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**ETHICAL COMPLIANCE IN THE
WORKPLACE AND
ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY:
EVIDENCE FROM THE EDO STATE
MINISTRY OF ROADS AND BRIDGES.**

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ABSTRACT

This study provided a theoretical insight explicating how Organisational efficiency is influenced by ethical compliance in the workplace. The objectives of the study among other things were to examine the various ethical rules and the challenges hindering ethical compliance in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges. The paper utilizes a qualitative method and relies on both primary and secondary sources of data collection. The primary data was obtained through an in-depth interview while the secondary data was gotten from journals, textbooks and internet. The study adopted the principal-agent theory as a basis of analysis. The study reveals among other things that ethical compliance promotes Organisational efficiency and that the growth of Organisation depends largely on how well resources are utilized in accordance with the rules guiding the institution. Furthermore, the study reveals that the compliance with ethical rules in the

Ministry is hindered by lack of financial resources and motivation. The paper therefore recommends among other things that the ministry should recruit workers with integrity and moral rectitude by conducting psychological test to ascertain prospective workers level of integrity. Also, that goals and targets be set for workers putting into consideration, the amount of resources expended in comparison with the final outputs in the course of executing projects. More so, a system of reward should be established specifically to reward workers that display attitudes of trustworthiness, integrity, and are in compliance with the ministry ethical rules and regulations.

Keywords: Ethical Compliance; Evidence; organisational Efficiency; Workplace

INTRODUCTION

The concept of ethics is crucial in Organisational efficiency. Ethical compliance plays a significant role in shaping Organisational behavior and performance in public sector Organisations (Bernard & Oyende, 2015). Employees' attitudes and dispositions towards work significantly contribute to achieving Organisational goals and objectives. Ethical compliance drives effective public service delivery, encompassing culture, processes, structures, and rules that guide public officers to act in the public's best interest (Ezeanyim & Ezeanolue, 2021). It is an essential feature of good governance, sustainability, growth, and institutional development. In any political system, government institutions are established to facilitate the provision of services to the citizens. The Ministry of Roads and Bridges (MORAB) in Edo State that was established in the year 2021 exemplifies this importance. MORAB aims to develop roads, maintain a good road network, and build bridges to improve

economic growth and social well-being of the citizens. Their contributions include constructing roads like Irhirhi and Ekehuan, and rehabilitating others like Yoruba Street and Sakponba Road (Nigerian Observer, 2023).

To address complex societal challenges, governments must safeguard democracy and promote good governance by embracing workplace ethics. Ethical compliance is crucial for enhancing Organisational efficiency, as employees are the most significant asset in every Organisation. Their productivity is directly linked to achieving Organisational goals and objectives (Bernard & Oyende, 2015). Moreover, ethical compliance is essential for Organisational survival, as employees must adhere to high standards of behavior.

Furthermore, employees' perceptions of their Organisation's response to ethical compliance significantly influence its role in enhancing Organisational efficiency. To improve efficiency, scholars continually seek ways to enhance ethical compliance, thereby boosting Organisational performance (Ezeanyim & Ezeanolue, 2021). Against this backdrop, this study examines ethical compliance in the workplace and Organisational efficiency within Edo State's Ministry of Roads and Bridges.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Workplace ethical compliance is a critical component of Organisational success because it directly impacts the Organisational efficiency. Ethical compliance refers to the adherence to established laws, regulations, and Organisational policies that govern workplace behavior. In recent years, public service has faced increasing pressure to maintain high ethical standards due to the growing public awareness and scrutiny. There are assertions that some public institutions in Nigeria are regarded as a

liability to the citizens due to reported cases of low productivity, breach of ethical standards, violation of rules and regulations (Bernard & Oyende, 2015). The spate of corrupt practices, driven by selfish ambition, has been observed as a common element among some public sectors, where public officials have been implicated (Afegbua & Adejuwon, 2015).

Despite the critical role of the Edo State Ministry of Roads and Bridges in ensuring the availability of good infrastructure in the state, the ministry still faces significant challenges in promoting ethical compliance in the workplace and Organisational efficiency. The prevalence of corruption, lateness to work, and lack of adequate financial resources in the ministry have resulted in poor service delivery and erosion of public trust. It is against this background that this study tends to examine ethical compliance in the workplace and Organisational efficiency: evidence from Edo State Ministry of Roads and Bridges. In furtherance of addressing these issues this study seeks to ask the following questions: (1) what are the workplace Ethical rules in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges? (2) Does ethical compliance in the workplace promote efficiency? (3) What are the challenges militating against the implementation of workplace ethics in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges?

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The aim of this study is to examine workplace ethical compliance and Organisational efficiency in Edo State Ministry of Roads and Bridges. The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine ethical rules influencing the behaviour of workers in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges.

2. Investigate whether compliance with ethical rules promotes efficiency in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges.
3. Ascertain the challenges hindering the compliance with ethical rules in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Defining Work

Work is an activity that a person does for a living. Work occupies a crucial place in the life of an individual and the society at large. The effect of work is an important facet of life that plays a vital role in promoting self-esteem and facilitates the attainment of economic needs (Sharabi & Harpaz, 2007). The environment where work is done is generally called a workplace. According to Steenkamp (2012), workplace is a place occupied and filled with human conduct (tangible and intangible motivations) where people engage in formal work that provides for a meaningful condition of life. According to Kant & Bowie (as cited in Petrus & Johan, 2013), a meaningful work from a philosophical angle, is depicted by the work that is done-entered freely, earn sufficient wage, develop his/her competences, support ethical improvement, that is not governed by authoritarian tactics.

Ethics

The word 'ethics' originates from the Greek word 'ethos,' meaning character or custom (Adewale et al., 2015). It is a collection of values, norms, and principles that judge behavior as right, good, and proper and is used to assess the integrity and trustworthiness of an individual's conduct. These principles are not always the basis for identifying a single 'moral' course of action; rather, they provide a means of evaluating and deciding among competing options (Hubert et al., 2007). Ethics distinguishes between what is right and wrong. It is an

attempt to guide human behavior toward compliance with what is morally accepted by all. Ethics establishes and provides a platform for accountability for office holders. Ethical behavior hinges on such values as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compliance with moral rules and regulations (Ronald, 2021).

Organisational Efficiency

Efficiency is defined as the process of using minimal resources to achieve tangible goals. It measures the output produced in relation to the input expended. Private Organisations primarily aim to maximize profits and achieve goals at higher levels of productivity and efficiency at the least cost (Oyadiran & Kasim, 2013). In contrast, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2016), efficiency in some public sector institutions is determined by analyzing the ratio between administrative costs and overall results in the fiscal year. Thus, an efficient Organisation is one that achieves significant results with minimal input. Organisational efficiency is related to increasing output using a fixed number of resources. The more output delivered using the same resources, the more efficient the Organisation is considered to be.

Ethical Compliance

Firstly, the word 'ethical' pertains to morals. It involves an effort to guide human conduct by applying principles of good behavior. Compliance implies obedience to established rules and regulations. It constitutes an act of yielding, submissiveness, and consenting to the wishes of others. Thus, ethical compliance entails yielding and consenting in obedience to an institution's rules and regulations. Ethical compliance requires that Organisations and individuals act in accordance with the tenets of moral ideology by obeying its principles (Venelin et al., as cited in Ronald, 2021). Thus, in an

Organisational setting, ethical compliance is crucial for maintaining a positive reputation, fostering trust among stakeholders, and ensuring long-term success.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Factors Shaping Workplace Ethics

Work ethics encompasses important cultural norms that promote positive moral values by encouraging individuals to perform their jobs well. This concept is rooted in the belief that work has inherent value (Quinn in Bernard & Oyende, 2015). Childhood socialization and experiences significantly influence an individual's adherence to work ethics. Through praise, blame, affection, or anger, children evaluate their performance in household chores and later in part-time jobs, shaping their attitudes toward work (Akonti, in Bernard & Oyende, 2015). As individuals mature, these attitudes become internalized, and work performance becomes less dependent on others' reactions. Socialization in the workplace also plays a crucial role in shaping work attitudes. Upon entering the workplace, individuals' perceptions and reactions toward others tend to confirm or contradict their pre-existing work attitudes (Braude, in Bernard & Oyende, 2015). The occupational culture significantly impacts an individual's attitude toward work and work ethics, which become integral to their belief system.

Nigeria Public Service Rules (PSR)

The Nigerian Public Service is regulated and governed by the Public Service Rules (PSR). The PSR stipulates the operative outline, guiding principles, privileges, and responsibilities of all public servants and also indicates the penalty for erring officials. The PSR is a compendium of sixteen chapters detailing important information on Parastatals and the Nigeria

Foreign Service Regulations with reference to the conditions for their service (John, 2020). During the colonial rule up till 1974, it was called "General Orders" and from then to January 2000, it was known as "Civil Service Rules" and thereafter, has been labeled as "Public Service Rules" till date (Jadesola, 2022). The changes in names over the years according to John (2020), are a reflection of the contextual, textual and structural variations which depicts the migration of the Service from one era to another. The structural changes have not addressed the challenges arising from societal changes. The military origin of the rules is a significant factor, as it has impacted the quality and effectiveness of the rules. Moreover, the rules were imposed on workers without their input, limiting their ability to deliver effective and quality services.

Chapter three of the PSR outlines rules governing punitive directives for Federal Public Service personnel. PSR 030301 defines "misconduct" as behavior that damages the service's image and may lead to termination or compulsory retirement. Examples of misconduct include unruly behavior, foul language, habitual lateness, and dishonesty. In contrast, PSR 030401 identifies "serious misconduct" as extremely grievous acts of dishonesty that threaten the service's existence and may warrant dismissal. Such acts include fabrication, destruction of records, and criminal charges (John, 2020). The importance of public service rules is underscored by the United Nations' adoption of an International Code of Conduct for Public Officials in 1996. The general principles are:

1. Public office, as defined by national law, is a position of trust, requiring public servants to act in the best interest of the public. Their ultimate loyalty lies with the public interests of

their country, expressed through democratic government institutions.

2. Public officials must perform their functions efficiently, effectively, and with integrity, aligning with state administrative policies. They must utilize public resources effectively and efficiently.
3. Public officials must be attentive, fair, and impartial when performing their duties, particularly in relations with the general public. They must not discriminate against any group or individual, nor abuse their power and authority (United Nations, 1996).

Moreover, the Nigerian Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Civil Service Rules, and Financial Regulations outline ethical standards for public servants, including: Discipline, Loyalty, Honesty; Courage, Courtesy, Co-Operation and Tact (Bernard & Oyende, 2015). The ethical code of conduct for public servants, as outlined in the 1999 Constitution, includes:

1. Avoiding conflicts of interest and duties.
2. Prohibiting public officers from running private businesses or trades, except for farming.
3. Restricting foreign accounts outside Nigeria.
4. Prohibiting requests for gifts to facilitate duty discharge.
5. Restricting loans, gifts, or benefits to certain public officers.
6. Requiring assets declaration before and after leaving office every four years or at the end of their term

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study adopts the principal-Agent Theory, developed by Stephen Ross and Barry Mitnick in 1970 (Potucek, 2017). The principal-Agent Theory, popularized by several economist theorists, explains the

relationship between one or more individuals (agents) and another person or group of persons (principal). The theory assumes that the agent is entrusted with the principal's resources to achieve institutional goals and objectives efficiently. The theory involves developing, identifying, and measuring the performance of individual agents and aligning it with the strategic goals of the institution.

According to Lucian and Jesse (2004), examples of principal-agent relationships include corporate management (agent) and shareholders (principal), elected/appointed officials (agent) and the electorate (principal), and public servants (agent) and citizens (principal). In these relationships, the agent must act in the best interest of the principal. The principal-Agent Theory examines the ethical and moral flaws of agents and the satisfaction of principals in utilizing resources. The theory assumes that agents may have different preferences, such as willingness to work, incentives, and information, which can lead to challenges like monitoring, performance, commitment, and coordination, affecting institutional performance (Harvard University).

Two key determinants of the principal-Agent Theory are: (1) the agent's actions must promote the principal's interests by effectively managing resources, and (2) the agent must comply with rules and regulations guiding service delivery. Ghazali and Chariri (2007) noted that these rules are ethical standards that employees (agents) must adhere to. Therefore, ethical compliance is crucial, as it determines the agent's integrity, truthfulness, and openness in expending resources, increasing trust between workers (agents) and the public (principal).

In the context of this study, the principal-Agent Theory is significant in explaining how the behavior and attitude of workers in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges

(agents) affect citizens (principals) positively when guided by ethical principles such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compliance with established rules and regulations.

METHODOLOGY

This paper employs a qualitative method for data collection, utilizing both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was generated through in-depth interviews (IDIs), while secondary data was sourced from the internet, textbooks, and journals. The study population consists of employees from the Edo State Ministry of Roads and Bridges. To efficiently collect data, a sample size of 12 respondents was purposively selected, comprising two management staff members from each of the six departments: Human Resources, Finance, Marketing, Operations, Procurement, and Customer Service. The data obtained was analyzed thematically using subheadings to reflect the objectives stated in the study.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The identity of the respondents was concealed so as to maintain ethical principle of confidentiality. Table 1 and 2 indicate the sample questions used to elicit responses from respondents and the summary of findings.

Table 1: Face to Face questions conversation

Theme	Questions
Existence of Ethical Rules	Are there laid-down rules and regulations guiding the character and attitudes of workers in the Ministry? Under what conditions are the Public Service Rules applicable to the

	workers of this Ministry?
Role of Ethical compliance in promoting efficiency	To what extent do you think that by obeying lay down rules, efficiency can be enhanced? Do you think that workers' actions affect the Ministry's level of efficiency?
Challenges militating against the implementation of workplace ethics	What are the factors hindering compliance to ethical rules in the Ministry? Apart from political interference, what other internal factors hinder compliance?

Table 2: Findings

Theme	Summary of Key Respondents' views
Existence of Ethical Rules	lateness to work, sleeping, doing personal business during office hours, fighting, falsifying information etc. constitute the ethical rules in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges
Role of Ethical compliance in promoting efficiency	Workers with integrity, firmness of character, honest, sincere and trustworthy expend resources faithfully. Such workers do not require much supervision.
Challenges militating against the implementation	Prevalent cases of corruption, insufficient financial incentives and

of workplace ethics	motivation compromise workers ability to act with integrity, thereby exacerbating the risk of non-compliance.
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Source: Fieldwork, 2024

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Existence of Workplace Ethical Rules.

The appropriate conduct in Organisations is determined by the rules and regulations governing it and also by the values held by such Organisations, the members, and other members of the society (Anderson & Ekelund, 2022). Organisations cannot survive without realistic rules and regulations that guides the operations of the workers. In response to the question with regards to the existence of ethical rule in the ministry, majority of the respondents interviewed asserted that:

“The application of ethical conduct in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges is fostered by the establishment of norms and values which influence the behaviour of all the employees. Every facet of work in the Ministry has a standard that is being maintained at all times. The engineers on the field are to stick to the specification of every project putting in view customer’s satisfaction and the image of the ministry. Those saddled with the administrative responsibility are to act in confidentiality, maintain discipline, and remain neutral and not bias with regards to the application of the Ministry rules of engagement. Other specific ethical rules in the Ministry includes: respect for customers, promptness and diligence in service delivery”.

Furthermore, they also added that lateness to work, sleeping during

office hours, fighting etc. are considered as an unethical conduct in the Ministry and will prompt commensurate punishment.

WORKPLACE ETHICAL COMPLIANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Workplace ethics occupies a strategic position in influencing employees towards efficiency and effective discharge of their duties. According to Komari & Fariastuti (2013) workplace ethics is essential in determining and shaping employee’s attitude towards their task and in contributing to the success of the Organisation. Abiodun et al (2014) posit that employees who are ethically compliant have the tendency to exert more effort towards the overall Organisational performance. Common principles upheld by such employees are integrity, sense of team work, self-motivation, sense of responsibility and quality of work.

In corroboration, most of the respondents interviewed on how ethical compliance promote efficiency infers that: the growth of Organisation depends largely on how well both the material and financial resources are utilized in the process of executing task. They noted that personnel with integrity, firmness of character, sincere and are trustworthy expend resources faithfully. According to them, such personnel are entrusted with greater responsibilities and they do not require much supervision. They are staffs that are distinguished by their good behaviour and conducts. Their conduct promotes organisational efficiency because they achieve more results and are dutiful, resourceful, truthful, and are committed to doing the right things even when no one is monitoring them. They are compared by their moral aptness to obey the ministry rules and regulations. They come to work early, respect

customers, and are truthful. Their conduct help to preserve the culture of the Ministry and protect its public image at the same time. Furthermore, ethics distinguishes between what is right and what is wrong; it guides human behaviour towards the good path and contribute to group efforts. Ethics establishes and provide the platform for accountability. Ethical behaviors rely on trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness and compliance with moral rules and regulations (Ronald, 2021).

CHALLENGES MILITATING AGAINST ETHICAL COMPLIANCE

Corrupt Practices

The spate of corruption in the public service has been described to affect negatively on citizens' trust in public Organisations and also impact adversely on a country's socio-economic development and levels of equality. Corrupt practices such as influence peddling, undue favour and nepotisms by public officials undermine ethical compliance, reduce investment in social welfare and hinders socio-economic development (Ayanda, 2012). When public officials engage in corrupt activities, it erodes trust and discourages investment in essential social services, ultimately affecting the well-being of citizens and the economy as a whole. (Asobie, 1991).

According to Bonzek (1991), public Organisations are faced on a continuous basis with complex ethical issues which marred their operations. These issues have on the long run places much strain on personal and professional values against the public service rules and code. The persisting menace have greatly affected public sector efficiency. In view to the challenges militating against ethical compliance, respondents share their opinions that:

“The placement of corrupt people that seems to be untouchable and are prone to doing anything they like, come to work whenever they choose to and will not be punished due to protection from some powerful individual within and outside of the Ministry have greatly impede the application of ethical conducts”

Furthermore, other respondents added that the prevalence of unethical conduct is worsened by undue favour granted to undeserving individual whose attitude and conduct overtime have proven to negate the established rules and regulations (coming to work late, falsifying information, untruthful, disregard for customers etc.) of the Ministry. Hence, they stand as hindrance to the enforcement of ethical rules. Since they have been known to evaded consequences several times, other workers begin to follow their steps with the conviction that no action will be taken against them. This situation has continued to weaken the ministry's stance against unethical conduct.

Lack of Adequate Financial Resources

The significance of workplace ethical compliance in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges cannot be over emphasized. The Ministry occupies a critical position and play a vital role in ensuring the existence of good road infrastructure in Edo State. However, lack of adequate financial resources in the Ministry hinders compliance with ethical rules at the workplace, compromise the ministry's effectiveness and its ability to deliver services to the citizens optimally. Workplace ethical compliance is essential for maintaining public trust and also ensure the integrity of government institutions in the public eyes. The Ministry of Roads and Bridges, is responsible for constructing and

maintaining critical infrastructure and as such, would require a timely and adequate financial supply to meet up with its constitutional obligations. Unfortunately, their poor financial stance has consistently undermined this commitment because financial resources play an important role in providing quality infrastructural service in the state (Olaopa, 2014). Examples from the Federal Ministry of Works report indicates that road infrastructure in Nigeria is poorly funded (Emenike, 2015).

The respondents interviewed identify poor financial provision as one of the challenges bedeviling the Ministry of Roads and Bridges. The respondents noted that the ministry ability to respond to citizen's demand on time and provide quality service in most cases is affected by their limited resources. They further averred that the ministry is underfunded and that the Ministry can only attend to issues based on the financial availability. This view coincides with Emenike, (2015) submission who identify reduction in government spending on infrastructure as one of the reasons for the awful condition of roads in Nigeria.

Poor Financial Incentives and Lack of Motivation

Factors such as environment; finance and human resources influence the performance of an Organisation. Among these factors, the human resource is believed to have utmost influence on Organisational performance. Given this fact, Organisations need to constantly motivate their employees to accomplish set goals and objectives (Obiekwe, 2016). According to Furnham cited in Grabowski et. al. (2021), commitment and hard work are linked with working for material benefits. Empirical studies embarked upon by Grabowski, et. al. (2021), revealed that there are positive connection between ethical compliance in the

workplace and motivation. Motivated workers understand the significance of work and are also in the moral sense, persuaded of the value of hard work. Such workers are more willing to work and are convinced that every work should be done perfectly because they find work exciting and interesting even in challenging situations. In view of this, the respondent infers that:

“Poor financial incentives and low motivation and morale in the Ministry of Roads and Bridges constitute bottle necks to ethical compliance. Motivation in terms of good salaries and incentives, giving credits to those who deserve it and not taking glory for other people's efforts, rewarding excellence and commitment to the Ministry's ethical rules and regulations, and encouraging innovations contributes immensely to Organisational efficiency”.

In this case, motivation is assumed beyond financial or material incentives. According to Lindner (no date), the greatest challenging role for leaders of Organisations is finding out how to motivate employees because what motivates each workers changes always. Understanding how to motivate employees effectively is crucial in the efficient use of resources because motivated workers are the stalwart of efficacious Organisations (Grabowski, et al. 2021). Unmotivated employees contribute little or nothing to work and also evades duties for things they are motivated about.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the significant impact of workplace ethics and Organisational efficiency, this study recommends the following measures to enhance compliance with ethical rules within the Ministry of Roads and Bridges (MORAB):

- a. **Integrity-Based Recruitment:** To ensure a workforce of high integrity, public offices should recruit individuals who demonstrate trustworthiness, truthfulness, and firmness of character. This can be achieved by conducting integrity tests or purpose-driven assessments for prospective employees, thereby measuring their perception of honesty.
- b. **Goal-Setting and Accountability:** Setting clear goals for workers enables the comparison of resource utilization with final outputs, promoting accountability for resource management. This approach helps identify instances of wastage and mismanagement, ensuring that personnel are held responsible for their actions.
- c. **Consequences for Ethical Violations:** Implementing consequences for ethical violations is crucial, as it ensures that culpable individuals face penalties. This approach communicates the Organisation's stance and expectations to workers, fostering a culture of accountability.
- d. **Reward System and Compensation:** Establishing a reward system that recognizes trustworthy, respectful, and responsible workers who adhere to the ministry's rules and regulations is essential. Additionally, salaries should be reviewed periodically to reflect current economic realities, ensuring fair compensation for employees.
- e. **Transportation Solution:** To address the issue of lateness due to transportation challenges, consider providing a subsidized bus service to

transport workers to and from work daily. This solution can help mitigate the impact of transportation costs on employee punctuality.

CONCLUSION

A very worrisome picture of the Nigerian Public Service is portrayed because the application of workplace ethics in the public institutions has greatly declined. To address this, strict adherence to Public Service Rules is crucial as it will enhance the prevalence of amenable workplace ethics in the public service. By so doing, public institutions can foster a culture of honesty, fairness, and respect among employees, leading to improved efficiency, workers commitment, and ultimately, better achievement of Organisational goals and objectives.

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**TREASURY SINGLE ACCOUNT (TSA)
POLICY AND TRANSPARENCY IN
THE NIGERIA PUBLIC SERVICE
(2015-2022)**

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ABSTRACT

This paper intends to examine the influence of the Treasury Single Account reform policy on transparency in the Nigerian public service. The public service occupies a pivotal position in a nation-state. In the recognition that an effective state depends on effective public service, necessitated the need for public service reforms in Nigeria. The paper explores the Treasury Single Account (TSA) implemented by the Buhari administration from 2015-2022 with the intent of assessing its implication for transparency in Nigeria's public service. The study employed the New Public Management Theory as a framework of analysis and relied mainly on secondary data from journals, government reports, and internet sources. The study revealed that the Treasury Single Account as a Consolidated Revenue Account (CRA) was geared towards enthroning accountability and transparency in public financial management, the study also revealed that the initiative is laudable, but there are teething challenges that demand measures to sustain the policy. It was concluded that the TSA reform policy was a

step in the right direction towards curtailing corrupt practices in government, purging indiscipline in financial transactions, and fostering the sufficient flow of funds towards critical sectors that would drive socio-economic development, in addition, if the policy reform is implemented, it will improve the management of public funds. The study therefore, recommends that strategic training measures should be instituted to enhance the ICT proficiency of personnel handling the TSA transactions.

Keywords: Public Service Reform;
Treasury Single Account, Transparency

INTRODUCTION

Public service occupies a pivotal position in a state. It is an agency that steers socio-economic development through the delivery of service to the citizenry. The significance of public service has been stressed in the 1997 World Bank Development Report which contended that an efficient public service is imperative for providing citizens with services and the creation of rules and institution that creates an opportunity for the market to thrive and the citizens to live healthier lives. Without this institution, sustainable development is not possible (World Bank, 1997). Thus, the achievement of a good democratic system in any polity is hinged on the efficient and effective service delivery to the people. Therefore, the public service is saddled with the responsibility of implementing policies and programmes of government. The promotion of good governance, delivery of effective services, fiscal management, and sustainability is depended on capable and highly driven public servants.

