Impact of Insecurity on Human Capital Development in Dekina Local Government Area, Kogi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study investigates the prevalence and determinants of insecurity in rural areas of Dekina Local Government Area, Kogi State, Nigeria. Utilizing a multi-stage sampling technique, the research sampled communities from Dekina North-West and Dekina South-East clusters. Through qualitative methods, including surveys, interviews, and observations, data was collected to analyze the factors contributing to insecurity in rural settings The researcher employed a multi-stage sampling technique to select samples in stages until the required sample size was attained. Multi-stage sampling, as described by Asemah (2012), is a sampling procedure designed to achieve a high level of precision through sampling intensity. In the initial stage of the sampling process, the researcher utilized stratified sampling to divide Dekina local government area into two distinct groups: Dekina North-West and Dekina South-East. From Cluster A, which comprises Dekina North-West, eight communities were selected, namely Adokolo, Adum, Agbada, Iyale, Abocho, Odu, Ajiyolo, and Dekina Town. From Cluster B, representing Dekina South-East, the communities selected included Anyigba, Egume, Okura-Olafia, Ochaja, Igu, Ola, and Olaji. This multi-stage sampling approach allowed the researcher to systematically select representative samples from different clusters within Dekina local government area, ensuring a comprehensive and accurate representation of the population under study. Findings reveal significant challenges, including understaffed and poorly equipped law enforcement agencies, susceptibility to corruption, and inter-ethnic tensions. Additionally, environmental factors such as climate change and resource scarcity exacerbate insecurities. The study underscores the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in governance, law enforcement, and socio-economic development to address insecurity and promote peace and stability in rural Nigeria.

Keywords: Security, Insecurity, Human Development, Nigeria

Introduction

Insecurity has evolved into a multifaceted menace, manifesting as a hydra-headed monster presenting unprecedented and unpredictable threats, both domestically and internationally. This complex

phenomenon has kept governments of developed and developing countries constantly vigilant. It has entrenched itself as a pervasive force, posing challenges that transcend borders and traditional security measures. In today's global landscape, insecurity exhibits a fluidity that defies easy categorization or containment. Its decentralized nature enables it to adapt swiftly to changing environments and exploit technological advancements. This agility has rendered traditional counterterrorism strategies inadequate and necessitated innovative approaches to address its ever-evolving tactics. Insecurity is not confined to any specific geography or ideology; it transcends boundaries and affiliations. It thrives on exploiting grievances, ideologies, and vulnerabilities, making it a formidable adversary for governments worldwide. The interconnectedness of the modern world has further amplified the reach and impact of terrorist activities, making collaborative efforts imperative for effective mitigation. Confronting this hydra-headed monster demands a comprehensive and coordinated response encompassing intelligence-sharing, law enforcement cooperation, socio-economic development, and counter-radicalization efforts. Additionally, addressing root causes such as poverty, political disenfranchisement, and ideological extremism is crucial for long-term prevention (Adeleke 2023).

The battle against insecurity requires a multifaceted approach that acknowledges its complexity and adapts to its ever-changing nature. Only through unity, innovation, and resilience can governments hope to stem the tide of this formidable threat and safeguard the security and well-being of their citizens.

Human Capital Development is a subject of national interest in Nigeria, thus, the Federal Government over the years through its agency like Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has invested in the development of human resources at the university, polytechnic and other higher educational institutions (Agba, Agba, Abang, Enang, Ozumba, Duke, Ata-Agboni, Eja, Odinka, Okpa, Bassey, & Nwagboso (2023). The current wave of insecurity presents an unprecedented threat, surpassing previous levels of danger. Its detrimental impact on human development is palpable, posing significant obstacles to progress for nations worldwide. Human development, a fundamental aspect sought by every nation, serves as a cornerstone for advancement and prosperity (Stibli, 2010).

The destructive influence of insecurity on human development is multifaceted. It undermines the stability and safety necessary for individuals and communities to thrive. The fear and uncertainty it instill hinder educational pursuits, economic growth, and social cohesion, impeding the fulfillment of basic human needs and aspirations. Insecurity disrupts essential infrastructure and services, further exacerbating socio-economic disparities and impeding efforts to improve living standards. The loss of lives, displacement of populations, and destruction of property perpetuate cycles of poverty and vulnerability, hindering the realization of sustainable development goals. Addressing the scourge of insecurity is imperative for nations to safeguard and enhance human development. Efforts to counter insecurity must encompass not only security measures but also comprehensive strategies that address underlying grievances, promote inclusive governance, and foster socio-economic opportunities for all segments of society. By prioritizing human development and resilience in the face of insecurity, nations can mitigate its adverse effects and build societies that are more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous. It is only through concerted global action and cooperation that we can overcome the challenges posed by insecurity and advance toward a more peaceful and prosperous future for all Udeh, S.C and Ihezie, U.R (2013).

