

The Uprising Militancy as It Affects Development in Nigeria (A Case Study of Niger Delta)

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Abstract

This paper aimed at investigating the factors responsible for the uprising militancy and its consequences on development in Nigeria, a case study of Niger Delta. Data were obtained from secondary sources via journals, publications, live TV broad cast, workshops and seminars. The researcher adopted historical and content analytical methods. The findings of the study revealed that; failure of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region, arms proliferation, recent rise of cultism, bloody politics, economic hardship and high prevalence and consumption of hard drugs are factors responsible for the rise of militancy in Nigeria. The study further revealed that increase in brain drain in Nigeria, increase in government expenditure for defense and security, obstruction of economic activities, very low Nigeria's peace index, etc. are attributed to the uprising militancy in the country. Based on the findings, the study made the following recommendations; review of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region, arms proliferation should be put to check, drug law enforcement agents should be up and doing to control the prevalence and use of hard drugs, government should reduce the level of unemployment rate in the country, reform the armed forces and the police to discharge their duties without fear or favour, value re-orientations among all the youths of all the regions in Nigeria and bloody politicians who encourage and empower these boys be prosecuted by law.

Key words: Militancy, kidnapping, amnesty, development, unemployment.

Introduction

Militancy is any use of violence, aggression, combativeness and confrontation by a group of persons to support a political or social cause, whose major activities are killing, kidnapping and destruction of properties and people to call the attention of government thereby causing insecurity and underdevelopment in the society.

There are different militant groups in Nigeria from different regions of the country who use the aforementioned activities to express their dissatisfactions or grievances against the way the State is running her affairs. In the Northern Nigeria; we have the Boko-haram who forbade Western education, we have the Islamic States in West Africa Province (ISWAP) whose target is to convert West African countries to Islamic countries, and we also have Herdsmen who are interested in controlling land resources across Nigeria. In the South- Eastern region, we have the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) agitating for secession to have Biafra Republic. Then, the South-South region, we also have the Niger Delta Militants under the umbrellas of Movement for Emancipation for Niger Delta (MEND) and Avengers; with the intent of controlling their resources thereby fighting against marginalization, exploitation and abandonment of the region that produced the bulk of the nation's wealth by the government and the multi-national companies that are carry out oil exploration in the region. The violence created by these groups in the country resulted to insecurity in the affected areas of the country, thereby distorting the existing peace and progress of the country whose aftermath effect is economic underdevelopment (Akpan, 2010).

Holistically, the researcher defined development as the improvement in the material, physical, mental, spiritual and moral quality of life, resulting from rising real incomes, the reduction or eradication of poverty, unemployment, unjustified inequalities, the provision of better food, shelter, health, education, protection of lives and properties, high self-esteem or respect, increased freedom of choice and ability to determine one's own destiny. According to Todaro and Smith (2010, p.54-57) who put differently that, development is the increase standard of living, in addition to the acceleration of economic growth or increase in real output and income, the elimination of abject poverty, the reduction of inequality and unemployment, and the acquisition of better food, housing, clothing, education and greater security of lives and properties. He went further to highlights three core values or components of development: (a) Life sustenance- ability to meet basic needs. (b) self-esteem- to have self-worth, recognition, honour, dignity, identity and respect, and not being used as a tool by others to achieve their ends (c) freedom from servitude – freedom to have more goods and services, equal political participation, rule of law, freedom of expression and equal opportunity, right to life and movement. Anything other than these components is underdevelopment being attributed to militancy.