With the age of competitiveness and Globalisation, countries had to grapple with increasingly complex societal issues, and with the trending use of the internet, citizens

have become more aware of their rights to partake in the dividends of democracy. This trend has subjected public servants to huge public scrutiny for the need to enhance their competence for public service delivery (Ayee, 2010). However, the inefficiency of the public service over time has generated severe political and administrative disputes on the role of the public service (Farazmand, 2006). This ineffectiveness in addition to the economic crises of the late 1970s and 1980s and the seeming global experience of the achievement of market-friendly economies have blended to engender what several intellectuals have denoted as the “redefinition of the role of public sector” (Fiszbein, 2000: 163). Ayee (2010) averred that the delineation of the role of the public service requires the overhauling of the administrative systems and seeking to invigorate public institutions for a high level of efficiency.

The experiences of public service reforms in high-income countries, such as the United Kingdom (UK), United States (US), Canada, and Australia have revealed that transformation in the economic, political, social, and administrative environment have impelled and pushed revolutionary changes in public service and management systems. The key goal of the changes was the enhancement of the methods in which governance is handled and services delivered, with prominence on efficiency, effectiveness, and economy (Metcalf & Richards, 1990, Ayee, 2008).

However, in Nigeria and other developing countries, the need to reform the public service has been induced greatly by the global decrease in public financial resources and the quest to get more for less. (Caiden, 1988). The Nigerian government has pushed for public service reforms since the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) commenced in 1986. On the return of the country to democratic governance in 1999,

efforts have been made by successive governments to embark on several reforms of the public service to enhance its administrative capacity for service delivery, especially with the introduction of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) reforms in 2003 and others (Ikeanyibe, 2015). The Muhammadu Buhari administration since its inception in 2015 had also initiated several reforms aimed at fostering transparency in government’s business. It is on this premise that this study intends to examine the Nigeria public service reform with specific emphasis on the treasury single account and its implication for transparency in the public service. This paper is therefore organized as follows: Apart from section one which is the introduction, section two considers concepts related to the subject matter, section three considers the theoretical framework and the final section is the conclusion and recommendation.

CONCEPTUALIZING THE PROBLEM

Reform of the public service in Nigeria since the post-independence era was intended to achieve productivity in the management of public service delivery, with emphasis on efficiency, effectiveness, and economy. Ayee (2010) averred that reform of the public service is pertinent because of the perception that an efficient state depends on an effective public service with the capacity in promoting socio-economic development and the reduction of poverty in low-income countries. According to Schiavo-Campo (1996) in an ideal situation, public service reforms should be geared towards the creation of a right mix of workforce with competence, transparency, and accountability essentially for the delivery of quality service to the people.

Over the years, the public service in Nigeria which is the nerve center through

which policies of government are implemented has been inundated with challenges that have constituted a considerable clog in the overall progress of the country. Given that, Saxena (2013) noted that the challenges have created a general perception that public servants are not delivering what was expected from them. However, the practices exhibited by public service officials have revealed a low level of capacity, integrity, and morale in the discharge of their responsibilities (Campos et al in Saxena (2013)). One major challenge that has necessitated the need for public sector reforms in the public service has been the issue of corruption. In recent years, Nigeria has witnessed monumental mismanagement and scandalous plundering of financial resources.

According to Suberu (2018), Buhari's administration confirmed the theft of \$150 billion from public coffers and internationally laundered by public officials during the 10 years before his administration, the inability of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to remit \$18.5 billion in oil revenues to the national treasury from 2012 to 2013 (of which \$3.4 billion was diverted to a fictitious kerosene subsidy scheme. (Lamido in Suberu (2018)). According to Ofikhenna (2016), there was also a case of embezzlement and misappropriation between 2005 and 2015 of \$40 billion payment made to the states of the Niger Delta Commission as funds for the mitigation of challenges attributed to ecological and infrastructural deficits in the impoverished oil-rich region. At the administrative level of corruption, the United Nations on Drugs and Crime and the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics reported that Nigerians made bribery payments of \$4.6 billion to public officials between June 2015 and May 2016 with the conclusion that bribery is an established part of the

administrative procedure in Nigeria (Suberu, 2018).

Consequently, this broad spectrum of monumental corrupt practices over the years has reverberated crises of political order, national security, and ethnic clashes and agitations in Nigeria. According to Suberu (2018), the criminal activities perpetuated by Boko Haram, the southern-based violent or secessionist ethnic Organisation like the Niger Delta Avengers and the Indigenous People of Biafra hinged their action on corruption role in subduing prospects for encompassing and equitable distribution of resources, citizen participation in governance and fueling the rise of poverty and discontent in the regions. Oxfam International (2017) reported that the lack of transparency in governance which has prolonged corrupt procedures in Nigeria was responsible for the inability of the government to provide a wide spectrum of public goods. Suberu (2018) recounted the decayed basic public infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, electricity systems, and roads despite the huge budgetary allocation of funds for capital expenditure in the country.

In an attempt to halt further degradation in the public service due to corruption, the government pushed for the implementation of the treasury single account to improve the skills, integrity, and overall performance of the public service. (Ahmed, 2016). It is on the strength of the challenges that this study seeks to examine the treasury single account as one of the reform policies implemented and to determine how it has brought about transparency in transacting government business.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

In a bid to assess the public service reforms as implemented by the government, the study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. To examine the treasury single account (TSA) reform policy of government
2. To determine the implementation of the TSA reform policy for transparency in the Nigeria public service.
3. To investigate the challenges militating the implementation of the reform policy.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Overview of the Public Service

Drawing from international research evidence, public service varies in terms of management, function, and uses. The greatest method to comprehend any term, according to Latupeirissa & Tan (2024), is to observe how it is used and performed. In Latupeirissa & Tan (2024), for example, the UK Cabinet Office did not define public service; instead, it defined it as services like military, policing, health, and education. From a comprehensive perspective, public services are those that are produced for the general public's benefit and are financed by taxes collected from the general public. These structured services are in charge of overseeing and managing the state's resources on behalf of the people who own them collectively. These services are managed and overseen by government offices that are appointed or elected. (Khan, 2024).

Defining Public Service Reform

Public service reforms in Africa were driven by economic reform, democratization, and the search for administrative efficiency to improve the quality of service delivered to the public. In other words, reforms were inspired by or have parallels in the public administration reform experiences of other countries outside Africa (Ojo, 2023). Changes in the socioeconomic landscape of

the globalized world have given rise to administrative reforms in both developed and developing nations, according to the general literature on public service reform. (Aye 2008).

Public service reform is also seen as part of the agenda for improving governance, which includes three broad areas: rule-based operation of the government itself to improve the supply of public goods, voice and accountability for citizens to demand better public services, and more efficient and effective regulation of the private sector to improve its competitiveness (World Bank 2008). Public sector reforms, as correctly noted by Oyebade (2024), are continuous attempts to raise the efficacy, efficiency, and accountability of government agencies and services. Strengthening public administration and achieving national development goals are the driving forces behind these reforms.

Defining Transparency

According to Alzahrani (2022), transparency can be defined as "the ability to look clearly through the windows of an institution." By exposing the working processes that are not immediately apparent to people who are not directly involved, this metaphor clarifies the very idea: to show how well an institution operates. Transparency is a characteristic of the relationship between a ruler and the ruled that has been adapted to political systems. Specifically, it occurs when the government's operations are "enough open to public view and simple enough in their essentials that citizens can readily understand how and what it is doing" (Khan, 2022). Because of these qualities, transparency is commonly associated with simplicity and comprehensibility and is typically used in the same way as openness.

THE TREASURY SINGLE ACCOUNT (TSA) REFORM POLICY

On assumption of office in 2015, President Buhari had given the nod for structural reform in the public service with the main aim of addressing the issue of massive corruption in the public service (Ahmed, 2016). The treasury single account which is a public accounting system is one of the dimensions of reforms implemented by the Buhari administration. It was geared towards restoring values and enhancing a more productive and growth-driven public service. Its deliberate plan was to enthrone good governance and transparency through its reform agenda.

This accounting system ensures that all government revenue, receipts, and income are collected into one single account, usually maintained by the Central Bank, and all payments are done through the same account (Morgner, 2013). It is a financial policy adopted in several countries all over the world. It was proposed by the federal government of Nigeria in 2012 under the Jonathan Administration and was fully implemented by the Buhari administration to consolidate all inflows from all agencies of government into a single account at the Central Bank of Nigeria. Chukwu (2015) opined that the Treasury Single Account (TSA) is a collection of affiliate accounts interconnected to a central account that is domiciled with the Central Bank and that before the advent of the TSA policy, the government recorded financial costs on debt balances in some MDA's accounts while at the same time grossing close to nothing on the credit balances of other MDAs. With the TSA, the Central Bank of Nigeria would now automatically have the net balances on all MDAs. According to guidelines issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the TSA was created to promote centralized, responsible, and transparent revenue management by

transferring all government monies into bank accounts under the treasury's operational and effective supervision (CBN, 2016).

Over the years, the Nigerian economy had deeply relied on revenue generated from the sale of crude oil for the running of government activities; and this has brought reckless spending and mismanagement of public funds in governance. A number of Nigerian government agencies were previously able to collect funds on behalf of the federal government on their own, and since they only had to repay a fraction of the stated amount, they were free to spend some of it. Nigeria's economy faces a number of difficulties since cash handling is becoming more and more expensive each year. (Emmanson & Ajayi, 2020). One of the challenges arising from high-cash usage among others includes the operation of multiple accounts. Governments have been operating multiple accounts for revenue collection and spending contrary to the provision of the Nigerian Constitution which requires that all government revenue generation must be remitted into a single account. As a result of economic challenges, the Central Bank of Nigeria was directed to open a Consolidated Revenue Account where all government revenue, incomes, and inflows are collected into one single account maintained by the Central Bank of Nigeria. This is known as Treasury Single Account (TSA) (Emmanson & Ajayi, 2020).

The Treasury Single Account (TSA) could be described as part of the Economic Reform Programme of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to facilitate a unified structure of government bank account for all government transactions. The new system of accounting is part of a campaign for zero tolerance for corruption. It is expected to consolidate all cash resources of the government in all MDAs which were previously purposely located in various bank accounts, under one

unified management and control. Apart from availing the government of effective control of cash resources, TSA will also guarantee timely information on its cash resources in real-time and online and harmonizes government servicing of its obligations. Where necessary, the government seeks appropriate legislations and legal backing to facilitate the relevant regulatory environment towards its successful implementation. It also ensures increased transparency in public financial management, as well as prevents a scenario in which some MDAs have idle cash while other MDAs are compelled to borrow exorbitantly from DMBs. It also provides visibility of government funds. (Emmanson & Ajayi, 2020)

IMPLICATIONS OF THE TREASURY SINGLE ACCOUNT (TSA) REFORM POLICY FOR TRANSPARENCY

The institutionalization of the TSA as a reform policy in public financial management in Nigeria was to address mass embezzlement of financial resources. Ofor, Omaliko & Okoli (2017) affirm that the operationalization of the TSA in the management of financial resources would exert financial discipline on the economic planning, budget, and budgetary processes and procedures, thereby bringing to the barest minimum financial recklessness and blocking loopholes in the ministries, department, and agencies of government. This indicates that MDAs would no longer have direct access to public funds, except from monies appropriated in the budget (Chukwu, 2015).

The implication of the TSA on public financial management can be best typified through its objective: to effectively ensure cumulative control over government cash balances. TSA ensures reliable and efficient budget execution by minimizing transaction costs, monitoring (and thereby controlling

the delay in) the remittance of government revenues (both tax and non-tax) by the collecting banks; effective reconciliation between banking and accounting data, efficient control and monitoring of funds allocated to various government agencies and facilitating better coordination with the monitoring policy implementation (Garbade, John, & Paul, 2004). The IMF (2010) heighten that the objective of TSA when fully implemented would orchestrate full and real-time information on government cash reserves, this denotes that having to know the updated balances in real time despite the advanced payment and settlement systems and an Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) would not pose a challenge. It further expedites the steady scrutinizing of cash balances of government reserve and also enables higher quality cash to overturn analysis to be undertaken. However, cutting down the number of government bank accounts culminates in the minimum administrative cost of account maintenance (IMF, 2010).

A former Minister of Finance in Nigeria while illuminating the implication of TSA, affirmed that the initiation of TSA had assisted in the reduction of how government account was being withdrawn. (Vanguard Editorial, 2015). The Minister further explained that TSA inhabits a key and pivotal role in the reformation of the public financial management that is faced with torrential corruption and astronomical expenditure of the government. The development would be to deal with the problems of trickle-in government revenue and depletion in ministries, departments, and agencies (Vanguard Editorial, 2015). In corroborating with the former minister's assertion, Akanbi (2015) viewed the execution of this reform policy as a step in the right direction towards curtailing corrupt practices in government, purging indiscipline in financial transactions

and fostering the sufficient flow of funds towards a critical sector that would drive socio-economic development.

The TSA reform policy had opened up the channel for monies being held up by some agencies of government to remit same to the Central Bank of Nigeria, thereby building up opportunities for transparency and accountability in the management of government finances at the same time effectively managing the scarce financial resources available (Usman in Okwe, et al, 2015). This implies that revenue-generating agencies of government operating multiple streams of bank accounts to divert public funds will no longer be able to siphon such funds since all funds are channeled into government banks. However, economy and efficiency in handling public finance would ensue and be pivotal, thus leading to prudent spending of public funds to the achievement of quality service delivery.

It is no gainsaying that there have been reactions to the government reform policy by MDAs and commercial banks, some can be attributed to sheer obliviousness, while others are afraid of being restrained from manipulating the financial system for their gain. Teriba in New Telegraph, (2016) believes that the reactions to the TSA reform policy emanated due to the obvious fact that the management of public finance would no longer be business as usual. Teriba accentuates that the TSA put the government in a position to determine what comes to its account at every moment. This policy, therefore, warrants all MDA to go through the appropriation process, as they would no longer access public funds (Teriba in New Telegraph, 2016). Money Deposit Banks at their Banker's Committee meeting will not be allowed to influence CBN to inflate interest rates to their gain and those of heads of MDAs who deposit money to seek additional proceeds through high-interest-

generating fixed deposit accounts (CBN, 2015).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The New Public Management Theory as propounded by Christopher Hood (1991) is one of the approaches adopted to examine issues of public sector reforms. It became prominent in the 1980s, especially in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Britain, and the USA, its impact on the economies of these nations necessitated the spread in the 1990s around many OECD countries and low-income countries, and in Africa most especially, it was promoted by development partners like the World Bank, Common Wealth Secretariat and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (Olowu, 2003).

The New Public Management approaches have attempted to replace traditional public administration. It uses the ideas from the private sector to reinvent dominant and self-serving public sectors. According to Politt and Bouckaert (2004), the New Public Management principles strive to achieve transparency and accountability in the management of public resources and to promote the cost-effective delivery of public goods. The emphasis therefore of this principle is efficiency-driven, the need to pursue explicit clear goals, targets, and indicators of achievement, rather articulated in quantitative terms validated on the footing of grander accountability in the utilization of resources. The application of the New Public Management approach in reforming the public sector is directed at the reduction of public sector expenditure cost, instilling labour discipline, and the utilization of Information and Communication Technology in the execution of government business (Olowu, 2003).

CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING THE TSA REFORM POLICY

For years, the Treasury Single Account, a project of development partners, was marketed as the main tool to enhance government financial management in poor nations. But the goal of consolidating public monies into a single account was to gain control and encourage the use of superfluous funds to promote development initiatives. (IMF, 2010). With the help of the IMF, the TSA reforms aimed to merge the majority of the MDA's separate bank accounts in money deposit banks into the Central Bank of Nigeria. This shows a significant improvement in TSA coverage over the previous years. Accordingly, the national TSA's structure is the flaw obscuring the TSA's full implementation (Nguenang, 2017). Normally, the TSA is just a group of bank accounts that are placed next to each other in the central bank's accounting book with no connection between them. Many MDAs struggle with staff competency and technological know-how limitations in their financial management information systems, which hinders the treasury single accounts' effectiveness and proficiency. (IMF, 2011).

The incapacity of special agencies and educational institutions to exert autonomy over expenditures presents another obstacle to the TSA reform's implementation. According to Ejalonibu, Pate-Sadiq, and Abayomi (2021), the centralization of the controlling system has affected the smooth and quick processing of funds and, in most circumstances, restricted access to cash to carry out everyday demands. Some MDAs' inadequate technological standing has made it difficult to process cash quickly. For example, the lack of computerization, the wireless system, and computer literacy shortcomings are blamed for this. Another issue with seamless transactions is the

absence of reliable internet connectivity (Ahmed, 2016).

CONCLUSION

The need to get more for less and the global reduction in public financial resources have made public sector reforms in low-income and emerging nations imperative. Since an efficient state depends on competent public service, it is assumed that public service reforms are relevant. This is made feasible by having the correct mix of employees that are knowledgeable, open, and accountable for providing high-quality services. As part of the reforms, the President Buhari administration implemented the Treasury Single Account (TSA), which aims to strengthen accountability and transparency in government operations by using the Central Bank's Consolidated Revenue Account (CRA).

In conclusion, the Treasury Single Account has been an important step in improving the public service's transparency in Nigeria. If the policy is properly implemented, it will eventually have the potential to improve accountability, reduce corruption, and boost transparency in government financial operations. But it is important to understand that ongoing effort and commitment are necessary to sustain openness throughout time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The government should as a matter of importance put in place strategic training measures that would enhance the ICT proficiency of the personnel handling the TSA transaction.
2. In addition, an investment must be made in sustainable ICT infrastructure to enable the workability of real-time TSA transactions.

3. Most importantly, the backend of the TSA must be strengthened to block unauthorized access to government funds.

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**MARITIME SECURITY
CHALLENGES AND OIL THEFT IN
THE NIGER DELTA: IMPLICATIONS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The Niger Delta, a region of immense economic importance to Nigeria due to its vast oil reserves, faces critical challenges stemming from maritime insecurity and oil theft. This paper examines the complexities of maritime security threats and oil theft in the region and their profound implications for Nigeria's sustainable development. Oil theft, driven by socio-economic deprivation, weak governance, and entrenched corruption, has not only resulted in significant revenue losses but has also fueled environmental degradation and social instability. Piracy, illegal oil bunkering, and sabotage of oil infrastructure have contributed to escalating maritime insecurity, threatening national and regional economic interests. The environmental impact, including widespread pollution of waterways and farmlands, has undermined local livelihoods and hampered long-term sustainability. Moreover, the socio-political implications, such as the rise of militant groups and criminal syndicates, have deepened the region's instability, complicating efforts for peace and

development. The paper argues that addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that integrates security reforms, economic diversification, environmental restoration, and community engagement. Strengthened governance, anti-corruption measures, regional cooperation, and international partnerships are also critical to combating oil theft and securing maritime borders. Furthermore, inclusive development programs that create economic opportunities for the region's inhabitants, particularly its youth, are essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and criminality. By adopting a multi-pronged strategy, Nigeria can address the underlying causes of maritime insecurity and oil theft, paving the way for sustainable development and lasting stability in the Niger Delta.

Key Words: Maritime; Niger Delta; Oil Theft; Security; Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

The Niger-Delta region of Nigeria has incessantly experienced widespread insecurity, which can be attributed to several variables such as the region's heterogeneous natural resources, geographical vulnerabilities, and environmental and demographic conditions (Obiam, and Amadi, 2022). Even though international and regional stakeholders took some actions to counter the threats, the anticipated successes were hampered by a number of innate issues, including poorly coordinated international and regional initiatives, a lack of situational awareness and response capabilities, and a lack of strong legislative and judicial frameworks (Olofin et al, 2021). Nigeria's coastal regions' economic growth is mostly influenced by the degree of threats to its maritime domain from international maritime security (Lampsey, 2019). The Niger Delta's

coastal region is abundantly rich in gas and oil reserves, which play a major role in the economic growth of Nigeria as a whole as well as the states in the Niger Delta region. The region's widespread maritime security threats, particularly oil theft and sea piracy, has cost Nigeria approximately \$600 million in lost export revenue (Shafa, 2011). This has an impact on the well-being of coastal residents whose primary source of income is the maritime industry.

The Nigeria's Niger Delta region, a large and ecologically varied area, has long attracted attention from all over the world because of its substantial oil deposits. Since the late 1950s, when oil was discovered, the region has been vital to Nigeria's economy. The intricate past of the region has established the groundwork for the current problems it faces, paramount among them being the persistent problem of oil theft (Nwalozie, 2020). Thus, the area is beset by a plethora of issues, the most urgent of which are maritime security and oil theft. Investigating the complex interactions between oil theft in the Niger Delta and marine security, as well as the implications for sustainable national development, is the aim of this study.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Due to its intricate web of relationships that links the world's regions, oceans and seas have become increasingly significant for the success of the global economy in the twenty-first century (Soremi, 2019). Ninety percent of world trade by volume and seventy percent of trade by value, according to estimates from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), is carried out through sea (Moses, 2023). Around 93,000 ships and 1.25 million seafarers are in charge of a startling 6 billion tons of cargo in the worldwide maritime trade since the Second

World War (Olofin, et al, 2021). Thus, seaborne trade has doubled every ten years since then. In this century, however, the world community has recently witnessed the resurgence and growth of maritime insecurity and piracy, one of the oldest crimes against trade in history in many regions of the globe.

The Niger Delta region is both a critical hub for global oil supply and a focal point for various security challenges, particularly maritime insecurity and oil theft. These security issues have severe implications for sustainable development in Nigeria, a country that relies heavily on oil for economic stability. Scholars have explored the intersection of oil theft, maritime insecurity, and sustainable development, revealing a complex web of governance failures, socio-economic challenges, and environmental degradation. (Nwalozie, 2020). To this extent, the paper examined the factors for the growth of maritime insecurity and oil theft in the Niger Delta region and its implication towards achieving Sustainable Development in Nigeria. Also, the paper identified the challenges associated with curbing maritime threat and oil theft in the Niger Delta region towards achieving the Sustainable Development in Nigeria.

Thus, the paper interrogated the following questions: what are the causes of maritime insecurity and oil theft in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria? What is the impact of maritime security and oil theft on national development in Nigeria? What are the challenges associated with curbing maritime threat and oil theft in Nigeria?

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Maritime Security

According to Bueger (2015), the concept of maritime security, also known as 'marine safety' addresses the safety of ships and maritime installations with the primary

purpose of protecting maritime professionals and the marine environment. It implies the regulation of the construction of vessels and maritime installations, the regular control of their safety procedures as well as the education of maritime professionals in complying with regulations. The concept of maritime security has changed over time as a result of historical developments, judicial decisions, and international accords. It does not have vessel protection as its main goal; protecting ports and coastal regions as well as taking into account issues with economic stability, environmental preservation, and national security (Pandey and Prashanthi, 2023). The need of security has increased due to naval wars and piracy. Waterways and economic channels need to be protected, as nations have realised (Pandey and Prashanthi, 2023). Boris (2016) provided a definition of international maritime security by highlighting the threats that exist in the maritime environment. This is why issues like drug trafficking, environmental crimes, accidents and tragedies on the sea, and the proliferation of weapons are covered. Although the definition of international marine security given above is negative, it can be positively characterised by drawing a connection between it and the blue economy.

The Concept of Oil Theft

Oil theft is the unlawful extraction or theft of crude oil by individuals who may or may not be in possession of proper documentation from the relevant government agency to utilise or market the commodity. According to Francis, Lapin, and Rossiasco (2012), licenced oil companies that engage in unethical tactics and extract crude oil in excess of the officially authorised quantity are considered to be involved in oil theft. Oil theft includes, among other things, the unlawful bunkering of crude oil, the operation of illegal

refineries, and the lifting of crude oil by licenced companies by dubious means above the official government allotment (Lampthey, 2019).

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is the concept of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN, 2022). This principle emphasizes the balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity. The most widely accepted definition comes from the Brundtland Report (1987), formally titled *Our Common Future*, which states: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). From the definition above, three elements of sustainable development viz: economic growth, environmental stewardship and social equity. Respectively, economic growth involves progress that improves quality of life, generates employment, and reduces poverty while ensuring responsible use of resources (UN Environment Programme, 2019) while environmental stewardship has to do with protecting natural ecosystems, reducing pollution, and managing natural resources responsibly to avoid long-term environmental degradation (UN, 2022).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

For the purpose of specificity and directions, the paper utilises the sustainable development theory as a concave Lense through which the domain of oil theft and maritime security challenge can be viewed. The term "sustainable development" has been the most repeated in various books and

articles (Crowther, Seifi, and Moyeen, 2018). While the use was basically conceptual, it was Enders & Remig (2015) who made an attempt to theorise the reality of sustainable development. While building on the foundation of sustainability theory, they noted that sustainable development theory" refers to a set of principles and concepts that guide the efforts to achieve sustainable development. Thus, according to the Brantland's report entitled: "Our common future," sustainable development is defined as a development which will satisfy the needs of the present time without using future generations' abilities for fulfilling their needs (Zahedi, 2019). With this description, sustainable development is a process by which the people of a country satisfy their own needs and improve their lives' level without utilizing the resources that belong to the future generations and wasting future wealth to provide their immediate demands.