McGrew (1988) posits that the security of a nation relies on two critical pillars: firstly, safeguarding the socio-economic order against internal and external threats, and secondly, promoting a preferred international order that minimizes risks to core values and interests, as well as domestic stability

(World Bank, 1996). This underscores the government's duty to ensure citizen safety, as articulated by Hobbes, who argued that only the state possesses the capacity to guarantee security and prevent societal anarchy (Gaskin, 1996). Therefore, it is incumbent upon the government, representing the state, to provide adequate security to justify its existence. In this context, discussions on human development are inherently linked to the security environment. The absence of security challenges is deemed essential for meaningful progress in human development. Consequently, this paper seeks to explore the nexus between security and human development, focusing on the Nigerian security situation and its impact on sustainable development. Against this backdrop, this study aims to assess the impact of insecurity on human development in Dekina Local Government of Kogi State.

Conceptual Literature

The Concept of Security

Numerous scholars have provided diverse interpretations and definitions of the term "security," contributing to a rich discourse on the subject. Omede (2012) posits security as a dynamic state encompassing the capacity of the State or Country to defend its deeply ingrained values and interests against potential threats. Onifade C. (2013) collectively view security as the outcome of implementing measures to safeguard individuals, information, and property from hostile entities, influences, and actions. This conception entails creating an environment wherein individuals can navigate freely without fear of real or perceived threats to their well-being or possessions, fostering a sense of security conducive to peaceful sleep and tranquility.

The fundamental role of government in ensuring the security of lives and properties is underscored by various social contract theorists, including Hobbes, Locke, and Montesquieu. Central to this notion is the prevention of both internal and external aggressions against individuals, thereby facilitating the realization of their full potential in terms of economic and social development. Expanding upon this perspective, Ewetan and Urhie (2014) contend that security extends beyond mere physical safety to encompass the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, and the attainment of political and socio-economic objectives within a nation. Moreover, security is construed as enabling individuals and nations to freely and smoothly actualize their potentials.

Eme, O.I and o. Anthony (2011) further emphasize the significance of predictability across various levels of the social system, ranging from local communities to the global arena, as an integral aspect of security. This perspective underscores the necessity of establishing stable and foreseeable conditions conducive to societal functioning and interaction. In summation, these scholarly perspectives collectively illuminate the multidimensional nature of security, highlighting its crucial role not only in preserving physical safety but also in fostering stability, development, and the realization of individual and collective potentials within societies.

The Concept of Insecurity

Insecurity, in essence, stands in stark contrast to the concept of security. It is perceived and understood in a variety of ways by different individuals. For some, it signifies the absence of safety or the presence of danger, hazard, or uncertainty. It implies a lack of confidence, a state of being inadequately guarded or protected, and a condition characterized by instability, trouble, and a deficiency in safeguarding. According to Achumba (2013), insecurity encompasses feelings of being unsafe, unsettled, and oppressed, leading to a loss of confidence, fear, a sense of being adrift, and a profound loss of one's sense of humanity. Insecurity manifests in various forms, causing individuals to experience a range of negative emotions and consequences. It has the potential to undermine

confidence, instill fear, create a sense of disorientation, and lead to a loss of focus and purpose. Ultimately, insecurity can devastate individuals, eroding their sense of self and humanity, and leaving them profoundly affected by its repercussions.

The concept of insecurity is multifaceted and has been a subject of ongoing debate within scholarly discourse. Researchers have approached insecurity from various perspectives, often considering its impact on individual lives and existence.

