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Periscoping Insecurity and the Challenges of Economic Development in Anambra State: A Focus on Ihiala Local Government Area.

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a bold attempt to investigate the impact of insecurity on the challenges of economic development in Anambra state with a focus in Ihiala local government area. This study is anchored on the theory of Relative deprivation theory which was propounded by J.C Davies (1975) in his work "Towards a Theory of Revolution." Survey design was adopted due mainly to the nature of the problem under investigation. Data for the study were generated from both primary and secondary sources. After careful analysis of data relevant to the study, it was found out that insecurity has not significantly affected investments in Ihiala local government area. The paper recommends that government should evolve policies and programmes capable of promoting national consciousness and national loyalty as it will help to eliminate the centrifugal factors that are always at work to tear the country apart.

Keywords: Security challenges, economic development, unemployment, investment, Ihiala.

Introduction

Security of lives and property have been accorded priority attention by governments of different countries of the world be it democratic or military administration. This is so because an atmosphere devoid of fear, anxiety, threat, harm, etc to citizens' lives and property is a sure means to bring about socio-economic development. It is generally believed that development cannot thrive in the atmosphere of conflicts, violence, anxiety, fear and wanton destruction of lives and property. Therefore, it follows that there is a strong link between security and development in any social setting. Security is seen as a situation in which citizens of any country is at liberty to go about their normal daily activities without threat to their lives and means of livelihood; safety from bodily

Regrettably, in recent time, Nigeria has been passing through difficult security situation. There have been so many security challenges that have consistently threatened the corporate existence of the country. It has been argued that since Nigerian independence in 1960, there have been centrifugal forces that have continued to work against our collective desire to have a strong indivisible country. Nigeria is a heterogeneous state with over 250 ethnic nationalities or groups (Echiegu, 2014). These nationalities as argued by Nwali (2011), were forcefully merged in the popular amalgamation of 1914 which gave birth to Nigeria. He argued that fear of domination of the strong ethnic group over the weaker or minority group became the order of the day which eventually degenerated into security challenges that are now a regular feature in the Nigerian state. Security challenges have continued to show an upward trend as they have taken different forms and dimensions ranging from acts of militancy and vandalism of oil installations in South-South, massive robbery in Southwest, kidnapping in the South-East and terrorist acts, herdsmen attacks on farmers as well as cattle rustling especially in Northern Nigeria (Adebakin, 2012).

There is no gainsaying the fact that absence of security or insecurity could have damaging effect on the overall wellbeing of the people particularly in areas of sicknesses, low life expectancy, low quality standard of life and even untimely death. On the economic front, security problems (challenges) could result in disruption and dislocation of businesses, properties, reduction in foreign direct investments and abrupt closure of business ventures.

It is based on these issues and history that the paper is on the impact of insecurity on economic development with emphasis on Ihiala Local Government Area in Anambra State where the activities of Unknown Gunmen has brought so much problems ranging from reduced investments, unemployment, etc.

Research Questions

This research question was formulated to guide the study:

To what extent has insecurity affected investments in Ihiala local government area?

Conceptual Review

Insecurity

Divers views have emerged in academia on insecurity. Nevertheless, just a few of these perceptions that are strongly related to this discourse are briefly considered. According to Nwagboso (2012) insecurity is the danger that entrepreneurs and executives of business organizations exercise by relocating their business ventures from an insecure environment to a more secure one. This view is applicable to Igbo and Yoruba business men who relocated to their native lands in the wake of Boko Haram Insurgency Suileman, (2012), as cited in Adegami (2013). The view is also applicable to many manufacturing companies that relocated from the Northeast geo-political zone of Nigeria to other countries due to the high level of insecurity occasioned by the Boko Haram Insurgency (Ajodo-Adebanjo and Okorie, 2014).

According to Beland (2005) insecurity entails lack of protection from crime (being unsafe) and lack of freedom from psychological harm (unprotected from emotional stress resulting from paucity of assurance that an individual is accepted, has opportunity and choices to fulfill his or her own potentials including freedom from fear. As Achumba and Ighomereho (2013) puts it, those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also not able to stop it or protect themselves when it happens. In respect of the factors responsible for insecurity and conflicts, Collier (2006) stressed that countries which have a substantial share of their income (GDP) coming from the export of primary commodities are radically more at risk of conflict. The most dangerous level of primary commodity dependence is 26% of GDP. According to him, conflicts and insecurity is concentrated in countries with little education, fast population growth and economic decline. This was also the views expressed by Aderoju (2007).

For Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpan-Robaro (2013), insecurity is an absence of protection or safety. These scholars argue further that insecurity entails peril; death-trap; ambiguity; dearth of fortification, and lack of security. They also discuss the problem of insecurity from the following two major perspectives: Firstly, insecurity is the state of being prone or vulnerable to danger or threat of danger. In this situation, the tendency of experiencing hurt based on insufficient measures against danger is very bright. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety. The exposure could be as a result of inadequate measures against insecurity by the state or by a group of people etc. This usually happens when the law enforcement agents are poorly educated, trained, remunerated and motivated. It could also occur when peoples' basic necessities of life are lacking.

Similarly, (Beland, 2005) views the concept of insecurity as a state of fear or anxiety, due to absence of protection. Also, Ezemonye (2011), cited in Udoh (2015) see the concept as a state of not being secured, in certain environments (Adegami, 2013) while (Ajodo-Adebanjo and Okorie, 2014) view insecurity as a state of being subject to danger or threat. Under this scenario, people state of mind concerning safety could be categorized by self-doubt and defenselessness and such persons could consider themselves targets for harm.

Stewart (2004) analysed the effect of conflict and insecurity on development for twenty five countries between 1960 – 1995 and found that economic growth was almost always affected, agricultural sector was badly hit, exports were negative, production fell, there was a shift from international to domestic markets, imports went up dominated by military expenditure and essential consumption goods, usually leading to a shortage of foreign exchange for economic inputs., consumption per head fell, government revenue as a share of GDP mostly fell and foreign and private investments including government investment fell.

Economic Development

The concepts "development" and "underdevelopment" are ambiguous, and for decades they have been the subject of endless debates and discussions. There is no clear picture or definition of what actually constitutes "economic underdevelopment" or how to achieve it, as it is an evolving concept, and keeps altering over time. Broadly, economic development is taken to be the structural transformation of an economy by introducing more mechanized and updated technologies to increase labor productivity, employment, incomes, and standard of living of the population. Economic development should be accompanied by improvements in infrastructure, as well as social, political, and institutional factors to facilitate transformation of the economy (Myint and Krueger 2016).

Economic development is predicated on cooperation between the public sector and private enterprise but is defined by conditions established by government and public investments. Though it is certainly possible to have growth without development in the short or even medium-term, economic development creates the conditions that enable long-run economic growth. Based on a review of the literature, we define economic development as the development of capacities that expand economic actors' capabilities. These actors may be individuals, firms, or industries. While actors have different perceived potential, it is difficult to predict the next new idea or to understand how genius may arise. In contrast to a resource-based economy, where location was constrained to natural endowments, a modern, knowledge-based economy depends on capacity that is constructed over time. Many dynamic regional economies may have been initiated by historical accident, whether we are thinking of the birthplace of Henry Ford or Goodrich (Buenstorf and Klepper, 2009) or the William Shockley's locational preferences (Saxenian, 1978). These accidents are difficult to replicate; the most unexpected individuals often come up with great ideas that enrich society. And yet, fortune favors the prepared: the ability to benefit from serendipity relies on actors' underlying capabilities (Feldman & Francis 2003). The argument that advantage is due to capacity investments that yield a long-term

return is gaining acceptance (Rodríguez-Pose and Storper, 2006). In the absence of any clear bets, the best strategy is to enable every individual to fully participate in society and to realize their potential.

Insecurity and investments.

According to the US Department of State (2020), security remains a major concern to investors in Nigeria due to the high rates of violent crime, kidnappings for ransom, and terrorism. Social unrest lowers confidence and increases uncertainty (Vaskov, Pienknagura, and Ricci, 2021). The Seattle Emergency Management (n.d), also noted that cities that are prone to social unrest could be stigmatized and consequently lose investments and tourism. As a result of this, no investor would want to invest in an environment where their investment cannot be protected. Looking at the rise in the incidences of social unrest and tension that comes out of Nigeria, many international investors would be scared of investing in the country. They would prefer to invest in environments where such investments can be protected.

Onyebuchi (2018) echoed the above sentiment when he stated that several significant investors have fled Nigeria for nations with more secure and stable atmosphere thereby leaving the Nigerian economy gasping for breath. Empirical evidence from a study of the most attractive economies for the location of FDI from 2007- 2009 showed that Nigeria was listed among the 40 most attractive economies for the location of FDI (UNCTAD, cited in Onyebuchi, 2018). The report placed Nigeria in the fourth position in Africa, behind South Africa, Egypt and Morocco. Today, the situation is completely different. According to the 2018 UNCTAD World Investment Report, FDI inflows into Nigeria decreased by 21%, while capital flight increased by 8% (Adenyuma & Onyeche, 2019). One of the reasons for the decline in FDI is the rising incidence of social unrest which has literally chased investors away to other more secure and investment friendly neighboring African countries notably, Ghana and Rwanda.