The theory is central to understanding the implications of maritime security challenges and oil theft on Nigeria's long-term development goals. In the case of the Niger Delta, sustainable development theory highlights three basic dimensions which are central to the subject matter of this paper. Firstly, sustainable development in the region depends on managing oil resources effectively and curbing illegal activities such as oil theft. As opined by Ikelegbe (2013), the continuous loss of oil revenue undermines national development and perpetuates reliance on a single economic resource thereby hindering diversification. This is the economic dimension. On the second note, oil spills and environmental degradation caused by oil theft and maritime insecurity threaten the ecological balance of the Niger Delta. UNEP (2011) argued that since the region's natural resources are being destroyed at an unsustainable rate, this goes against the idea of environmental sustainability. Future

generations' access to clean water, fertile land, and biodiversity—all essential for sustainable livelihoods—is hampered by the long-term environmental damage. On the third angle, sustainable development theory emphasises social inclusion and the reduction of inequality.

The persistent marginalisation of communities in the Niger Delta and the lack of socio-economic opportunities contribute to the rise of militancy and criminal activities such as oil theft. That is why Ibeanu (2006) posits that without addressing these social inequalities, sustainable development in the region will remain elusive. The discussion here therefore represents the whole gamut of interconnectedness of oil theft, maritime security and sustainable development in the Niger Delta.

MARITIME SECURITY ISSUES AND OIL THEFT IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION

Maritime security challenges and oil theft in the Niger Delta are deeply interconnected and have profound implications for Nigeria's economic sustainability. This issue of oil theft manifests in the transportation of stolen oil via the Niger Delta's extensive creeks and rivers to offshore tankers or hidden refineries. As (Onuoha, 2013) observed, this illegal trade requires control over maritime routes, leading to the involvement of criminal groups that operate on land and sea. These groups often turn to piracy, hijacking vessels, and smuggling operations to sustain their networks, creating a cycle of insecurity. This marks the established relationship between maritime insecurity and oil theft in the Niger Delta which automatically led to the formation of militant groups such as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) in the region (Obasi, 2011). Although MEND agreed to a government

amnesty in 2009, splinter groups and new militant Organisations have continued to operate in the region, engaging in oil theft and other criminal activities as a means to finance their operations (Nwachukwu, 2020). The rise of militancy is closely tied to the socio-economic conditions of the region, particularly the lack of development and marginalisation of local communities (Okeke and Idike, 2016). As a result, militants often portray themselves as defenders of the people, attacking oil installations and siphoning oil as a form of resistance against the Nigerian state and foreign oil companies.

Beyond the preponderance of militancy in the region, maritime security issue and oil theft have been intertwined by the interplay of weak governance and socio-economic instability. According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB, 2019), over 90% of global kidnappings at sea occur in the Gulf of Guinea, particularly off the coast of Nigeria. Pirates in the region often target oil tankers and merchant vessels, kidnapping crew members for ransom and sometimes hijacking ships to steal crude oil (Bakpo, 2023). This threat has grown in recent years, despite efforts by regional governments and international partners to enhance maritime security. As opined by Onuoha (2009), the increase in piracy and kidnapping in the Niger Delta can be attributed to several factors: The region's maritime security apparatus is under-resourced and lacks adequate technology and manpower to effectively monitor Nigeria's vast coastal areas. Secondly, the lack of viable economic alternatives in the region contributes to the rise of piracy as a means of livelihood. Lastly, Pirates often collaborate with militant groups operating in the region, which makes piracy not only a criminal issue but also a socio-political one (Obi, 2010).

Another dimension in which maritime security and oil theft in the region

have manifested is the area of illegal oil bunkering. This involves the process of siphoning crude oil from pipelines or stealing it from oil facilities for sale on the black market, is another major maritime security challenge in the Niger Delta (Akpomera, 2013). Estimates suggest that Nigeria loses between 100,000 and 400,000 barrels of oil per day to theft, resulting in billions of dollars in lost revenue annually (Nwachukwu, 2020). Adeb (2024) noted that in 2022, Nigeria lost \$700 million every month to oil theft while also revealing that Nigeria lost 619.7 million barrels, valued at N16.3 trillion, to crude oil theft from 2005 to 2021. This large-scale theft is often facilitated by a well-organized network of local and international actors. The high rates of unemployment and poverty in the Niger Delta drive many youths into criminal activities such as oil bunkering. For many, it is one of the few means of making a living in a region where legitimate economic opportunities are scarce (Watts, 2004). Secondly, Corruption within security forces and government agencies often allows oil thieves to operate with impunity. It is not uncommon for law enforcement officials to be bribed or even actively involved in illegal bunkering (Ikelegbe, 2013).

MARITIME SECURITY AND OIL THEFT: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

The intersection of maritime insecurity and oil theft in the Niger Delta poses a significant threat to Nigeria's sustainable development goals. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to economic growth, environmental sustainability, and peace, are deeply affected by the ongoing challenges in this region. To this extent, the implications for sustainable

development is discussed using three basic perspectives.

Economic Implication: Maritime insecurity undermines Nigeria's ability to harness its natural resources for national development. As Bakp (2023: 7) argued, "oil theft in Nigeria has affected the revenue of all layers of government". The number of barrels of crude oil has been affected due to hot-tapping, cold-tapping or when it's been transported. In March 2023, Nigeria incurred a substantial loss of 65.7 million barrels of crude oil, valued at \$83 per barrel, translating to a staggering revenue loss of N2.3 trillion because of oil theft. Also, Aro (2023) noted that Nigeria lost N16.25trn to crude oil theft in 11 years. The huge losses the country have experienced from this debacle has resulted in the huge economic distortions due to the long period of over reliant on oil without concrete plan for economic diversification. Thus, economic diversification, a key component of sustainable development, is also hindered by the continued reliance on oil exports and the instability in the oil-producing regions (Ikelegbe, 2013). That is why Otaha (2021) argued that since the involvement in oil exportation, there has been near collapse of the non-oil sector, which in the past contributed the bulk of Nigeria's export earnings.

This has rendered the propensity for sustainable development tenuous. Beyond dwindling revenue, another economic implication of oil theft and maritime insecurity is unemployment. Bloomberg (2013) argued that oil theft in Nigeria has led most of the International Oil Companies (IOCs) to exit from many of their onshore ventures. This development, even though some of these companies have commenced new operations off shore, has brought about massive job cut offs in the country (Daily

Trust,2014) thereby demonstrating the volatility of mineral dependent economy.

Environmental Implication: The environmental damage caused by oil theft and pipeline sabotage has a long-term impact on Nigeria's ability to achieve sustainable development. According to Akpomera (2013), The destruction of ecosystems in the Niger Delta affects agriculture, fishing, and the health of local communities. Oil spills not only destroy the natural environment but also increase the vulnerability of the region to climate change, further complicating efforts to promote environmental sustainability (UNEP, 2011). Nigerian oil theft operations have resulted in untold environmental contamination and degradation. Due to the criminals' careless handling of the oil pipelines, there are constant oil spills which pollute the land, air, and water aspects of the ecosystem (Bakpo, 2023). As Enakireu and Airen (2014) noted, the release of oil into an ecosystem can have a catastrophic effect and can be considered ecocide. Large areas of the mangrove forests have been destroyed. These forests are particularly vulnerable to oil since it is held in the soil and discharged yearly during inundations.

According to (Mahmoud, 2019), an estimated 10% of Nigerian mangrove ecosystems have been wiped out either by settlement or oil. The rainforest which previously occupied some 7,400km² of land has also disappeared as well. That is why Ikelegbe (2013) opined that the spilling of oil in densely populated areas have gone farther covering a large area, contaminating the soil and groundwater and harming crops and aquacultures. Thus, the consumption of dissolved oxygen by bacteria feeding on the spilled hydrocarbons has contributed to the death of fish in the aquatic environment. In agricultural communities, often a year's supply of food can be destroyed

instantaneously, because of the careless nature of oil operations in the Delta, the environment growing increasingly uninhabitable (Enakireu and Airen, 2014). Many residents of the impacted areas have lost essential human rights like health, access to food, clean water, and employment opportunities while also lamenting health problems, such as respiratory difficulties and skin sores thereby causing immense desire to migrate (Soremi, 2019).

Social Implication: Maritime insecurity and oil theft fuel social conflict and has exacerbated poverty and inequality in the Niger Delta region, consequently, Nigeria at large. According to Boris (2016), the region has experienced decades of neglect, underdevelopment, and marginalization, which have given rise to militant groups and violent insurgencies. These conflicts erode social cohesion, undermine governance, and hinder efforts to promote peace and security (Agbu, 2005). The outcome of oil theft that has been occasioned by maritime insecurity has resulted in a high level of social conflict. According to Obi (2010), proceeds from oil theft are often used by warlords in the country to acquire weapons and also to recruit and train fighters. These acquisitions and reinforcement provide the criminal armed groups with resources they need to perpetuate their engagement in the illegal activity. In a bid to sustain receipt for oil rents, the Federal government often deploys military troops to the Niger Delta to rid the region of criminality. The militarization of the region has led to occasional face-off between the criminals and the military with reported casualties on both sides. Apart from the face-offs with the military, criminal groups also engage in hostilities among themselves over distribution of appropriated resources and alleged collaboration with security agencies (Ikelegbe, 2008). This continuous conflict

threatens the security architecture of the region. That is why the incessant surge in insecurity in the Niger Delta has affected the development of the region. They affected government social agencies and non-governmental Organisations. Young people of school age may choose to join oil theft gangs in order to acquire more wealth. This led to loss of man power as most of them end their live (Bakpo, 2023).

CONCLUSION

The maritime security challenges and oil theft in the Niger Delta have emerged as critical issues with profound implications for Nigeria's sustainable development. These challenges not only threaten the stability of the Niger Delta but also undermine the broader economic, environmental, and social foundations necessary for Nigeria's sustainable development. At the heart of the problem is oil theft, which has become deeply entrenched in the region, driven by a combination of socio-economic marginalization, unemployment, and a history of poor governance. The disconnect between the region's resource wealth and its underdevelopment has fueled resentment against the Nigerian government and multinational oil companies, creating an environment where criminality and violence thrive. The economic consequences of oil theft are severe, with Nigeria losing billions of dollars annually in oil revenue due to illegal activities. Also, the environmental degradation caused by oil spills and illegal refining operations presents long-term threats to sustainable development. The environmental damage, combined with the failure of oil companies and the government to take adequate responsibility for cleanup efforts, poses significant challenges to achieving environmental sustainability in the region.

Socially, the security challenges and oil theft have fostered a culture of violence, lawlessness, and corruption in the Niger Delta. Militancy and criminal activities have eroded social cohesion, deepening the distrust between local communities, the government, and oil companies. In conclusion, maritime security challenges and oil theft in the Niger Delta pose significant threats to Nigeria's sustainable development. The economic, environmental, and social impacts of these challenges are intertwined, creating a vicious cycle that undermines the country's long-term growth and stability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the far-reaching implications of maritime security challenges and oil theft in the Niger Delta for Nigeria's sustainable development, a multi-faceted and holistic approach is needed to address these issues. Below are recommendations to mitigate these challenges and promote sustainable development in the region:

Strengthen Governance and Combat Corruption: A significant driver of maritime insecurity and oil theft in the Niger Delta is weak governance and entrenched corruption. The Nigerian government must prioritize strengthening institutional capacity and accountability to effectively address these challenges.

Improve Environmental Management and Cleanup: Environmental degradation resulting from oil theft and illegal refining has devastated the Niger Delta's ecosystems, threatening both human and environmental health. Immediate steps are needed to restore the environment and prevent further degradation.

Promote a Non-Elitists Community Engagement and Development: Local communities in the Niger Delta have often been excluded from the benefits of oil production, leading to distrust and

resentment toward the government and oil companies. Ensuring that local communities are involved in decision-making and development efforts is critical for building trust and reducing insecurity.

Enforce Legal Frameworks and Strengthen Judicial Processes: Weak enforcement of laws and judicial processes has allowed maritime crime and oil theft to flourish in the Niger Delta. Strengthening Nigeria's legal frameworks is critical for deterring and prosecuting offenders.

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**CONFLICT AND PEACE-BUILDING
IN A FRAGILE REGION: EVIDENCE
FROM THE NIGER DELTA IN
NIGERIA.**

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ABSTRACT

Significant conflict is a defining feature of the Nigerian Niger Delta area, which is caused by a complex interaction of political, economic, and environmental variables. Despite having abundant oil resources, this area has extreme poverty, environmental degradation, and social instability. This is mostly because to past neglect, corporate greed, and poor government. Using secondary sources of data, this paper investigates these processes by looking at both effective and ineffective initiatives. The conflict has taken the form of armed militancy, intercommunal strife, and criminal activity, resulting in widespread bloodshed and economic damage. With varying degrees of success, a number of peace-building programs have been put into place, such as military operations and the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP). Even while certain initiatives have succeeded in short-term reduction of violence, fundamental problems like marginalization, corruption, and environmental destruction still need to be addressed. The results highlight the need of a more open, inclusive, and community-driven strategy to establish long-lasting peace in the area.

Key words: Conflict; Fragile region; Niger-Delta; Peacebuilding; Security

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria's Niger Delta has long been known as one of the most unstable regions of the nation, beset by a complicated web of conflicts fueled by environmental, political, and economic variables. The Niger Delta, which produces the majority of Nigeria's oil, is paradoxically characterized by extreme poverty, marginalization, and environmental degradation, which feeds a vicious cycle of discontent and violence. The exploitative tactics of multinational oil firms and the historical neglect of this area by successive administrations have contributed to the region's vulnerability by fueling broad discontent among the local populace (Watts, 2004; Ojakorotu, 2022). The Niger Delta has seen conflict in a number of ways, including insurgency, intercommunal disputes, and criminal activity including abduction and oil bunkering. Deep-seated dissatisfaction with the federal government's management of resource distribution and control is reflected in the rise of armed Organisations like the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) (Obi, 2010). In recent times, there has been a comeback of militant Organisations like as the Niger Delta Avengers. These groups persist in attacking oil infrastructure, which causes disruptions to oil production and has substantial economic consequences on both a local and national level (Ukpe, 2021).

The Niger Delta, with its abundant oil and gas resources, is the backbone of Nigeria's economy and a major source of both government income and export profits (Helbert, 2020; Wils, 2018). Notwithstanding its richness, the area has extreme poverty, deteriorating environmental conditions, and social instability. Rather than fostering local development, the money created by the Delta has exacerbated violence, corruption, and a serious lack of essential services and

infrastructure. Due to this imbalance, a resource-rich area has resulted in a population that faces one of the worst rates of poverty in the nation, enduring filthy and violent living conditions. There is no denying the Niger Delta's economic importance—it makes a substantial contribution to both Nigeria's government income and export profits. The local populace, who nevertheless faces poverty, environmental damage, and social upheaval, has not profited from this prosperity, however.

A range of peace-building measures have been put into place in response to the ongoing conflict. These include military interventions as well as more all-encompassing strategies like the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP), which sought to disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate militants into society (Aghedo & Osumah, 2012). Although there have been brief successes for some projects, the area is still unstable, with political will lacking, corruption rampant, and real involvement with the impacted populations undermining peace attempts (Ibaba & Etekepe, 2020). Using data from the area to evaluate the success of previous and ongoing initiatives, this paper aims to investigate the intricate dynamics of conflict and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta. The article tries to contribute to a fuller knowledge of how fragile places like the Niger Delta might go from violence to peace by looking at the underlying reasons of the conflict, the opinions of numerous authors on the subject, and the current difficulties to sustainable peace.

ORIGINS OF CONFLICT IN THE NIGER-DELTA: COLONIAL AND POST-COLONIAL LEGACIES

The colonial period, when the British established authority over Nigeria, is when the violence in the Niger Delta originated.

Due to its advantageous location along the coast and abundance of natural resources, the area was first used in the colonial economy for the production of palm oil and thereafter other resources. Partitions and animosity were fostered by the British colonial government's frequent favoritism of certain ethnic groups over others. Through the use of local chiefs, many of whom were not representative of their communities, they imposed indirect authority, which caused resentment and discontent among the populace (Ikelegbe, 2005). These colonial legacies continued to influence politics in the area even after Nigeria attained independence in 1960. The sense of abandonment and isolation was exacerbated by the federal government's concentration of power and the Niger Delta communities' ongoing marginalization. Further unrest resulted from the federal government's control over the region's resources, especially oil, and its unequal distribution of money among the local populace (Watts, 2004).

An important turning point in the history of the area was the discovery of oil in the Niger Delta in the late 1950s. Oil was once seen as a possible source of wealth but soon turned into a point of dispute. Oil production resulted in environmental damage, such as gas flaring, oil spills, and the devastation of farmlands and fisheries, which provided the majority of the local residents' income. The area remained impoverished with insufficient healthcare, weak infrastructure, and few educational possibilities even with the oil revenue (Obi, 2009). It was believed that the local communities were losing out on the money created by oil to the federal government and international oil corporations. This feeling of unfairness stoked complaints and gave rise to calls for more authority over the area's resources. In response, a number of ethnic

groups in the Niger Delta organized and demanded political participation, recompense for environmental damages, and a more equal division of oil income (Human Rights Watch, 1999).

Over many decades, the Niger Delta war intensified, with numerous significant incidents highlighting the worsening crisis: One of the first coordinated uprisings in the Niger Delta was the “Twelve-Day Revolution” of 1966 headed by Isaac Adaka Boro, who proclaimed the Niger Delta Republic and demanded independence from Nigeria. As Watts (2004) noted, the uprising established a precedent for future resistance movements even though it was promptly put down. In the 1990’s, the Niger Delta’s predicament gained worldwide attention when Ken Saro-Wiwa founded the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). The region’s violations of the environment and human rights were brought to light by MOSOP’s nonviolent campaign against environmental degradation and the exploitation of the Ogoni people by oil firms, especially Shell. Tensions were heightened by the harsh reaction from the Nigerian government, which included the 1995 death of Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists (Okonta & Douglas, 2001; Ikelegbe, 2005). In order to allay the frustrations of militants, the Nigerian government launched an amnesty program that offers monetary incentives, educational opportunities, and vocational training in return for disarmament. Although there was a brief decrease in violence as a result of the program, many underlying problems persisted, and occasional violence persisted (Obi, 2009).

DRIVERS OF CONFLICT IN THE NIGER DELTA

For many years, Nigeria’s conflicts have been concentrated in the oil-rich Niger Delta. This dispute has several underlying

causes, including political, economic, and environmental issues. In order to address the underlying reasons of instability and promote long-term peace in the area, it is imperative to comprehend these factors.

POLITICAL FACTORS

Governance Issues and Marginalization

The Niger Delta’s marginalization and problems with governance are at the heart of the region’s strife. Nigeria’s federal form of government has always centralized authority, with the central government controlling the majority of the country’s oil earnings. Communities living in the Niger Delta are no longer included in resource-related decision-making processes as a result of this centralization. Deep-rooted concerns have been exacerbated by the perceived and actual marginalization of the Niger Delta population, who believe their contributions to the national economy are not sufficiently valued or acknowledged (Watts, 2004). The absence of infrastructural development in the area exacerbates the marginalization even further. The Niger Delta is still among Nigeria’s least developed areas, with poor access to essential amenities like clean water, healthcare, and education, despite the region’s oil fortune. Due to the local population’s desire to claim their rights and demand a fair part of the region’s riches, this has exacerbated sentiments of neglect and contributed to the emergence of militancy (Ikelegbe, 2005).

Corruption and Inadequate Political Representation

Another important political reason fueling strife in the Niger Delta is corruption. Corrupt federal and state authorities, as well as elites, have siphoned off most of the oil riches in the area, leaving little for local development. The public’s disenchantment has been heightened by this corruption,

which has reduced confidence in government institutions. There is a general feeling of unfairness and discontent due to the administration of oil profits' lack of accountability and transparency (Obi, 2009). An important factor in the conflict is also inadequate political representation. The Niger Delta's inhabitants have long believed that their representation in the nation's political systems is insufficient. Because of this, they are now less able to influence laws that directly impact their lives and means of subsistence. Many have turned to supporting violent Organisations as an alternate way of attaining their aims due to their exclusion from meaningful political engagement (Watts, 2004).

ECONOMIC FACTORS

Resource Control Struggles and Inequitable Distribution of Oil Wealth

The main causes of violence in the Niger Delta are economic issues, including the fight for control over resources and the unequal distribution of oil revenue. When oil was discovered in the late 1950s, the area was expected to develop. The reality, however, has been quite different. It has been claimed that the federal government, which is in charge of the bulk of oil earnings, only gives the Niger Delta a little share of these earnings. Widespread discontent and calls for more authority over the area's resources have resulted from this (Ikelegbe, 2005). Many Organisations in the Niger Delta have used the issue of resource control as a rallying cry, which has resulted in demonstrations, court cases, and military confrontation. Militant Organisations that support a larger portion of oil earnings and reparations for environmental losses have formed. One such Organisation is the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). Violence against government troops and oil

firms has often erupted from these fights (Watts, 2004).

Unemployment and Poverty

Two important economic causes fueling the violence in the Niger Delta are unemployment and poverty. Even though the area is rich in oil, unemployment is rampant, especially for young people. Many young people feel disenfranchised and despairing due to the lack of work possibilities, which leaves them open to recruitment by militant Organisations (Obi, 2009). The Niger Delta is rife with poverty, with many villages experiencing acute suffering. Due to the destruction of traditional livelihoods like farming and fishing, oil exploration has further worsened poverty by degrading the environment. People are turning to militancy and criminal activity as a way of surviving, which has produced a fertile foundation for violence (Human Rights Watch, 1999).

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Environmental Degradation Due to Oil Exploration

An important factor contributing to violence in the Niger Delta is environmental deterioration brought on by oil development. The area has seen significant environmental harm, such as gas flaring, oil spills, and deforestation. The local ecology has been severely harmed by these actions, with farmlands, waterways, and ecosystems all being destroyed. The local population's livelihoods have been threatened by environmental deterioration, which has also increased animosity and hostility against the government and oil firms (Watts, 2004). One of the main causes of contention has been the government's and the oil firms' inability to appropriately handle environmental concerns. Communities impacted by pollution, including oil spills, have often been left without assistance or compensation,

which has sparked demonstrations and, in some situations, violent altercations. Thus, the Niger Delta's environmental disaster is not just an ecological problem but also a major contributing element to the war (Obi, 2009).

MANIFESTATIONS OF CONFLICT IN THE NIGER DELTA

Over time, the Niger Delta conflict has taken on several forms that are indicative of the region's intricate dynamics and long-standing complaints. These manifestations include the rise of violent Organisations, different types of violence, and notable effects on the social and economic spheres.

Emergence of Militant Groups

The rise of militant Organisations, which have been a major contributor to the instability of the area, is one of the most noticeable signs of war in the Niger Delta. Among the most well-known militant Organisations is the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), which was founded in 2006. MEND was created in reaction to what was seen to be the Nigerian government and international oil firms' exploitation and disregard of the Niger Delta. Through armed conflict, the group attempted to resolve these concerns by requesting more authority over the area's resources, restitution for environmental harm, and community development (Watts, 2008). Attacks on oil facilities, kidnappings of oil workers, and production disruptions were among MEND's actions, which had a major effect on Nigeria's oil output. Due to the group's efforts, the Niger Delta situation received worldwide attention, and the government was compelled to hold talks (Obi, 2009; Ojo, 2017).

Communal Clashes

Conflicts between communities are another kind of violence in the Niger Delta, often resulting from rivalry for resources and ethnic conflicts. There are many different ethnic communities in the area, and each has its own concerns and interests. Violent confrontations between communities are usually the result of disputes over political representation, local resource management, and property ownership (Ikelegbe, 2005). These conflicts fuel cycles of revenge and increased violence, exacerbating the already precarious situation in the Niger Delta.

Kidnapping

In the Niger Delta, kidnapping has grown to be a profitable criminal activity that often targets foreigners, notable locals, and oil workers. Kidnapping has evolved from being a political act—such as pressuring the government to comply with militant demands—to an increasingly profitable enterprise. Kidnapping-related ransom payments provide a substantial revenue stream for criminal gangs and terrorist Organisations (Obi, 2009). Both locals and international investors are impacted by the fear and insecurity that has been fostered in the area by the frequency of kidnappings.

Oil Bunkering

The illicit tapping and theft of oil from pipelines, known as "oil bunkering," is another violent crime that has detrimental effects on the environment and the economy. Oil bunkering is a tactic used by criminal networks and militant Organisations to raise money for their operations. Due to frequent oil leaks, the practice not only costs the Nigerian government and oil firms large sums of money but also degrades the environment (Watts, 2008). The Niger Delta's unrest and violence have been

exacerbated by the oil bunkering-related devastation of ecosystems and livelihoods.

There has been a great deal of unrest in Nigeria's Niger Delta for a long time, mostly because of problems with environmental degradation, oil exploitation, and socioeconomic marginalization. To address the disputes in the area, a number of peace-building measures have been put into place throughout time. These programs fall into two main categories: non-governmental activities and governmental interventions.