In Nigeria, Militant activities like kidnapping started in 2006 when expatriate oil companies' employees in the Niger Delta region were kidnapped by MEND to declare an open message to draw the attention of the federal government, international communities and the World at large for many years of marginalization, injustice, exploitation and underdevelopment of the region by the oil multinationals and the Federal Government of Nigeria. Since then, the menace became boldly commercialized in several parts of the country (Akpan, 2010). Statistics has shown that, kidnappers abducted over 1,386 Nigerian in 2019. In 2020 it increased to 19,984 persons with an estimated amount of N13.5 million in ransom. Ransom figure increased from N1,025,635,000 to N68, 400,000 from 2018 to 2020 (Dennis, 2020). Zonal kidnapping figures, North-East- 112 and 949 in 2020 and 2021 respectively; North-West - 344 and 279 in 2020 and 2021 respectively; North-Central - 135 and 793 in 2020 and 2021 respectively; South-West - 264 from 2018 to 2021; in South-East - 77 from 2018 to 2021; and in the South –South - 341 from 2018 to 2021 (Nicholas, Taiwo, Hassan & Mojeed, 2012). In 2022 from January to March, the abduction records based on regions are: Northern Nigeria: North-West - 746, North-Central – 547, North-East – 61, amounting to 1,354 (91.2%), while in the Southern Nigeria: South-East -53, South-West -36 and South-South – 44 amounting to 130 (8.8%) (Nigerian Security Trackers, 2022).

The death toll as a result of kidnapping in 2021, the Northern Nigeria recorded 2,575(86.8%) while the Southern Nigeria recorded 393(13.2%). Where; South-West (127), South-East (181), and South-South (85), (Nigerian Security Trackers, 2022).

Narrowing this paper to the Niger Delta region, oil drilling in the region began in the 1950s which really stimulated Nigeria's economy and was extremely beneficial to the country. Numerous multinational corporations established oil operations in the region and made conscious effort not to violate any environmental and human right regulations in the region. Royal Dutch Shell began drilling in the region in 1956. Over time, Shell's presence in the region became detrimental as she carried out her oil exploratory activities. This includes thousands of oil spills, human right violations, environmental destruction and corruption. For emphasis, since 1956, the exploration of oil; one and half million tons of oil has been discharged into the farmlands, forests, and rivers of the region. As such, the soil became acidic which disrupts photosynthesis; killed economic trees, crops, and kill aquatic animals. Fish population has negatively affected by oil drilling but was neglected by oil companies. The region being the home for over 250 different species of fish, 20 of these species are

found nowhere else in the region. Farming and fishing being the major occupation of the region became affected by the exploration activities, subjecting the region to abject poverty and frustration despite the enormous wealth generated in the oil rich region. Activists like Ken Saro-Wiwa (a poet), usually non-violent emerged to oppose the perceived injuries perpetrated upon the people of the region by the government and the oil companies, but was deliberately executed by the Nigerian government in 1995 by false charges with the aim of silencing his vocal opposition to the oil interest in Nigeria (Akpan, 2010).

In Saro-Wiwa's footsteps came others who having seeing government reaction to non-violent activism, advocated violence as resistance to what they regarded as the enslavement of the people. With this background, series of meetings were held in 2005 and Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF) and Niger Delta Vigilantes (NDV) together with fighters from different cult groups like Greenland, Iceland, Vikings and Klansmen Konfraternity (KK) metamorphosed to form the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) with the agreement to kill, kidnap oil workers and attack oil installations in the region to draw the attention of the federal government and international communities to the plight of the people (Akpan, 2010).

In 2006, MEND resulted to taking foreign employees of oil companies' hostage. More than 200 foreigners were kidnapped with huge amount of money for ransom, oil pipelines were destroyed and oil was extracted onto barges (bunkering) for profit. This became another phase of business in the region. Militancy in the region encouraged oil theft and other spate of insecurity as well as making the region to be more pronounced in militancy. Bunkering became a common practice in the region where militia groups were the primary perpetrators thereby causing oil production by 30,000 barrels per day but made their economic situations better off (Akpan, 2010).

In 2009, the insurgency in the region reduced after the announcement of amnesty by the federal government. Armed youths were asked to surrender their weapons to the government in return for training, monthly payment and rehabilitation by the government. Over 30,000 purported members signed up in exchanged for monthly payment and lucrative contracts for guarding the pipeline. The programme did not cut across all in the region though, at first the programme proved to be successful, the violence and kidnapping decreased sharply. The petroleum production and exports increased from 700,000 barrels per day from the mid -2009 to 2.2 and 2.4 million per day in 2011 (Akpan, 2010).

