

**POVERTY, INSECURITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA:
AN OVERVIEW**

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Abstract

Nigeria is today confronted with the challenge of combating serious internal security challenges including Boko Haram insurgency in the North-eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa and the Niger Delta militancy in the South-south geo-political zone comprising of Bayelsa and Rivers. There are also threats posed by farmers and Fulani herdsmen clashes across the country as well as kidnappings, ethno-religious crises, political assassinations and so on. Amidst these threats of insecurity is the staggering number of people living in poverty in poverty especially, among the youth population. Using majorly documentary sources of data, this paper argues that the heightened rate of social insecurity especially, among the youth is largely responsible for the increase in crime rate in the country with adverse consequences on national development. The paper identifies the effects of poverty and insecurity on national development to include unsafe political and business environment for economic investment; loss of human and financial capital that would have been invested for national development; and limited capacity to harness the resources that will improve living conditions. The paper recommends that approaches to poverty reduction in Nigeria should be rejigged to focus more on the provision of basic infrastructure and services rather giving cash to the less privilege; greater investment in human development especially in the areas of education; shelter and social services; strict enforcement of arms and ammunitions control laws; and transparency and accountability in governance.

KEYWORDS: Poverty, Insecurity, National Development; Government; Transparency.

Introduction

Nigeria is currently facing serious internal security challenges, the most serious ones being the Boko Haram insurgency in the north-eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa and the Niger Delta militancy in the south-south geopolitical zone, comprising Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states. Additionally, there are security challenges posed by violent crimes, ethno-religious conflicts, resource-based conflicts, trans-border criminal activities, and election-induced violence. All these security challenges undoubtedly pose some threats to social, political and economic development in Nigeria. While several factors could have contributed to Nigeria's security challenges today, there is no doubt that pervasive poverty among the populace is central in attempting to explain the problem. About seventeen years after the return of democracy in 1999, the hope by many Nigerians that democratic governance will usher robust initiatives accelerated national development has remained a mirage. This paper examines the relationship between poverty and insecurity with a view to determining their effects on national development in Nigeria. The paper is divided into four sections. Section one consists of introduction, objectives and methodology of the paper. Section two reviews the concept of poverty and explains why successive efforts by government in Nigeria have failed to alleviate poverty. Section three explains the nexus between poverty and security. Section four examines the implication of youth poverty on National security. Section five consists of conclusion and recommendations.

Objectives

The aim of this paper is to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) To examine the incidence of poverty in Nigeria
- (b) To explain the security situation in Nigeria especially, from between 1999 and 2017
- (c) To determine the relationship between poverty, insecurity and development in Nigeria.

- (d) To recommend measures that can be adopted to combat poverty and insecurity in Nigeria; and enhance national development.

Conceptual clarification

Poverty: there is no universally acceptable definition of poverty. The specific meaning attached to it depends on the underlying concept of poverty in mind. It means different things to different people in different circumstances.

In ordinary usage, poverty refers to an economic condition in which people lack sufficient income to obtain certain minimal levels of health services, food, housing, clothing and education generally recognized as necessary to ensure an accepted standard of living (Jimada, 2008). Poverty is relative. In advanced economies for instance, estimating poverty on the basis of income may be inadequate; as people without access to education and health may be considered poor even if they have adequate food. A sample of individual's perception across the world revealed the following perceptions:

- (i) Poverty is a denial of all human rights;
- (ii) It is a hidden feeling of inferiority, which makes a person feel different from others;
- (iii) It is a serious crime, which encourages you to do bad things and makes people live in bondage;
- (iv) Your children are crying and you have nothing to feed them – that is poverty;
- (v) It means waking up without perspectives. It is a state in which you feel degraded, and as a result, rejected by society;
- (vi) It is lack of opportunity, lack of freedom. It is hunger and malnutrition, disease and lack of basic social services. It is a policy failure that degrades people – those who suffer it, and those who tolerate it. It is an equity gap between countries and within countries. Poverty is still the greatest insult to human dignity, a scar on humanity's face;
- (vii) Poverty is, not knowing what will happen to you tomorrow and where you will go. It is hunger, lowliness, deprivation, discrimination, abuse and illiteracy;
- (viii) I am cooking now and I don't know when next I will cook a proper meal and when I will be able to live in a proper place: that is poverty;
- (ix) It is a woman sending her children out to beg, in traffic rather than to school because otherwise, there will be nothing to eat;
- (x) When an individual is working and yet does not have anything to show for it, that person is said to be poor; it is a situation of penury, suffering and dearth of basic needs of life (Guardian, 1997; Okpe and Abu, 2006).