TOWARDS A LASTING PEACE-BUILDING IN THE NIGER-DELTA REGION

In order to put an end to instability in the Niger Delta, the Nigerian government has regularly resorted on military operations and security actions. One important aspect of the government's strategy has been the deployment of the Joint Task Force (JTF), which is made up of personnel from the Nigerian Army, Navy, Air Force, and other security Organisations. The objectives of these operations were to protect oil sites, quell insurgent activity, and uphold law and order. But rather than addressing the root causes of the problems, these military actions have often come under fire for escalating hostilities. Opponents contend that the military activities have resulted in violations of human rights, community uprooting, and increased estrangement from the local populace. Because it ignores the fundamental reasons of the conflict, such as unemployment, poverty, and environmental damage from gas flaring and oil spills, the use of force has sometimes increased anger. As a result, whereas military actions have sometimes brought about a brief return to peace, they have not resulted in regional stability over the long run.

Also, the Nigerian government initiated the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP) in 2009 with the aim of fostering peace in the Niger Delta via a more moderate approach. For militants who consented to give up their weapons and participate in a disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) process, the program granted them complete amnesty. Ex-combatants were compensated with stipends, possibilities for additional education, and vocational training.

At first, the PAP was successful in lowering crime and enhancing security in the area. Attacks on oil infrastructure decreased dramatically, and many ex-militants were reintegrated into society. Nevertheless, a number of issues have limited the program's long-term efficacy. For former fighters, one significant barrier is the absence of long-term employment options. Beneficiaries were frustrated and disillusioned as a result of the PAP's vocational training programs' frequent failure to provide gainful employment. The initiative has also come under fire for lacking local community involvement in decision-making processes and for being top-down. The PAP has reportedly experienced financial mismanagement and corruption, with money being taken from its designated uses. Consequently, the fundamental socio-economic issues that drive violence in the Niger Delta continue to go mostly unresolved.

Beyond government effort, international Organisations and civil society have been vital to the Niger Delta's attempts to promote peace. These groups have often concentrated on campaigns, discussions, and capacity-building projects meant to advance regional peace and development. For instance, groups that actively support environmental justice, human rights, and

sustainable development include the Niger Delta Human Development Initiative (NDHDI) and the Centre for Environment, Human Rights, and Development (CEHRD). International agencies that support infrastructure development, education, and economic diversification, including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have also helped to foster peace in the Niger Delta. By offering other sources of income and improving living circumstances in the area, these programs aim to address some of the core drivers of violence, such as unemployment and poverty.

However, obstacles such as lack of financing, poor coordination between parties, and the intricate sociopolitical realities of the Niger Delta have hampered the efficacy of these initiatives. Moreover, the efficacy of these endeavors often hinges on the Nigerian government's readiness to collaborate and execute suggested policies, a disposition that has not always been shown.

CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN THE REGION

A number of intricate issues have made it difficult for the Nigerian Niger Delta area to achieve lasting peace. The following subheadings may be used to assess these challenges:

Corruption and Lack of Transparency in Peace-Building Processes

In the Niger Delta, attempts to promote peace have been severely hampered by corruption and a lack of openness. Numerous intervention initiatives, including the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP) and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), have targeted the area. However, financial theft, ineffective bureaucracy, and a lack of accountability have seriously

impeded these initiatives' efficacy. Numerous officials associated with these programs have faced accusations of misappropriating funds intended for community development into their own accounts, resulting in the targeted villages being impoverished and neglected. The local populace views peace-building initiatives as a means for the elite to benefit themselves rather than as sincere attempts to address the situation in the area, which breeds mistrust among them. Human Rights Watch (2019) claims that corruption in these procedures has caused a collapse in community and government confidence, making long-term peace impossible.

Limited Community Participation and Engagement

The low level of community involvement and participation in peace-building efforts is a major obstacle to long-term peace in the Niger Delta. The people who are most directly impacted by the war have not contributed much to the majority of top-down peace initiatives. Because of this exclusion, policies and initiatives that do not fully take into account the needs and goals of the local populace have often been implemented. Communities are less likely to support and maintain peace programs when they are not actively engaged in their creation and execution. Resistance or indifference towards peace-building initiatives has often been caused by the absence of local ownership of these initiatives. According to International Crisis Group (2020), fostering peace in the Niger Delta requires a more inclusive strategy that includes substantive discussions and cooperation with local stakeholders like as youth Organisations and community leaders.

Inadequate Addressing of Underlying Grievances

Another significant barrier to long-term peace is the inadequate resolution of the Niger Delta residents' underlying complaints. There has been insufficient progress in resolving the fundamental problems that sparked the war, such as economic marginalization, environmental degradation, and political marginalization.

The region's ecology has been severely damaged by environmental degradation brought on by gas flaring and oil spills, which has also destroyed livelihoods and stoked unrest. The effect on the people is still severe, and progress in cleaning up the impacted regions and compensating the communities has been delayed despite repeated pledges from the government and oil firms. Despite the region's abundance of natural riches, the economic marginalization of the area feeds locals' feeling of unfairness and animosity. According to a 2020 Amnesty International assessment, the Niger Delta's cycle of violence and instability is sustained by the neglect of these problems.

CONCLUSION

Decades of warfare have been exacerbated by a complex combination of political, economic, and environmental issues that the Niger Delta area continues to face. Sustainable peace has proven elusive despite a plethora of peace-building attempts, including non-governmental and state interventions such as the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP). The fragility of the area has been exacerbated by ongoing corruption problems, a lack of openness, low levels of community involvement, and a failure to effectively address underlying complaints. Niger Delta data shows that although certain programs, like the PAP, have temporarily reduced violence, they often fall short in addressing the underlying

causes of conflict. Furthermore, the return of violence and militancy exposes the shortcomings of these initiatives in bringing about sustained stability. Peace initiatives are hampered by persistent environmental deterioration, economic marginalization, and insufficient political representation. These factors also foster hostility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Addressing the underlying causes of the ongoing strife and instability in the Niger Delta requires a multipronged strategy. The suggestions that follow come from a thorough examination of the difficulties and earlier efforts in the area:

Enhance Transparency and Accountability in Peace-Building Initiatives

Programs aimed at promoting peace, such as the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Presidential Amnesty Program (PAP), should have strong control and accountability systems. The mandated implementation of independent audits and consistent reporting is necessary to guarantee the efficient and transparent allocation of resources. In order to promote better openness and develop confidence, include local communities in the monitoring and evaluation of these activities. By becoming involved, you can make sure that the programs serve the needs of the people and don't only serve as platforms for corruption.

Promote Inclusive and Participatory Peace-Building

All relevant parties must be included in peacebuilding initiatives, including youth Organisations, women's groups, and local authorities. For peace efforts to be successful in the long run, their active involvement in

their conception, execution, and assessment is essential. bolster local government systems to improve their ability to allocate resources and settle disputes. This entails assisting established Organisations and regional administrations in taking a more proactive part in efforts to promote peace.

Address the Root Causes of Grievances

Establish and implement economic programs that diversify the region's economy beyond oil, creating sustainable employment opportunities for the youth. These could include investment in agriculture, fisheries, and small-scale industries, which can provide alternative livelihoods to those affected by environmental degradation. Establish and implement infrastructure projects that prioritize the development of necessary infrastructure, such as roads, schools, and healthcare facilities. Establish and implement programs that prioritize access to clean water and electricity. Reducing poverty levels that fuel conflict and improving the quality of life.

Strengthen Security and Rule of Law

In the Niger Delta, security operations should move away from militaristic tactics and toward tactics that prioritize community policing and communication. To prevent escalating tensions, security personnel should get training on human rights and conflict resolution. Tougher laws should be put in place to stop illicit operations like oil bunkering, which contribute to environmental damage and bloodshed. The government, regional authorities, and foreign partners must work together on this.

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**REFOCUSING NIGERIA MIGRATION
POLICY FOR CHANGING IMPACT
ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL
MIGRATION POLICY OF 2015**

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on migration policies in Nigeria and their impacts on national development with specific focus on the Nigeria National Migration Policy of 2015 which was formulated to foster national development. The goal of the study was to examine the impact of migration policy on national development adopting the 2015 National Migration Policy of Nigeria. The study adopted the Modernisation Theory and theory of Change as the theoretical framework. The study obtained data from secondary sources through indexes of scholars' work on related literature such as journal publications, books, articles among others. The paper revealed that despite government effort to foster national development through migration policies, certain factors like policy incoherence and

ambiguity, inadequate policy integration and implementation, poor database, insecurity, hunger, poverty, unemployment, unstable economy among other had constituted hiccups to migration policies' influence and effectiveness on national development. Thus, the paper concluded that the incoherence and ambiguity of the policy contributed to its implementation failure coupled with poor database and monitoring techniques. The study recommended among others, urgent review of migration policies; partnership between government and the society on migration matters; policy coherence, engaging and empowering migrants as development actors through policy.

Keywords: Changing Impact; Development; Migration; Migration Policy; National Development

INTRODUCTION

National Development has been a consistent phenomenon globally. Every country continues to strive towards development through several techniques and innovations. Africa countries and Nigeria in particular had never been exceptional in the quest for National Development just like every other country in the world whether classified as developed or developing. National development is enhanced through several sectors of the economy and in all human endeavours. Over the years, most fast developed countries had been observed to have adopted several tools such as technology, science, resources and migration as mechanism through which their economy had been advanced. Thus, Sander, Abel and Riosmena (2013) depicted that those economic forces such as technology, environmental, demographic, policy, politics, migration among others play vital roles in development.

Migration has been one major factor that greatly contribute towards national development through adoption of migration policies as it differs from country to country. De Haas (2020) observed that migration had been a tool with which most advanced countries became wealthier and developed over the years. In fact, by specifications, immigration is expected to increase linearly with development whereby countries become progressively attractive to foreigners who can boost the economy (De Haas, 2020). The systematic way of encouraging migration with the aim of enhancing national development is a shift in global population with the believe to redistribute resources among countries in the world (Billari, 2022).

Migration Policies had been a guide on migration matters in Nigeria with the goals of attracting and encouraging migrants with quality potentials, skills, knowledge and technology required to drive and develop the country's economy. Thus, Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel (2023) opined that the availability of international migrants could present opportunities for cross-fertiliser of techniques, knowledge and skills needed in fostering any country's national development. This has been a weapon most developed countries uses to drain brains, technocrats, intellectuals, economy boosters from various origins with the hope of developing their countries generally (Czaika and De Haas; 2014). The most touching part of migration policies in several countries is that migration continues to occur as movement between neighbouring countries (UN, 2019). This does not negate the fact that there are internal and distant migrations. The United Nations (2022) observed that data on global migration had captured a tremendous flow during which, most countries change economically, politically, environmentally and so on.

Nigeria migration policy had posed some challenges on foreign direct investors and business gurus who are interested in driving any economy for their profit maximisation, high rate of tariff, export and import duties, exchange rate among other factors which had prevented immigration which could serve as a tool for economic, social and national development in Nigeria. In fact, the Nigeria economy predicament had driven many Nigerians away to foreign countries. It is therefore necessary for the government to combat brain drain, underdevelopment, economy and migration challenges. Against this background, the paper tends to redirect the focus of Nigeria migration policy for changing the narrative towards impactful national development.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa well endeavoured with natural and human resources which if well harnessed could foster her national development. The human resources are fundamental to fostering national development. In fact, development is a critical issue confronting the universe today, yet, meaningful and pathways to development are not always straight (Olutayo, Omobowale and Akanle (2015). Development itself is a product of history, human beings with little or no regulation would go beyond the limit to exploit whatever situation they find themselves in sustenance and furtherance of benefits. Hence, migration became germane to mankind. Government and stakeholders had made efforts towards regulation of migration in Nigeria, because migration of Nigerians can make or mar the economy. Thus, Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) observed that migration out of Africa and Nigeria is still occasioned by many uncomplimentary factors such as unemployment, low wages, low saving, sluggish economy growth,

insecurity, poverty, etc. This can negate the development of the country.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (2009) on the other hand had observed that emigration can foster national development, in the sense that increased support for diaspora enterprises and investment, encouragement and support for foreign direct investors are crucial for development of the Africa continent. De Haas (2006) added that remittance, support and investment from diaspora play fundamental roles in poverty reduction, creation of job opportunities, improved livelihood, harness innovation, technology and capital creation thereby during the multiplier effects on income distribution which tends to develop the country.

Despite government efforts geared towards leveraging migration through policy, as a means to changing the impact of migration on national development, there seems to be factors determining national development and government efforts on migration policy. It is against this backdrop that this paper attempts to review the Nigeria Migration Policy of 2015, identify the challenges mitigating against migration as a tool for sustainable national development and proffer possible remedies that will foster changing impact of migration on national development in Nigeria.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The paper examined the impact of migration policy on national development with specific focus on assessing the National Migration Policy of 2015. Thus, the purpose of the study is to:

1. Examine the impact of migration policy on national development
2. Review the objectives of the Nigeria National migration Policy of 2015

3. Identify the challenges confronting migration policy in Nigeria
4. Determine factor that propel the changing impact of migration policy on national development.

METHODOLOGY

The method adopted for the study is the descriptive survey and qualitative research design with the aim of having an in-depth knowledge of Nigeria national migration policies and their relationship with national development. The study is theoretical and draws its data from the indexes of scholars' work on relevant areas through journal, articles, books, publications, seminar and conference papers. The data were thoroughly explored and scrutinised to ascertain the impact of migration policy on national development over the years.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Migration: This is the movement of people over a considerable distance with the mindset of forfeiting former home. It is the process of moving from one place to another for peculiar reasons like economic opportunities, environmental factors, insecurity, etc. it is considered as a symptom of basic social change.

Policy: Policy is a deliberate system of guidelines to quicks decision which results into rational outcome. It is a statement of intent and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. It is a blue print of activities that are repetitive or routine in nature.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Migration

Migration as a concept is as old as man's history. It encompasses a wide variety of movements based on different situations that involves humanity in various spheres of life (Ahmed and Abanimebon, 2024).

Through history, migration cut across many people and countries of several generations for several reasons. Migration has been observed to results in the transfer of skills, potentials, knowledge, resources, and technology that have positive impact on productivity and quality service delivery in any working system (IOM, 2018; Ahmed and Abanimebon, 2024). Ahmed and Abanimebon (2024) noted that there are migrants that have volitionally moved to new countries, some placed themselves on foreign shores by their new employers, some live as expatriates and some choose their lifestyle based on job opportunities that is available for them. Migration has positive and negative effects in the migrant depending on a number of considerable factors.

Migration Policy

Migration policy began to gain popularity since the millennium due to complexity of the mechanism and government quest for economic stability. The full gamut of migration desire, intention and reality are occasion mainly for economic gain. Migration policy serves as equilibrium of economy that balances demand and supply force within and across countries. It has the potential of shaping the international flow and can influence global issues. Czaika and De Haas (2014) opined that migration policy determines the inflow and outflow dynamics of travelling policies. The government perception of migration policy is reflected in their leadership of the government (Kanu, et al 2019). Akinyombo and Famiyesi (2023) noted that just like other public policy in Nigeria, migration policy undergone deep scrutiny and analysis and formulation process. Often a time, migration policy address specific issues, set out the scope, strategies, resources, agencies and other factors considerable to foster the

implementation of the policy (Arhin-Sam, 2019; Obano and Odalonu, 2023).

Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel (2023) opined that migration policies in Nigeria had improved tremendously since the first migration policy was formulated in 2007, several policies had emerged relating to labour migration, diaspora and internally displaced people as well as general issues of migrations. Albert-Makyur and Mbanaso (2022) depicted that migration policy are legal framework and mechanisms that are aimed at regulating migration as well protect migrants across the globe, and so it is not really one of the top priorities of Nigeria government polices when actually compared with other vital Nigeria issues such as economy recession and recovery, corruption, insecurity and other developmental challenges. Arhin-Sam (2019) added that Nigeria migration policies are meant to aid migration issues and reach a progressive relationship with foreign countries like Europe. Furthermore, migration policies are expected to harness high financial remittance from Nigeria diaspora, create conducive environment and reintegrate the Nigeria economy towards national development (Czaika and De Haas, 2014, Olayinka and Olayinka, 2022). However, Obano and Odalonu (2023) and Akinyomba and Famiyesi (2023) keenly observed that Nigeria migration policies are theoretically comprehensive but implementation are deficit. Thus, suffice to say, that some Nigeria policies are theoretically comprehensive and practically ambiguous. Arhin-Sam (2019) added that lack of findings and conflicts over mandate, incoherence and ambiguity are among challenges facing migration policies in Nigeria.

Concept of Development

The term 'development' is not solely an economic phenomenon but a multi-

dimensional process that entails reorganisation and reorientation of an entire system. Development is a process of disproportionate growth of systems, that generates economic, technological, social and institutional change to support wealth of nation and improve standard of living for the people (Coccia, 2019; Arhin-Sam, 2019). Development is a dynamic process that encompasses several spheres of life within a given society, and this process brings about changes, whether positive or negative, that impact people, and enhances overall quality of life. Development in this context was perceived by Ajaero et al (2018) as a complex process that is tailored towards holistic change in structure, technology, and environmental with the intention of improving humanity and society. Emelike and Okeke (2019) added that development is easily attained when government foster a comprehensive policy with appropriate mechanism to achieve such policy. For development to occur, its' interconnectivity towards achieving a comprehensive target is essential.

National Development

National development is a phenomenon that encompasses growth and changes. Change in terms of social, cultural, economic, environmental as well as quantitative and qualitative. National development is a phenomenon that embraces the entire nation. Nigeria as a developing country is on fast track towards attainment of development and so, government place priority on development route such as science and technology, agriculture, health, education, migration, etc. Kanu, et al (2019) depicted that national development is achievable once government remove developmental barriers. He further stated that the Nigeria Migration Policy of 2015 was geared towards the enhancement of national

development through its promotion of job opportunities, protection of human rights and addressing several migration challenges.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Modernisation theory

This theory originated from the ideas of the German Sociologist Max Weber and was further developed by Talcott Parson, while Walt Rostow proposed stages for it. The theory postulated that the societal road to development consists of constantly engaging ourselves with better and new technology, policies and ideas. It explained that development is a process that is constant because it brings about change and change itself is constant. Development takes into cognisance cultural, societal and environmental aspects of the society that influences the adoption of better technology, higher standard of living and foster general development. Walt Rostow proposed that stages of economy development of any country require modernisation, and progress. Once the impulses of the traditional economy have been tackled; development surfaces.

The Theory of Change

The theory of Change gained ground in the mid-1990s as a new way of analysing theories that motivate policy, programme and initiatives that are designed to enhance socio-economic and political change in a given society. Noticeable scholars like Huey-Tsych Chen, Peter Riossi, Michael Quinn Patton, Helena Clark, Carol Weiss, among others had great thoughts on how best to apply the theory of change since 1970s and it had since gained popularisation and recognition. The theory of change is a multi-purpose technique that can be applied for the purpose of planning, monitoring, executing, and evaluating policy or programmes that can enhance results. The theory helps to reconnect policy implementation towards its

intended results, output, outcome or impact where there is a distraction in its implementation process. Also, where the policy goal is required to be revisited to meet modern reality, the theory of change can be applicable. The theory is policy, programme and project driven with regards to evaluating their rationale and support its planning, formulation, implementation and assessment with the view of channeling it towards achieving the intended goals or redirect it towards a better goal that best suit the policy situation.

The implications of these theories are that policies are formulated for development which bring about quality change once it is well managed. Where failure and distractions are identified, policy can be redirected towards its original intended results and / or redirected to achieve a better goal that best suit the phenomenon at that time considering a changing world. This also implies that there is need to constantly review and evaluate policies as a means to achieve a desired goal. This is the technique required to bring about change and development in Nigeria. Thus, the Nigeria migration policy needs to be evaluated, monitored and redirected towards national development if truly Nigeria intended it for national development, and even if it was never intended for development, it is imperative that it can be redirected through a holistic review and tailored toward meeting global development goals.

OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY OF 2015: AN OVERVIEW

The main policy goal was to establish and strengthen structures that protect human civil and economic rights of Nigerian -home and abroad and rights of aliens residing in Nigeria and to harness positive impact of migration

on national development. The specific objectives include to:

1. establish enabling environment to attract diaspora contribution to national development
2. develop, regulate and update a diaspora database on inflows of remittance
3. create a conducive legislation and policy environment that will facilitates the transfer of knowledge, skills and resources through migration
4. propose strategies for converting brain drain into brain gain and minimise brain waste in Nigeria.

The above enumerated objectives of the Nigeria National Migration Policy 2015 were basically fathomed out to foster national development. The policy development started in 2006 and came to light on 13th May, 2015. The federal government of Nigeria adopted the policy and provided adequate framework for monitoring and regulating its implementation so as to achieve a robust national development. The government built a synergy with relevant institutions to establish mechanism for smooth implementation of the policy, rendering support – financial and technical; ensure wide dissemination of the policy to all relevant ministries, department, agencies and international bodies (Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel, 2023 and De Haas, 2020). It is expected that the adoption of migration policy 2015 as a tool to foster national development would not be a hard nut to crack, yet Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) observed that the policy failed in providing atmosphere and conducive environment that could help transfer knowledge, skill and technology for national development. Kanu, et al (2019) added that the policy could not provide accurate and up-to-date database for effective development, citing the policy

document thus, ‘there is general lack of current information on both stock and flow of migrants within and outside the country...the estimates of Nigerians living in developed countries abroad are more available in destination countries than in Nigeria’. Although, Kanu et al (2019) depicted that the policy document itself is rich in idea as to the obligation of the government of Nigeria to her citizens, the documents further revealed that little had been done by the government on areas of poverty, conflicts, insecurity, climate changes, education, trade, among others which constituted factors that hinders effectiveness of the policy on national development.

The implication of the policy document is that despite government efforts to intervene through migration policy to enhance national development; by creating conducive environment for the promotion of job opportunities, protection of human rights of migrants, and to address several challenges bordering on migration. It was observed that the policy document could not exploit relevant environment to achieve its objectives as anticipated due to certain factors that constituted nuisance to national development.

IMPACT OF MIGRATION POLICY (2015) ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The effect of migration policy on national development would better be examined with the illustration of the 2015 National Migration Policy of Nigeria. The Nigeria National Migration Policy of 2015 focused largely on enhancing the positive aspect of migration through efficient administration and management of the whole migration process with the optimisation of fostering national development. The policy, made up of two major sectors had the first sector focused on core migration issues that can enhance national development, such

issues include brain drain, diaspora, remittances, urbanisation, irregular migration, border management, whereas the second sector covers several themes that relates to migration and their influences on socio-economic issues like poverty, education, health, trade, and gender. The policy proposes several activities and strategies to be adopted towards achieving the policy’s stipulated goals; so, to obtain a transparent outcome on the country. The International Organisation for Migration (2015) depicted that the responsibility for the implementation of the policy is vested on the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internationally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). The development impact of migration is influenced by the policy which cut-across several sectors like human rights, trade, disaster risk reduction, climate change, etc, and the policy in turn have impact on migration dynamics (IOM, 2015; Kanu, et al 2019; Olayinka and Olayinka, 2022).

The changing impact of migration on national development occurs in several spheres. Migration can have a range of social, cultural, economic, political and environmental effects (Obani and Odalonu, 2023). The National Migration Policy is a national decision meant to impact the welfare of Nigerians and Nigeria. It serves as the channel to alleviate poverty in Nigeria and increase income from the remittance of Nigerians abroad, access finance for starting a new business, tapping of resources needed to advance welfare of mankind by the international community of the migrant diaspora. The policy allowed higher investment in healthcare and education as well as other welfare schemes (UNCTAD, 2009). De Haas (2006) and Kazeem (2017) noted however, that there are unscrupulous persons who negate this very migration purpose. Kanu, et al (2019) added that the

Nigeria government had perceived the need to harness the potentials of her citizens in diaspora through engagement of their skills, expertise, remittance and foreign investment towards the general development of the country. Thus, government ought to create the enabling environment that would attract diaspora contributions to national development (Ratha and Plaza, 2011).

Again, Sander, Abel and Riosmena (2013) observed that the pathways of converting brain drain to brain gain and minimise brain waste was to empirically obtain database of migrants and identify their potential for proper positioning towards development, because brain drain reduces potential of national development of the country of origin, to actualised brain gain, through creating conducive environment where potentials will thrive. Docquier, Ozden and Peri (2011) depicted that brain drain reduces the wages of lower skilled labour which slow development. Ahmed and Abanimebon (2024) supported this view that departure of highly skilled individuals will affect the low skilled person financially and in productivity which in turn have negative impact on national development.

