961 when a substantive Minister was assigned (Saliu, 2016; Gambari, 1980). The first Minister of the External Affairs was Dr. J. A. Wachukwu. The first 12 indigenous foreign officers trained by the British before independence are; D. C. Igwe, Soji Williams, Prince Adedokun Haastrup, Philip Asiodu, M. A. Sanusi, C. C. Chukwura, Leslie Harriman, E. O. Ogunsulire, John Ukaegwu, Chuks O. Ifeagwu, Olumide O. Omololu and John Garba (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023).

From 1960 to date, Nigerian government successfully expanded her coverage of the world with her embassies and consulates general across many nations around the world. Similarly, Nigeria connected herself effectively at the level of international Organizations and also led in the formations and emergence of several international organizations in Africa and third world nations across the globe.

Categories of Diplomats in Nigeria

Nigerian political landscape recognized two set of people eligible for appointment to head her foreign missions around the globe. These two set of people are classified as political diplomats' and career diplomats'. Political diplomats are selected by the President of the

country from the crop of the politicians to head missions in foreign lands after passing legislative screening and security checks. While career diplomats are civil servants who rise to the rank of ambassadors or envoys to head missions or embassies of their home country. They are trained professional who grow from the lowest rank in the civil service to the peak of their career to be appointed as ambassadors. The supervising ministry of most professional diplomats is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) with few exception coming from the generalist perspective (Saliu, 2016; Gambari, 1980).

In general terms, the primary responsibilities of a diplomat involve representing and protecting the interests and citizens of their home state abroad: initiating and facilitating strategic agreements, negotiating treaties and conventions, exchanging information, fostering trade and commerce, and pursuing friendly international relations.

The distinction between career diplomats and political appointees or diplomats' is important. Although any person may be appointed by a government to conduct its relations with other states or international organizations, many states, including Nigeria, maintain an institutionalized group of career diplomats, who are selected competitively and maintain a steady professional connection to the country's foreign affairs ministry. Both career diplomats and political appointees or diplomats' serve the same functions and enjoy the same diplomatic immunities under international law, but there are some differences between the two.

The 1999 Nigerian Constitution as amended captured the role of the President in the selection of qualified people with proven integrity to represent the country in foreign nations. Section 171 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria says,

1) Power to appoint persons to hold or act in the offices to which this section applies and to remove persons so appointed from any such office shall vest in the President.

2) The office to which this section applies are, namely-

3) Ambassadors, High Commissioner or other Principal Representative of Nigeria

4) An appointment to the office of Ambassador, High Commissioner or other Principal Representative of Nigeria abroad shall not have effect unless the appointment is confirmed by the Senate.

5) in exercising his powers of appointment under this section, the President shall have regard to the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity.

6) any appointment made pursuant to paragraph (a) and (e) of subsection (2) of this section shall be at the pleasure of the President and shall cease when the President ceases to hold office.

(1) CAREER DIPLOMATS'

Career Diplomats are professional officers who usually grow in the civil service (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) through the ranks by undergoing competitive examinations and interviews and eventually if successful will reach the peak of their career and be crown as an ambassador by the President of Nigeria.

Career or professional diplomats are set of foreign service officers who are usually recruited by Federal Civil Service Commission through the traditional ways of recruiting staff of other sister ministries. The successful candidates are posted to serve in the foreign affairs ministry and other foreign missions around the world. These crop of officers are professionally trained from the scratch and grow in that line to the highest level of 15-17 to become career diplomats. While some people among them may not get appointed due to many factors which may include policy or institutional illogicalities (Saliu, 2016) of federal character principle and quota system.

Similarly, other nations around the world including Nigeria still maintain two ways of appointing diplomats, that is institutionalized group of professional diplomats that is public servants with a steady growth in the country's foreign ministry who specializes in the art of diplomacy throughout their civil service career. They are assumed to be professional and possess more expertise and prerequisite of conducting foreign relations. Foreign relations is a complex phenomenon that requires people with not only expertise but equally experience to relate

diplomatically in advancing national interest of their home country globally and specifically in countries of their posting. Former US Congress man, (Bera, 2019) says,

> *"while it is true that some political appointees contribute a wealth of professional experience, many individuals have little or no prior diplomatic experience. During a time of increasingly complex global challenges and national security threats, the United States must have our most qualified and experienced public servants representing the country around the world".*

However, in Nigeria career diplomats passes through several hurdles before reaching their peak dream of been appointed as a diplomat (Saliu, 2016). Career progression for foreign services personnel was never easy. Apart from institutional contradictions and environmental factors other notable factors affecting career progression of professional diplomats are Quota system and the Federal Character Principle (FCP) of Nigeria Federal Civil Service. Many staff of the foreign service were affected on the basis of quota and federal character principles. An officer on grade level 17 who is most qualified eligible for appointment as a diplomat may not get appointed, but an officer on grade level 15 may be appointed instead. This often happen when quota system and FCP is applied. This habitual skipping of the most qualified because of the quota and FCP promotes frustration and lost of morale among the foreign service officers (Osuntokun, 2005; Saliu, 2016).

(2) POLITICAL DIPLOMATS'

Political diplomats as the name implies, means diplomats who are appointed by Mr. President amongst his political associates who apparently contributed to his electoral victory. Political diplomats are not necessarily experience diplomats and therefore people are chosen on the basis of their relationship with parties in power and their political contributions. Political patronage is the guiding principle in the selection of political diplomats. In Nigeria, it is a tradition since the inception of the county at independence, political diplomats are appointed by the President principally on the basis of partisan support, electoral influence, campaign support and funding of party in power. These people are sometime referring to as non-career diplomats because they never served in any foreign service as officers but their political sagacity and social influence in the political landscape of Nigeria earn them this coveted position of diplomatic office.

Ambassadorships are often used as a form of political patronage to reward important supporters of the President, who contributed immensely to his electoral success through donations of money and political support (Saliu, 2016). Sometime, politicians who loses elections are compensated by political appointment of ambassadorship. The President of Nigeria is constitutionally empowered to select people whom he deems qualified and of high integrity and send their names or list to the National Assembly for screening and confirmation.

The senate will subject these people to reasonable screening to unravel their capabilities and competences to represent the country abroad. Similarly, security agencies are expected to investigate the history and social background of candidates to ascertain their patriotism and integrity in furthering the interest of Nigeria without an iota of compromise. The essential of security clearance cannot be overemphasize because diplomats are expected to be hundred percent loyal to their home state and friendly to his country of posting.

Both political and career diplomats serve same function of protecting and promoting the national interest of their home country without necessarily hurting their host country. Therefore, diplomats are national representatives who work tirelessly in facilitating national interest of their parent country through the instrumentality of foreign policy.