According to UNDP (1994), human security encompasses chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression. In this view, insecurity arises from a state of fear or anxiety stemming from either a tangible or perceived lack of protection or inadequate freedom from danger. This perspective is echoed by Achumba, (2013), who emphasize the psychological and existential dimensions of insecurity. Alternatively, Akpor-Robaro (2013) defines insecurity as a condition of being exposed to danger, risk, or anxiety. They posit that an individual or entity is considered secure when not subjected to any form of physical or moral aggression, accidents, theft, or deterioration. This perspective, articulated by Eme and Anyadike (2013), underscores the importance of protection and preservation against various forms of harm or deterioration. Insecurity encompasses a range of dimensions, including psychological, existential, and physical aspects, and is subject to diverse interpretations among scholars and researchers.

Insecurity is widely perceived as a persistent threat to various aspects of human life, including individuals, territories, states, religious beliefs, properties, and institutions. However, it is essential to acknowledge that there exists no universally agreed-upon definition of insecurity, as it is often approached and understood from divergent viewpoints.

Analysts have undertaken examinations of the different sources contributing to insecurity. Cameron and McCormic (1954) delineated several sources, including emotional responses to sudden external threats, enduring and menacing external circumstances, internal threats, and challenges to cherished beliefs, particularly religious convictions. Achumba, (2013) further categorized sources of insecurity into two main groups: remote factors and immediate or proximate factors. Remote factors encompass deficiencies in institutional capacity leading to government failures, pervasive socioeconomic disparities and injustices, ethno-religious tensions, discordant perceptions between the public and governing bodies, weak security apparatus, and the erosion of socio-cultural and communal values. Conversely, immediate and proximate factors encompass issues such as porous borders, rural-to-urban migration, corporate social irresponsibility, high levels of unemployment and poverty, and the specter of terrorism.

These delineations underscore the multifaceted nature of insecurity and the multitude of factors that contribute to its pervasiveness in society. It is through a comprehensive understanding of these sources that effective strategies for addressing and mitigating insecurity can be developed and implemented.

Implications of Insecurity on Human Development in Nigeria

The pervasive insecurity in Nigeria exacts a toll that extends far beyond mere economic measurements. While it may be challenging to quantify the full extent of its impact in monetary or tangible terms, its effects on both human lives and material resources are profound and undeniable. Security is a fundamental prerequisite for human existence and well-being. When individuals are constantly threatened by violence, conflict, or crime, their ability to lead normal lives and pursue their aspirations is severely compromised. Coupland's observation underscores this reality,

emphasizing that insecurity reaches deep into the fabric of people's lives, affecting their sense of safety, stability, and overall quality of life.

In practical terms, the absence of security undermines individuals' freedom and hampers their ability to engage in everyday activities without fear or anxiety. It restricts their movements, limits their economic opportunities, and erodes their trust in societal institutions. Moreover, insecurity perpetuates cycles of fear and trauma, leading to psychological distress and long-term emotional scars for affected individuals and communities. The impact of insecurity extends beyond individuals to encompass broader societal dynamics and development outcomes. Insecure environments deter investment, disrupt economic activities, and hinder social progress. Businesses operate under constant threat, leading to reduced productivity, increased costs, and limited job opportunities. Additionally, the prevalence of violence and instability undermines social cohesion, exacerbates inequalities, and impedes efforts to address pressing socio-economic challenges.

Therefore, ensuring security is not just a matter of safeguarding physical safety; it is also crucial for fostering an environment conducive to human flourishing and sustainable development. Governments bear a significant responsibility in this regard, as they are tasked with upholding the rule of law, protecting citizens' rights, and maintaining public order. By prioritizing security, governments can create the conditions necessary for individuals to live freely, pursue their goals, and contribute meaningfully to society's advancement. The profound impact of insecurity on human lives and development underscores the urgency of addressing this pressing challenge. By investing in effective security measures, promoting peacebuilding efforts, and addressing the root causes of conflict and violence, governments can create a safer, more prosperous future for all citizens Amana, S.A (2020).

Insecurity gives rise to a host of associated effects, including fear, coercion, displacement, and deprivation of basic daily necessities such as drinking water, food, and healthcare. Human security, encompassing access to essential resources like food, clean water, sanitation, and housing, is intrinsically linked to peace. Displaced populations, in particular, face heightened health risks and increased mortality rates due to their lack of access to these necessities. Displaced individuals often find themselves deprived of crucial resources such as food, clean water, and adequate sanitation, making them highly vulnerable to malnutrition, disease, and other health hazards. Overcrowded living conditions and inadequate sanitation further exacerbate these risks, creating an environment ripe for the spread of infectious diseases. Children and the elderly, in particular, bear the brunt of these adverse conditions and are more susceptible to illness and mortality.