The national migration policy 2015 influence on economic development as enumerated by Akinyombo and Famiyesi (2023) encompasses all that is done to foster education, welfare, business, health, etc that can close the economic gap, reduce poverty and improve standard of living. Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) added that migration and migration policy create medium for economic advancement of both countries of the migrants. Suffice to say that the effects of migration, migration policy on national development depends on the degree of accuracy of migrants database, skills and potentials identified and this depends on country and their area of interest. Brain drain does not necessarily lead to brain strain if

adequate policies are made and implemented thoroughly. The anticipated impact of national migration policy of 2015 on national development had not been felt in Nigeria due to the adopted implementation strategies (Kanu, et al, 2019; De Haas, 2020 and Billari, 2022) and other challenges. Thus, the impact of migration policy on national development can be attainable once a conducive environment is created, with accurate database to work with using a purposeful implementation strategy that attracts potentials for foreign direct investment and other trade series.

CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION POLICY IN NIGERIA

The challenges of migration policies and that of the 2015 are similar and can be identifiable to include the followings but not limited to:

1. **Intervening Factors:** There are factors associated with the area of origin and destination of the migrants, which triggers migrants. Conflicts, poverty, insecurity, bad governance, corruption, political instability, violence amongst others constituted considerable challenges to humanity; and so, such factors contribute to hinderance confronting migration and migration policy.
2. **Inadequate policy integration and implementation:** Nigeria policies are not just formulated before implementation; it is essential that they are integrated into the society for assimilation. This fosters good policy implementation. Lack or little policy integration results to poor policy implementation and this constitute a challenge to migration policy and its impacts on economy development. The Nigeria National Migration

Policy of 2015 was observed by Olayinka and Olayinka (2022) not to have been well integrated and so its implementation strategies and procedure were not well understood by Nigerians. The policy document failed due to inadequate integration (Olutayo, Omobowale and Akanle, 2015, Ahmed and Abanimbeon, 2024), and this itself constitute hindrance to effective implementation of migration policy

3. **Unclear migration policy and requirements:** Migration policy requirements and conditions needs to be made lucid and explicit. Where migration policies are unclear and too ambiguous, it constitutes challenges to development. Czaika and De Haas (2014) depicted that good migration policy foster development. Moreso, Charles-Edward, Bernard and Abel (2023) observed that a national migration policy that present quality opportunities for cross-fertilisation is geared towards national development. In the opinion of De Haas (2020), migration is a tool for development and so, poor policy formulation can frustrate the purpose of migration and it can thwart migrants' ambitions (UN, 2022; Iheke, 2012; and Ratha and Plaza, 2011). The Nigeria migration policy of 2015 seems lucid and direct but not very clear to many people and migrants, hence its implementation became porous and jettisoned.
4. **Poor database:** Nigeria as a country is stills faced with the challenge of having a comprehensive database for her citizens, most data are inaccurate and inadequate. Some are too

complex and cumbersome to understand. This deters quality communication as well constitute problems to migration policy. Data of migrants are unavailable and undeterminable hence; it is cumbersome for bond flow remittance to occur (Akinyombo and Famiyesi. 2023).

5. **Policy Incoherence:** The Nigeria National Migration policy 2015 just like other areas of migration policies are quite inconsistent and incoherence and this contribute to remittance of diaspora issues. Thus, Obano and Odalonu (2023) observed that policy incoherence and inconsistent affect development of a country and if not well managed, can result to a dare complicated state of affairs. Lack of bilateral agreement with any country to foster Nigeria Migration welfare is evidence of poor oversight and recourse to affect some other policy that could surface in the future.

FACTORS THAT PROPEL THE CHANGING IMPACT OF MIGRATION POLICY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The understated are some of the proposed tools with which migration policy can be changed to impact meaningfully on national development.

1. **Government – Society Partnership:** Migration policy cannot solely foster national development because migration is a multi-dimensional reality which required the cooperation, support and partnership of both government and entire society. The IOM (2022) suggested that for migration policy to improves the society at large, there ought to be

partnership, transfer of skill, knowledge and financial resources. This is so, because the relationship between migration and development is much more complex, political, social and economic in reality. Obani and Odalonu (2023) and Ahmed and Abanimebon (2024) added that if migration is poorly governed or managed, it can negatively impact on development and to deduce development from migration. Akinyomba and Famiyesi (2023) supported this view that policies related to migration must be strategically attended to by both government and the whole society. Thus, adequate orientation, support and implementation of migration policy would be channel for national development.

2. **Engage, Empower and Enable Migrants as Development Actors:**

To be able to tailored migration policy towards national development in contemporary age, it is pivotal that migrants are assigned with the responsibility of development in the state. In fact, when migrants are engaged, empowered and enabled as the agents of development through policy, it will foster development because their activities, actions and inactions would be adequately considered as sources of development. Kanu, et al (2019) added that once migrants are empowered through the laws of the land, their remittance plays vital role towards development amicably. Thus, Akinyombo and Famiyesi (2023) supported this view that unless the laws of the land engaged and empowered migrants to reflect on their collective responsibilities to

their home society and abroad, no meaningful contribution towards development would be achieved. IOM (2015, 2022) and De Haas (2020) adduced that the extend migrants can contribute to development is directly linked to their capability to integrate their services into their communities of origin.

3. **Policy Integration and Coherence:**

The Nigeria governments at all level is ready to deal with the effects of migration at every level where migration policies are mainly felt. For migration policy to foster changing impact towards national development, there is need to foster coherence across every institution in Nigeria, issues surrounding integration, reintegration, education, legal, legal protection, local infrastructure, policy order, economic development, health, etc are best placed to ensured development effects.

4. **Strategic Implementation and Management:**

For migration policy to foster national development, there should be a unique strategic method for the implementation, monitoring and management of such migration policy. The World Development Report (2023) suggested that strategic implementation and management opportunities should be adopted towards migration policy as a means to transform them into development. Migration is a powerful force for prosperity and development once it is adequately and properly managed, it provides benefits for humanity – in diaspora or origin societies. Akinyomba and Famiyesi (2023) added that the goal of policy makers should be to strengthen and match

migration skills, knowledge and potentials which will be demanded in both societies. Countries of origin should make migration policy explicit part of development, lower remittance cost, tariff, facilitate knowledge transfer from their diaspora, build skills that are of high demand globally. To foster good migration policy implementation strategy, international cooperation is essential as a driving force for development.

5. Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) allows a company, individual, or an entity to take over control and ownership of company in another country. Nigeria migration policy should promote foreign companies or individuals with knowledge, skills and technology to invest in Nigeria. This will improve and increase development. An investor should be encouraged to purchase, merge or set up new ventures in Nigeria and the migration policy should be liberal enough to accommodate FDI. Czaika and De Haas (2014) opined that FDI requires conducive environment policies. FDI stimulate economic development and create more conducive environment for companies, investors and local communities (De Haas, 2020).

CONCLUSION

It is a known fact that humans must constantly move from place to place in search of quality lifestyles and greener pasture. Policies formulated to regulate human movement could be utilised as tools for economic, social and environmental development if well managed. The Nigeria National Migration Policy of 2015 was observed to be a lofty policy document with good ideas for development, but its

implementation strategies failed to actualised the anticipated goals for both migrants, host and foreign countries. It was also observed that the migration policy did not pursue development due to hunger, poverty, insecurity, bad governance, among others that has persistently confronted Nigerians. These factors were observed to had frustrated government efforts for fostering national development through migration policy. However, there are prospects for migration policy geared towards national development through adoption of the changing impact of migration policy on national development. Hence, the paper concluded that the incoherence and ambiguity of the policy contributed to its implementation failure coupled with poor database and monitoring techniques. Thus, government should refocus migration polices towards national development by adopting global standards that brings about changing impact on development.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Nigeria National Migration Policies should be reviewed with the aim of leveraging it to encourage migrants and FDI
2. Migration policies and economy policies in Nigeria should be coherence and integrated towards national development
3. Migrants should be engaged, empowered and enabled as development actors through policy
4. The Nigeria government should partner with the Nigeria society for ease understanding, strategic effective and implementation purposes and adopt technology globalisation techniques.

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CRITICAL EVALUATION OF WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE 2023 NIGERIAN GENERAL ELECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

As of 1st October 2024, 30 women served as Heads of State and/or Government in 29 countries. Additionally, only 15 countries have women holding 50% or more of cabinet ministerial positions, while just six countries have 50% or more women in their single or lower houses of parliament. These countries include Rwanda (61%), Cuba (56%), Nicaragua (54%), Andorra (50%), Mexico (50%), New Zealand (50%), and the United Arab Emirates (50%). Therefore, achieving gender balance in governance seems farfetched. The underrepresentation of women in Nigerian politics remains a pressing issue, as women continue to face systemic barriers to political participation. This paper critically evaluates the 2023 general elections, where, despite comprising 47.5% of registered voters, women made up only 9.2% of candidates, and less than 5% were elected into major offices (INEC, 2023). Employing the feminist theory, representative theory and critical mass theory, this study explores the systemic barriers limiting women's political participation, including patriarchal norms, high campaign costs, weak policy implementation, and electoral violence. The findings highlight persistent

disparities but also progress through notable success stories, such as Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed (Binani), whose political outing challenged long-standing stereotypes. The role of advocacy groups like Women in Politics Forum (WIPF) in increasing awareness and promoting women's political involvement is also discussed.

Keywords: Gender representation; gender balance; governance; Nigerian politics; women

INTRODUCTION

Gender representation in politics has been a critical factor in achieving sustainable development and inclusive governance. Globally, societies with greater gender balance in political leadership are expected to benefit from diverse perspectives, which enhance decision-making processes and policy outcomes. In Nigeria, the historical role of women in governance cannot be over-emphasised.

Despite these early strides, the advent of colonial governance introduced patriarchal structures that systematically marginalized women from formal political spaces. This exclusion continued post-independence, resulting in entrenched gender inequalities in political representation. Globally, women's political participation has improved significantly, with countries like Rwanda achieving over 60% female parliamentary representation through deliberate policy interventions. This is also reflected in the Senate where women occupied 53.8% of seats (Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU, 2023). Unfortunately, Nigeria lags behind, with women occupying less than 10% of elective positions as of the 2023 elections. They occupied 3% of seats in the Senate and 4% seats in the House of Representatives (Premium Times, 2023).

The 2023 general elections presented another opportunity for Nigeria to bridge

gender disparities in political representation. While there were notable successes, such as increased voter education and advocacy, systemic barriers including cultural stereotypes, limited access to resources, and institutional inefficiencies continued to undermine women's full participation in politics. Addressing these issues is essential for gender equity as well as for enhancing democratic governance and national development. Despite Nigeria's ratification of international frameworks like CEDAW (Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women) and the implementation of the National Gender Policy targeting 35% female representation in governance, the country has consistently fallen short of these benchmarks. The 2023 general elections, rather than marking significant progress, further exposed the structural and cultural barriers that hinder women's political participation. There were 47.5% of registered voters but women made up only 9.2% of candidates, and less than 5% were elected into major offices (INEC, 2023).

Systemic issues such as patriarchal norms, economic disparities, and inadequate enforcement of gender-focused policies persist as major obstacles. The limited representation of women in governance not only undermines democratic ideals but also stifles the inclusion of critical perspectives that are essential for addressing issues such as education, healthcare, and social equity. For example, while women constitute nearly half of Nigeria's population and 47.1% of registered voters, their representation in key political offices remains negligible. These challenges raise important questions about the effectiveness of existing policies, the readiness of political parties to embrace inclusivity, and the broader societal willingness to support women's leadership.

The specific objectives of this study are to examine: the level of women's participation in the 2023 general elections, identify the factors that hindered or facilitated women representation during the elections, assess the effectiveness of policies and strategies designed to enhance women's political representation in Nigeria and recommend for improving women's representation in future elections.

The study is guided by the following research questions: To what extent did women participate in the 2023 general elections, both as candidates and voters? What sociocultural, economic, and institutional factors influenced gender representation in the elections? How effective were existing policies and initiatives in addressing gender disparities in Nigerian politics during election? What strategies can be implemented to improve women representation in future elections?

This study is confined to examining women representation in the context of the 2023 general elections in Nigeria. The scope is defined both thematically and geographically to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. The scope of this study is thematic because the analysis focuses on the participation of women in elective positions across federal and state levels, including the presidency, Senate, House of Representatives, governorship, and state houses of assembly. It also explores the sociocultural, economic, and institutional factors influencing their participation, as well as the effectiveness of policies such as the National Gender Policy and gender quotas.. The study also had a geographical scope, it spans across the Nigeria's six geopolitical zones to ensure that regional and cultural variations in women representation are adequately addressed. This broad coverage provides insights into the similarities and differences in challenges faced by women across diverse socio-political contexts. By narrowing the scope to

the 2023 elections, the study offers a focused and current evaluation of women representation while providing a foundation for future research on electoral trends and gender representation in subsequent elections.

This study is unique and significant by highlighting the systemic barriers and success stories from the 2023 general elections, it offers a roadmap for advocacy groups to strengthen their campaigns and support mechanisms for women in politics. Addressing gender disparities in politics has far-reaching implications for societal progress, as it promotes equality, reduces marginalization and fosters a more inclusive political culture.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Gender Representation

This refers to the presence and participation of individuals of different genders in political decision-making processes and governance structures. In this context, it emphasizes the inclusion of women in political leadership roles to ensure equitable access to power and influence. Women representation in politics is not just about achieving numerical parity but also about creating conditions where women's voices, perspectives, and needs influence policymaking. It entails equal opportunities for both men and women to contest and occupy positions of authority, fostering inclusive governance. It also means fairness of treatment for all genders, recognizing the unique needs and contributions of each, access to education, employment, healthcare, and political participation, equal rights and protection of all genders. However, in this study gender representation is used with focus on women participation.

Political Participation

This encompasses the range of activities through which individuals engage in the political process, including voting, campaigning, contesting elections, and holding public office. This study focuses on women's participation as both candidates and voters during the 2023 general elections. It examines how systemic barriers, such as cultural norms and economic challenges, shape women's ability to fully participate in politics.

Systemic Barriers

This refers to entrenched societal, economic, and institutional obstacles that limit equitable access to political opportunities.

Economic Disparities

This is described as issues pertaining to high campaign costs disproportionately affect women considering the fact that most women in Nigeria are not economically or financially independent as their male counterparts.

Electoral Violence

This constitutes intimidation and general voter apathy during elections discourage female participation for instance physical fighting, violent altercations, party clashes, snatching and burning election materials by political thugs and so on that poses harm to participants.

Gender Quotas

These are policy tools that set minimum thresholds for female representation in governance, often through legislative or voluntary mechanisms. The National Gender Policy targets 35% female representation in governance, with emphasis on the potential adoption of gender quotas to address disparities.

Inclusive Governance

This implies efforts to ensure that decision-making processes represent diverse societal groups, fostering equity and fairness. The study positions women representation as integral to achieving sustainable development and inclusive governance, aligning with international frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Advocacy and Awareness

This refers to organized efforts to influence public policy and societal attitudes, often through campaigns, education, and lobbying. The study highlights the role of advocacy groups like the Women in Politics Forum (WIPF) in raising awareness, building capacity, and fostering an environment conducive to women's political participation

LITERATURE REVIEW

The history of women's involvement in Nigerian politics is deeply rooted in pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial governance systems. During these periods, women played significant roles in leadership, particularly in matriarchal societies and as influential leaders in councils. For instance, the Aba Women Riot of 1929 which was organized and led by the rural women of Owerri and Calabar provinces with their modus operandi involving 'sit-in' by the women during the which many Warrant Chiefs were forced to resign, and 16 Native Courts were attacked, with most of them destroyed, this was the first major revolt by women in West Africa. The protests led to the abolishing of the system of warrant chiefs, and appointment of women into the Native Court system. These reforms were built upon by the African women and have been seen as a prelude to the emergence of mass African nationalism. Notable figures such as Queen Amina of Zazzau, Moremi of Ife, Oyinkansola Ayobami of Lagos, Funmilayo

Ransom Kuti of Abeokuta, Margaret Ekpo of Creek Town amongst others fought for the rights of women to vote and demonstrated the capacity of women in leadership roles (Ekundayo, 2017).

However, colonialism introduced a system of governance that marginalized women, relegating them to domestic roles while men dominated formal political structures. This marginalization persisted into the post-independence era, where women's roles in governance became tokenistic and gender inequalities widened. In the modern era, despite increased advocacy for gender inclusion; women remain underrepresented in politics and decision-making platforms. For instance, as of 2019, women occupied only 7% of elective positions in Nigeria, a figure significantly below the global average of 25% (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2020).

In the Fourth Republic (1999–present), several efforts have been made to enhance women's participation in governance. Women such as Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (former Finance Minister and coordinating minister of the economy, president of world trade Organisation), Obiageli Ezekwesili (former minister of solid minerals and minister of education) Amina Mohammed (Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations) Bolanle Ajayi (Deputy Speaker Ogun State House of Assembly), Maryam Yusuf (Deputy Chief Whip of Kwara State House of Assembly) and others have risen to prominence, symbolizing potential for female leadership but still their numbers remain exceptions rather than the norm. The 2019 and 2023 elections further revealed the structural barriers women face in Nigeria's political system. Data from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) shows a decline in female candidacies from 2015 to 2023, despite increased global awareness of gender parity (INEC, 2023). Nigeria lags behind many African countries in terms of gender

representation. For example, Rwanda has the highest percentage of women in parliament globally, with over 60% representation, attributed to deliberate policy measures such as gender quotas (Tripp, 2016). Similarly, countries like South Africa and Senegal have implemented affirmative actionable policies that ensure a minimum representation of women in their political arena.

The Key challenges contributing to the low representation of women in Nigerian politics include: Patriarchal and socio-cultural norms deeply ingrained in our system which views politics as a male-dominated field. Economic inequalities and limited access to funding for political campaigns disproportionately affect women in their quest for political participation. Female candidates are demoralized due to political violence, intimidation and harassment often faced discourages their participation. Political parties rarely prioritize or enforce gender equity in candidate selection processes and lack the internal democratic mechanisms to do so. The 2023 general elections serve as a critical case study to evaluate the progress and setbacks in Nigeria's journey toward gender equity in politics. Despite some success stories, such as the election of women into key positions in certain states like Ogun, Kwara, Kogi, Rivers, FCT, Lagos, Anambra state and so on, overall representation remains minimal compared to Nigeria's potential and international benchmarks (INEC, 2023).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework underpinning this study integrates feminist theory and representation theory to critically analyze gender representation in Nigerian politics. The Feminist Theory provides a lens for understanding the systemic barriers that perpetuate gender inequality. It critiques

patriarchal norms and cultural stereotypes that limit women's access to political spaces and resources. Feminist theory also advocates for affirmative actions like gender quotas to redress historical imbalances and promote equitable opportunities for women in leadership roles. The Representation Theory articulated by Hanna Pitkin, this theory emphasizes both descriptive and substantive representation. Descriptive representation focuses on the presence of women in political offices as a reflection of societal demographics, while substantive representation evaluates their impact in advancing policies that address gender-specific issues. In the context of Nigeria, representation theory highlights the dual challenges of increasing the number of women in politics and ensuring their presence translates into meaningful policy changes.

Furthermore, Critical Mass Theory suggests that when a marginalized group—such as women—achieves a certain minimum threshold of representation in a political or Organisational setting, they can exert significant influence and drive meaningful change. The concept was popularized by Drude Dahlerup in her 1988 study on Scandinavian parliaments, where she identified that women needed to constitute about 30–35% of a legislature to make substantial contributions to decision-making processes and policy outcomes. In the context of Nigeria, Critical Mass Theory is adopted as the underpinning theory because highly relevant to critically analyze the gender representation issues in Nigerian politics, as women remain far below the threshold of representation necessary to influence governance effectively. In the 2023 general elections, women constituted less than 10% of elected officials across federal and state assemblies. For instance: out of 469 National Assembly seats (Senate and House of

Representatives), only 21 women were elected, representing approximately 4.2%.

At the state level, women were largely absent from gubernatorial positions, with only a few notable successes in state assemblies. This theory argues that small numbers of women in leadership are often tokenistic and ineffective, but reaching a critical mass can shift dynamics, challenge stereotypes, and lead to policies that address the group's interests. Amplify advocacy for gender sensitive policies, challenge patriarchal norms within political institutions, inspire greater societal acceptance of women in leadership roles. Together, these theories provide a robust framework for analyzing the 2023 elections, offering insights into both the causes of underrepresentation and the potential pathways for achieving gender equity in governance.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative research design, which is well-suited for exploring the complex sociocultural and institutional factors influencing gender representation in politics. The qualitative approach allows for an in-depth examination of the lived experiences of women candidates, voters, and stakeholders in the 2023 elections. By focusing on narratives, perceptions, and contextual nuances, the research design provides a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and successes related to gender representation. A combination of secondary and primary methods of data collections was deployed in this study: Secondary Data includes; Reports from INEC, UN Women, and the National Bureau of Statistics offer quantitative insights into voter registration, candidacy rates, and election outcomes. Academic literature and media coverage provide

qualitative data on public perceptions and advocacy efforts.

Primary data sources include semi-structured interviews with female candidates, legislative aids, political party representatives, campaign council members and advocacy groups captured firsthand accounts of challenges and strategies. Focus group discussions with women voters explore their experiences and attitudes toward female political participation. The triangulation of these data sources enhances the reliability and validity of the study's findings. A purposive sampling technique was employed to ensure the inclusion of diverse perspectives. Participants are selected based on their relevance to the study's objectives: Female candidates at federal and state levels, women voters from urban and rural areas, representatives of political parties and advocacy Organisations. This approach ensures a balanced representation of voices while focusing on stakeholders directly involved in or affected by the electoral process.

The study used a thematic analysis approach in data analysis, which is particularly effective for examining qualitative data and uncovering patterns related to gender representation in Nigerian politics. This method involves a systematic process of identifying, analyzing, and interpreting recurring themes and patterns from both primary and secondary data sources. All collected data, including interview transcripts, focus group discussions, and secondary data from INEC reports and academic literature, are thoroughly reviewed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the content. Key phrases, concepts, and ideas are coded systematically. For instance, barriers such as "financial constraints" or "patriarchal norms" are tagged and grouped for further exploration. Recurring patterns are categorized into

broader themes such as: Barriers to women's political participation (e.g., cultural, economic, and structural factors), Success stories and strategies employed by women who achieved electoral success, Effectiveness of policies and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting gender equity.

The identified themes are analyzed within the broader socio-political context of Nigeria, considering regional and cultural variations across the six geopolitical zones. The data is compared with findings from previous elections (e.g., 2015 and 2019) to evaluate trends and progress in gender representation. Secondary data from INEC and other statistical sources are analyzed using content analysis to extract relevant trends and figures, such as: Percentage of female candidates versus total candidates, voter turnout rates by gender and success rates of women in different levels of elective positions. The analysis culminates in an interpretive process, linking the findings to the theoretical framework. Feminist theory and representation theory provide lenses to understand the systemic barriers identified and assess the implications of gender representation on policy outcomes and governance. Triangulation is employed to ensure the reliability of findings by cross-referencing data from different sources (e.g., comparing insights from interviews with INEC reports and academic literature). This multi-faceted approach to data analysis ensures a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of gender representation in the 2023 elections and provides a robust foundation for actionable recommendations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It should be noted that women voters in the 2023 elections faced numerous challenges, many of which undermined their ability to participate fully in the electoral process. Reports of violence, particularly in conflict-

prone regions, deterred many women from voting. Fear of attacks or harassment at polling units contributed to low voter turnout among women in certain areas. Incidents of verbal abuse, profiling, and physical harassment were reported, creating an unwelcoming environment for female voters. In some cases, women were coerced into voting for particular candidates or parties. Long distances to polling units and inadequate infrastructure, such as insufficient security and poorly managed queues, disproportionately affected women, especially those in rural areas. In conservative communities, societal norms discouraged women from engaging in political activities, including voting. Despite these challenges, advocacy by NGOs and women's groups helped to improve awareness and resilience among some female voters.

Despite the challenges faced, some women managed to secure seats in the National Assembly, demonstrating resilience and capacity amidst the stiff, competitive and systemic challenges: In the Senate Elections, three women won senatorial seats, Ipalibo Harry Banigo of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who won the West senatorial district of Rivers Ireti Heebah Kingibe of the Labour Party (LP) who won the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) seat and Idiat Oluranti Adebule of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who won the Lagos West senatorial seat, their victories reflected strong grassroots mobilization and public confidence in their leadership abilities.

In the House of Representatives, Nnabuife Chinwe Clara (Young Progressive Party (YPP) who won the Orumba North/Orumba South federal constituency of Anambra State) Orogbu Obiageli (Labour Party (LP) who won the Awka North/Awka South federal constituency) Gwacham Maureen Chime (All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) who won the Oyi/Ayamelum federal constituency of Anambra) Regina Akume (All Progressives

Congress (APC) who won the Gboko/Tarka federal constituency of Benue) Ibori-Suenu Erhiatake (People's Democratic Party (PDP) who won Ethiope East/Ethiope West constituency of Delta State) Fatima Talba (APC won Nangre/Potiskum constituency of Yobe State), Onuh Onyeche Blessing (APC won the Otukpo/Ohimini constituency of Benue State) Ebikate Marie Enenimiete (PDP won the Brass/Nembe constituency of Bayelsa State) Zainab Gimba (APC won the Bama/Ngala/Kala-Balge constituency of Borno State) Beni Butmak (PDP won Lantang North/Lantang South constituency of Plateau State) Chimera Blessing Amadi (PDP won Portharcourt II constituency of Rivers State) Goodhead Boma (PDP won Akuku Toru/Asari Toru constituency of Rivers State) Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim (APC won Damaturu/Gujba/Gulani/Tarmuwa constituency of Yobe State). Onuoha Miriam Odinaka (APC won Isiala Mbano/Okigwe/Onuimo constituency of Imo State) Adewunmi Ariyomi Onanuga (APC won Ikenne/Shagamu/Remo North constituency).