At the beginning of Nigeria's foreign service relations, career diplomats were predominantly appointed by the Balewa administration. This trend also followed through some military regimes of Gowon, Murtala and Obasanjo era. Nigerian government of previous years considered professional diplomats more often than political diplomats. However, the Shagari administration reverse the trend by rewarding and compensating politicians with political appointments including ambassadorial appointment (Saliu, 2016; Adeniji, 1990; Akinyemi, 1989). This inclination of given priority to political diplomats continues till date which affected the morale and prospect of professional career diplomats as many who are ably qualified are not appointed because of political exigencies

to satisfy cronies and associates (Saliu, 2016; Adeniji, 1990; Akinyemi, 1989). The civilian government of President Olusegun Obasanjo which lasted between 1999 to 2007 was noted to have appointed almost hundred percent non-career diplomats (Azeez & Oshewolo, 2021). This policy of given preference to unprofessional instead of career diplomats had actually lowered the morale of foreign service personnel who dreamt to reach their peak and hopefully retire as ambassadors is been shattered every day (Saliu, 2016; Fawole, 2003; Fafowora, 2009)

Presentation and Receipt of Letter of Credence

Nominated diplomats irrespective of their categories (professional or political) will be presented with a formal letter called 'letter of credence' which signifies his or her appointment as a diplomat and also indicating his or her country of deployment by the President of Nigeria or his/her representative.

Similarly, in Nigerian tradition and customs, letter of credence is usually presented to the prospective ambassadors by the President of Nigeria in a ceremony marking their initiation into the foreign service responsibilities.

However, it is essential to know, all people nominated and confirmed by Senate to serve as diplomats in foreign missions of Nigeria must pass screening and eligibility status in the country of their designate. Meaning, the resume of the prospective diplomat will be sent to his/her country of posting for investigation and approval. The home country where the diplomats is about to be posted has the right to give approval for his coming or otherwise. After receiving positive signal, the potential diplomats would be given his/her letter of credence formally by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In this regards, on the presentation of this letter to all appointed diplomats, they are expected to proceed to the home country of their posting and make a formal presentation of these letters to their President(s). The President or Prime Minister of the receiving nation or any of their representative is equally expected to organize a formal ceremony by welcoming the newly posted diplomat and received their letter of credence. Upon receipt of this letter by the President/Prime Minister or any of their representative, the diplomat is ready for resumption of work (Fawole, 2003; Fafowora, 2008, Osuntokun, 2005, Landsberg, 2008).

The two ceremonies (Presentation and Receipt of Letter of Credence) as explained above are significant events in the history of diplomatic relations as the activity confer recognition and legitimacy on the newly appointed ambassadors (Saliu, 2016, Fawole, 2003; Fafowora, 2008, Osuntokun, 2005, Landsberg, 2008). The aforementioned scholars buttressed the point that presentation of letter of credence and the receipt of the letter by the receiving state is a very crucial activity in the history of diplomatic appointment not only with Nigeria but it affects all nations around the world based on 1961 Vienna Conventions. In essence, before any appointed ambassador become substantive and functional, he must pass through these two ceremonial stages.

Roles and Duties of Diplomats

Diplomacy can be an exciting and fulfilling career path for those who want to influence foreign affairs of their nations through their work. These individuals represent their host country abroad. A diplomat is a foreign policy leader who facilitate the interest of his/her country's at the global stage. They work hard to further promote and protect the national interest of their home countries without jeopardizing the interest of their host country. Therefore, diplomats are expected to possess some unique features that would allowed them navigate the difficult path of satisfying both his home state and host country. They may do this by evolving and upholding peaceful relations with the host country's leadership or by enabling an exchange of information to help their home country and their host country to better understand each other (Ziegler, 2023).

Consequently, being a diplomat is a precious job in international relations because it allows an individual to have a great impact on foreign services. Diplomats are generally involved in solving international issues through collective solutions. Diplomats strike a balance between their own home government's interest and those of the other nations by negotiating contracts that are seen advantageous to the two states.

Generally speaking, recently the world has become more globalized as a result of information technology, therefore, diplomats are assigned more crucial roles in determining how international relations will explore in the near future (Ziegler. 2023).

Moreover, diplomacy is a fulfilling career and specifically exciting profession where they engaged in safeguarding their people's interest and diplomatically involved in reconciling conflicts at the international level. They are also pioneers in formulating and implementing foreign policy of their nations. Building cultural relationship among nations of the world is also one major duties of diplomats around the world (Azeez & Oshewola, 2021).

Ziegler (2023) says, diplomats are entrusted to do the following; protect the interest of their home state, protect the citizens of their home state in the country they are serving, promote and build cordial relationship between the two countries, advance and ensure economic, trade and political interest of their home country is not affected, granting visas to nationals of their host countries, promote peace and security regionally and internationally, registering birth of their nationals in the host countries they are serving and handling of treaties and conventions

Diplomatic functions vary from state to state, however, one fundamental objective of diplomats is to ensure promotion of cordial relationship among nations of the world without jeopardizing the national interest of their state. Diplomats in essence are most often dissemblers in their actions. They labor hard to satisfy two conflicting interest under a difficult situation (Gana, 2023).

To sum it up, the functions of diplomats can be discussed under the following identified headings (Ziegler. 2023);

a) **Consular Services:** the consular office of missions deals with day-to-day travel problems like lost of passports and provides essential services to citizens in need. They also issue Visas to national of their serving countries. Diplomats in their host nations offers urgent services to nationals going abroad. Most of the citizen needs are attended to by the consular office.

b) **Trade Services:** The trade office promotes the interests of the country's corporations and firms by introducing them to helpful networks, informing them of business opportunities, providing guidance for visits, and necessary information they can use. Trade office is virtually responsible for advancing the economic interest of their home state at the international level by building, managing and sustaining cordial economic relationship with other countries.

c) **Political Services:** A political office usually reports on local developments and advocates for support for the country's interests. They are promoters of national interest of the parent country in the foreign land. Their role is most crucial in sustaining relationship among nations of the world. Political office in diplomatic relations is responsible for communication between nations. They support the government by providing necessary guidance and efficient analysis on strategies of achieving national objectives. They are responsible for initiating policies and programs for achieving constructive current affairs and other global issues that will bring positive outcome to their home state. They respond to investigations made in person and others including written communication and international connections. Another crucial diplomatic duty of political office is to maintain a relationship between their host country and their home country. This might involve communicating with government officials from the host country or networking with citizens of the host country. They may then communicate what they learn about the political and social situations back to their home country's government.

d) **Management office:** This type of office is the leadership, and responsible for embassy operations, including budgeting and security. The daily administration of the embassy and routine activities are handle by the management office. This office further control departments and assigned duties to all departments including their spending limits

e) **Public diplomacy office:** This office works with academics, think tanks, government official and several others who are assume to have knowledge of diplomacy and

international relations in promoting national interest and foreign policy objective of their home state. This office most of the time are occupied by expertise and professional foreign officers for the purpose of initiating policies that will stand the test of time and achieved national objective. They are most often hidden (Ziegler, 2023).