After a while the programme started experiencing some bottle necks such as corruption in selecting who should be trained, ghost names were included, and the type of training whether it is relevant or not to the environment. Monthly salaries were stopped for those who undergo training and higher education. The programme did not properly empower the youths with sound mind transforming entrepreneurial education.

Again, after the change of government in 2015, the new government saw the amnesty programme as a potential enabler for corruption, promised that the programme would not continue indefinitely. Thus, monthly payment became inconsistent as a norm. The discontentment of the militants became deepened with the new government's view to the programme. In 2016, militancy in the region continued via Niger Delta Avengers to attack oil producing facilities resulting to short down of oil terminals and the Nigeria's oil production fell to its lowest level. The attack caused Nigeria to fall behind Angola as Africa's largest oil producer. The reduction of output of oil production hampered the economy of Nigeria and destroyed her budget. Nigeria being the World's tenth largest oil exporter

whose abundant oil reserve located in the wetland of the Niger Delta (the largest wetland in African continent) was ruined by militancy in the region (Akpan, 2010).

Despite the amnesty, the creation of NDDC and the Ministry of Niger Delta, militant activities like kidnapping, armed robbery, pipeline vandalization is still high. Though, kidnapping was first applied as a weapon to stamp out economic and environmental injustice in the Niger Delta region. This menace has become boldly commercialized in several parts of the country with their inherent consequences in the economy of the country (Akpan, 2010). Militancy has resulted to loss of lives, properties and huge economic costs. The rising militancy in the guise of kidnapping and violence has made Nigeria's GDP reduced by 11%. (N119billion). Similarly, due to insecurity, N12 trillion worth of projects were abandoned across the country. Nigeria was rated 146th out of 163 countries in the institute for economic and peace's 2021 peace index, with a score of 2.712. Nigeria was ranked 39th out of 44 countries examined for security situation using peace index in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to expert insecurity in Nigeria is drying out investment, increasing unemployment and dividing government's revenue (SBM, 2021).

Akpan (2010) opined that kidnapping in Nigeria has been attributed to ethnic militia, blood politics, unemployment, failure of government to provide basic needs, dirty politics, security failures, traditional rulers, and communities encouraging crime. Eke (2019) examined that militancy was triggered by social injustice, oppressive policies, marginalization and resource control, and the government seemed not have proper policy and bearing on the agenda (mistrust on the part of government). Joseph and Angioha (2019) said, militancy in Nigeria is as a result of the failure of the security outfit. Owie and Mike (2019) said, militancy in the country is as a result of the widespread poverty and youth unemployment. Dennis (2020) said, militancy in Nigeria is as a result of the economic hardship. If the root causes are not properly identified and addressed, the next phase of violence would completely ruin the whole economy of Nigeria. Thus, to fill the research gap, the current study looked at failure of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region, arms proliferation, recent high rise of cultism, bloody politics, economic hardship and high consumption of hard drugs as factors responsible for the high rise of militancy in Nigeria, which in turn affect the economy negatively.

Objectives

The main objectives of the study were:

1. To examine the factors responsible for the uprising militancy
2. To verify the effects of militancy on development in Nigeria.

Scope of the Study

The paper focused on examining the uprising militancy and how it affects development in Nigeria using Niger Delta as a case study. Based on this, the current paper centred on the failure of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region, arms proliferation, recent high rise of cultism, bloody politics, economic hardship, and high consumption of hard drugs as factors responsible for the high rise of militancy in Nigeria, and its consequences on the economy of Nigeria.

Literature review

This section examined the mainstream of previous related studies. This is in recognition of the fact that it is important to know what had been written before so that we can make a useful contribution to knowledge. Furthermore, appropriate theoretical framework was also reviewed in order for us to properly understand the factors responsible for the uprising militancy in Nigeria and the consequences on development.

Silas (2015) examined the unlawful oil bunkering in Nigeria and its impact on the economy and the way forward. His study adopted a qualitative method using secondary data such as publications, journals, newspaper, magazines, live TV broadcast and the internet. The findings showed that the nation has incurred huge loses of the oil revenue due to oil theft which was estimated to be N1.29 trillion to industrial scale theft yearly, withdrawal of foreign investor and companies, and degradation of the local environment. He recommended that federal government should immediately prosecute offenders of oil theft and re-integrate good political will and to use every available law to sanction the big players in the oil theft ring both locally and internationally to serve as deterrent to others.