Women who won seats in the House of Representatives often did so in constituencies where advocacy for gender equity had gained traction. For instance, female candidates supported by grassroots Organisations and mentorship programs, such as the Women in Politics Forum (WIPF), demonstrated how strategic collaborations can yield positive outcomes. While no woman won a governorship seat in the 2023 elections, several high-profile female candidates, such as Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed (Binani) in Adamawa, garnered significant public support. Her close contest marked a historic moment in the country's political history and demonstrated that with better institutional support, women can compete at the highest levels of governance.

A total of 48 women made it into the various state house of assembly. Meanwhile some regions showed encouraging trends, certain states, like Lagos and Anambra, recorded an increase in the number of female lawmakers elected to their state legislatures. These victories were largely attributed to robust advocacy efforts by local women's Organisations and the active involvement of civil society groups.

Beyond elective offices, women made significant contributions to the electoral process itself such as in the INEC Leadership, female officials within the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) played vital roles in election monitoring, logistics, and advocacy for gender-sensitive policies and generally ensuring a credible and inclusive electoral process. Civil Society Organisations: women-led advocacy groups, such as Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC) and Women in Politics Forum (WIPF), provided crucial support to female candidates through training, funding, and public awareness campaigns. Their efforts helped amplify women's voices and increased voter awareness about gender equity.

The 2023 elections saw progress in challenging long-standing cultural barriers that have traditionally limited women's participation in politics: Prominent female candidates such as Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed (Binani) inspired other women by challenging stereotypes about women in leadership. Their campaigns highlighted the potential for women to excel in governance despite systemic obstacles. Urban youth voters demonstrated growing acceptance of female candidates, reflecting a shift in societal attitudes toward gender representation. Social media played a crucial role in amplifying the campaigns of women candidates and challenging cultural stereotypes. Grassroots mobilization by women's Organisations and civil society

groups increased public awareness about the importance of gender equity in politics. These efforts were particularly effective in regions like Lagos and Anambra, where more women were elected to state legislatures. The successes of women in the 2023 elections provide important lessons for future advocacy and policy interventions: Female candidates who engaged directly with local communities built trust and garnered significant voter support, demonstrating the power of grassroots strategies.

Programs that provided training, mentorship, and resources to female candidates, such as those organized by the Women in Politics Forum (WIPF), proved effective in equipping women with the skills needed to navigate Nigeria's political landscape. Partnerships between NGOs, political mentors, and civil society groups amplified the visibility and credibility of female candidates. These collaborations showed that collective efforts can help overcome systemic barriers. Women who succeeded despite challenges, such as financial constraints and cultural stereotypes, highlighted the importance of determination and strategic campaigning.

The 2023 elections underscored several policy and structural barriers that continue to hinder gender representation in Nigerian politics: The National Gender Policy's target of 35% female representation remains largely unenforced. Political parties failed to prioritize or implement internal mechanisms for gender equity. The prohibitive cost of nomination forms and campaign financing disproportionately affects women, who generally have less access to financial resources compared to their male counterparts. The threat of violence during campaigns discourages women from participating, either as candidates or voters. In some cases, female candidates were targeted for intimidation,

further exacerbating their marginalization. Weak enforcement of electoral reforms aimed at supporting gender equity, such as reduced campaign costs or reserved seats for women, continues to perpetuate systemic inequalities.

A comparison of the 2023 elections with previous polls reveals both progress and persistent challenges: While the number of female candidates declined slightly compared to 2019, the visibility of their campaigns increased due to stronger advocacy efforts and technological tools like social media. Women's voter turnout saw improvements in urban areas, where advocacy campaigns were more robust, but declined in regions affected by insecurity. The 2023 elections recorded some successes, such as increased representation in state legislatures in states like Lagos and Anambra. However, the overall percentage of women elected remained below global and regional benchmarks. The lack of progress in enforcing gender-focused policies remains a recurring issue, highlighting the need for more robust institutional frameworks.

The findings of this study have significant implications for governance, policy, and societal development: for governance, the underrepresentation of women in politics limits the diversity of perspectives in decision-making processes, often resulting in policies that fail to address the needs of marginalized groups. For policy, the persistent barriers to gender equity underscore the need for more enforceable policies, such as mandatory gender quotas and financial support for female candidates. And for societal development, the success of individual women in breaking cultural barriers demonstrates the potential for societal change through sustained advocacy and public education and the lessons learned from the 2023 elections provide a roadmap for improving gender representation in

subsequent polls, emphasizing the importance of institutional reforms and grassroots engagement. For the attainment of gender parity in the Nigerian political space this study recommends the following actions: Bold statutory reforms and strict implementation of gender quotas as stipulated in the 2006 National gender policy, Political Education, mentorship and collaborative partnership with advocacy groups must be encouraged, Political parties must develop internal democratic mechanism to promote gender inclusivity, Reduced financial barriers (subsidies for female candidates), strengthening of electoral reforms to address malpractices and support inclusive policies and more access to education, employment, healthcare, and political participation.

CONCLUSION

The 2023 general elections in Nigeria highlighted the persistent challenges of gender inequality in political representation, but also revealed opportunities for progress. Women remain underrepresented in elective offices due to cultural, financial, and systemic barriers, despite constituting a significant portion of the electorate. The low number of female candidates and the marginal increase in elected women reflect the need for a concerted effort to address these systemic issues. However, notable successes—such as the emergence of women leaders in legislative positions, increased voter awareness, and the effective use of technology by female candidates—demonstrate that progress is achievable. These stories of resilience and accomplishment provide a foundation for advocacy, policy reforms, and cultural transformation to promote gender equity in Nigerian politics.

To build on these achievements, it is imperative to implement enforceable gender quotas, reduce financial barriers, and create supportive ecosystems for female political

participation through training, mentorship, and partnerships. Civil society Organisations, government agencies, and the private sector must collaborate to address societal stereotypes and ensure that women are not just participants but key stakeholders in the political process. Ultimately, improving gender representation in politics is not just about fairness; it is about fostering inclusive governance that reflects the diversity of Nigerian society. The journey toward equitable political representation requires sustained commitment, bold reforms, and the collective efforts of all stakeholders. The dynamics of women's participation in Nigerian elections should be studied further to understand regional disparities and best practices. Long-term strategies for dismantling cultural and patriarchal barriers must be developed in partnership with community leaders and influencers.

Nigeria's electoral framework must be reviewed to prioritize gender equity as a cornerstone of democratic governance. By addressing these issues, future elections can serve as milestones in achieving gender parity, transforming Nigeria into a more inclusive democracy.

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**EVALUATION OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL
MORTGAGE BANK LOAN FOR
STAFF IN AUCHI POLYTECHNIC,
AUCHI, EDO STATE**

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Abstract

This study addressed a gap in the existing literature on the loan programme for staff housing at Auchi Polytechnic provided by the Federal Mortgage Bank (FMB). It examined staff awareness, accessibility, contributions, and levels of participation, loan applications, workers contentment and availability of housing for employees. Previous studies suffered from a lack of emphasis on increasing knowledge, explaining technical procedures, and fostering employee interest in housing loans that depends on both individual contributions and the duration of engagement. The total population of the study was 814, while 268 was selected as sample size. The study employed mixed-method of

survey and documentary design using both primary and secondary sources of information. Based on the regression analysis the study revealed that, there are robust positive connections among the variables of staff, awareness, engagement, housing donations, and loan applications, and by this it established that employee awareness is positively influenced by characteristics such as knowledge, contributions to housing, engagement, and accessibility of loans, and these variables explained 81.22% of the variability in the dependent variable. The study recommended that, management of Auchi Polytechnic and Federal Mortgage bank should organize sensitization programme to educate and promote staff awareness, optimize housing benefits, and review the gray areas that hinder accessibility, participation and loan application processes and elucidates the intricate dynamics of house loan schemes and their impact on the happiness and fulfillment of Auchi Polytechnic, workers.

Keywords: Federal Mortgage Bank, housing loan, public servants

INTRODUCTION

Housing policy is an essential ingredient for social security and development of nations, it is indeed fundamental to the welfare, survival and health of a people (Fadamiro, et al. 2004). The development of a nation is determined by the quality of life of its citizens, accessibility and implementation of effective housing policy for the purpose of achieving provision of housing for all. Over the years, communities around the world have been facing serious deficit in the provision and possession of houses by citizens. This is because the provision of houses is not commensurate with the population growth and the development of the people. However, the population is increasing in proportion

which runs parallel with the housing provisions that goes geometrically (Malthus, 1989). The interplay between population expansion and housing deficit has drawn the attention of governments to search for the provision of adequate and affordable housing units to address the deficit among nations. Housing provision becomes one of the top priorities of nations which has led to policy formulation, and delivery of programmes. The determinant factors for achieving this include strong purchasing power, economic status and per-capita income of the citizens in the nations, because the standard of living and housing provision in developed nations is quite different from that of developing nations like Nigeria.

In the United States of America, National Housing Trust Fund was established as a federal programme, funded through the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under Title 1 of the housing and economic recovery Act of 2008 Section 1131, public law. The purpose was to complement existing federal, states and local efforts to increase and preserve safe and affordable housing development for extremely low-income household (Public Law, 2008). Similarly, Britain and Germany, had an organized housing system developed over years through federal mortgage banks through which the citizens accessed loan for housing provision. This programme was used for the mobilisation of household savings, because of the per-capita income on average citizens of these countries is relatively higher compared to others (Ezeanah, 2021). The scheme was backed up by efficient secondary sources of mortgage bank that is, housing bonds; the instruments are freely traded on the stock market. Even though the implementation of the policy varied from one country to another they shared principles of mandatory deductions savings and participation by the private sectors as

custodians of public treasury for this purpose (Akanji, 1990).

Housing provision in Nigeria can be traced from pre-independence days which marked the first efforts by the colonial government to provide houses in the colony. This shows the beginning of the government residential areas called Government Reserved Areas (GRA); houses were constructed to provide adequate comfort for the residents which replicated the patterns of GRA. However, in the pre-independence and post-independence era of 1960-1972; there were no differences in the housing provision, the housing units of government then was GRA which was formally occupied by colonial masters (National Development Plan, 1980).

To this effects National Development Plan were launched in 1962-1968 in the post-independence era to cater for the provision of sixty-one thousand (61,000) housing units for the citizens. Only fifty (50,000) housing units was provided by the government, as the plan was interrupted by civil war. The Second, National Development Plan of 1971-1974 was established and targeted fifty-nine thousand (59,000) housing units, but only seven thousand and eighty, (7,080) housing units were provided. Subsequently, other development plans were along that direction targeted at low-income earner groups. This has brought about significant development and creation of the Federal Ministry of Housing, and incorporation of Urban Development and Environment and Land use Decree of (1978), which targeted the construction of 202,000 low-cost housing units nationwide, while only 28,000 housing units were provided.

National Housing Programme of 1980 was established for the first time and targeted 160,000 low-income housing units to be constructed with the total expenditure of N1.9 billion Naira. The second stage of the

housing programme was planned to construct 20,000 housing units across the country; 23.6% representing a total of about 47,234 housing units were constructed in the first phase. The programme had undergone series of policy reviews to reflect the current economic reality of the citizens (Ibimilua, 2011). Similarly, National Housing Fund of 1991, 1992, 2002, 2005 and 2019 respectively were reviewed. The scheme also incorporated formal and informal financial institutions to facilitate the accessibility and affordability of the housing provision. The formal sector in housing provision is anchored by mortgage banks, Estate development Loan commercial banks are among the informal institutions. The primary Federal Mortgage Bank offered interest rate of 9% charged for loan but was later reduced to 6%. While informal sector includes public-private partnership such as commercial banks assisted by collaborated with government in the provisions of housing loan for the citizens (National Development Plan, 1980).

RESEARCH PROBLEM

The implementation of National Housing Loan of Federal Mortgage Bank over the years, had made the significance number of staff in Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu to be contributing 2.5% of her/ his basic monthly salary of which the deductions are at source to National Housing Fund, this would qualify them therefore, to have access for housing loan of N5 million later reviewed upward to N15 million from Federal Mortgage Bank. Along this direction, the implementation strategy were based on staff contribution which can enables them to applied and benefited from this laudable scheme, but accessing the loan appears to be extremely difficult despite employees long saving and contributions as less-than 10%, of eight hundred and fourteen (814) staff of Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu, has benefited

while substantial number of staff are yet to benefited, this is becoming a recurrent decimal and continues to pose a challenge to the participation and accessibility for housing loan.

It has been observed however, that, poor awareness on fulfilling all the requirements for the possession of housing loan through mortgage bank had posed challenges to its implementation. It is against this background that the following questions are asked; are staff of Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu aware of the implementation of Federal Mortgage Bank housing loan? do staff of Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu contribute to Federal housing mortgage bank? to what extent do Auchu polytechnic staff Auchu, access Federal mortgage bank housing loan? Do Auchu polytechnic staff benefit from the Federal mortgage bank housing loan?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to evaluate the implementation of Federal Mortgage Bank Housing Loan for staff in Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu, Edo State.

The specific objectives are to:

1. ascertain if Auchu Polytechnic staff, Auchu are aware of the implementation of Federal mortgage bank housing loan
2. appraise the impact of the Federal mortgage bank housing loan contribution on Auchu Polytechnic staff.
3. ascertain the extent to which the staff of Auchu Polytechnic Auchu access Federal mortgage bank housing loan.
4. determine the number of staff of Auchu polytechnic, Auchu, who benefited from Federal mortgage bank housing loan.

HYPOTHESIS

H₀₁: Staff housing loan awareness has no significant effect on housing loan in Auchu Polytechnic Auchu;

Ho₂: Staff housing contribution has no significant effect on housing loan provision in Auchi Polytechnic Auchi;

Ho₃: Staff housing accessibility has no significant effect on housing loan in Auchi Polytechnic Auchi;

Ho₄: Staff housing application has no significant effect on housing benefit loan in Auchi Polytechnic Auchi;

LITERATURE REVIEW

National Housing Scheme Awareness and Implementation

It is the fundamental responsibility of every government to provide affordable housing for its citizens through vibrant mortgage plans. Access to housing in Nigeria remains a persistent challenge, exacerbated by a burgeoning population, inflation, diminishing income, and poverty, among other factors. Housing Loan faces a number of challenges and setbacks in sensitization programmes of providing basic knowledge on the requirements of accessing housing loans through the Federal Mortgage Bank as well as stimulating the eligible public servant's interests in applying for the loan. Bello (2019) reviewed Housing Policy Programme in Nigeria. His concern was about the problem of inadequate housing faced by poor people around the world which is a matter of concern to governments in various countries especially in the developing world where significant portion of the population is mostly characterized by poverty. In such countries, the housing problem is not only that of quantity but also quality of available housing units. The government incorporated private sectors housing providers, yet, this development in Nigeria has been at a standstill for more than a decade, with few exceptions, private sector transactions that have taken place have been informal and on the fringe of legality (Bello, 2019).

At the opposite of the spectrum, public sector activity is plagued with many problems. Instead of operating as a social policy, it operates more like a regressive lottery or patronage system. The results have been the simultaneous construction of some of the most luxurious subsidized housing in Africa, and general deterioration in housing conditions of most Nigerians, particularly the housing conditions of the poor. The recorded history of formal intervention in the housing sector in Nigeria dates back to the colonial administration, after the unfortunate outbreak of the bubonic plague of 1928 in Lagos (Bello, 2019). This according to Bello necessitated the establishment of the Lagos Executive Development Board (LEDB) which signified the ushering in of Nigerian public housing programme intervention; which was during the colonial era. The policies are modest with the ultimate aim of addressing the housing problem at a national scale. The policy implementation focus, then, was on the provision of expatriate quarters and some selected indigenous staff of Railways, Marine, Police and Armed forces. The construction of senior civil servant quarters in the capital city of Lagos and regional headquarters like Kaduna, Ibadan and Enugu are some of the practical efforts made. This study observed that, housing provision by government has not yielded any positive result and the efforts that was made by government to incorporate informal sectors in the housing provisions resulted to provision of costly houses (Bello, 2019).

This inadequacy and quantity of the housing units that are so exorbitant in nature was not meant for middle level income earners. As such this study does not take an average level income earners into consideration neither targeted low-income earners, because most of the housing provided by primary mortgage banks (informal sectors). A part from inadequacy

and exorbitant prices of housing units, even government intervention in the provision does not help the system. However, there is needs for government to employ strategies for implementation which involves many operations and procedures as well as time and resources. However, successful implementation should not be equated with impact (Williams, 1990). Furthermore, housing policy implementation is carefully evaluated to ensure the objective set to achieve is on track and there is no deviation to the intended objectives, this is because implementation is attributed to many challenges and those challenges must be identified to prevent policy failure, thus exhorting policy-maker's attention and capacity for the actualization of policy objective.

Mandatory Contribution of Housing Loan

Accessing housing loan by public servants is determined by the mandatory deduction and the amount being contributed in years already spent and years left in the service.

Olawale, Lawan, and Alabi (2015) examined the Housing Policy in Nigeria, and the hope for poor people. Their concern was about Nigerian housing policies from 1999 -2015, vis-a-vis the place of how low-income earners in the policy are having access to affordable housing and decent accommodation. The study relied on documentary research design using secondary sources of data collection. Olawale's et al. findings of the study revealed that housing policy is structurally deficient, because the policy has no clear strategy on how one can adequately assist the low-income earners to apply for assistance to the government to own or possess houses. The study recommended, among other things that government should remove all administrative bottlenecks in the policy and ensure the policy accommodates low-income earners

and ease their suffering of poor accommodation at the level of implementation. From the Olawale et al. (2015) discussions, it was submitted that housing policies has not been specific on how low-income earners can be determined and the parameters of identifying low-income earners in Nigeria, as the policy was initially targeted to curb housing problem making accessible and affordable housing for all, but that seemed like a mirage.

Housing policy however, is a shared arrangement between the employee's contribution and those managing what was contributed by beneficiaries to provide access to ownership. In other words, housing policy provide the guidelines that every public and private employee earning income of N 3,000 or more per year either as paid employee or self-employed person is mandated by law to contribute 2.5% of his basic salaries for the purpose of savings to enable him to access National Housing loan through mortgage bank while in service (Federal Mortgage Bank, 2004). This contribution from employees' basic salaries marked as the beginning of their recognition as contributory member in the scheme. Employee's contributions therefore, cannot be adequate and make guarantee for their accessibility of housing loan. The amount being deducted are not reasonable to provide houses even in the rural areas, that is to say, the amount being deducted was too small even in the rural areas not let alone in the urban to provide reasonable accommodation for public servants.

Accessibility of Housing Loan

Accessibility of housing loan from Federal Mortgage Bank is technical and the beneficiaries need to be acquainted with the procedures provided for easy housing loan. Anyakora, Ilechukwu and Nubi (2009) wrote a paper titled Comparative Analysis of

National Housing Policies and Housing Supply Situation in Nigeria and South Africa. Often, the disparity in housing situations of various countries is traced to corresponding differences in the housing policy formulation process, contextual provisions of the policies, macro-economic situation, and level of development. They were concerned with evaluating the housing policies of Nigeria and South Africa in order to determine the level of housing provisions in the two countries. The paper combined qualitative and quantitative research methods to realize the objectives of the paper. The paper used content analysis approach to evaluate secondary data from the two countries. Comparatively, National housing policy of South Africa emphasized the working together of privately driven market and social housing provision in housing delivery while Nigeria's housing policy focused only on privately driven market system. By maintaining a steady focus on trade-off between privately driven housing market and social housing provision directly targeted at the low-income class South Africans' housing policy has done better in expanding access to housing among the populace than Nigeria housing policy which is more towards attaining a privately driven housing delivery market system in which the government plays an enabling role.

This implies that private housing system needs to recognize the crucial complementary role of social housing in the attainment of efficient housing delivery and for housing policy to work for the poor in most countries. In other words, housing loan emphasises that all potential contributors to the housing trust fund are expected to participate and register with the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria through their employers. The aim is to provide shelter, that is, accommodation, to secure the employees' future while in service and after retirement.

This can be done through participation that guarantees access to loan from Federal Mortgage Bank. Staff Housing loan is determined by satisfying a number of requirements stipulated by Federal Mortgage Bank, this includes, saving of Housing Trust Fund for a period of six month, having land that has certificate of occupancy, age, salary scale, number of years already spent and number left in the service.

Other requirements may be prescribed by Primary Mortgage Bank. At this point, it is important to note that having fulfilled the housing loan requirements that amount of money may not be sent directly to the employees account rather, to primary mortgage banks whose duties was to build houses for public servants based on specification and said amount provided. However, employees are entitled to 5 million loan in which the duration for repayment should not be more than 30 years. From the forgoing discussion of Anyakora et al. (2009) presentation, it has been observed therefore, that comparative study on housing loan providers of informal sectors in the economy can-not be compared because their level of advancements varies, and the study has failed to make comparative analysis of housing loan requirements and procedures between the two countries, and how it could be laidback accessible to the participants (employees). The housing loan guides and requirements are essential for understanding the potential applicants and needs to be consulted and interacted with when assessing the loan which this present study seeks to examine.

Housing Loan Applicants and Beneficiaries

Fetus and Amos (2015) assessed housing policy in Nigeria: an overview. They examined housing policies as a tool for national development in Nigeria through various developing strategies, programmes

and policies geared towards achieving housing policies. The paper adopted documentary research design using secondary sources of data collection reviewing housing policies in the country. The findings revealed that there are challenges in the implementation of housing policies, inadequate funding, insufficient infrastructural amenities as well as poor housing finances. The paper, however, recommended that there should be periodic housing policy review, adequate finances of the policy, encouragement of use of local materials as well as provision of low-cost houses in urban and rural areas.

Ezeanah (2017) in his paper *Housing Challenges in Nigeria* focused on sustainable development in the provision of adequate housing through private mechanism. Ezeanah adopted documentary research design, using secondary sources of data collection. It found that housing policies are facing challenges on the application of low quality of materials in buildings, unskilled manpower, and poor housing finances; high level of urban migration was among the factors responsible for low housing quality. The paper recommended that there must be application of standard building procedures, provision of skilled manpower and materials, adequate finances in the development of housing in the rural areas to restrain the rural-urban explosion in the country.

The Federal Mortgage Bank loan on housing provision targeted public servants through the primary mortgage bank only. Most of the housing provisions by mortgage bank and informal sectors were concentrated in urban cities which may be costly for the common man. The interconnection between Olawale's et al. (2015) study and this paper is that the two studies focused their attention on housing policy and ways through which accessible and affordable accommodation can be provided. This present study is

concerned with public Servants' mandatory contribution to National Housing Fund's Loan.

Based on the literature reviewed, it is observed that scholars were more concerned with housing provision for all, regardless of their participation, contributions and other requirements which must be met. It is important at this point to note that, accessibility of housing programme to employees is determined by the amount he or she contributed including the number of years spent in the service which previous literature were silent about. Other gap in the literature was on creating awareness for the scheme and understanding it's technicality/procedures and stimulating the interests of potential employees to participate in housing loan which other studies have failed to examine in details, and the extent to which staff housing loan requirements must be fulfilled and satisfied for the accessibility of loan from mortgage bank.

Apart from literature gap, other gap is in the methodology used by previous researchers who adopted *expost-facto* research design, and secondary sources of data collection which cannot only be the yardstick for assessing the policy based on documentary evidence rather than a combined method. This study adopted the mixed method of research design that is *expost-facto* and survey designs, using primary and secondary sources of data collection. The Federal Mortgage Bank that is managing the housing loan administration as well as applicants and beneficiaries responded appropriately on the evaluating of implementation of Federal Mortgage Bank Loan on Staff Housing provision in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi and by this certainly would contribute to the existing body of knowledge.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper adopted the hierarchy of needs theory postulated by Abraham Maslow (1954) as theoretical framework. The Maslow's hierarchy of needs fall within the behavioral school of thought. The assumption of the theory is that human needs are insatiable and it goes in ascending order, the satisfaction of the first needs motivates and triggers a second / and higher needs. The five needs include, physiological needs, safety needs, belonging needs, esteem needs and self-actualization needs. The physiological needs refer to basic needs of human being, which includes water, food, air and shelter. These are important needs to human survival. Workers want to be protected in their working environment, free from any threat to danger and calamity as well as job security as safety need. Staff wants their effort to have a sense of belonging in a family or group and participate in social activities and interactions between and among themselves serves as belonging needs. Esteem need is about pride of the workers to earn respect, self- recognition and esteem by other.