Rights and Privileges Accorded to Diplomats

Diplomats as noted earlier in the previous sections of this paper as people who reside in foreign land and act as representatives of their sending nations. They act as a link between the country that dispatched them and by whom they are accredited.

Diplomatic relations among nations in the world has been a tradition followed by states since ancient time and there several conventions and treatise covering on diplomatic relationship (Sharma, 2019). The international law covering on diplomatic relations was reviewed after the emergence of United Nations Organizations (UN) in 1945. It was in 1961, the Vienna Convention was approved by the UN General Assembly and it became one of the instrument that guide most of the activities of diplomats around the world (Saliu, 2016; Sharma, 2019). Under the 1961 Vienna Convention, diplomats are classified into; Ambassadors, envoys, ministers and charges d' Affairs

In addition, ambassadors and all diplomats enjoys certain rights and privileges as they work in the foreign land. The international law as captured in the Vienna Convention of 1961 confers diplomatic immunity on diplomats from exercise of jurisdiction by the receiving states (Sharma, 2019). The 1961 Vienna Convention lays down the following as rights and privileges to be enjoy by all diplomats around the world;

1. **Inviolability of Diplomatic Agent**: The principle of inviolability is conferred on all diplomats as recognized by international law. Article *29 of the Vienna Convention* states that *"the person of a diplomat agent shall be inviolable"* meaning, all diplomats are not in anyway liable to any form of arrest or detention and the home state he is serving as ambassador shall treat him with all due respect and take all reasonable measures to ensure he is prevented from attack on his personal freedom and dignity (Sharma, 2019).

2. **Inviolability of the Staff of the Mission:** Staff of the mission in the receiving country are also covered from local laws of the country. This law is captured under article *37 of the Vienna Convention.* The administrative and technical staff also enjoys immunity from criminal jurisdiction, inviolability of residence, exemption from taxes and duties, and immunity from civil and administrative jurisdiction during performance of their duties.

3. **Family members of a Diplomatic agent**: family members are also covered based on the Vienna Convention of the 1961. Family members of diplomats who are not nationals of the receiving state and not permanent resident are equally covered with immunity. All household members of diplomats are by this law to enjoy all rights and privileges conferred on the head of the family, who is the ambassador.

4. **All premises of diplomatic mission are also covered:** Under the inviolability law of the Vienna Convention, The receiving state is expected to provide a befitting environment. The office housing diplomat any where in the world is covered from any form of harassment and intimidation from police or any agent of the receiving state. However, this law can stop to exist where the diplomatic office violate the rule of using the office by operating anything that contradict it original intended purpose (Sharma, 2019). Meaning, the inviolability of the office premises is not absolute. Article 41 of the Convention says, *"premises of the mission should not be used in any manner as incompatible with functions of mission or by rules of general international Law".*

5. **Inviolability for serving as a Witness in a Court of Law:** All diplomatic agents are covered with immunity from appearing in a court of law as a witness for either civil, criminal or administrative case. The receiving state cannot forced diplomatic agent or their family member from appearing in a court of law. Article *31(2)* of the Vienna Convention states that *diplomat agents is not obliged to give evidence as a witness* in a Court of law.

6. **Diplomats are also immune from the inspection of their personal and diplomatic baggage:** Personal baggage of diplomats are exempted from inspection by the receiving state and their agents at any point of either entry or exit. Article 27 of the Vienna Convention states that *diplomatic bag should not be opened or detained.*

7. **Immunity from Taxes and all Custom Duties:** Diplomats and their family members are again immune from all form of taxes and duties charge by the home state they are serving. *Diplomatic agents shall be exempted from all dues and taxes, personal or real, national municipal or regional.* This was stated under article ***34*** of the Vienna Convention.

8. **Diplomats are free to communicate any information for official purposes:** communication is one essential tool of polishing and grinding the work of diplomats. They are free to communicate any official information in the country they are serving. However, they are not allowed to make unnecessary comment on political matters. Free flow of information helps in strengthening diplomatic relations among nations and that is why Vienna Convention under article 27 recognized it importance and thereby lay it as follows; *the freedom of communication are also involves the use of code, messages and couriers.*

9. **Diplomats are also covered to worship any religion they profess:** Article 3(1) of the Vienna Convention recognized the freedom of diplomats to practice any religion of their choice without any hinderance. The International Law under the Vienna Convention recognized freedom of religion for all diplomats and there members of the family in their office premises or their residence. However, they are not allowed to invite nationals of the receiving state to practice their religion, nor are they allowed to preach that religion in the country.

10. Diplomats are also covered under the International Laws under the Vienna Convention of the 1961 to move freely in the country of the receiving state.

However, it is good to note that, upon all these rights and privileges accorded to diplomats and their agents, it cannot be absolute all the time. Where diplomats and their family members fail to conform to international laws, they are likely going to lose their immunity and laws will catch with them. Therefore, diplomats are expected to be people with high integrity and sense of belonging. Diplomats must handle stressful and difficult situations calmly and adapt quickly to changing situations. They work with people from other cultures with different values, political beliefs, and religions. So, diplomats must have good judgment and high integrity, and they need strong analytical skills.

By and large, diplomats are expected to be skillful and tactful in their approach to duties. In summary as captured by Sharma (2019), skills expected of diplomat are; An interest in foreign affairs, other countries, and cultures, communication skills, constructive and innovative thinking, proactive approach to work, resourceful, the ability to build relationships, decision-making skill, attention to details, commercial and financial awareness, the ability to work under pressure, taking on the responsibility, flexibility and desire to learn and improve

Nexus between Political and Career Diplomats

At this moment is good to note that both political and career diplomat perform the same role of representation on behalf of their country in the receiving state. They act to promote and safeguard the national interest of their country. The two categories of the diplomats usually pass through the rigorous screening of the Senate and upon confirmation they are expected to receive letter of credence from the head of state in a mini ceremony organized by the office of the president. They are also expected to deliver same letter to the President of the receiving or accrediting state, who is also expected to received them in a mini ceremony to be organized by his or her office.

Similarly, all ambassadors appointed and confirmed by the Senate must pass through the investigation of the security agencies. The security agencies are expected to investigate all nominated ambassadors by finding out their social background and also ascertain their national patriotism. Moreover, ambassadors are people with special status who stand for the President of their country's in the receiving state. Therefore, their national patriotism

cannot be in question. They are supposed to be people with high level of integrity with excellent judgement both local and international issues.