Eke (2019) investigated militancy and violence as a catalyst to kidnapping in Nigeria. He revealed that the triggers of militancy are social injustice, oppressive policies, marginalization and resource control. He recommended that value re-orientation, good governance based on justice and rule of law as well as criminal justice system to curb the excesses.

Joseph and Angioha (2019) also examined the roll of security agencies in preventing kidnapping in Akpabuyo local government area of Cross River State, Nigeria. A cross sectional survey research design was adopted; a mixed method sampling technique was employed. Data were generated from 400 respondents using questionnaire. The method of data analysis employed was Pearson Product Moment Correlation at 0.05 level of significance. The results of the study revealed that Nigerian police force has a significant relationship in the local government area, including community vigilante activities. Based on the findings, the study recommended that government should improve the welfare and budgetary expenditure of the security agencies so that modern and adequate equipment to combat kidnapping and other crimes.

Owie and Mike (2019) assessed crude oil theft in Nigeria in the context of causal factor surplus theory. The study employed content analysis of secondary data. Findings from the study showed that crude oil theft in the Niger Delta region was rooted in the bad economy and widespread poverty coupled with unemployment.

Kosy (2017) investigated growth impact of insecurity on the Nigerian economy for the period of 1981 to 2017. Data for the study were collected from the various editions of CBN Statistical Bulletin. The data were analyzed using Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) Unit Root Test, Johansen Cointegration Test, and Error Correction Model (ECM) at 0.05 level. The selected variables for the study were Life Expectancy at Birth, Terrorism, Risk Index, Discomfort Index, Adult Literacy Rate, Corruption Perception Index and Unemployment Rate as proxies of insecurity while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a proxy of Nigeria's economy. The result revealed that, insecurity has negative impact on the economy of Nigeria. Based on the results of the findings, the study recommended that government should reform and decentralize security structure, increase capital expenditure on security and provide the enabling environment for people to work especially in the area of security of lives and property.

Bright (2018) investigated the relationship between insecurity proxy by government expenditure on internal security, and economic growth proxy by government revenue as a share of GDP in Nigeria. Data for the study were obtained from secondary sources including Central Bank of Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics and OPEC annual Reports from 2009 to 2015. Product Moment Correlation method of data analysis was employed to analyze the data. The results showed that insecurity proxy by government expenditure had a negative relationship with economic growth proxy by government revenue as a share of GDP. The study therefore, concluded that insecurity has negative effects on the economy of Nigeria.

Sandler and Yomas (2018) examined the impact of terrorism on foreign direct investment as a share of gross domestic product of 78 developing countries for the period of 1980 – 2017 and applying a data analyzing technique of GMM estimator to a dynamic panel. The said data were obtained from World Bank Development Indicators. They concluded that domestic terrorism has a negative and significant impact on FDI as a share of GDP. They further reiterated that insecurity has a far-reaching impact on people's lives and wellbeing.

Ezeajughu (2021) investigated the relationship between insecurity and socioeconomic development in Nigeria: A focus on the Eastern Nigeria. The study employed a sample size of 880 participants. A self-structured questionnaire was employed. Spearman Correlation data analysis technique was employed to analyze the qualitative data obtained from the 880 participants. The result revealed that, there is a negative, significant and high correlation (0.76) between insecurity and socioeconomic development of the Eastern Nigeria. The study concluded that, this insecurity triggers and challenges Nigeria's efforts towards national economic development and consequently its vision. It also scares the attraction of foreign investment and their contributions to economic development in Nigeria. This paper recommends active leadership style and decent governance as a panacea to solving problems of insecurity, unemployment, poverty, hunger, disease, among other negative indices. It further reiterated that, community policing, human development centered growth perspective, equitable distribution of resources as well as channeling of resources to frontline sectors of the economy.