Bhadelia (2005) underscores the profound impact of insecurity on health outcomes and human security. They highlight the interconnectedness between peace, development, and health, emphasizing that where conditions of peace and stability prevail, access to essential resources and good health can be attained, contributing to overall human security and well-being.

Insecurity has severely impeded healthcare systems, as such facilities are frequently targeted and destroyed, leaving communities without access to essential medical treatment. Additionally, governments often allocate a significant portion of their resources toward combating insurgents, resulting in reduced funding for healthcare services. This trend contributes to the deterioration of health infrastructure, as highlighted by Dodge (1990).

Consequently, medical supplies and equipment become scarce, and skilled healthcare professionals, including doctors and nurses, may flee to more stable regions. This exodus exacerbates the spread of communicable diseases and further strains already overwhelmed healthcare systems.

The destruction of business buildings, properties, and equipment represents a significant loss of capital, leading to the collapse of numerous businesses in Nigeria. Consequently, security emerges as a critical factor for the nation's development. Without security, economic growth and development become unattainable, as emphasized by Achumba (2013).

Insecurity poses a significant risk for business owners and managers, prompting many to relocate their businesses to safer areas. In Nigeria, evidence suggests that numerous businessmen and manufacturing companies have moved from the North to other, more peaceful regions of the country (Nwagboso, 2012). Additionally, the violence instigated by terrorist groups like Boko Haram has compelled many Igbos and Yorubas from Southern Nigeria, engaged in various businesses in the North, to return to their home states for safety (Suleiman, 2012). The impact of the Boko Haram insurgency, which began in Maiduguri, Borno State, in 2009, has been particularly devastating for the economy of the North. Major consumer goods companies and their producers have withdrawn from the region, with telecommunication companies forced to shut down due to repeated destruction of their infrastructure. Media houses have also been targeted, resulting in loss of life and property, while banks have faced robberies and attacks on branches. As a result, resources that could have been invested in infrastructure development are now diverted to fund security operations, putting strain on the nation's resources (Nwagboso, 2012).

Furthermore, oil production has suffered a significant decline due to the kidnapping of oil workers in the region. Nigeria is estimated to lose about 600,000 barrels of crude oil daily to illegal bunkering, amounting to approximately N3.7 trillion annually (The Punch, May 20, 2011, cited in Omoyibo and Akpomera, 2012). The surge in kidnapping incidents in certain parts of the country has forced investors, businessmen, and manufacturing companies to relocate to safer cities within Nigeria or even leave the country entirely. For instance, companies like Nigeria Breweries Limited (NBL), Seven-Up PLC, UNILEVER PLC, and Paterson Zochonis (PZ) PLC have relocated from Aba to Enugu due to constant abductions of their expatriate staff (Nwagboso, 2012). Consequently, the decline in foreign investment in Nigeria, coupled with the global economic downturn, has led to the closure of tens of thousands of factories across the country.

Efforts of the Nigerian Government at Addressing Insecurity

The government has undertaken several notable efforts to address the pervasive issue of insecurity, employing a range of strategies and initiatives. One prominent measure is the establishment of the Joint Task Force (JTF), a specialized security outfit tasked with combating various forms of criminality, including robbery, ethnic militia conflicts, kidnapping, and terrorism. This initiative reflects the government's commitment to enhancing security and restoring law and order within affected regions. In regions particularly plagued by insecurity, such as the Niger Delta, the government has implemented targeted interventions to address the root causes of conflict and violence. Notably, the granting of amnesty to former militants has been a significant component of these efforts. This approach aims to foster reconciliation, disarmament, and reintegration among former combatants, thereby contributing to peacebuilding and stability. Additionally, the government has launched rehabilitation programs designed to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of former militants into mainstream society. By providing vocational training, education, and other support services, these programs seek to empower individuals and communities affected by insecurity, ultimately contributing to long-term peace and development. Recognizing the need for comprehensive development initiatives in insecure regions, the government has established various extra-ministerial bodies and initiatives. For instance, the Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission (OMPADEC) and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) have been