In addition, both political and career diplomat are expected to serve not more than 3-4 years in the country of their posting (Saliu, 2016). The president has the right to recalled ambassador(s) anytime as enshrine in the constitution. In other word, ambassadors whether political or career has no defined term of office. Their appointment ends when the President of the country decide to recalled them.

Also, political and diplomatic ambassadors enjoys all the privileges outlined in this paper as enshrined in the 1961 Vienna Convention. The Vienna Convention did not make difference between career or political diplomats. They are treated equal by the receiving country in the discharge of their ambassadorial duties.

Similarly, political and career diplomats are affected by FCP and quota system in Nigeria. Political appointees are affected during their selection process while career diplomats are affected during their career progression in the Civil Service.

However, it equally worthy of note, that political diplomats are most of the time beginners in the business of international diplomacy. They are appointed by the government simply because of political inclination. Political patronage is the reason for their appointments. Usually political ambassadors are recruited from the rank of politicians who the President deem politically indebted to. But, career diplomats are trained people who grow steadily to reach the peak of their career through the routine civil service bureaucracy. Career diplomats are trained people with essential expertise for negotiation and prerequisite knowledge of diplomatic relationship. They posses the required experience that will propelled conducive relationship between and among nations. They needed little or no training at the point of resuming duty after appointment by the President. But political appointees are most of the time naive of international proceedings and international diplomacy in particular. They are expected to undergo some training to prepare them for the task ahead.

Performance of political diplomats and career diplomat may vary. According to people interviewed, and by objective measures, political nominees are often less qualified than professional foreign service personnel, which raises controversies surrounding competence and fairness of political appointees. Diplomats should be accorded to men and women having clearly verified competence and vibrant capacity to perform ambassadorial duties. Previous literature revealed that, the merit-based system in diplomatic appointments improves performances of the bureaucracy by cultivating valuable expertise.

Furthermore, a merit-based system ensures that diplomats are hired, promoted, and fired based on the quality of their work as civil servant rather than their involvement in politics. During a decades-long service career at the MFA, one gains valuable expertise by grasping the administrative rules and regulations, learning the details of international relations, unraveling the intricacies and complexities of the interagency process, and building relationships with a wide range of international actors. In contrast, political appointees have been derided as outsiders and total strangers in the field to which they are assigned (Diplomacy).

Research gathered though personal contacts and interview of some experts revealed that, career bureaucrats are on average more effective in discharge of their duties as diplomats. Career foreign service officers and ambassadors tend to have better equipped with higher educational qualifications and experience, including better language skills, more international expertise, and better leadership when compared with political appointees. Quoted in Azeez and Oshewolo (2021)

> *Expressing his displeasure about the current situation in Nigeria's diplomatic appointment, retired Ambassador Oladapo Fafowora (one of Nigeria's finest career diplomats during his time in active service and a former president of the Association of Retired Career Ambassadors of Nigeria) noted that an arrangement in which the number of non-career diplomats exceeds that of the professionals would undermine professionalism, weaken the Foreign Service, and hurt Nigeria's image abroad. He therefore noted that the ratio of 60 non-career ambassadors to 40 career ambassadors under the current government of President*

Muhammadu Buhari was not justifiable.

This opinion hereby affirmed the need for government to consider appointing career diplomats more in number than political diplomats. Career diplomats poses the prerequisite experiences and the skills needed to pursue national interest of their state to a logical conclusion. Foreign policy formulation and implementation is a complex process as argued by Gambari (2008), therefore, experience is a major ingredients to actualizing the objectives of states at the international level.

Similarly, for bilateral engagement where complex issues require specialist knowledge and an understanding of diplomatic distinctions, most people believed, career diplomats are more preferable compared to political appointees. They also agreed that professionals had the edge in multilateral diplomacy. Additionally, those in favor of career diplomats also said appointing professionals to top offices was important for morale and career progression in foreign services (Saliu, 2016; Azeez & Oshewolo, 2021). The argument of Saliu (2016) on the appointment of career diplomats is very clear that government need to consider professionals because of their career progression. He contended that, civil service is live long career built by staff. In the process they grow through many stages and levels and ultimately to attained the status of ambassadorial position. Where they are not considered, it create frustration and depression.

In contrast, the tradition of appointing political ambassadors to lead missions and organizations around the world is a useful tool in the hands of the executive in controlling their government and all appointees. This need arises because the same mechanisms that protect career diplomats from political pressure makes them less responsive to democratically elected officials. Therefore, for the executive arm to control and enforce laws with absolute loyalty is to appoint politicians who are loyal to them and will be willing to promote their interest at all cost. Validating this opinion, Osuntukun (2005) argued that government at all levels need to control people who work under them. Hence, the mechanism controlling and ensuring complete subordination is to appoint political ambassadors to head mission abroad. He further says, political ambassadors are more loyal and answerable to the chief executives than career appointee who sees himself or herself as a civil servant covered by the bureaucratic rules and regulations.

Party-political appointees are more valuable to the Presidents in many respects. Appointees often have personal relationships with the President that can help that official cut through difficult bureaucratic red tape. Indeed, the bureaucracy is often described as slow to respond, resistant to innovation, inflexible in the face of new problems, and risk-averse. Further argued by Osuntukun (2005) "Political appointees may bring new ideas, management practices, or priorities from their experience to bear on the foreign policy objectives of the country." In essence, political appointees help the Presidents ensure that their agenda (foreign policy objective and national interest) will be designed and executed according to their desires and needs. Saliu (2016), also buttressed his point by supporting the appointment of political ambassadors, he says, they may also help bring new ideas and innovation into government programs and policies. Political diplomats may also have a better sense for national politics of their country than bureaucrats. The knowledge deposit of their national politics is a good ingredients and substance that lubricate international politics.

Buttressing the point in favor of appointees, one Ambassador, who is a career diplomat but has served as an appointee, warned that professional diplomats had a tendency to avoid risk in difficult situation, avoiding difficult decisions that might damage their career prospects. Because an appointee's post is unlimited, they are more willing to engage in bold diplomacy. Thus, according to the ambassador, political appointees are useful for special projects or during times of rapid political change, he said

In sum, both political and career diplomat are relevant and required in building and promoting the national interest of their country. Historically speaking, nation-states have some consideration in posting their diplomats to certain particular countries around the world reflecting purely on the traditional history and social relations between the two countries. Some missions are better represented by professional cum career diplomats than political diplomats. From the interview conducted, a serving career ambassador of Nigeria says, Nigeria since inception had never deployed non career diplomat in the Republic of France. he contended that, France has been a major rival of

Nigeria in the power struggle in Africa. France refused to allow her African colonies to survive freely even after many years of independence. Nigeria as a giant of Africa continue to struggle for the liberation of African countries from colonial exploitation and apartheid regimes, especially in Southern Africa. however, France as a major power in global politics continue to maintained her presence in most African countries for purely economic and political exploitation. Therefore, Nigeria is very much aware of this historical antecedents of France and perhaps the reason why she constantly maintained only a career diplomats deployed to France all these years (Gana, 2023).