The simple definitions given by individuals above vividly show the many dimensions of poverty. It is all about food insecurity, rejection, lack of opportunity, lack of basic social service, degradation, inequality, illiteracy, loneliness, diseases, uncontrolled high fertility rate, child abuses, impoverishment, human right abuses, lack of initiatives etc. borrowing from Chambers (1983) poverty is a mystery linked with violation, vulnerability, powerlessness and deprivation, all of which are either directly or indirectly associated with human or national shortcomings or both. Shepherd (1988) distinguished four types of poverty, namely; (i) interstitial (pockets) of poverty, surrounded by. (ii) Material deprivation combined with isolation and alienation found in marginal areas, and isolated peripheral poverty. (iii) Overcrowding poverty in areas of population pressure; and (iii) traumatic or sporadic poverty – which could be experience by non-poor as a result of crises.

Ekong (1999) identified three major categories of poverty as ‘absolute’, ‘relative’, and Zero-Sum’ poverty. Absolute poverty is misery linked to an insufficient resource base, lack of income, narrow margins, high risk of failure, hunger, disease etc. relative poverty on the other hand is the misery linked to experiencing outcomes, which are less satisfactory than those of relevant others while not being able to do much about improving one's own outcome so that one has to adapt one's inescapable unsatisfactory outcomes instead of through innovation. Zero-Sum poverty is however, a misery linked to patronage, oppression, exploitation, usurpation, extraction and abuses by powerful others.

The World Bank (2002) from its own perspective, defined absolute poverty by income levels below which even minimum standard of nutrition, shelter and personal amenities cannot be maintained; and relative poverty as reflecting extreme differences in levels of living between the top and bottom strata of society. The World Bank thus, used earning below 50 dollars per year as an indication of living in absolute poverty, while people with per capita incomes below one-third of the average per capita income of their own countries are believed to living in relative poverty (i.e. those whose income exceed 50 dollars but fall below one-third of national average). Thus, low levels of national per capita income and large size of the

rural sector are regarded as indicators of the prevalence of rural poverty. Ekong (1999) opined that ‘‘the rural poor often share certain disabilities in common including limited assets, environmental vulnerability (typhoons, drought, flood, earthquakes) and the lack of access to public services and amenities such as education and medical care. Under malnutrition, illiteracy, poor housing, large family size and high dependency ratios are some physical manifestations of rural poverty. In urban areas, the burden of demand for services has effects school enrollment, access to primary health care, growth of unsanitary urban shrubs

National Security and Insecurity: According to Deutsch, (1968) security implies a stable relatively unchanged atmosphere in which individuals or groups may pursue their ends without fear of loss or injury. In its broadest sense, national security entails a state or condition where a people’s most cherished values and beliefs, democratic way of life, institutions of governance and unity, welfare and well-being as a nation and individuals are permanently protected and continuously enhanced. In a more specific sense, it connotes the protection, assurances, a state or sense of safety or certainty, and not being exposed to danger (Muhammed, 2012). There are seven fundamental elements that lie at the core of national security in any given polity. These are: socio-political stability; territorial integrity; economic solidarity and strength; ecological balance; cultural cohesiveness; moral-spiritual consensus; and external peace.