Self-actualization needs are about self-fulfillment and personal development or accomplishment and actualization of what a worker wants to become in the Organisation. This theory is relevant in understanding Maslow's postulation on physiological needs of public servants who need shelter (house) for their comfort, survival and stability of life. It is on this bases that employees in both public and private institutions strive to have shelter or possession of house as an essential element for stability and all their savings were directed to safeguard their future within and after the service. It is along this direction that government established the housing policy programme through the Federal Mortgage bank to offer housing loan for public servants. This cannot be achieved

without adequate and effective policy formulation and implementation. For these reasons, housing policy was implemented and the compulsory deductions from the salaries of employees for the purpose of housing possession or accommodation. This meant that, employer of labour (government) recognized the important of shelter for the workers as such the development of a programme towards achieving the physiological need becomes necessary, hence housing policy programme.

METHODOLOGY

This section is concerned with plan of the study, the suitable method used for the study is mixed method of survey and ex-post-facto (documentary) research design. The survey design used primary sources of data collection; interview of the key informants of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria on one hand, questionnaire was distributed to staff of Auchi Polytechnic Auchi, filled completely and returned on the other hand. The ex-post-facto research design used documented records of academic and non-academic staff retrieved from school, this includes the records of staff who applied/benefited and not-benefited from housing loan in the polytechnic. The study population was 814 staff. The study adopted purposive sampling techniques to select 268 respondents, who applied for housing loan through the Federal mortgage bank in the polytechnic for a period of five years (2019-2023).

It employed descriptive statistics using regression analysis to establish strong relationship between the components of housing loan as (independent-variable) while the implementation in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi is dependent variable). The analytical tools used, consists of the ordinary least square (OLS) estimation techniques of Multiple Regression framework. The ordinary least square method of multiple

regression analysis is adopted to determine the staff awareness of Housing Loan; Housing Contribution; accessibility; application and benefit of housing loan in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 1, Presents the summary of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria Housing Loan, Applicants. Benefited/ none benefited from 2019-2023.

Year	Applicants	Beneficiaries	Non-Beneficiaries	Remarks
2019	551	0	551	
2020	210	0	210	
2020	0	191	0	
2020	53	0	53	
2021	0	10	0	
2022	0	79	0	
2023	0	74	0	
20	0	121	0	
Total	814	475	339	

Source: field work, 2023.

Table 1, presents the Summary of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria Housing Loan Applicants, beneficiaries and none beneficiaries from 2019-2023. This shows that as at 2019, five hundred and fifty-one (551) staff of Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, applied for housing loan, but none of them benefited. In 2020, two hundred and ten (210) staff applied in the first quarter of that year, none benefited. In the second quarter, 191 benefited even though non applied. While fifty-three (53) applied in the third quarter, and non benefited. In 2021, none of the staff applied for housing loan to federal mortgage bank but ten staff who had already applied in 2020 were approved. No staff applied for housing loan in 2022, 2023 first quarter and second quarter respectively, but seventy-nine, seventy-four, one hundred and twenty-one staff that applied from the previous years were granted approval and accessed the loan

from the federal mortgage bank. To aid the discussion in the study, the selected staff of Auchi polytechnic responded thus;

Research Question one: To what extent are the staff of Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi aware of the housing loan of Federal Mortgage Bank?

76.1% of respondents agreed that they have heard of national housing loan while 23.9% said they had not heard of the national housing loan. But on the benefit from the establishment of National Housing loan, out of 268 respondents, 61.2% agreed the policy provides housing loan for the public servants; 27.2% of the policy secures the future of public servants for housing provision and 11.2% were of the opinion that the policy is of no importance to the public servants. Similarly, on the registration of members into the national housing loan 71.6% said they are registered while 28.4% are not registered. But on the reasons of the motivating factor for their membership registration to national housing loan, 64.2% said that, their reasons for registration is to apply for housing loan; 11.2% said that, their reasons for housing loan registration is to collect what they saved after retirement; 7.5% apply for housing renovation and 17.2% said it was mandatory for public servants to participate.

The forgoing data presentation is supported by key personnel interview from staff of Federal Mortgage Bank thus.

Respondent one, of Federal Mortgage Bank, mention that;

Staff housing loan of Federal Mortgage Bank has come to stay and reached-out the private and public servants to indicate interest through their employers, and we do advertise different housing loan through new-papers and televisions stations (Interview, 2023).

Research Question two: What is the impact of Auchu polytechnic staff contribution to federal mortgage bank housing loan?

On the housing loan contribution, 69.0% are active contributor to the fund while 31% said they are not contributing to the national housing loan. On the year of contributing to the national housing loan, the data presentation show that 20.9% of the respondents have been contributing to the fund between 1-5years; 37.3% have been contributing 6-10years while 41.8% had no specification of how long they have been contributing to the fund.

On monthly contribution to the national housing fund, the data presentation shows that 49.6% contributed 2.5% monthly; 16.4% contributed 3%; 7.1% contributed 5% and other percentage contribution monthly to the national housing fund account for 26,9% of the 268 respondents in the survey. The forgone data presentation is supported by interview of key personnel of Federal Mortgage Bank who submitted that

Respondent two, of Federal Mortgage Bank, said that;

Once an employee of public Organisation engages in service, mandatory registration is made and deductions of 2.5% monthly at source begins (Interview, 2023)

Research Question three: To what extent do staff of Auchu polytechnic, Auchu accesses housing loan of federal mortgage bank?

In respond to this question 56.3% staff said yes, they have been participating while 43.7% said they had not participated to the housing loan from federal mortgage bank. On the year of participation, 38.4% said 10 years above; 34.0% said between 5-9 years and other years of participation make up for 27.0%.

The reasons for motivation to participate in the national housing loan confirmed that, (59.7% and 40.3%). In accessing the national housing loan from the federal mortgage bank shows that 40.7% said yes, they accessed the fund from the bank while 59.3% said no they had no accessed the loan from the federal mortgage bank.

On the accessibility of the housing loan, the respondents confirmed that 30.2% were of the opinion that the loan is not accessible; 14.1% said that age and remaining years in service were their challenges; 17.7% said they did not meet up the requirement; 26.3% said the procedure for the loan was cumbersome; 7.6% said the policy is just on paper while 0.4% said other reasons.

On the housing loan provision of workers shelter and their family shows on the accessibility of housing loan to staff, 25.7% said yes that, the loan is accessible while 73.9% said no.

Respondent three, of Federal Mortgage Bank, stated that;

One's a public servants register and had passbook he becomes a contributory member and if he has contributed for at least six months above is entitle to enjoy housing loan, having meeting the guidelines to apply for the loan, but significant number of staff had no accessed the loan, he responded that, those staff whom were unable to access was due to the failure to meet the requirements stipulated for housing loan.

Research Question four: Does the staff of Auchu polytechnic, Auchu, applied and benefited on housing loan of federal mortgage bank?

On loan application to Federal Mortgage Bank and specification by the respondents shows that, 57.1% applied for housing loan, 31.7% applied for housing

renovation 11.2% applied for loan for other purposes unspecified. On the part of staff beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of loan from federal mortgage bank, the shows that 41% of the respondents have ever applied for any loan to Federal Mortgage Bank Loan while 59% had never applied for any loan to Federal Mortgage Bank Loan, because of the conditions attached to the loan. On the housing loan benefit from the Federal Mortgage Bank shows that, 33.6% said yes, they accessed and benefited from the scheme in recent time while 66.4% said no. On the category of accessing the benefit from the Federal Mortgage Bank, 14.6% said accessed and benefited of housing loan; 62.3% benefited on housing renovation; 23.1% accessed and benefited from housing construction from the Federal Mortgage Bank. Performance of National Housing Loan from Federal Mortgage Bank shows that, 2.5% said they are satisfactory with the performance; 69.9% said there was poor performance; 25.7% said there was very poor performance very while 1,9% said there is fair performance in terms of national housing fund.

Respondent four, of Federal Mortgage Bank, explain that;

Significant number of public servants who had applied for housing loan in various institutions government were grant approval and disbursement were made through their respective primary mortgage bank. But years in service left public servants spent, Certificate of Occupancy and other were among the challenges that impede the accessibility of the housing loan. The staff housing loan of Federal Mortgage Bank was proposed to be increase from N5m to N50m based on the economic reality so that public servants could have enough to build houses based on their desire.

DATA ANALYSES AND RESULTS

The analysis of data presented has been made according to the research questions and objectives raised in the study, hypotheses were tested to establishes the extent at which staff awareness of Housing Loan; Housing Contribution; accessibility; application and benefit of housing loan in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State.

Specification of the Model

This involves the expression of the theoretical relationship in mathematical form with which the economic phenomenon will be explored empirically as:

$$ESA = f(AHL_1, HCN, PHL, AHL_2) \text{-----} 1.1$$

$$ESA = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AHL + \beta_2 HCN + \beta_3 PHL + \beta_4 AHL_2 \text{-----} 1.2$$

$$ESA = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AHL + \beta_2 HCN + \beta_3 PHL + \beta_4 AHL_2 + \mu \text{-----} 1.3$$

Where SHLBA = Staff Housing Loan Benefits in Auchi Polytechnic;

AHL₁: Staff housing awareness has no significant effect on housing loan in Auchi Polytechnic Auchi.

HCN: Staff housing contribution has no significant effect on housing loan provision in Auchi Polytechnic Auchi;

PHL: Staff housing accessibility has no significant effect on housing loan in Auchi Polytechnic Auchi;

AHL₂: Staff housing application has no significant effect on housing benefit loan in Auchi Polytechnic Auchi;

$\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3,$ and β_4 are the parameters to be estimated; (intercepts and slopes of the regression) and μ = Stochastic term or error term.

Table 2, OLS Regression Result computed using SPSS-23

Variable	Coefficient	Std
Error	t-Statistic	Prob
C	-0.1132	1.2551
-0.0901	0.000	
AHL ₁	0.2520	0.8161
0.3088	0.001	
HCN	0.3215	0.5132
0.6265	0.021	
PHL	0.1243	0.1120
1.1098	0.000	
AHL ₂	0.4130	0.3981
1.0374	0.002	

The interpretation of table 2, thus:

R-squared	0.812231
Adjusted R-squared	0.714121
F-statistic	82.23650
Prob(F-statistic)	0.00000
Durbin-Watson stat	2.00003

Source: Authors' Computation 2023 (SPSS-23)

- Since $p < 0.05$ at 5% level, it is significant at 5%

The test statistic results reveals that all the probability values (.000) were less than 0.05 at 5% level of significance. Hence, the null hypotheses (H_0) were rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis (H_1) which said that there is significance effects between staff awareness on Housing Loan; Housing Contribution; housing accessibility and application and benefit of housing loan in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the SPSS-23 regression analysis are significant, as seen in Table 2 above. The model is deemed statistically significant due to a low p-value for the F-statistic (Prob, (F-statistic) = 0.00000), indicating that at least one of the predictor variables has a meaningful impact on the dependent variable.

An R-squared score of 0.812231 shows a strong fit for the model, suggesting that the independent variables explain about 81.22% of the variability in the dependent variable. The adjusted R-squared score of 0.714121 provides a more careful evaluation of the model's ability to explain the data since it accounts for the number of predictors included in the model. The variables that significantly on the extent at which staff awareness of housing loans at Auchi Polytechnic (AHL₁), housing contributions (HCN), accessibility in housing loans (PHL), and application of housing loans (AHL₂), as determined by the individual coefficient analyses of the hypothesis stated.

The presence of a Durbin-Watson statistic of 2.00003 suggests that the residuals do not exhibit significant auto-correlation, therefore indicating that the requirements for independence are likely met. In general, the data fit well into the regression model, and the variables AHL₁, HCN, PHL, and AHL₂ provide a significant contribution to explaining the variation in the dependent variable (staff benefit). The relationships among the components that were taken into account may be enhanced in comprehension with the aid of these outcomes. This further explain in the findings that, there is poor staff housing awareness on housing loan of federal mortgage bank in Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, as 76.1% of staff are only aware with this program but as less than 10% out of 814 staff benefited, despites the fact that, there are enormous staff in the school. The low turnover has attributed to unfortunate awareness from both Federal Mortgage Bank and Auchi Polytechnic, of their inability to create advanced sensitization programme, consciousness and recognizing the policy action.

There is greater turnover with regards to staff contribution as mandatory deductions and only those staff who contributed are to

benefit from housing loan, but their long saving contribution were small and does not guarantee them for housing loan when compared with level of houses build and housing loan provided by federal mortgage bank.

Accessibility of housing loan by federal mortgage bank to staff of Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu has become very difficult when considered that the large number of staff and minor number of those applied and benefited for housing loan in the school are so meager, even though the staff has the rights for accessing the loan, but unfortunately that amount of money provided for housing loan by federal mortgage bank can never build a house.

The findings revealed that, staff had applied for housing loan to federal mortgage bank but, the technicalities and procedures are the major hindrance for staff to benefit from housing loan, this is attributes to the years spent and left in service of staff are also taking into consideration in accessing the loan and also determines the eligibility of housing benefit,

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, the SPSS-23 regression analysis yielded noteworthy results. The model is deemed statistically significant due to the low p-value for the F-statistic ($\text{Prob}(F\text{-statistic}) = 0.00000$), indicating that at least one of the predictor variables has a meaningful impact on the dependent variable. An R-squared score of 0.812231 shows a strong fit for the model, suggesting that the independent variables explain about 81.22% of the variability in the dependent variable. The adjusted R-squared score of 0.714121 provides a more careful evaluation of the model's ability to explain the data since it accounts for the number of predictors included in the model. The coefficients of AHL1, HCN, PHL, and AHL2 have

significant statistical influence on the dependent variable, as shown by their low p-values. The presence of a Durbin-Watson statistic of 2.00003 suggests that the residuals do not exhibit significant auto-correlation, therefore indicating that the requirements for independence are likely met. The identified components (AHL1, HCN, PHL, and AHL2) significantly contribute to explaining the variability in the dependent variable, and the regression model accurately represents the data. The relationships among the components that were taken into account may be further comprehended with the assistance of these findings. The accessibility in Housing Loan (PHL), Housing Loan Awareness (AHL1), and Housing Loan Application (AHL2) was observed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the study recommends that;

i Management of Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu, should collaborate with Federal Mortgage Bank to organise seminars and workshops educating the staff on the importance of housing loan as this could increase level of awareness among the staff in the polytechnic.

ii Federal Mortgage Bank should create a platform for interactions with those government's employees who are willing to contribute more than what is stipulated by law of 2.5% monthly deducted from his/he salary; by so doing it could reduce long repayment period and enhancing housing loan participation among the staff in Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu.

iii Management of Auchu Polytechnic, Auchu, should make application forms for housing loan available and accessible to all staff and advise them after six months of engagement in the service to apply for housing loan, this would save the staff from ageing in the

service and allow them to benefit from housing loan.

iv the study urges the Federal Mortgage Bank and Federal government to review staff housing loan guidelines, those gray areas that are not necessary which discourage applicants should be adjusted and provide affordable housing for workers based on their savings, by so doing, the number of applicants for housing loan would certainly rise which can attract the increase of beneficiaries too.

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**NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION
CONSTRAINTS IN EDO STATE,
NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT

The generation of waste, its collection, transfer, disposal, recycling, and processing are important for healthy ecosystems but the non-implementation of existing laws and legislations on solid waste in the country seems to be the core problem. This study examined “National waste management policy, its implementation constraints and the way forward in Edo State”. It also examined the extent to which waste management laws are enforced in Edo State. The Edo state government has made efforts in policy formulation and funding in line with the national policy on the environment to resolve the solid waste issues in the metropolis but the effort has not yielded great results. In terms of methodology, the data for the study were collected through secondary sources where relevant empirical literature was reviewed to explore national waste

management policy, its implementation constraints, and the way forward in Edo State. Results obtained showed that inadequate budgetary provisions and funding mechanisms, and poor monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, are some constraints on the implementation of environmental waste management policies and programs by the government. The paper concluded that government at all levels should adopt an integrated waste management system with appropriate policy implementation action plans that will enhance environmental governance on waste management. It recommended that the state government should ensure quarterly reviews to eliminate the area of interference resulting in conflict between the state and local government agencies in charge of waste management activities.

Keywords: Waste Management; Policy; Implementation; Constraints

INTRODUCTION.

Waste is a global issue; a basic human need and right. So, ensuring proper sanitation and solid waste management is essential to society and the continent's economy as a whole. Waste management is a social, economic, and environmental problem facing all African countries. The first Global Waste Management Outlook, published by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) in 2015, highlighted the need for greater detail on the generation and management of waste at the regional level. (UNEP, 2018). Solid Waste Management entails the collection, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of waste in such a way as to render them innocuous to human and animal life, ecology, and the environment generally. (Fafioye and John-Dewole, 2013). Solid waste management has

become an important concern in both domestic and international material cycles, for environmental preservation, efficient resource utilization, and sustainable development. Records have shown that man has suffered in no small way from diseases associated with solid wastes and contamination of the subsurface water by the leachate from solid wastes which are heavily laden with toxic chemicals and pathogenic organisms which contaminate the water and make it not fit for human consumptions (Adedibu, 2008).

Solid waste generation has consistently expanded both in volume and complexity due to the rapid increase in population over the years, socio-economic development, industrialization, technology advancements, changing lifestyles, and consumption patterns. Sadly, these developments have not been matched by adequate provisions which include funding and infrastructural facilities to sustainably manage this ever-growing quantum of waste and the subsequent absence of proper policy formulation and implementation to arrest such situations. (Igbinomwanhia, 2011). Consequently, this has led to the poor state of our environment; as all manner of wastes clog our drainages, and litter our streets, highways, marketplaces, water bodies, public places, and most open places. Open and indiscriminate burning of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste as a disposal method is still a common practice among the citizenry in Edo State and Nigeria. Ogwueleka, (2009) revealed that irrespective of the local conditions, most cities in Nigeria adopt open dumping or uncontrolled landfills as their disposal route. Sanitation is an indispensable aspect of society that every government relentlessly tackles with every sense of responsibility.

This is because poor sanitation practices pollute the environment which

could exert a negative toll on humans, animals, and plants' health, productivity, and longevity, hence the increasing global call for the practice of acceptable sanitation standards in every environment habited by human beings. The over three million people and their myriads of activities in Benin City, Edo State, for instance, generate waste which no doubt hurts the environment, hence the need for efficient waste management practices. (Edo State 2020). The three tiers of government in Nigeria are often involved in one way or another in the provision of services in the state's major urban centers. Constitutionally, some of the services fall within the statutory function of one tier of government or another. For instance, the 1989 federal constitution assigned to city councils the responsibility for the construction and maintenance of street drains, and the provision of refuse services. In practice, however, state government sometimes steps in to complement their efforts, particularly in those cities that are state/regional capitals, since solid waste collection and disposal is a statutory function of local government, city councils still have an important role to play despite any privatization schemes or initiatives. Service operators in Edo State are largely small-scale entrepreneurs who may be neither able nor willing to acquire, develop, and operate disposal sites. It is therefore, in this context that this paper on 'National Waste Management Policy and its Implementation Constraints and the Way Forward in Edo State' fills an essential gap in the existing literature.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The formulation and implementation of waste management policy is one of the developmental targets of every government. Nigeria, like many nations, is faced with gross environmental problems and solid

waste stands as one of the major challenges. The surge in urbanization and population growth has triggered an equivalent increase in solid waste generated from household and commercial activities in many towns and cities in Nigeria, Edo State inclusive. More so with the near absence of proper integration of solid waste collection and disposal methods in urban planning and the subsequent absence of proper policy formulation and implementation to arrest such situations, solid waste generated from household and commercial activities is thus disposed of indiscriminately around the metropolis.

The Edo state government has made efforts in policy formulation and funding in line with the national policy on the environment to resolve the solid waste issues in the metropolis. Therefore, regular environmental sanitation exercise has become a veritable tool for leading the war against the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in some parts of the state. It is against this backdrop that the Edo State government through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainability, the Edo State Waste Management Board, and private waste managers in different zones of the State have intensified the collection and evacuation of waste to government-accredited dump sites.

The partnership is one amongst several laudable initiatives and policies that the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration has put in place to make the State one of the cleanest in the country, but the effort has not yielded worthy results. Hence, we propagated that there are some salient policy problems bedeviling the waste management sector that when addressed can resolve the waste management problems and improve the well-being of the residents. The generation of waste, collection, transfer, disposal, recycling, and processing are important for healthy ecosystems but the non-implementation of existing laws and

legislations on solid waste in the country seems to be the core problem.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To describe how waste management promotes a clean and healthy environment in Edo State,
2. To ascertain the extent to which the waste management laws are enforced in Edo state,
3. To ascertain the constraints to the implementation of waste management policies in Edo State.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How can waste management promote a clean and healthy environment in Edo State?
2. To what extent are the waste management laws enforced in Edo state?
3. What are the constraints to the implementation of waste management policies in Edo State?

METHODOLOGY

This paper employed the secondary sources of data gathering with its explanatory style, where existing information is used for analysis and to draw vital conclusions. Some of the specific sources of data for this study include textbooks, journal articles, unpublished papers, government reports, and Organisational, and private webpages amongst others were employed in discussing the concept of waste management.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Solid waste management is the most pressing environmental challenge faced by urban and rural areas of Nigeria. Nigeria, with a population exceeding 170 million, is one of the largest producers of solid waste in Africa. Despite a host of policies and regulations, solid waste management in the country is assuming alarming proportions with each passing day. (Bakare, 2019). (Adeyemi et al, 2001) observed that solid

waste constitutes a major problem in most developing countries such as Nigeria and added that waste management is one of the most intractable problems facing city administrators and environmental agencies. (Omuta, 1987) noted that one flaw in waste management administration in developing countries is the unavailability of a proper waste management policy and that the major players involved with waste management in Nigeria are the public and the private sector. (Rahji and Oloruntopa, 2009) added that such steps were necessary to bring private sector investment into waste management and enhance service delivery.

This introduction of private companies in waste management became necessary as a result of the degradation of the environment from inefficient waste management practices. (Ogbonna et al., 2007) reported that the Government is taking steps to address these problems by engaging local contractors to evacuate waste. (Omuta, 1987) in his study, explains that community leaders should be engaged in the policy-making process. He reckons that successful integration of the people may improve cooperation. (Kofoworola, 2007) suggested that the government should use all media resources available to them to enlighten the people on the need to dispose of their waste at designated drop-off sites. He pointed out that indiscriminate dumping should be penalized.

The government at the federal level as a matter of urgency needs to revive its regulatory framework that will be attractive for private sectors to invest in waste collection, recycling, and reusing. The Environmental Health Officer's registration council of Nigeria would do well to intensify more efforts to monitor and enforce sanitation laws as well as regulate the activities of the franchisees on good sustainable practices. (Bakare 2019).

Furthermore, Omuta (1987) explains that as much as 30% of the locally generated revenue by the Benin local council is spent on solid waste management. He suggested that at least 5% of the country's revenue should be earmarked for solid waste management. However, such fees should consider the low level of income. Ezeah and Roberts (2013) argue that waste management agencies are not involved in budgetary allocations. Hence, it is difficult for them to employ experts in waste management and purchase some of the equipment needed for efficient service delivery. (Basu 2009) pointed out that due to the increasing volume of waste, the continuous disposal of waste in landfills is unsustainable. Hence, he argued that the processing of waste is a necessary step needed to safeguard public health. From the literature, it is clear that, in Nigeria, the local conditions are not taken into consideration before the adoption of a waste management strategy. The management system is usually haphazard since the people in charge have very little or no training in solid waste management. Ezeah and Roberts (2013).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The waste hierarchy was originally proposed by a British scientist named William Rathje in the 1970s. He was a pioneer in the field of waste management and conducted extensive research on waste disposal and recycling. Since then, the waste hierarchy has been widely accepted and implemented around the world as a guiding principle for sustainable waste management. The hierarchy has been adapted and revised over the years to reflect new technologies and ideas. At the apex of the pyramid is the word "prevention". This level represents activities that prevent the creation of waste in the first place. The next level is "minimization", which refers to reducing the amount of waste generated. The third level is "reuse", which

means using materials more than once. The fourth level is "recycling", which refers to turning waste into new materials. And at the bottom of the diagram is the level of "disposal", which is the least desirable option. Research continues to evolve the theory of waste management, which will assist in incorporating environmental concerns into the industrial process.

NATIONAL POLICY ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

This National Policy on Solid Waste Management was developed by the Federal Government of Nigeria, in close consultation with stakeholders as a shared national vision of how solid wastes will be managed more sustainably. The need to address the menace and challenges and reverse the trend informed the decision of the Government to develop a robust solid waste management policy intended to provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable solid waste management in Nigeria, (FGN, 2020). In developing this policy document, a systematic process of information collection, research, and consultation was undertaken which involved The Federal Ministry of Environment, working in close collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), to coordinate the development of the National Policy on Solid Waste Management. The vision of the policy is a true and accurate reflection of what the Nigerian Government intends to achieve in the area of solid waste management. Federal Ministry of Environment, (2020). This policy is aimed amongst others at:

- i. Promoting a clean and healthy environment for sustainable socio-economic development of the nation;
- ii. Reducing and eventually eliminating heaps of solid waste in our cities and

- iii. rural communities and reducing associated public health problems;
- iii. Promoting private sector investments in Solid Waste Management;
- iv. Promoting the Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, and Recovery initiative;
- v. Creating wealth and employment from waste management.