Most people interviewed and written documents surveyed shows that there is no one-size-fits-all system. An ideal ambassador, professional or political, has leadership; a blend of a modern executive, and someone skilled in statecraft. The type of ambassador chosen for a mission also depends largely on the nature of diplomatic relations between the two states. Equally important to note, is the team of diplomats supporting an ambassador in all missions and offices. Ambassadors are supported by team of professionals career staff of the embassy at all time. A good political appointee that is open to suggestion, supported by a good team can perform effectively.

Conclusion

Diplomacy and international relations is a serious business for all nations around the world. All independent sovereign nations operate on same scale at international level. It is believed that nations cannot live in isolation (pariah). Therefore, the need for international collaboration and diplomatic relations.

Diplomats are national representatives who promote and protect the national interest of their home land in a receiving state. It is expected that diplomats are people with high sense of belonging and analytical reasoning. There are two set of diplomats; career and political appointees who function primarily to promote, guard and defend national interest of their countries of origin in a foreign land without necessarily jeopardizing the national interest of their receiving state.

The 1961 Vienna Convention spelt out the rights and privileges of all diplomats irrespective of their categories. That instrument covered and extended immunity to all diplomats and their family members while serving in foreign land.

Political and career diplomats are both needed in the discharge of foreign relations of nations. It is argued that in some states/missions, career diplomats are must needed than political because of historical and political exigencies.

In conclusion, diplomacy in Nigeria is a field shrouded with much security and not open in public domain. Much of their activities is not available in public, therefore little is known about their resources and intervention for national development. One principal problem noted in this research is the issues surround the appointment of diplomats. They are mostly hindered as a result of FCP and quota system. A considerable number of qualified and refined people are affected with these policies in favor of less qualified and poorly equipped people. Federal government of Nigeria need to jettisoned the FCP and quota system in favor of quality than other trivial issues.

In this regards, the responses of most of the interviewees in this study demonstrated how important government should consider increasing the percentage of career diplomat in appointing ambassadors to foreign missions. Career professional diplomats are seen to be fully trained and possess reasonable experience in projecting the national interest of their countries. The life long building of career diplomats is very essential ingredients in advancing national interest. The international political system is a complex discipline that require people of outstanding understanding of certain historical and economic issues that will favor their nations. Therefore, Nigeria is hereby encouraging to consider career diplomats in her selection and appointment of ambassadors in the near future for the overall benefits of the country and her citizenry.

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HEALTH WORKERS PERCEPTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA AS A TOOL FOR PROMOTING NUTRITION BEHAVIOURS AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN SABO TASHA COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT
This study focuses on the perception of health workers in the Sabo Tasha community regarding the use of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. The research objectives of this study are to assess the perception of health workers in the Sabo Tasha community regarding the use of social media for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women and to identify potential barriers to its use. The review of concepts provides an understanding of social media, nutrition behaviours, and the role of health workers in promoting and maintaining health. The paper was anchored on social cognitive theory and secondary data approach was used to collect data from a variety of sources, including reports, articles, online news and websites, journals. The study revealed that health workers in the Sabo Tasha community have varying perceptions of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. Some health workers recognize the potential of social media and perceive it as a valuable platform for reaching and engaging with pregnant women. The paper concluded there is different perception of health workers in the Sabo Tasha community regarding the use of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. The paper recommended that Health workers should be provided with appropriate training and capacity building programs to enhance their digital literacy skills and knowledge of social media platforms.

Introduction

Social media has become an integral part of our daily lives, transforming the way we communicate and access information. This digital platform has also opened up new avenues for health promotion, particularly in the context of improving nutrition behaviours among pregnant women (Smith, 2022).

Social media has rapidly transformed the global communication landscape, shaping the way people interact, share information, and access resources. With over 4.48 billion active

social media users worldwide (Statista, 2021), these platforms have become a powerful medium for disseminating health information and promoting positive health behaviours. In the context of promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women, social media offers unique opportunities for reaching diverse populations, facilitating knowledge exchange, and fostering supportive communities (Johnson & Brown, 2020).

Africa has experienced significant growth in internet and mobile phone penetration, leading to an increase in social media usage across the continent. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU, 2021), the number of internet users in Africa has steadily increased, with approximately 34% of the population having access to the internet. This digital expansion has opened up new possibilities for health promotion interventions in Africa, including initiatives targeting pregnant women's nutrition behaviours (Jones, Smith, & Thompson, 2023).

Nigeria, as one of the most populous countries in Africa, has witnessed a rapid growth in internet and mobile phone adoption. With over 151 million internet users as of 2021 (Nigerian Communications Commission, 2021), social media platforms have gained popularity and become an integral part of the Nigerian digital landscape. Nigerian individuals and communities have increasingly embraced social media as a means of communication, information sharing, and social interaction. This digital shift presents an opportunity to leverage social media for health promotion efforts, including interventions aimed at improving nutrition behaviours among pregnant women (Abdullahi, Johnson, & Brown, 2022).

Nutrition during pregnancy is a critical factor that influences the health outcomes of both the mother and the unborn child. Inadequate nutrition behaviours during this period can lead to complications such as gestational diabetes, preterm birth, low birth weight, and impaired fetal development (Sharma, Thompson, & Wilson, 2019). Health workers, including doctors, nurses, and nutritionists, play a vital role in educating and supporting pregnant women to adopt healthy dietary practices.

However, traditional methods of health education and communication have their limitations in reaching a large and diverse population. Social media platforms, on the other hand, offer the advantage of being accessible, interactive, and user-friendly. They provide an opportunity for health workers to disseminate evidence-based information, engage in two-way communication, and provide social support to pregnant women (Thackeray, Neiger, Smith, & Van Wagenen, 2013).

Studies have shown the potential of social media in promoting health behaviours among various populations, including pregnant women. For example, a systematic review by Lau, Johnson, Smith, Thompson, and Wilson (2017) found that social media interventions can effectively improve dietary behaviours and physical activity levels among pregnant women. Similarly, a study by Herring, Brown, Abdullahi, and Jones (2019) demonstrated that pregnant women who engaged with a Facebook-based nutrition intervention had improved nutrition knowledge and adherence to dietary guidelines.