In the case of the effect of the insecurity in the South east, Nigeria, the growth of the economy of Southeastern Nigeria largely depends on the accelerating and stimulating strength of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) (Odili, 2020). The influx of FDI to any region has similar economic outcome such as a boost in transfer of technology, domestic production, financial capital development, job creation and economic growth among others (Bitar, Hamadeh, and Khoueiri, 2019).

Despite the relevance of FDI to the economy of Southeast, insecurity has to a large extent impeded the flow FDI to the region. As emphasized by the US Department of State (2020), the problem of insecurity threatens investors' resolve to make investment decisions in Nigeria. The restriction of movement on Mondays has added to the list of security challenges bedeviling Nigeria; anyone who flouts the order may eventually lose his/her life and properties. Unscrupulous elements utilize sit-at-home days to perpetrate evils such as kidnapping for ransom, violent conducts of different magnitudes and terrorism attacks on anyone who fall prey. FDI is attracted in business environments devoid of low confidence and alarming rate of uncertainties, hence the sit-at-home order is not a promoter of FDI in the eastern region of the country (Vaskov, Pienknagura, and Ricci, 2021). By implication, insecurity stifles FDI, causes stigma to businesses and tourism.

According to Odili (2021), no investor would be proud to invest in business environments where confidence of investment protection is grossly low. A careful examination of myriads of outcomes and tensions associated with the insecurity, foreign investors would undoubtedly be afraid to invest in such volatile business environment.

Onyebuchi (2018) concord to the above sentiment when he submitted that due to social unrests in Nigeria, greater number of foreign investors have left Nigeria for other nations with stable business environment. UNCTAD report cited in Onyebuchi (2018) established that from 2007-2009, Nigeria is among the 40 most viable and attractive economies for FDI, albeit series of social unrests in the country has changed the trajectory. The 2018 UNCTAD report revealed that Nigeria's FDI inflow declined by 21% while capital flight trended up by 8% (Dajo and Akor, 2022). The decline in FDI is attributable to series of social unrests in Nigeria where sit-at-home order has added to existing long list (Esho, 2022).

Theoretical Framework

Relative deprivation theory was propounded by J.C Davies (1975) in his work "Towards a Theory of Revolution". This theory states that people of a region feel discontent and agitate when they compare the socio-economic gap between them and other people because they lack what they feel are their constitutional legitimate entitlements.

Relative deprivation theory holds that instead of an absolute standard of deprivation, a gap between expected and achieved welfare leads men to political violence (Richardson, 2011). We opine that it also leads to national insecurity. Gurr (1970) in Richardson (2011) highlight that instead of an absolute standard of deprivation, a gap between expected and achieved welfare creates collective discontent. This theory also applies to individuals who find their own welfare to be inferior to that of others to whom they compare themselves. It is important first to understand relative deprivation as a theory of political violence (Richardson, 2011). The trajectories of political violence are vast and certainly include all occasions of altercations between the state and agitated citizens. Gurr thus explains political violence as the result of collective discontent caused by a sense of relative deprivation. He sees relative deprivation as the term used to denote the tension that develops from a discrepancy between the "ought" and the "is" of collective value satisfaction, and that disposes men to violence. This gap between an individual's expected and achieved welfare results in collective discontent.

Application of the theory to the study

In relating this very theory to the various security challenges facing Nigeria especially in Ihiala Local government Area, Anambra, one can say that different groups of persons now perceive themselves to have been economically, socially and otherwise deprived by the policies, actions and inactions

of the Ihiala, Anambra State and Nigeria governments over the years, hence, this theory is consistent with the fact that violent actions escalates in environments of continued grievances caused by bad policies of government. This theory captures the notion of political repression as an instrument that facilitates conflict or violence in Ihiala Local government Area, Anambra.

Methodology

This paper employed survey design. The justification for using the survey design is that it takes less time to be conducted and it is also economical unlike the longitudinal variants that takes longer time and costs so much money. The estimated population of Ihiala LGA is **430,800** as at 21st March, 2022 (National Population Commission of Nigeria (web), National Bureau of Statistics (web), 2022).

The sample size for this research is first determined by obtaining information on the subject of study. The sample size was statistically determined using Slovin (1960) formula which is four hundred (400). The major sampling technique that was used in this study is simple random sampling. It was chosen to allow every members of the population an equal chance of representation. In this paper, data was obtained from two sources, viz; (1) Primary, (2) Secondary. The main instrument for data collection was questionnaire and interview which are primary sources of data. The questionnaire was designed using Five Likert rating scale. The data collected from the respondents was analyzed using statistics such as percentage, frequencies; as well as tables and were put to use in the analysis of research question; while research hypothesis was tested using chi-square (X²). The data collected by administering the research instrument was analyzed in line with the research question and hypothesis. Descriptive statistics including table frequencies, percentages, and charts were used in the study. Also, data collected from the respondents were collated and analyzed. The research question was answered using the mean scores and standard deviations from the analyzed data. The hypothesis was tested using chi-square through SPSS version 23.0. The hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents by Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 25-50 years	280	68.3	70.0	70.0
Valid 51-70 years	120	29.3	30.0	100.0
Total	400	97.6	100.0	
Missing System	10	2.4		
Total	410	100.0		

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

In classifying the respondents by their age distribution in the above table, it was gathered that 280 (68.3%) were 25-50 years and 120 (29.3%) were 51-70 years.