After reviewing the various literatures, this current study made contribution to knowledge by considering the failure of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region, arms proliferation, recent high rise of cultism, bloody politics, economic hardship and high consumption of hard drugs as factors responsible for the high rise of militancy in Nigeria, and its consequences on the economy of Nigeria.

Factors Responsible for the High Rise of Militancy in Nigeria

This study outlined failure of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region, arms proliferation, recent high rise of cultism, bloody politics, economic hardship and high prevalence and consumption of hard drugs as factors responsible for the high rise of militancy in Nigeria, and its consequences on the economy of Nigeria.

1. Failure of the Amnesty Programme in the Niger Delta: the smooth operation of the amnesty programme was distorted by some factors, hence could not achieve the desired goals. The purpose of the programme was to reduce poverty via monthly payment, vocational training and higher education. The monthly payment of the programme is no longer consistent, sometimes no salary for 3 to 6 months. Thus, these hungry and angry youths may not have choice than to go for other easier ways to get cash without minding the legal implication.

Again, most of those who chose vocational training were trained with skills that are not relevant in the immediate environment they live; end up adding no economic value to themselves and the society. Most of those who chose higher education came back from their course of study but were not being absorbed by the government to contribute their quotas to nation building or development. In a nutshell, the programme did not cut across most of the youths who have the readiness to be trained rather ghost names were considered and chances were sold to people outside the region.

2. **Arms Proliferation:** Increase and illicit possession of fire-arms and light weapons in the country. Statistics has shown that the number of fire –arms and light weapons in the hands of civilians in Nigeria in 2016 was estimated to be two (2) million. In 2020, the number of small arms and light weapons in the hands of non-state actors (civilians) was estimated to be six million, one hundred and forty-five thousand (6,145,000), while the law enforcement agents could only account for five hundred and eighty-six thousand (586,000) fire-arms (SBM Intelligent report, 2020). This means that, the number of fire-arms in the possession of civilians tripled for just a space of four years. Again, out of the ten (10) million fire-arms proliferated to the West Africa, only Nigeria is roughly accounted for 60% of the region’s total (SBM Intelligent report, 2020).
3. **Recent High Rise of Cultism:** The recent high rise of cultism in our society is also fuelling militancy in Nigeria. The high rise is attributed to their easy access to small and light weapons together with the merging of the violent groups of the different regions in the country. The later end up funding the cult members to spur violence in the country. For instance, in the Niger Delta region the militant groups became formidable when the various cults like Greenland, Iceland, Vikings and KK joined the two militia groups in the region. Cultism is now a prestige in the society to the extent that every youth in the society is vying to be a member, even children in secondary schools.
4. **Bloody Politics:** The militancy in the country is also attributed to the bloody politics engendered by desperate politicians who hired and empowered the youths with weapons during electioneering period to achieve their political goals but failed to retrieve these weapons after the contract. The aftermath is the use of these weapons to fuelled violence, kidnap people for ransom, and rob to distort economic progress of the country. Even when they are being caught and arrested the same politicians would free them during electioneering period.
5. **Economic Hardship:** The current Nigeria’s economic situation is pathetic. Nigeria, being the heartbeat of Africa and the most populous black nation has been economically bedridden for a while now. Inflation rate in 2020 was 12.8%, in 2021 was 15.5% and the urban inflation rate as at May in 2022 was 18.24%. Unemployment rate in 2020 was 27%, and in 2021 was 35%. Fiscal debt was N39.56 trillion in 2021. Poverty rate as at 2020 was 42% and in 2021 it was 42.6% (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2022). The effect of these indices on the population has made insecurity very high as everyone strive to fend for him/her -self by any means.
6. **High Prevalence and Consumption of Hard drugs:** Most of the deaths recorded and crimes committed by individuals are attributed to the abuse of these hard drugs whose prevalence cannot be quantified. For instance, the abuse of tramadol among patients attending an addiction clinic in the North-Eastern Nigeria. He concluded that, 93% of the respondents were addicted to the consumption of tramadol to relieve tiredness and for sexual intercourse (Ibrahim (2017). Ebikapaye (2019) also examined the rapid increase in the abuse of hard

drugs and substances use among adolescents in Yenagoa Local Government. He concluded that, four (4) out of every ten (10) young adults you meet on the street abused drugs.