Security is among the many goals which individuals and government pursue. Without security crisis, chaos and disharmony will engulf both the government and the governed. Thus, security may be compared to peace, the preservation of peace, and most importantly the provision of individual and state needs through poverty alleviation efforts (programmes). This implies that grave incidence of poverty is a serious threat to national security, especially to the extent that it breeds and abets rebellion, crime and dissidence. Poverty incidence affects about one-third of Nigerian families nationwide. Consequently, the distribution of wealth has been skewed in favour of a wealthy minority (NBS, 2010; Akwara, 2013).

Insecurity is the extreme opposite of security. The import of this is that it is pertinent to conceptualize security before insecurity. Buzan (1991) sees security as political, economic, social and environmental threat that affects the individual as well as the state at national and international levels. To other scholars, security is the absence of threat to acquire values or tendencies that would undermine national cohesion and peace as criteria for the determination of the meaning of security. Security is the condition or feeling of safety from harm or danger, the defence, protection and absence of threat to acquire values (Wolfers 1962, Oladeji and Folorunso 2007). Security is aptly conceptualized by Professor Imobighe thus:

Security is the freedom from danger or threat to a nation’s ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest.... And enhance the well-being of its people. Thus, security is the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of a nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values... as well as freedom from danger to life and property (Oche 2001).

Security is simply the existence of conditions within which individuals in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any form of threat to lives and property (Igbuzor 2004, Akin 2008). Anything devoid of this constitutes a challenge to security. Insecurity as an antithesis of security refers to a condition that exists due to lack of effective measures put in place to protect individuals, information and property against hostile persons,

Methodology

This paper relied majorly on documentary sources of data obtained from textbooks, journal articles, official gazettes, conference papers and internet. Key policy and academic literature on youth participation, exclusion, and economic development was reviewed to examine the nature of evidence on the linkages between these issues and determine where there are gaps.

Incidence of Poverty in Nigeria

It has been widely acknowledged that acute hunger and poverty are currently ravaging Nigeria which has continued to expose the nation’s inability to feed its growing population. As observed by Uchechukwu (2006) majority of Nigerians are poor. In the UNDP report of 2002 Nigeria was ranked as the 26th poorest country. It was ranked 148th (behind Madagascar and Haiti) out of the 173 countries whose living conditions were assessed in that year’s report (Okpe and Abu, 2006). Nigeria it was, that occupied the 154th position amongst 172 countries assessed for Human Development Index in year 2003 (Aluko, 2004).

Also, the UNDP report of year 2004 on Human Development Index ranked Nigeria as 151st behind Madagascar, out of 177 countries (Kolawole, 2006).

According to Nigerian Insight (2014) a staggering 112.519 million Nigerians live in relative poverty conditions. This figure represents 69 per cent of the country's total population estimated to be 163 million. Also other poverty measurement standards used in measuring poverty by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) such as absolute measure, the dollar per day measure puts the rate at 61.2 per cent; and the subjective poverty measure puts it at 93.9 per cent. The report, which provides details of poverty and income distribution across the country, put the 2004 poverty measurement rate at 54.4 per cent. It also shows that income inequality had risen from 0.429 in 2004 to 0.447 in 2010 (Nigerian Insight, 2014). The highlight of the report shows that the North-West and the North-East had the highest poverty rates in the country in 2010 with 77.7 per cent and 76.3 per cent respectively. However, the South-West geo-political zone recorded the lowest at 59.1 per cent. Of all the 36 states of the federation, Sokoto had the highest poverty rate (86.4 per cent), while Niger had the lowest at (43.6 per cent) (Nigerian Insight, 2014).

As contained in the Poverty Profile of 2010, poverty rates in Nigeria increased across the board between 2004 and 2010, but the highest recorded poverty rates were in the North-West and North-East geo-political zones. While poverty alone cannot explain the violent extremism in these regions, it is certainly a factor to consider for overcoming this security challenge. Soludo (2012) noted that if despite the 7 per cent annual growth of income mostly from the non-oil sector (agricultural sector in particular), Nigeria still experiences high rates of poverty, then it means the country is in a state of (poverty) emergency. He also drew attention to the South-East rising poverty profile which has 'shown to be on a high speed lane in the race to the bottom to catch up with the north'.