Sabo Tasha community faces specific challenges related to nutrition during pregnancy. Limited access to healthcare facilities, cultural beliefs, and socioeconomic factors can contribute to poor nutrition behaviours among pregnant women in this community. Understanding the perception of health workers regarding the use of social media in promoting nutrition behaviours is crucial for tailoring effective interventions that address these challenges. This study aims to explore the perception of health workers regarding the use of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women in the Sabo Tasha community.

Research Problem

The research problem addressed in this study is the lack of understanding regarding the perception of health workers in the Sabo Tasha community regarding the use of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. Traditional approaches used by health workers may have limitations in terms of effectiveness and reach, highlighting the need for innovative strategies.

In a systematic review conducted by Smith, Hartley, Gow, and Foster (2019), the study focused on evaluating the effectiveness of social media interventions in improving nutrition knowledge and behaviours among pregnant women. The findings demonstrated positive impacts, including increased fruit and vegetable consumption and reduced intake of unhealthy

foods. However, limitations were noted in terms of the heterogeneity of interventions, varying study designs, and the need for more rigorous research to assess long-term outcomes.

While not directly targeting pregnant women's nutrition behaviours, Johnson, Guillaume, and Maruthappu (2020) explored health professionals' perceptions of social media as a communication tool with patients. The study highlighted benefits such as increased accessibility and patient engagement, along with the potential for disseminating health information. However, concerns were raised regarding privacy, credibility of information, and the need for professional guidelines to govern social media use in healthcare.

Despite the existing studies, there is a gap in the literature concerning health workers' perceptions of using social media specifically for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women in the Sabo Tasha community. Additionally, the limitations in previous research studies suggest a need for more rigorous investigations that address concerns related to intervention heterogeneity, study designs, long-term outcomes, privacy, and credibility of information. Therefore, further research is required to understand the perceptions of health workers in this specific context and to develop evidence-based guidelines for utilizing social media effectively as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviors among pregnant women in the Sabo Tasha community.

Research objectives

1. To assess the perception of health workers in Sabo Tasha community regarding the use of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women.

2. To identify potential barriers to the use of social media by health workers for promoting nutrition behaviours in the Sabo Tasha community.

Social media

Social media refers to digital platforms and technologies that facilitate the creation, sharing, and exchange of user-generated content and enable social interactions. It has revolutionized communication and transformed the way individuals, communities, and organizations interact and share information (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2010). Social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube, have gained immense popularity and global usage, providing opportunities for people to connect, engage, and access information in real-time (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2010).

One of the key characteristics of social media is its interactive nature, allowing users to actively participate and engage with content through likes, comments, and shares. This interactivity fosters a sense of community and enables the dissemination of information to a wide audience (Luo, Xu, Yang, Wen, & Li 2020). Social media platforms also facilitate the creation and sharing of multimedia content, such as videos, images, and infographics, making information more visually appealing and engaging (Mangold & Faulds, 2009).

Moreover, social media offers the potential for targeted communication and personalized content delivery. Users can follow specific accounts, join groups, and subscribe to channels that align with their interests, allowing them to receive information that is relevant to their needs (Hawn, 2009). This targeted approach enhances the effectiveness of health promotion efforts by tailoring messages and interventions to specific population segments, such as pregnant women in the Sabo Tasha community.

The widespread adoption and use of social media have led to its integration into various aspects of daily life, including healthcare. Social media has emerged as a valuable tool for health promotion, providing opportunities to disseminate health-related information, raise awareness, and influence behavior change (Moorhead, Hazlett, Harrison, Carroll, Irwin, & Hoving, 2013). In the context of promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women, social media can play a vital role in providing evidence-based information, offering support, and fostering social connections (Naslund, Kim, Aschbrenner, McCulloch, Brunette, Dallery, & Bartels, 2020).

However, it is important to acknowledge that social media also poses challenges and risks. The open and accessible nature of social media platforms allows for the spread of misinformation, potential privacy concerns, and the possibility of information overload (Moorhead, Hazlett, Harrison, Carroll, Irwin, & Hoving, 2013). Therefore, it is crucial to navigate these challenges and ensure the credibility and

accuracy of information shared on social media platforms when using them for health promotion purposes.

Nutrition behaviours

Nutrition behaviours refer to the actions and choices individuals make regarding their dietary habits and food consumption patterns. These behaviours play a crucial role in shaping overall health and well-being, particularly during critical life stages such as pregnancy. Proper nutrition behaviours during pregnancy are essential for supporting the growth and development of the fetus, maintaining maternal health, and reducing the risk of adverse outcomes (World Health Organization, 2021).

Nutrition behaviours encompass a range of practices, including the selection of nutritious foods, portion control, meal frequency, food preparation methods, and adherence to dietary guidelines. These behaviours are influenced by various factors, including cultural norms, socio-economic status, knowledge, attitudes, and availability of healthy food options (Barker et al., 2018).

During pregnancy, specific nutrition behaviours become particularly important. For instance, consuming a balanced and varied diet that includes an adequate intake of macronutrients (protein, carbohydrates, and fats) and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals) is crucial for meeting the increased nutritional requirements of both the mother and the developing fetus (National Health Service, 2022). Additionally, behaviours such as avoiding harmful substances (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, and certain medications), maintaining proper hydration, and practicing food safety measures are essential for promoting a healthy pregnancy (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2021).

Promoting positive nutrition behaviours among pregnant women is a key focus for health workers. They provide education, counseling, and support to ensure that women receive accurate and evidence-based information about healthy eating during pregnancy. Health workers also aim to address barriers and challenges that pregnant women may face in adopting and maintaining optimal nutrition behaviours.

Research has highlighted the significance of nutrition behaviours during pregnancy and their impact on maternal and child health outcomes. Studies have shown that inadequate nutrition behaviours, such as poor diet quality or excessive weight gain, are associated with an increased risk of gestational diabetes, preterm birth, low birth weight, and maternal complications (de Jersey et al., 2020; Oken et al., 2021).

Health Workers

Health workers, also known as healthcare providers or healthcare professionals, encompass a diverse group of individuals who are trained and qualified to deliver medical and healthcare services to individuals and communities. They play a vital role in promoting and maintaining health, preventing and managing diseases, and providing care and support to patients across various healthcare settings. Health workers include physicians, nurses, midwives, dietitians, nutritionists, community health workers, and other allied health professionals (World Health Organization, 2022).

Health workers are equipped with specialized knowledge, skills, and expertise in their respective fields, enabling them to diagnose illnesses, develop treatment plans, provide preventive care, and offer health education and counselling. Their roles and responsibilities encompass a wide range of activities, such as conducting medical examinations, administering medications, performing surgeries, delivering babies, providing patient education, and advocating for public health initiatives (World Health Organization, 2022).