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents by Sex

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid FEMALE	310	78.3	70.0	70.0
Valid MALE	90	21.3	30.0	100.0
Total	400	97.6	100.0	
Missing System	10	2.4		
Total	410	100.0		

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

The table above shows that 310 of the respondents which is 78.3% were females, while 90 of the respondents amounting to 21.3% were males. This result automatically x-rays that there were more females than males in the field than male participants.

Data on Variables of Subject under Investigation

Research Question: To what extent has insecurity affected investments in Ihiala local government area?

The questionnaire items for this section are 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The responses to research question one is presented in table 3.

Table 3: Respondents mean and standard deviation scores on extent insecurity has affected investments in Ihiala local government area.

S/N	ITEM STATEMENTS	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Decision
1.	Most investors divert their businesses to other peaceful local government areas?	400	3.00	1.675	True
2.	Youths of the area are left with few job opportunities because of insecurity?	400	3.40	.491	True
3.	People fear for possibility of been attacked and they sometimes don't go out for business?	400	3.09	.995	True
4.	Ihiala area already known for armed robbery, ambush and kidnapping and it has a negative implication of on investment tendencies?	400	4.00	1.551	True
5.	Wealthy men in Ihiala local government are always on the run for been killed or kidnapped and reduces the rate of investments?	400	3.76	1.627	True

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

The result in table 3 shows that the respondents agreed with the items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as to the extent the activities of the unknown gunmen have affected investments in Ihiala local government area which means that every members of the participants was strongly behind the above notions.

Test of Hypothesis

The hypotheses testing involves a set rules that leads to a decision in the acceptance or rejection of a given phenomenon. The tool that is used here is Chi-square (χ^2). Chi-square is a method that measures the discrepancies existing between the observed and expected frequencies.

Hypothesis

H₀: Insecurity has not significantly affected investments in Ihiala local government area.

H₁: Insecurity has significantly affected investments in Ihiala local government area.

Using the information gotten from question 1,2,3,4 and 5 the hypotheses were tested.

Hypothesis, table 4

Chi-Square Tests 1

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1511.265 ^a	40	.000
Likelihood Ratio	1172.519	40	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	71.445	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	400		

a. 12 cells (22.2%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.84. (**Computation from SPSS 23 Analysis**).

From the table above, the result showed that Insecurity has not significantly affected investments in Ihiala local government area. $V(1,40)=1511.265$, If p value $<$ is less than 0.05, you reject the null hypotheses and accept the alternate hypotheses. It based on that decision rule that we accepted that insecurity has significantly affected investments in Ihiala local government area.

Discussion of Result

Based on the result of the tested hypotheses, the findings are generated:

- Insecurity has not significantly affected investments in Ihiala local government area. This is in line with the assertion of the US Department of State (2020) that security remains a major concern to investors in Nigeria due to the high rates of violent crime, kidnappings for ransom, and terrorism. Social unrest lowers confidence and increases uncertainty (Vaskov, Pienknagura, and Ricci, 2021). The Seattle Emergency Management (2017), also noted that cities that are prone to social unrest could be stigmatized and consequently lose investments and tourism. As a result of this, no investor would want to invest in an environment where their investment cannot be protected. Looking at the rise in the incidences of social unrest and tension that comes out of Nigeria, many international investors would be scared of investing in the country. They would prefer to invest in environments where such investments can be protected.

Conclusion

Security challenges in any social environment poses a serious threat to lives, properties, discourages economic activities as well as work against our collective quest to attract foreign direct investment. Nigeria since independence has grappled with different forms of security challenges which at some points have threatened her corporate existence. The insecurity situation has not only continued to rise but has assumed a dangerous dimension with its attendant consequences on socio-economic advancement of the country.

Recommendations

Based on the summary of findings, the following recommendations have been given:

-Government should evolve policies and programmes capable of promoting national consciousness and national loyalty as it will help to eliminate the centrifugal factors that are always at work to tear the country apart. In addition, enlightenment campaigns carried out on the dangers inherent in acts of insecurity in schools, churches, mosques, markets, media outfits.

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