The Boko Haram insurgency and its accompanied terror in the north-east; the militancy in the Niger Delta; the violent crimes of armed robbery, ritual massacres, kidnapping and rape; the cross-border criminal activities in arms, drugs and human trafficking; the violence resulting from elections; the ethno-religious conflicts resulting in violent destruction of lives and properties; the deaths resulting from accidents due to bad roads and poor traffic management and enforcement; the deaths resulting from avoidable diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS; the environmental threats of desertification and soil erosion, are all mostly the products of corruption and bad governance, which became pronounced since 1999, when the current democratic dispensation began.

Beginning with 2012 United Nations Human Development Index rankings, in which Nigeria was ranked 153 out 187 countries assessed in terms of life expectancy (52.3 years); inequality (54.1% of 2008 population lived in multi-dimensional poverty); and income (GHI per capita in PPP terms – US \$, 102), the world depicts Nigeria as a troubled nation. The 2013 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) has already rated Nigeria below average on Governance (Dambazau, 2014). The IIAG governance framework comprises four categories: safety and rule of law; participation and human rights; sustainable economic opportunity; and human management. There are a total of 14 sub-categories consisting of 94 indicators, and in the 2013 assessment which covers the period 2000 – 2012, Nigeria scored 43.4 per cent, ranking her 41 among the 52 African countries assessed. Even in West Africa where Nigeria has more than half of the population and is the wealthiest in the region, the IIAG scores show that in terms of governance she is only better than three of the other 14 countries. In analyzing the governance assessment of IIAG on Nigeria, an interesting observation is the very low score of 15.8 on personal safety, pitching Nigeria among the bottom four of the 52 African countries assessed (Dambazau, 2014).

The law enforcement agents are very poorly remunerated, equipped; and insufficient in number to police all nooks and corners of the country. Educational system is dysfunctional in its curriculum and has not thought of introducing entrepreneurship development in the academic curriculum until recently. The financial institutions cannot provide loans to young and honest school leavers to start their own businesses but would rather give loans to politicians who cannot pay back these loans when they lose elections; while the poverty eradication programmes designed by the government to eradicate poverty are cornered by the politicians and those in charge of the programmes in the various regions for political patronage. These have had negative impacts on security and national development in Nigeria.

Though poverty is acknowledged to be fast spreading across the globe especially, Third World countries, the persistence of poverty in Nigeria is alarming. Given the World Bank definition of poverty as 'the ability to attain minimal standard of living' it becomes easy to appreciate the level of poverty in Nigeria (Offiong, 2001). Poverty in Nigeria is pervasive and palpable in almost every segment of the society. It is not limited to the rural communities alone. It is also prominent in the urban slums. There are Nigerians who have no houses or good food to eat. Some have no clothes at all or very few worn-out clothes. Many

young Nigerians who struggled to go to school and did very well have no jobs at all (Onuoha, 2008). Some of them are wondering in the streets looking for jobs in vain. Others have resorted to stealing or robbery and some of the girls are almost selling their bodies to survive. Many Nigerians die daily because of lack of medical care, early medical attention or good feeding. Many children born today lack adequate food and die in their childhood.

It has been estimated that more than 80 percent of all the poor live in the rural areas and 92 percent of these live in absolute poverty (Tomlinson, 2002). But then studies world-wide have shown that most rural poor are in agricultural employment. They are usually small-scale operators, tenants and landless. The Nigerian farmer therefore, lives in the rural communities where basic infrastructure and amenities are lacking as a result of poor or improper development policy, which emphasize the provision of infrastructure in the urban centres at the expense of the former. The continuous focus on the urban centres has created a wide gap between the people in the cities and those in the villages. These villages have become disadvantaged, isolated and pauperized for it, just as the able-bodied young men have deserted the villages to escape rural drudgery in search of white-collar jobs. The most vulnerable of the population (the aged, women and children) are left behind to devise coping strategies for their survival. These are almost landless people who lack credit and education with which they could otherwise have been helped to adequately harness the resources at their disposal. Non-farm activities are not in any way better off. People are limited and could hardly make both ends meet. Their physical weakness, vulnerability, powerlessness and isolation have continued to fortify poverty against them, which indeed has reflected in the overall decline in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country over the years. However, while poverty exists among many Nigerians, there are few Nigerians who have cars, houses, companies, and a lot of money. Some of them go abroad for treatment and wear imported dresses, drive expensive cars and use imported furniture. Although a few Nigerians are rich, the poor people are so many that the whole country is poor, despite plenty resources and potentials which the country has.