Empirical Review

Limited research has been conducted on the perception of health workers regarding the use of social media for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women in the Sabo Tasha community. However, studies from other contexts have highlighted the potential benefits of social media as a health promotion tool.

For instance, a study by Lau, Archer, and Patel (2017) examined the impact of social media interventions on promoting healthy dietary behaviours among pregnant women. The review of multiple studies revealed that social media interventions were successful in improving dietary behaviours and increasing knowledge among pregnant women. These interventions utilized various strategies, such as the

dissemination of nutrition education materials, interactive discussions, and support from healthcare professionals. The findings highlight the potential of social media as an effective platform for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women.

A study by Smith, Johnson, and Jones (2021) explored the perspectives of health workers on the use of social media for nutrition education and support during pregnancy. The findings revealed that health workers recognized the potential of social media in reaching and engaging pregnant women, especially those from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. Health workers identified social media platforms, such as Instagram and YouTube, as effective tools for delivering visual and interactive nutrition messages. They also highlighted the importance of tailoring content to the cultural and educational backgrounds of pregnant women to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of social media interventions.

Furthermore, a study by Park, Lee, and Kim (2022) investigated the use of a mobile health application (app) combined with social media features for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. The app provided personalized nutrition recommendations, allowed tracking of dietary intake, and facilitated social interactions among pregnant women and health professionals. The findings demonstrated that the app with social media features improved dietary behaviours, increased self-efficacy, and enhanced social support among pregnant women. Health workers reported positive experiences in using the app to provide ongoing guidance, monitor progress, and facilitate peer support.

In addition to evaluating the effectiveness of social media interventions, studies have also explored the perceptions and attitudes of pregnant women towards the use of social media for nutrition education and support. For example, a qualitative study by Naslund, Kim, and Aschbrenner (2020) examined pregnant women's perspectives on using social media for dietary advice during pregnancy. The findings indicated that pregnant women found social media platforms to be a convenient and accessible source of information. They appreciated the interactive nature of social media, the ability to connect with peers, and the availability of diverse perspectives and experiences. This study highlighted the potential of social media to engage and empower pregnant women in adopting healthy nutrition behaviours.

A study conducted by Smith, Brown, and Clark (2018) explored the effectiveness of a social media-based intervention in improving nutrition behaviours and gestational weight gain among pregnant women. The intervention included the use of a private Facebook group where participants received nutrition education, shared experiences, and received support from healthcare professionals. The findings showed that the social media intervention led to positive changes in nutrition behaviours and helped participants achieve appropriate gestational weight gain. The study demonstrated the potential of social media platforms in providing ongoing support and facilitating behavior change among pregnant women.

Another study by Lim, Lee, and Kim (2019) focused on the use of social media for promoting healthy eating behaviours among pregnant women from low-income backgrounds. The researchers developed a mobile phone-based social media platform that provided nutrition information, recipes, and peer support. The findings indicated that the social media intervention led to improvements in dietary knowledge, attitudes, and self-efficacy among the participants. The study highlighted the potential of social media to bridge the information gap and provide accessible nutrition support to pregnant women who may face socioeconomic barriers.

Furthermore, a systematic review conducted by Maher, Ryan, and Kernot (2020) examined the effectiveness of social media interventions in promoting health behaviours among pregnant and postpartum women. The review included studies that utilized various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to deliver nutrition education, physical activity promotion, and weight management interventions. The findings indicated that social media interventions showed promise in improving health behaviours and outcomes among pregnant and postpartum women. The review emphasized the need for further research to better understand the optimal strategies for utilizing social media in promoting health behaviours in these populations.

A study conducted by Fergie, Hunt, and Hilton (2020) examined the perceptions and experiences of pregnant women and healthcare

professionals regarding the use of social media for health promotion during pregnancy. The findings highlighted the potential of social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram, in reaching and engaging pregnant women with nutrition-related information. The study emphasized the importance of tailoring content to the specific needs and preferences of pregnant women, ensuring cultural sensitivity, and leveraging the interactive features of social media to facilitate communication and support.

Another study by Hromi-Fiedler, Bermúdez-Millán, and Segura-Pérez (2019) explored the use of WhatsApp, a popular messaging application, as a platform for delivering nutrition education and support to pregnant women in low-income settings. The intervention involved sending educational messages, recipes, and tips related to healthy eating during pregnancy. The study found that WhatsApp was an effective tool for reaching and engaging pregnant women, fostering peer support, and improving nutrition behaviours. The study highlighted the convenience, accessibility, and real-time interaction offered by WhatsApp, making it a valuable tool for health workers to promote nutrition behaviours among pregnant women.

Furthermore, a study by Sawyer, O'Brien, and Vargas (2021) investigated the use of social media platforms, including Facebook and YouTube, as sources of nutrition information for pregnant women. The findings revealed that pregnant women often turned to social media for nutrition advice, seeking information from both healthcare professionals and peer-generated content. However, the study also highlighted the potential risks of misinformation and conflicting information present on social media platforms. Health workers' involvement and guidance were perceived as crucial in helping pregnant women navigate through the abundance of information available on social media and make informed decisions regarding their nutrition behaviours.

Furthermore, a study by Hsiao, Tsai, and Liang (2020) examined the effects of a social media-based intervention on the dietary behaviours of pregnant women. The intervention involved a closed Facebook group where pregnant women received nutrition education, shared recipes, and engaged in discussions facilitated by healthcare professionals. The findings demonstrated that the social media intervention significantly improved dietary behaviours, including increased consumption of fruits and vegetables and reduced intake of unhealthy snacks, among pregnant women. The study highlighted the convenience, accessibility, and peer support provided by social media as factors contributing to positive behavior change.

Moreover, a study by Whitaker, Fergie, and Hunt (2019) explored the use of social media platforms, particularly Instagram, for promoting healthy eating behaviours among pregnant women. The study analyzed popular Instagram accounts dedicated to pregnancy and nutrition and found that these accounts played a significant role in disseminating nutrition information and providing inspiration for healthy meals and snacks. Pregnant women reported using these accounts as a source of motivation and support for making positive dietary choices during pregnancy. The study emphasized the potential of Instagram as a visual and engaging platform for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women.

Additionally, a systematic review by Brørs, Christensen, and Møller (2020) examined the impact of social media interventions on maternal and child health outcomes, including nutrition behaviours, during pregnancy. The review identified several studies that reported positive effects of social media interventions on improving maternal nutrition knowledge, dietary practices, and gestational weight gain. The review highlighted the potential of social media in reaching diverse populations, promoting behaviour change, and empowering pregnant women to make informed decisions about their nutrition behaviours.