Consequences of Militancy on Development in Nigeria

The following are the various ways militancy affects development in Nigeria economically, socially and politically with statistical facts from government and non- governmental organization's publications:

1. Investment inflows are short circuited. As at 2020 over \$40.6 billion worth of foreign investments were diverted from Nigeria's economy due to militancy. This has implication for job creation and economic prosperity as purchasing power declined. Nigeria is now regarded as capital of poverty with an estimation of 91 million people living below the extreme line of poverty, as it is projected to reach 106.6 million in 2030. The intensification of news broadcast on insecurity due to militancy with weak and ineffective government response could reduce the assurance of foreign investors of their safety. According to the United Nation Conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD), foreign direct investment flows to Nigeria averaged \$5.3 billion annually from 2005 to 2007. However, UNCTAD data shows that, foreign direct investment to Nigeria averaged \$3.3 billion from 2015 to 2019, a period that marked with heightened insecurity in the country. The level of insecurity is one of the reasons for Nigeria's repulsiveness for inward foreign investment in the country. For instance, in Bayelsa State, multinationals are relocating the area due to the increasing level of insecurity caused by militancy in the region, and this has negative impact on the economy of Nigeria (Nathan, 2018).
2. Increase in brain drain due to militancy. Nigeria is losing her best brains on daily basis through mass relocation to western countries like Canada that seems to be the country of choice for most Nigerians at the moment due to its open-door policy for qualified migrants. A recent poll conducted showed that nine (9) in every ten (10) respondents indicated that 88% disclosed that they are seeking work opportunities abroad. It was also found out that 83% of doctors who filled the questionnaire based to abroad are licensed in Nigeria, indicating that they had completed their medical education in Nigeria before departing beyond the shore of Nigeria. The prospect of good life is being jeopardized in the country by militancy and its negative impact on development.
3. Militancy affects the telecommunication service sector. Like MTN projected a possible disruption in service provision due to the rising insecurity challenges.
4. Increase in government expenditure on security. In response to the increasing insecurity in Nigeria, the government has been allocating hundreds of billions of naira to defense and security related expenditure. These large sums of money that could have been going elsewhere in the economy especially in the education, health and technology sectors. The budgetary allocation to Nigerian Army, Navy and Air Force from 2015 – 2022 are: (2015 – Army (150bn), Navy (75bn) and Airforce (77bn); in 2016 - Army (148bn), Navy (86bn) and Airforce (91bn); in 2017 - Army (155bn), Navy (90bn) and Airforce (100bn); in 2018 - Army (224bn), Navy (97bn) and Airforce (112bn); in 2019 - Army (228bn), Navy (101bn) and Airforce (115bn); in 2020 - Army (463bn), Navy (131bn) and Airforce (136bn); in 2021 - Army (511bn), Navy (136bn) and Airforce (140bn); and 2022 - Army (579bn), Navy (148bn) and Airforce (510,400bn); (Budget Office of the Federation, 2022).
5. Militancy affects tourism. Tourists do not visit places that are not safe. Insecurity in Nigeria has made many countries constraining their citizens to travel to some parts of Nigeria. For

instance, the British foreign and common wealth office advised British nationals against traveling to 16 states in Nigeria. With such a dire warning, only few foreigners will make Nigeria a destination of choice. Insecurity is a hindrance to long term economic prosperity.

6. Disruption of economic activities. With pervasive insecurity come internal displacement of people and the crippling of economic activities in the worst affected areas. We have witnessed the virtual death of economic activities in all the regions of the country. For instance, in the Northern Nigeria, over the last decade due to the violent Boko Haram insurgency, agricultural produce in Benue and a number of other North central states of Nigeria have been badly affected by the herdsmen – farmers clashes have created internal refugees within the country. Over 3 million people have been displaced (SBM, 2020).