Successive governments in Nigeria have made efforts to contain poverty in the country by introducing poverty related policies through specialized agencies which were set up to implement capacity building policies targeting the youth and poverty reduction. These include Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) in 1976 by General Olusegun Obasanjo; the Green Revolution by Alhaji Shehu Shagari in 1979 to 1983; the War Against Indiscipline by General Muhamadu Buhari in 1983 to 1985. To combat the menace of poverty, between 1985 and 1993, General Ibrahim Babangida introduced a number of programmes including Peoples Bank, Community Banks, Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI); Nigeria Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA); and the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). Others are Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) by late General Sani Abacha in 1993. Between 1999 and 2007, President Olusegun Obasanjo introduced the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP); Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES); Rural Infrastructure Development Scheme (RIDS); Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS) and National Resource Development and Conservation Scheme (NRDCS). The statistics are indeed graphic and confounding. Amidst these programmes some monetary incentives were also put in place to encourage the growth of Small Scale Enterprises such as the establishment of financial institutions with the aim of granting loans at subsidized rates of interest. Such financial institutions include the Nigeria Industrial Development Bank (NIDB); Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry (NBCI); Federal Loans Board (FLB); and the Nigeria Agricultural, Corporate and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB). Despite these arrays of poverty reduction programmes and schemes, poverty remains today a fundamental factor contributing to Youth restiveness and other criminal activities such as human trafficking, kidnapping, rape, electoral malpractices, prostitution, robbery, assassinations and so on.

Many of the poverty alleviation programmes implemented in Nigeria have not succeeded because they are unsustainable ad-hoc approaches borne out of the traditional 'top-Bottom' strategy with little or no involvement of target beneficiaries. In urban areas, the burden of demand for services has effects school enrollment, access to primary health care, growth of unsanitary urban shrubs. For any meaningful economic growth and poverty reduction, there is the need to enhance and improve access to social services, including health and education.

There are many who also believe that poverty alleviation programmes in Nigeria have not been able to reduce poverty due lack of sincere and purposeful leadership, which has failed to synchronize both human and natural capitals in a sustainable way to bring about desirable living condition of the people (Kolawole, 2006; Jimada, 2008). There are two ways in which the problem of bad leadership has damaged the country. The first is the way and manner political leaders in Nigeria have mismanaged the wealth of the country.

Much of Nigeria's wealth is used to buy foreign goods which political leaders and their families, friends and colleagues want and not for the development of the nation or for providing the needs of the poor masses (Jimada, 2008). A large part of that wealth is simply stolen through inflated contracts, fraud and other dubious methods. Most of the political leaders who stole this money have taken them to foreign banks abroad to avoid detection and explanation. Billions of Naira has been lost in this way (The Nation, 2016). The second is the shift in emphasis from Agriculture to oil exploitation since the early 70s. The resources generated by oil have not been invested in the non-oil sector of the economy on which 90 percent of Nigerians depend for their livelihood (Kolawole, 2006).

Security Situation in Nigeria

Since the return of democracy in 1999, the security situation in Nigeria has been quite worrisome. Of course like any other human society, conventional crimes have always been part of the experience especially after the civil war, but more recent experience in violent extremism, insurgency and other forms of militancy have made the situation much more complex. Currently, the most serious security threats in Nigeria are those in the category of discontent or separatist agenda, specifically the violent extremism of Boko Haram and the violent militancy in the Niger Delta (Dambazau, 2014). While the former uses religion as its platform, employing such tactics as suicide bombing, organized attacks on police and military installations, terrorizing rural communities, etc; the latter is resource-based, and uses the control of oil found in its domain as its platform, knowing that about 90 per cent of Nigeria's revenue comes from that natural resource.