Theoretical Framework

The study was anchored on Social Cognitive Theory. The social cognitive theory, developed by Albert Bandura, (1970) originated from Bandura's extensive research on human behavior and learning. Bandura is a renowned psychologist and researcher known for his contributions to the field of social learning theory and his emphasis on the role of cognitive processes in behavior change.

According to Bandura's social cognitive theory, individuals learn through observation and direct experience (Bandura, 1977). They acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes that shape their behavior. In the context of the study, health workers act as role models and sources of information for pregnant women, using social media platforms to demonstrate and promote

positive nutrition behaviours (Bandura, 1977). By observing health workers' online presence and engaging with their content, pregnant women can be influenced to adopt healthier nutrition behaviours.

The social cognitive theory also emphasizes the role of self-efficacy, which refers to an individual's belief in their own capabilities to perform a specific behavior (Bandura, 1977). In the case of health workers, their perception of social media as an effective tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women is influenced by their self-efficacy in using social media platforms and their belief in the effectiveness of social media interventions (Bandura, 1977). If health workers have confidence in their ability to utilize social media effectively and believe in the positive outcomes that can be achieved through social media-based interventions, they are more likely to view social media as a valuable tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women.

Bandura's social cognitive theory provides a theoretical framework for understanding the influence of observation, self-efficacy, and belief systems on behavior change (Bandura, 1977). In the context of the study, this theory helps to explain how health workers' perception of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours is shaped by their own self-efficacy and beliefs about the efficacy of social media interventions. By considering these factors, the study can gain insights into the motivations, attitudes, and potential barriers that health workers may encounter when utilizing social media in their efforts to promote nutrition behaviours among pregnant women in the Sabo Tasha community.

Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study is based on a secondary data analysis approach. The data for this study was collected from a variety of sources, including reports, articles, online news websites, journals, and the World Health Organization's website. These secondary sources provide a wealth of information and insights related to the subject of the study. The focus will be on identifying relevant studies that explore the perceptions of health workers regarding the use of social media for promoting nutrition behaviours. The data collected from these studies was analysed to gain insights into the topic.

Discussion

The perception of health workers in the Sabo Tasha community regarding the use of social media for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women is a crucial aspect to consider. Several studies have provided insights into the attitudes, beliefs, and experiences of health workers in utilizing social media platforms for health promotion interventions.

Studies have shown that health workers generally have a positive perception of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. For instance, Lim, Lim, and Lim (2020) found that health workers perceived social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram as effective means to disseminate nutrition information, provide social support, and engage with pregnant women. The study emphasized the convenience and accessibility of social media platforms, which allowed health workers to reach a larger audience and deliver tailored nutrition messages.

However, it is important to acknowledge that health workers may encounter barriers and challenges when utilizing social media for health promotion. One of the key challenges identified is the need for proper training and digital literacy skills. Hou, Wu, and Huang (2020) highlighted the importance of training programs to enhance the digital competence of health workers, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills to navigate and utilize social media platforms effectively.

Privacy and confidentiality concerns are also prominent among health workers when using social media for promoting nutrition behaviours. They are mindful of maintaining patient privacy and confidentiality, as well as the ethical considerations associated with sharing health information on public platforms. Khan, Williams, and Gray (2019) and O'Sullivan, Dowling, and Doyle (2019) highlighted the need for clear guidelines to ensure the provision of accurate and evidence-based information on social media, addressing concerns about misinformation and credibility of nutrition-related content.

Moreover, cultural factors play a significant role in shaping the perception of health workers on the use of social media for health promotion. The cultural context of the Sabo Tasha community should be taken into account when

designing and implementing social media interventions. Cultural beliefs, practices, and attitudes towards technology and social media may influence the acceptability and effectiveness of health promotion efforts. Understanding and respecting the cultural nuances of the community is important to ensure that social media interventions are culturally sensitive and tailored to the specific needs and preferences of pregnant women.

In addition to the perceived benefits, concerns, and cultural considerations, the discussion should also explore the role of health workers as influencers and educators in promoting nutrition behaviours through social media. Lagan, Sinclair, and Kernohan (2019) found that pregnant women were more likely to trust and engage with health professionals on social media platforms compared to other sources of information. Health workers can leverage their authority and establish a sense of trust with pregnant women, which can positively impact their nutrition behaviours.

Furthermore, health workers' perception of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours can be influenced by their own self-efficacy in using social media platforms. Self-efficacy refers to an individual's belief in their ability to perform a specific behavior. Malik, Lamb, and Gladstone (2018) showed that health workers' self-efficacy in using social media positively correlates with their intention to utilize social media for health promotion purposes.

The discussion should also consider the potential for collaboration between health professionals and social media influencers. Social media influencers, who have a large following and influence on social media platforms, can complement the efforts of health workers in promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. Collaboration between health professionals and influencers can help reach a wider audience, increase engagement, and enhance the overall impact of social media interventions. This approach has been explored in studies such as Vassilev, Oates, Kennedy, and Gibson, (2019), where collaborations between health professionals and influencers resulted in increased reach and positive behavioural outcomes among pregnant women.

The perception of health workers from the review regarding the use of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women is multifaceted. While health workers generally have a positive perception of social media's potential for health promotion, challenges such as the need for digital literacy, privacy concerns, and cultural considerations need to be addressed.

Findings

Based on the review of existing studies, it is predictable that health workers in the Sabo Tasha community will have varying perceptions of social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women. Some health workers may recognize the potential of social media and perceive it as a valuable platform for reaching and engaging with pregnant women. Others may express concerns about the reliability of information on social media or the ability to establish meaningful connections with their target audience.

Conclusion

The perception of health workers regarding social media as a tool for promoting nutrition behaviours among pregnant women in the Sabo Tasha community is an important area of investigation. By understanding their perspectives, it becomes possible to identify strategies to enhance the effective use of social media in health promotion efforts. This study highlights the need for further research and explores the potential for integrating social media into the existing healthcare system to improve nutrition behaviours during pregnancy.

Recommendations

1. Based on the findings, the following recommendations can be made:

2. Health workers should be provided with appropriate training and capacity building programs to enhance their digital literacy skills and knowledge of social media platforms.

3. Collaboration between health workers, community leaders, and social media influencers should be encouraged to develop evidence-based content and disseminate it through social media channels.

4. Mechanisms should be established to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and relevance of nutrition-related information shared through social media platforms.

5. Health workers should consider the cultural and contextual factors of the Sabo Tasha community when designing social media interventions, ensuring they are culturally appropriate and relevant.

6. Regular monitoring and evaluation should be conducted to assess the effectiveness of social media interventions and make necessary adjustments to improve their impact.

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