tasked with spearheading development projects and addressing socio-economic disparities in the Niger Delta. These entities play a crucial role in promoting inclusive growth, reducing poverty, and addressing the underlying grievances that fuel insecurity. Furthermore, technical committees, the Ministry of the Niger Delta, and the National Council of the Niger Delta (NCND) have been established to coordinate efforts, formulate policies, and oversee the implementation of development programs in the region. Through collaborative governance structures and multi-stakeholder engagement, these bodies aim to ensure that development interventions are aligned with the needs and aspirations of local communities, thereby fostering sustainable peace and prosperity. The government's efforts to address insecurity through initiatives such as the Joint Task Force, amnesty programs, and development initiatives demonstrate a commitment to enhancing security and promoting stability. However, it is essential to ensure that these efforts are effectively implemented, sustainable, and responsive to the evolving security challenges facing the nation. By adopting a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach, the government can make significant strides toward achieving lasting peace and prosperity for all citizens (Adeleke 2013).

Insecurity in Dekina Local Government of Kogi State

Dekina Local Government Area (LGA) situated in Kogi State, Nigeria. Geographically, it is centered around the town of Dekina, located in the Middle Belt region at coordinates 7°41′41″N 7°01′20″E. The LGA is intersected by the northeastern line of equal latitude and longitude, situated towards its southeastern periphery. Spanning an area of 2,461 square kilometers (950 square miles), Dekina LGA boasted a population of 260,312 residents according to the 2006 census.

Dekina LGA comprises several districts, including Birdu, Dekina, Anyigba, Egume, and Okura, alongside numerous villages and wards such as Adoma, Ajebido, Adum, Agada, Agbajo, Agidibai, Agojeju, Ahojori, Aje-Kelega, among others. It is one of the 21 local government areas within Kogi State, falling under the Eastern senatorial district. Functioning as a federal constituency alongside Bassa LGA, Dekina LGA comprises 12 electoral wards, each overseen by elected councillors.

Historically, Dekina LGA was carved out of the former Igala local authority, a move aimed at facilitating socio-economic and political restructuring to expedite development in the region. The study area lies within the humid semi-hot savannah zone, characterized by distinct climatic patterns. The climate is influenced by two primary air masses: the warm, dry tropical continental wind originating from the Sahara Desert, and the hot, humid tropical maritime wind emanating from the Atlantic zone, commonly known as the southwest monsoon wind. The region experiences a wet or rainy season from mid-April to October, followed by a dry or cool season from November to March. The mean annual rainfall in the study area averages about 1100mm, while temperatures typically range between 28°C to 34°C.

In recent times, there has been growing tension and outcry among various communities across Kogi State due to the persistent conflicts between herders and farmers. These conflicts have escalated to alarming levels, resulting in frequent clashes characterized by killings, maiming, and the destruction of property, including the burning of houses and the invasion of communities. Notable instances of such conflicts include incidents in several communities within Dekina Local Government Area, such as Agojeju-Idaka, Ogane-enigu, and Ojuwo-ajomajaye. In October 2015, herders reportedly invaded these villages in the early hours of the morning, resulting in the tragic loss of approximately 23 lives, extensive destruction of property, and the burning down of houses. In a similar attack, five people were killed in Aloko Oganenigu, three people were killed in Elede community and two persons were killed in Ojuole community during Sunday service on 3rd April 2023.

These conflicts have created a pervasive sense of fear and insecurity among the affected communities, as they grapple with the devastating consequences of violence and displacement. The recurrent nature of these clashes underscores the urgent need for proactive measures to address the root causes of conflict and promote peaceful coexistence between herders and farmers in Kogi State.

In the recent past, the escalation of conflicts between herders and farmers has been particularly pronounced in various communities across Kogi State. Notably, incidents have occurred in Egbolo in Igalamela/Odolu Local Government Area, Umomi in Ofu Local Government Area, and the most recent attack in 2018 in Omala Local Government Area. In the latter incident, communities such as Ajichekpa, Opada, and Agbenema were affected by the attack. Additionally, Amuro in Mopa Moro Local Government Area in Kogi West, along with numerous other communities, has witnessed similar tragedies (Oladipo, 2018).

In each of these conflicts, the toll has been severe, with loss of lives, destruction of property amounting to billions of Naira, and the burning of houses. The frequency and intensity of these clashes have observed a concerning exponential increase in recent times. Such conflicts not only result in immediate human and material losses but also sow seeds of fear, distrust, and instability within affected communities. Addressing the underlying causes of these conflicts and implementing measures to promote peaceful coexistence between herders and farmers are imperative to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents in Kogi State.