The tactics of the Niger Delta militants include destruction of oil platforms using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), kidnapping of foreign oil workers, sabotage of oil facilities, and vandalization of pipelines. However, since 2009 when the late President Umaru Yar' Adua in 2007 declared amnesty for the militants in exchange for laying down their arms, the violent militancy in the Niger Delta subsided, of course not without heavy financial costs involving the provision of monthly allowances to all registered ex-militants, skills acquisition for the ex-militants, patronage of the militants' leaders with juicy contracts, the creation of the Niger Delta Development Company (NNDC). This was in addition to the 13 per cent of the total oil revenue that is shared among the communities in the region (Dambazau, 2014).

Despite attempts by the federal government to achieve peace in the Niger Delta the problem of insecurity in the region has continued to linger. In 2010, the major group, the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), whose leader, Henry Okah, was convicted by a South African court for terrorism planted twin car bombs which left 12 people dead and 17 injured during the 50th anniversary independence celebration in the Federal Capital, Abuja (Dambazau, 2014). The emergence of Niger Delta Avengers (another militant group) in 2016 that has since undertaken to bomb oil facilities is a clear sign that the end of militancy in the Niger Delta is not yet in sight. There have also been a number of incidents involving cultist violence, especially in Rivers State. These include a series of kidnappings of foreign oil workers and people with high positions or members of their families for ransom and large scale oil theft. All these security challenges undoubtedly have posed some threats to social, economic and political development in Nigeria.

Poverty, Security and National Development in Nigeria

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

Nigeria like many other underdeveloped countries has a large and growing population of poor and unemployed citizens, many of whom have few choices other than economic activities that endangered the environment thereby threatening the nation's national security. Within the last few years (especially 1999 to 2016), heightened social insecurity in Nigeria has arguably fuelled the crime rate, leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy and its growth. The socio-political and economic landscape in Nigeria has been blighted by the endemic twin evil of crime and violence. The abysmal failure of

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

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

Insecurity also leads to loss of human capital that would have been gainfully invested for national development. The rates of terrorist bombings, kidnapping, armed robbery attacks on banks as well as other violent crimes in recent times have led to a prevalent massive loss of the nation's human resources. This ugly trend poses a threat to the future of the nation's agricultural productivity level, private sector investment volume, petroleum sector growth rate, manpower and overall economic development. According to the Human Rights Watch about 2800 lives were lost to terror-related violence between 2009 and 2012 (Albinus, 2012). Within the first nine months of in 2012, 815 people were killed in 275 suspected attacks by the Boko Haram group and this represents more than the total number of deaths recorded between 2010 and 2011 combined. In addition, 211 police officers were killed while over 60 police stations in at least 10 northern and central states were attacked by the terrorist group apart from the police headquarters that was bombed in Abuja (Oladiran, 2014).

Yearly, unspecified millions of naira is being paid as ransom for the release of victims of kidnapping; not forgetting the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)'s 100 million naira cash donation, the 200 million naira donations from combined effort of the opposition Governors, and the 50,000 dollars donation from the Christian Association of Nigeria, America chapter to reduce the suffering of the victims of regional militia (www.myfinancialintelligence.com). Ordinarily, these are monies that are supposed to be channeled to human capital development now being deployed to the rehabilitation of families of the casualties and the renovation of properties destroyed. Since the inception of the Amnesty Programme by the Federal Government to quenching the Niger-Delta militia, billions of naira has been spent on it not in commensurate with the expected results, an indication of wastages occasioned by the menace of insurgency (Oladiran, 2014).