As a result, people in the refugee camps are not able to contribute to economic activities.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on General Strain Theory (GST) developed by Agnew in 1992, which states that strains (pressures) increase the chances of committing crime, particularly strains that are high in degree, are seen as unfair, associated with low social control, and create some pressure or motivation for criminal coping. In other words, the theory says that strains or stressors increase the likelihood of negative emotions like anger and frustration. These emotions spur the frustrated youths to commit crime. Examples include marginalization, discrimination, victimization, frustration, abandonment, unemployment, poverty and a desperate need for money. Crime may be used to reduce or escape from strains. For instance, engaging violence and militancy, arm robbery, kidnapping, pipeline vandalization to reduce poverty, seek revenge against the source of strain or related targets, or alleviate negative emotions. A criminal response is more likely when people lack the ability to cope in a legal manner and are disposed to crime.

The present society where every citizen tends to have more room and opportunity to self-expression may likely express their grievances in form of violence. The Niger Delta youths' violence and abduction of expatriate workers and even citizens in the Niger Delta region was an expression of frustration. These violent conflicts are largely responsible for the backwardness of the country. Thus, poverty, unemployment, marginalization, discrimination, victimization, frustration and abandonment, lead to series of negative emotions to create violence. Hence, the consequence of this reaction is on the economy of development of the country.

Methodology

The researcher adopted historical and content analytical method on the current study. This is because the researcher employed the use of secondary documentary evidences such as journals, magazines, documentaries, Live TV- broad cast, Statistical bulletins, seminar, workshops, etc. the information gathered from these sources were used by the researcher in achieving the stated objectives.

Discussion of Findings

Based on the facts presented, it is evident that amnesty programme in the Nigeria could not achieve its desired goal in curbing militancy in the region, thus amnesty failed with a lot of bottle necks to achieve its goals. Arms proliferation spurred militancy all over the country in 2020, the number of small arms and light weapons in the hands of non-state actors (civilians) was estimated to be six million, one hundred and forty-five thousand (6,145,000), (SBM Intelligent report, 2020). The high

rise is attributed to their easy access to small and light weapons together with the merging of the violent groups of the different regions in the country. The current Nigeria's economic situation is pathetic being attributed to the uprising militancy. Inflation rate in 2020 was 12.8%, in 2021 was 15.5% and the urban inflation rate as at May in 2022 was 18.24%. Unemployment rate in 2020 was 27%, and in 2021 was 35%. Poverty rate as at 2020 was 42% and in 2021 it was 42.6% (National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2022). Most of the crimes committed by individuals are attributed to the abuse of these hard drugs like tramadol. All these factors are responsible for the uprising militancy which affects all the components of development in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Militancy being violent means such as killing, kidnapping, armed robbery, etc to express the frustration and grievances on the failure of the state to meet the needs of the people by some group of individuals to draw the attention of the government and the World at large; has negative effects on the development of the country – Nigeria. The rising militancy in the guise of kidnapping and violence has cost Nigeria 11% of its GDP (N119 billion). Similarly, projects worth N12 trillion were uncompleted or left undone across Nigeria due to insecurity. The peace index for 2021 compiled by the institute for economic and peace ranked Nigeria 146th out of 163 countries examined with a score of 2.712. Nigeria was ranked 39th out of 44 countries examined for security situation using peace index in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to expert, insecurity in Nigeria is drying out of investment, increasing unemployment and dividing government's revenue. The perceived factors responsible for the uprising militancy in the present Nigeria are: failure of the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region, arms proliferation, recent high rise of cultism, bloody politics, economic hardship and high prevalence and consumption of hard drugs.

Recommendations

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

1. Review the amnesty programme in the Niger Delta region.
2. Arms proliferation should be controlled. The security agents should be given additional training and equipment to tract arms dealers in our porous borders.
3. Drug law enforcement agents should be up and doing to control the prevalence and use of hard drugs.
4. Government should reduce unemployment rate, build infrastructures as enablers of economic activities.
5. Government should reform the armed forces and the police to discharge their duties without fear or favour.
6. Value re-orientations among all the youths of all the regions in Nigeria.
7. Bloody politicians who encourage and empower these boys be prosecuted by law.

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