Causes of Insecurity in Dekina Local Government

1. Youth unemployment and radicalization

Youth unemployment and radicalization are interlinked phenomena that pose significant challenges to security and stability in communities. When young people face limited opportunities for employment, education, and skill development, they certainly become disillusioned and disengaged from mainstream society. This sense of hopelessness and frustration makes them susceptible to manipulation and exploitation by political thugs, criminal gangs, militant groups, or extremist organizations. Young people who are unable to find gainful employment may feel marginalized and excluded from economic opportunities, leading to feelings of resentment and alienation. In search of belonging and purpose, some individuals may be drawn to alternative pathways, including involvement in illicit activities or extremist ideologies. Moreover, without access to education and skill development programs, young people may lack the tools and resources needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world and build a stable future. Criminal gangs, political thugs, militant groups, and extremist organizations often target disenfranchised youth, offering them a sense of identity, camaraderie, and purpose. Through coercion, manipulation, or ideological indoctrination, these groups recruit vulnerable individuals, exploiting their grievances and vulnerabilities for their own nefarious agendas. Once recruited, young people may become involved in a range of criminal or violent activities, posing threats to community safety and security.

2. Herder-farmer conflicts

Herder-farmer conflicts arise from tensions between pastoralist communities (herders) and agricultural communities (farmers) over land use, access to resources such as water and grazing land, and competition for scarce resources. These conflicts can escalate into violence, leading to loss of lives, injuries, and destruction of property. Here's an explanation of the dynamics involved:

i. Competition for Resources: One of the primary drivers of herder-farmer conflicts is competition for resources, particularly land and water. Pastoralists require access to grazing land and water

sources to sustain their livestock, while farmers rely on land for crop cultivation. As populations grow and land becomes scarce due to factors such as urbanization and climate change, competition intensifies, leading to conflicts over land use and resource allocation.

ii. Encroachment and Livelihoods: Rapid expansion of agricultural land into traditional grazing areas leads to encroachment on grazing lands traditionally used by pastoralists. This encroachment disrupts traditional livelihood patterns and access to resources for pastoral communities, leading to resentment and conflict. Similarly, disputes over access to water sources, particularly during dry seasons, escalated tensions between herders and farmers.

iii. Ethnic and Cultural Factors: In some cases, herder-farmer conflicts are exacerbated by ethnic or cultural differences between the two groups. Historical grievances, identity politics, and perceptions of marginalization in many cases have fueled intercommunal tensions, leading to violence and conflict escalation.

iv. Weak Governance and Legal Frameworks: Weak governance, ineffective land tenure systems, and inadequate conflict resolution mechanisms exacerbate herder-farmer conflicts. The absence of clear land ownership rights, lack of enforcement of existing laws, and corruption within the justice system have hindered efforts to peacefully resolve disputes and prevent violence.

v. Climate Change and Environmental Degradation: Environmental factors such as climate change and environmental degradation have led to the exacerbation of herder-farmer conflicts by exacerbating competition for scarce resources. Erratic weather patterns, desertification, and loss of grazing lands due to deforestation forced herders to migrate in search of suitable grazing areas, leading to conflicts with settled farming communities.

3. **Porous Borders and Arms Proliferation**

During the military regime in Nigeria whenever there was a coup d'état the announcer would always include in the announcement 'all airports, seaports and border ports closed, do not let any of the wanted persons to escape'. This simply painted the picture of how porous the borders were then and not to talk of now. In addition to the porosity of the borders are the massively corrupted border controllers. As a result of this unfortunate situation all sorts of people and arms find their ways into the country. On several occasions criminal elements have crossed the Nigerian borders to unleash criminal activities and went back successfully. Criminals in the country have also easy access to both heavy and light arms as a result of these porous borders (Hazen and Horner, 2007). Again the porous nature of the Nigerian borders has enabled non documented migrants from countries like Niger, Chad Benin, Mali and Niamey to invade Nigeria with their criminal tendencies (Adeola and Oluyemi, 2012).