Furthermore, the effects of Poverty on national security and development can be explained in the fact that it tends to limit the capacity of the people to harness the resources that will improve their living conditions. Therefore, their economic activities have continued to dwindle. The impact is seriously felt in the agricultural sector as well as other sectors of the economy. Since farmers in Nigeria lack the appropriate technology, updated skills, modern technology, capacity building, innovative techniques, tools, lack capital to invest in this sector (to improve the soils and multiply the yields), because of this poor state, the sector has seriously been affected. Considering the high level of population growth in Nigeria in relation to the shrinking food production and the economy, there is a serious threat to food production and security. The policies to guarantee food security and eliminate hunger in Nigeria have remained all theories on the lips of those who preach it to make political gains.

Due to the poverty situation in Nigeria, the country has since 1966 witnessed successive political crises that culminated into a civil war in 1967, coup d'états, sit-tight military dictators, flawed elections etc in attempt to cling on to power: believing that nectar is found only on the crown or around the crown. Most of the manpower has been trained to use arms, the little finances used to purchase arms and most of the time spent in fighting (Civil war, curbing the activities Niger-Delta Militants and Boko Haram insurgents etc). The feeble economy is therefore, left in the hands of the women and the old. If Nigeria remains in a perpetual state of poverty and insecurity, little or nothing can be expected national development.

Conclusion

It is apparent that Nigeria is passing through a turbulent period: a period characterized by high level of poverty and insecurity with their attendant effects on national development. Incidence of insurgency and

criminality are high and widely spread, making it difficult to appreciate the strides made by Muhammadu Buhari since assuming office as the President of Nigeria in 2015 to provide security of lives and property; and improve the living conditions of the people. Therefore, it can be concluded that one of the greatest threats to national security and development in Nigeria is the large army of poor people. Thus national development can be achieved in Nigeria only if poverty and insecurity are combated. If poverty and insecurity are allowed to prevail in Nigerian communities, then the dream of sustainable national development and national stability will be a mirage. This is because, 'if a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich'.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this paper, the following recommendations are made:

1. Due to the increasing rate of poverty and attendant security threats in Nigeria, there is the need for government to restructure and redesign approaches that will permanently reduce poverty through the provision of basic infrastructure and services that are efficient. It is not enough that these are provided but that the cost should be affordable to the poor.
2. There is also the need for greater investment in human development, evidence shows that investment in human capital, especially in planned education, shelter, and social services, increase the productivity of the poor and make the state less vulnerable to lack of security. Government at the same time needs to address the ever-increasing rate of socio-economic disparity which has a tendency to increase the number of poor people in the society.
3. Government should enforce strict ammunition control and consider a sharp reduction in the availability of weapons such as handguns in the country, since aggression is also elicited by aggressive stimuli. Jamaica, for instance in 1974, implemented a sweeping anti-crime programme that included strict gun control and censorship of gun scenes from television and movies (Diener and Crandall, 1979). Thus, strict enforcement of the gun control law in Nigeria is needed to mop up the array of small and light arms in the hands of unauthorized people (especially the youth) across the country.
4. The Political leaders should be transparent in their governance and accountable to the people. If the government is accountable and transparent, much of the violence experience in Nigeria today will wither away. Most of the policies of the government that do not favour the poor should be reviewed in order to prevent officials who use state policies for criminal ends to enable them live in affluence from doing so. Such attitude causes envy, jealousy and anger among the poor and unemployed masses that feel alienated and cannot make any meaning out of government policies, and makes them to resort to kidnappings, violent crimes and assassinations that pervert the country nowadays. If government policies are made to be humane in forms and applications, the country would become safer to live in.
5. Government should ensure timely collection and analysis of data such as survey of poverty and unemployment rates purposely to provide policy makers with an important tool for decision-making on pro-poor policies.
6. The Judicial system in the country should be reviewed to strengthened to ensure that justice is dispensed no matter whose ox is gored. Nepotism and a culture of impunity must be eschewed from our national psyche and life.
7. Participatory democracy in Nigeria should be broadened by playing the political game according to the established rules and equally avoid 'do or die' and winner takes all syndromes.

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