4. **Weak Law Enforcement**

The effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in rural areas in Nigeria is often compromised due to various factors, including understaffing, inadequate equipment, and susceptibility to corruption.

i. Understaffing: Law enforcement agencies in Dekina Local Government typically have fewer personnel compared to urban centers. This shortage of manpower limits their capacity to patrol vast rural territories effectively. As a result, there has been insufficient police presence in Dekina communities, making it easier for criminals to operate with impunity.

ii. Poor Equipment: Law enforcement agencies in Dekina often lack adequate resources and modern equipment necessary for effective policing. Basic necessities such as vehicles, communication systems, firearms, and forensic equipment are in short supply and most cases outdated. This hampers their ability to respond swiftly to criminal incidents and gather evidence for investigations.

iii. Susceptibility to Corruption: Corruption is a pervasive issue within law enforcement agencies across Nigeria, including Dekina Local Government area. Limited oversight, low salaries, and inadequate training create fertile ground for corrupt practices such as bribery, extortion, and collusion with criminal elements. In some cases, law enforcement officers turn a blind eye to criminal activities or actively engage in them for personal gain.

Conclusion

Security is undeniably essential for the well-being of individuals, the unity of a nation, and its economic prosperity and political stability. It encompasses peace, safety, happiness, and the safeguarding of human and physical resources. Any security threats also pose health challenges, adversely affecting both the physical and psychological well-being of individuals. Insecurity leads to various detrimental consequences, including illnesses, reduced life expectancy, diminished quality of life, and even loss of life.

The productive sectors of the economy, heavily reliant on the steady supply of raw materials, suffer from disruptions in the supply chain and challenges in marketing finished products. Financially, insecurity necessitates increased spending on security and defense measures by both the government and businesses. Consequently, resources that could have been directed toward national development and infrastructure are diverted toward security efforts, posing a drain on national resources. Moreover, insecurity significantly impacts oil production in Nigeria due to incidents such as kidnappings and hostage-taking of oil workers. This, in turn, diminishes government revenue, further exacerbating economic challenges.

In summary, insecurity not only jeopardizes the safety and well-being of individuals but also undermines economic productivity, hinders national development, and reduces government revenue. Addressing insecurity is therefore crucial for fostering a stable and prosperous society.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in the study:

1. Implement Conflict Resolution Mechanisms: Establish and strengthen conflict resolution mechanisms tailored specifically to address farmer-herder conflicts, including mediation, arbitration, and dialogue platforms at the local, state, and national levels.

i. Local Level: At the local level, community-based mediation initiatives can be established to resolve farmer-herder conflicts. This can involve training local leaders, traditional rulers, and community elders in conflict resolution techniques and providing them with the necessary resources to facilitate dialogue and mediation sessions between farmers and herders in conflict-prone areas. Additionally, establishing community dialogue platforms where stakeholders can come together to discuss grievances, share perspectives, and jointly develop solutions can help foster understanding and cooperation.

ii. State Level: At the state level, the government can play a pivotal role in coordinating and supporting conflict resolution efforts. This may involve setting up state-level arbitration panels or

mediation committees composed of impartial experts and representatives from relevant government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector. These bodies can provide a formalized framework for resolving disputes, adjudicating claims, and implementing decisions aimed at preventing escalation of conflicts. Furthermore, the state government can facilitate the establishment of state-wide dialogue forums or peace committees to facilitate continuous engagement and collaboration among stakeholders.

iii. National Level: While farmer-herder conflicts may be localized, their resolution often requires broader national policies and interventions. The national government can support state-level initiatives by providing technical assistance, funding, and policy guidance. Additionally, national-level dialogue platforms, such as intergovernmental committees or peace conferences, can be convened to address systemic issues underlying farmer-herder conflicts, such as land tenure, resource management, and socio-economic disparities. These platforms can serve as avenues for high-level engagement, policy dialogue, and consensus-building among key stakeholders from different states and regions.

2. Promote Grazing Reserves and Ranching: Encourage the establishment of designated grazing reserves and ranching systems as sustainable alternatives to open grazing, providing a structured environment for herders while reducing conflicts with farmers over land use.

3. Enhance Livelihood Opportunities: Invest in programs and projects aimed at diversifying livelihood opportunities for both farmers and herders, such as agricultural extension services, vocational training, and alternative income-generating activities, to reduce competition and tensions over scarce resources.

4. Strengthen Border Security: Improve border control measures to curb the influx of illegal arms, drugs, and undocumented migrants, thereby reducing the potential for cross-border criminal activities and enhancing national security.

5. Combat Corruption: Implement measures to address corruption within law enforcement agencies, including enhancing oversight mechanisms, increasing transparency, and enforcing disciplinary actions against corrupt officers.

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