Purposes and Scope of National Environmental Health Practice Regulations No 21 of 2007

- To provide a guideline for the enforcement of the regulatory powers in the Act, to prevent and abate the nuisance and to protect, preserve, and promote the physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being of the public;
- To reduce environmental hazards to health, safeguard and maintain the aesthetic value of the environment.
- To promote the general welfare of the public by regulating the construction and sanitation of all existing dwellings or thereafter constructed and
- Top regulate private and public sector collaboration to maintain adequate sanitation, and promote public health and safety.

In Chapter 3 of the Regulations, SS.12 (1) and (2) provides as follows: S.12 (1). No person shall dispose of any waste whether solid or liquid in an unauthorized place including street, bush, body of water, land, etc. except as approved by the environmental health Authority responsible for the area. S.12 (2). Dead bodies shall be sanitarily disposed of or buried only in a place approved by the Environmental Health Authority in charge of the area.

S.13. No person shall litter waste of any description on any street, premises, drainage, water bodies, or any public place. Amongst others.

WHAT SOLID WASTE ENTAILS

The environment is very crucial to the existence of every creature, just as it serves as a place of abode to any creature; it also contributes to a large extent to the quality of life of such creatures (Oreyomi, 2005). The failure of the numerous efforts to address the problem of environmental health hazards in developing nations has been attributed to various factors like; unhealthy socio-cultural practices, poor environmental sanitation education and awareness, low literacy level, bad governance, disregard for the rule of law, and other forms of indiscipline (Omotosho, 2005). Solid Waste Management entails the collection, storage, transportation, treatment, and disposal of waste in such a way as to render them innocuous to human and animal life, ecology, and the environment generally. (Fafioye and John-Dewole, 2013). Solid Waste Management poses a danger to the handlers and threats in developing a workable solution in an emerging economy like Nigeria. (Abila, B. and Kantola, J., 2013).

Records have shown that man has suffered in no small way from diseases associated with solid wastes and contamination of the subsurface water by the leachate from solid wastes which are heavily laden with toxic chemicals and pathogenic organisms which contaminate the water and make it not fit for human consumptions (Adedibu, 2008). Waste management is at its lowest ebb in most towns and communities in Nigeria; most parts of the city centers do not benefit from public waste disposal services and therefore have to bury or burn their waste or dispose of it haphazardly. Other hazards, like flooding, ensued from collected but poorly disposed wastes, especially in the open dump sites. The situation becomes worse in the rainy season as the wastes get directly exposed to the rain; the water makes the waste wet and drains out, thus polluting

the streets and nearby streams or blocking storm-water drains and thereby causing flooding.

PROBLEMS MILITATING MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA.

The problems are diverse and are related to economic, technological, psychological, and political aspects in Nigeria. These problems vary from poor funding, poor legislation and implementation of policy, limited infrastructures, and professionals, level of awareness, poor recovery and recycling programs, and disposal techniques.

Under-funding:- This is one of the major problems constraining the waste management sector. Incapability to purchase new waste collection trucks, limited staff, poor vehicle maintenance, unsubsidized waste storage containers, and inability to purchase equipment among others are all attributed to a shortage of capital. Actualizing waste management projects requires consistent funding to achieve answers to strategies yet to be implemented.

Poor legislation and implementation of policy: The constitutional strength of municipal waste management policy is weak and ineffective. Also, the implementation of this policy is not monitored. The policy is not well structured and tends to be weak. There are instances in which due process is obstructed and sanctioned penalties are not expended on certain municipalities and individuals. Policies are yet to be aimed at the 3Rs of waste management – reduce, reuse, and recycle. Government policies on waste are not revisited, reaffirmed, restructured, or upgraded in full tune and form. (Abila and Kantola, 2013).

Limited infrastructure and professionals:

Solid waste infrastructure is one of the major contributing indices of poor waste management systems in Nigeria. Nonetheless, experts to man these machineries are also not on ground. The environmental protection agencies and waste management personnel are not experts and are exposed to workshops and trainings that meet international standards on technology use, information management, and knowledge management. Most of the state environmental protection agencies lack adequately trained personnel. (Abila and Kantola, 2013).

Level of awareness: In Nigeria, populace awareness of sustainable waste management is still very poor, and effort by the agencies to increase awareness is still very low. Municipal members are not well informed on the adverse effects of indiscriminate and improper disposal of waste and also the benefits of such acts.

Recovering and recycling: Access to possible recyclable material poses great difficulty due to poorly limited recycling programs. The informal recycling programs involve scavengers' efforts to search for recyclable items. Presently, the informal sector renders the service of retrieving and recycling materials in Nigeria. The introduction of an advanced formal recycling program presents positive and accelerating outcomes for the municipal waste management sector. (Adewumi, et al, 2014).

Disposal: The landfill disposal technique of waste materials with a dearth of treatment processes and open dumping poses increasing public health hazards to human lives, animals, and plants. However, the evolution of poisonous gases such as

methane and carbon dioxide causes alteration of weather, leading to climate change.

PROMOTION OF EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IN EDO STATE.

In Edo State, waste disposal has remained a challenge over the years with indiscriminate dumping of refuse in available spaces especially markets, drainages, and open space in residential areas. The waste handling in Edo State, Benin City, in particular, the situation was needing urgent attention due to its devastating condition, as plastic materials were dominant littering the metropolis. (ESWMB, 2022). The Edo State Government has been taking several steps to improve solid waste management in the state. Some of these measures include establishing a dedicated Waste Management Board, implementing a door-to-door waste collection system, and improving the state's waste management infrastructure. The government has also implemented an education campaign to raise awareness about proper waste disposal practices. In addition to the measures, the Edo State Government has also been working on developing a sanitary landfill and recycling plant. The landfill will help to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the environment, and the recycling plant will allow for the recycling of some of the waste. Sanitation, pollution, and waste management are all crucial aspects of environmental health, they can have a big impact on the health and well-being of the Edo people. (Edo State, 2022)

Currently, Edo State has blazed the trail in technology-driven governance with its new engineering design capabilities to accelerate the process of interventions in waste management in the state. There is a legal tussle between private waste evacuators and government-operated waste evacuators over the rights to operate

side by side. However, most of the people in the state believe that the private operators have been more efficient in terms of the prompt evacuation of waste than those engaged by the government. (Edo State, 2022). It would be recalled that the state government recently launched its “Project Clean-Up Edo” campaign, where it urged the people to make deliberate efforts to keep their environment clean. Speaking on behalf of the State government, the general manager, of Edo State Waste Management Board, Osadebamwen Charles Imariagbe, said it was the responsibility of every responsive government to remove chaos and disorder from the society. This, he said, was the reason the administration of Governor Godwin Obaseki has taken necessary steps to carry the people along to achieve the ultimate goal of a cleaner, healthier, and better Edo. This action, he said is backed by the Edo State Sanitation and Pollution Management Law (2010).

CONSTRAINTS TO FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The constraints to the formulation and implementation of waste management policies in Edo State have been identified as follows.

Constitutional Constraint: The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) contains the supreme law of the land. Until the ratification of the 1999 constitution, the constitution lacked a specific provision on the environment. Section 20 of the 1999 constitution made the following provision: "The state shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest, and wildlife of Nigeria" (FRN, 1999). The broad nature of the wording of this provision makes its enforcement difficult and this is a serious defect as the provision only attempts a

middle-ground between two extremes formulated by a system that is not desirous of initiating any serious environmental change, the thrust of which may disturb its economic direction and strategies (Vergara & Tchobanoglous, 2012).

For example, the policies at the state level provide the dumpsite option as the endpoint for solid waste in Edo state (Edo state, 2010) and no proper provision for the disposal of sewage. In addition, the Edo State Sanitation and Pollution Management Law (Edo state, 2010) created two technical committees, one each at the state and local government levels and this duplicates the responsibilities of the Waste Management Board and the environmental department of the local government council. These have caused interference resulting in conflicts between the state government and local government agencies saddled with waste management in the metropolis. (Vergara & Tchobanoglous, 2012)

Financial Constraint: Based on the provision in the constitution, several environmental policies have been formulated at the state and local government levels. The effective implementations of the various policies are constrained by poor funding. Waste management is given very low priority in the budget due to limited finances. As a result very limited funds are provided to the waste management sector by the governments, and the levels of services required for the protection of public health and the environment are not attained. The user service charges collected by the disposal agents are too little to make any meaningful impact on the waste management system. (Igbinomwanhia, 2011).

Technical Constraint: In most developing countries, there is a lack of human resources at both the state and local levels with the

technical expertise necessary for solid waste management planning and operation. Many officers in charge of waste management, particularly at the waste management Board and local government levels, have little or no technical background or training in environmental engineering or management (United Nations Environmental Program, 2018). Hence the policies formulated do not meet modern practice. All the problems that the waste Management system is faced with are exacerbated by the lack of trained personnel at the waste management policy implementation level. Without adequately trained personnel for solid waste policy making and implementation, sustainable solid waste management planning, and implementation may not be realizable (Vergara & Tchobanoglous, 2012). This study also revealed there is an ineffective and unreliable solid waste collection service. The private sector lacks adequate equipment for collection of waste from the source. A large proportion of the vehicles used in the evacuation of waste like open vans result in waste littering on the way to the dump site and this violates the Edo state sanitation and pollution law (Edo state, 2010).

Institutional Constraint: The study showed that the policies formulated at the state and local government levels in Nigeria charge the local government with the responsibility of collection and disposal of solid waste from public places and commercial units (FRN, 1999). The local government environmental department, therefore, has the responsibility of picking up and transporting solid waste from public places (Igbinomwanhia, (2011). In reality, several agencies have been created at the state level that are involved in solid waste management. Such agencies at the state level include – the Edo State Waste Management Board (ESWMB), Operation Cleanup Edo State, the special environmental

task force, and the local government environmental task force (Edo State, 2010), which have the mandate to pick up and transport solid waste to the dumpsite. The lack of coordination among the relevant agencies often results in duplication of efforts, wastage of resources, and unsustainability of overall waste management programs.

Cultural Constraint: Over the years materials such as dead animals and body parts of dead animals, food items, cloth, and small earthen sculptures are seen around road junctions in the Benin metropolis. The materials are items used for sacrifice and the practice of dumping material for sacrifices is a cultural norm acceptable in the Bini Kingdom. Such norms affect the formulation and implementation of waste management policies. (Igbinomwanhia, 2011).

ENFORCEMENT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT LAWS (THE WAY FORWARD) IN EDO STATE

Currently in Nigeria, the main solid waste policies are formulated by the federal and state government and the implementation of the policies is concentrated at the local government level. Nevertheless, state governments have played a significant role in managing solid waste across the country. In Edo state, the Ministry of Environment and Public Utilities (MEPU) is the regulatory body with the responsibility of managing the environment on behalf of the state. Under the direct supervision of MEPU is the Edo State Waste Management Board (ESWMB) saddled with the responsibility to support and ensure the implementation of the policy guidelines on solid waste management (Federal Ministry of Environment, 2005).

However, since 2010 when the Edo State Sanitation and Pollution Management Law was signed into law, popularly known as

the Waste Management Law, it allowed the Edo State Government to appoint waste managers to collect waste from people's residences as well as charge criminal proceedings against defaulters. (Edo State 2022). Apart from monitoring the activities of private operators or community/private operator partnerships, the development of disposal sites is important for proper waste management and enhancing the quality of the urban environment. Effective planning will prevent indiscriminate disposal and other harmful practices which pose a health threat to the environment. It is against this backdrop that the Edo State Government through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainability, the Edo State Waste Management Board, and private waste managers in different zones of the State have intensified the collection and evacuation of waste to government-accredited dump sites. The partnership is one amongst several laudable initiatives and policies that the Governor Godwin Obaseki-led administration has put in place to make the State one of the cleanest in the country. Therefore, regular environmental sanitation exercise has become a veritable tool for leading the war against the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in some parts of the city. (Edo State, 2022).

The current policy guidelines on solid waste management charge the local government with the collection and disposal of waste. The local government also has the responsibility of enlisting private waste managers and other stakeholders, but the Edo State Sanitation and Pollution Management law empowered the Edo State Waste Management Board (ESWMB) to appoint private waste managers. Hence ESWMB and local government councils are both currently appointing waste managers in the metropolis and this makes supervision of the system difficult. (Federal Ministry of Environment,

2005). Therefore, there is a need for the review of the Edo state sanitation and pollution management law in line with the provision of the policy guidelines on solid waste management.

CONCLUSION

The constraints to policy formulation and implementation in the metropolis include the constitutional lapse in ensuring clear duties and responsibilities between the state and local government agencies, lack of manpower with adequate technical training, poor funding, and the obvious lack of accountability among the authorities involved in waste management. Based on the provision in the Constitution, several environmental policies have been formulated at the state and local government levels which most times are not transmitted or relayed to the households by the Local governments where most of the waste management activities are carried out. Many of such policies do not conform to modern waste management practices. This could be attributed to a lack of adequate checks and balances between the local governments and the state authorities. Furthermore, this study revealed that enlisting the service of the private sector and stakeholders in solid waste management, the non-implementation of existing laws and legislations, the need for the upgrade of obsolete legal instruments, inadequate budgetary provisions and funding mechanisms, and poor monitoring and evaluation mechanisms as to guide the environmentally safe and sound practices in solid waste management seems to be the core problems of solid waste management in the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To achieve a sustainable and effective waste management system in Edo state, particularly

in the Benin metropolis, the following should be put in place.

i. Review of Waste Management Policies: The state government should ensure quarterly reviews to eliminate the area of interference resulting in conflict between the state and local government agencies in charge of waste management activities.

ii. Provision of Adequate Funds for Policy Implementation: Attention needs to be paid to the financial budget for waste management by the Ministry of Environment and the Local Government Council in the metropolis. They need to create a financial plan supported by coherent policies that will incorporate special fees, paid by households and businesses in the metropolis.

iii. The state and local government authorities should take advantage of the clause in the constitution which enables it to make by-laws and create policies that ensure periodic audits of both the local government and state waste management agencies on their performances.

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GLOBALISATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

The paper examined Globalisation and National security in Nigeria: challenges and Prospect. The paper sought to investigate the challenges and prospects of Globalisation on Nigeria's national security with the aim of proffering solutions to them. Dependency theory was used as its framework of analysis. Desk analysis technique was adopted to collect secondary data / materials from books, documentaries and other relevant materials. The paper underscores that Globalisation has shaped Nigeria's security landscape since 1980s. It further revealed that the impact of Globalisation on national security in Nigeria is both positive and negative as information and communication technologies are the drivers of Globalisation and development and also the most potent threats to Nigeria's national security. The negative aspects of Globalisation has resulted in deep crises manifested in rapid and unprecedented disappearance of local industries, loss of local control over economic policies and national development, job losses, increased fiscal burdens, depletion of foreign exchange, depressed economic activities, among others. These

findings accent the complex interaction between Globalisation and security dynamics. It concluded that technology-inspired Globalisation is a double-edged sword which portends dangers and dividends for national security and Nigeria is said to be a loser in the international politics of Globalisation. The paper thus recommended poverty and unemployment reductions and massive investments in the manufacturing of home-grown technological tools by the Nigeria's security agencies among others.

Key Words: Globalisation; National Security; Challenges; Prospects; Al-Qaeda

INTRODUCTION

Across the world particularly in recent times, Organisational and strategic national security discourse has shifted from traditional to contemporary and complicated warfare; with the modern trend of terrorism being strategically organized and systematically financed through international network of terrorist groups with religious or ideological undertones. The attack on the New York Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, in the United States by Al-Qaeda has been recorded as the deadliest in the modern era of international terrorism, followed by the Hamas attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, resulting in the capture and killing of approximately one thousand four hundred (1,400) innocent civilians (Ojumu, 2023). These international terrorists attack has taken the Centre- stage in contemporary international space. Continents, regions, States among others are thus battling directly and indirectly to improve their domestic and international security status. It stands to be reasoned that security unavoidably would attract a major policy challenge to decision makers as well as communities and groups around the globe. The concept of security

remains a complex phenomenon that unarguably require not just counter-measures to deal with but concrete preventive and resilient decisions to manage in order to avoid loss of lives and properties (Uchendu, 2012, Akinyeni, 2013, Ogbonnaya, 2013).

Since the 1980s when the era of Globalisation started, growing interdependence subsisted due to the fact that uncertainties in national security management has given it a new meaning, scope, perspective and dimension. Consequently, policy makers in different countries around the globe have gradually come to recognize that the protection of states and their citizens require a fully integrated multi-dimensional and comprehensive approach to national security issues, which directly influences civil, social, cultural, political, economic and environmental sectors of the society. Such recognition has precipitated a number of measures to deal with national security and Nigeria is not an exception (Dharam 1994, Barikor, 1999, Ukase, 2018, Adebolu, 2018). These measures are encapsulated in the signing of regional and international security pacts by the African Union, the United states and the European Union to give support to Nigeria and other African Nations in the fight against terrorism. Nigeria as a major player in global affairs and a leading nation in Africa has its fair share of insecurity emanating from diverse sources such as: Boko Haram Terrorism, Banditry, Fulani Herdsmen-Farmers' clashes, poverty-induced militancy, economic-induced kidnappings for rival cult groups' killings, growing cases of sophisticated armed robberies, chieftain tussles, ritual-related murders and self-determination and others. (Doyle, 2001, Agbolor, 2015, Adeyemi & Bamigbose, 2018, Itodo, 2020).

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Globalisation has continued to shrink the world into a mere village enhancing information flow, shaping public opinion, influencing political stability, and development on one hand and creating challenges in managing narratives that may affect national security on the other hand. Protection of lives and property is of utmost concern to any responsible and responsive government of the World. This resonates the views and persuasions of renowned political thinkers like Niccolo Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. Where the government has shown itself incapable of discharging this responsibility, its legitimacy and moral authority is often called to question. No nation can be developed effectively where peace, security and stability are not assured (Igbinovia, 2014). Insecurity is the most insidious social ill affecting the globe and Nigeria inclusive. The Nigerian statehood seems too fragile with unending violence and insecurity (Ekweremmadu, 2016, Osadolor, 2019). The emergence of terrors, insurgents, bandits, Kidnappers and Cyber-criminals holding sway in different parts of the country has resulted in the atrocious loss of lives, livelihoods and investment (Aghedo, 2020). This has been exacerbated by Globalisation as issues like terrorism and organized crime transcends borders to gain prominence raising concerns for resource driven conflicts and potential threats to national security.

The deplorable condition of national security in Nigeria is graphically captured by Nigeria's ranking in the annual surveys on Global Peace Index (GPI) and Fragile State Index (FSI), using social, economic and political indicators to determine the level of stability of fragility in each country (Ikelegbe, 2021, Osadolor, 2019). Nigeria's best performance was in 2005 when it ranked

fifty –four (54) out of one hundred and seventy-seven (177) countries. Since then, particularly with the ascendancy of Boko Haram Terrorism and other related internal conflicts, Nigeria has been grouped with other conflicts-ridden countries that have high security alert category. These countries include Afghanistan, Iraq and Democratic Republic of Congo which have seen war in the recent past and still have a part of their territories swathed in acute conflicts (Ikelegbe, 2021, Osadolor, 2019). The Federal Government of Nigeria has made concerted efforts in the implementations of security sector strategies such as the National Defense Policy, the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) of 2016 developed by the Counter Terrorism Department in the office of the National Security Adviser, the National Policy on Public Safety and Security, an inter-ministerial and inter-disciplinary initiative under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Interior, and the National Cyber Security Strategy since 2015 yet Nigerians are still facing existential threats by way of kidnapping, and senseless killings. In view of these ugly narrative, peace and security of the country appears to be endangered. It is against this backdrop that this paper sought to investigate the challenges and prospects of Globalisation on Nigeria’s national security with the aim of proffering solutions to them.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to:

- I. identify the causes of insecurity in Nigeria
- II. Examine the effects of insecurity on Nigeria development;
- III. examine the impact of Globalisation on Nigeria’s national security
- IV. Determine the challenges of insecurity on Nigeria development and;

- V. make solutions on how to surmount the challenges of heightened insecurity in the country.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Globalisation

Globalisation is a process for advancement and increase in interaction among world’s countries and people facilitated by progressive technological changes in growth, communication, political and military power, skill and knowledge, as well as culture and value system. It is an interaction intertwined in a socio-political, economic and cultural ecosystem facilitated by government policies, private corporations, international agencies, treaties, conventions and civil society Organisations. The emergence of Globalisation in the 1980s, starred up a pivotal point, spotlighting technological advancements, and facilitating rapid financial transactions across borders (Omagu, 2012). Throughout the 20th century, Globalisation surpassed the confines of individual nation-states, symbolizing a shrinkage of the world and an amplified acknowledgement of global inter-connectivity (Adesina, 2012; Okoli, 2012 in Abdulsalami, Okeke, &Tajudeen,2023). Globalisation encompasses political, cultural, and environmental dimensions, which makes it multifaceted. Oji & Ozioko (2011) portrayed Globalisation as paradoxical, fostering both integration and division, eroding the significance of conventional borders while scrutinizing the idealization of globalism (Oji & Ozioko, 2011).

Presently, there exists a disparity between the perception of Globalisation as flourishing and the reality that its sustainable management necessitates substantial power and expertise. The pervasive nature of Globalisation contrasts starkly with the imperative for robust control and informed

guidance, revealing how it can breed unrest and bias in its outcomes (Udalla, 2012). Furthermore, Dunning (1998) viewed Globalisation as the multiplicity of linkages and interconnections among States and societies which make up the present world system. It describes the process by which events, decisions and activities in one part of the world have significant consequences for individuals and communities in quite distant parts of the globe or which operate worldwide. On the other hand, it also implies an intensification or interdependence among States and societies, which constitute the world community. In consonance with Dunning, Ajie & Ogbaji (2009) saw Globalisation as a comprehensive term for the emergency of a global society, in which economic, political, environmental and cultural events in one part of the world quickly have significance for people in other parts of the world. Globalisation is the result of advances in communication, transportation and information technologies. It describes the growing economic, political technological and cultural linkages that connect individuals, communities, businesses and governments around the world. Beyond this, Globalisation is changing the way the world looks and the way people look at the world by adopting a global outlook and mindset; people become more aware of their connections to other people in other societies (Giddens, 2001).

The era of Globalisation is characterized by greater integration, of the world in the economic, social cultural and political spheres. It is a process which intensifies the integration of the world economy and the people through technological advancement in several areas, particularly in the area of information technology. Scholars were also quick to recognize that though the process intensifies the integration of people and nations, it has

impacted on different countries and people in an unbalanced manner-marginalizing some and rewarding some with unequal distribution of benefits and losses (Khor, 2001, UNDP, 2001). Hassan (2021) asserted that the economic Globalisation and the performance of Nigeria's economy in all sectors, has simply made the country a contented loser and not a benefiting player. Omojuwa (2015) sees Globalisation as the growing intensive and extensive interdependence of people around the world. This definition draws attention to the increasing use of Information Communications Technology (ICT) and the free flow of goods and services under the World Trade Organisation (GATT agreements).

Security

Security is a very important issue in the survival of any nation. Without adequate security of lives and property, the system will be rife with lawlessness, chaos and eventual disintegration. This is why security is considered as a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests. Accordingly, the security of any State embodies a nation of order, or of the conditions necessary to maintaining the smooth functioning and reproduction of an existing society. McGrew (1988) asserted that the security of a nation is predicted on two central pillars. On one hand, it entails the maintenance and protection of the socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threats. On the other hand, it entails the promotion of a preferred international order which minimizes the threats to core values and strategic interests, as well as to the domestic order.

The Grand Strategy for National Security of Nigeria defines National Security as: "the aggregation of the security interests of all individuals, communities, ethnic

groups, political entities and institutions that inhabit the territory of Nigeria” The contemporary landscape of global peace faces unprecedented challenges stemming from the forces of Globalisation and technological advancements, which have transformed traditional security threats into globalized risks and interconnected criminal networks (Abdulsalami, et al., 2023). Consequently, the discourse surrounding Nigerian National Security has rapidly evolved, acknowledging the dynamic and unpredictable security environment the country navigates. This environment is fraught with various transnational threats that have the potential to escalate into more severe forms of instability. Consequently, this study underscored the profound impact of Globalisation on Nigeria's security.

The Nigeria security sector comprises the Armed Forces (The Army, the Navy and The Air Force), the intelligence agencies: State Security Service (SSS), The National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). The civilian security outfits-the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), the Nigeria Drug Law and Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), and the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) formerly known as Nigeria Prisons Service and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) among others.

PERCEIVED CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Several factors such as the ones discussed below has been attributed to the high spate of insecurity in Nigeria.

Poverty

Poverty has become domesticated in Nigeria and it is pervasive in the northern states particularly in the North-East geopolitical zone (Taraba, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, and

Borno states). The North-East zone spends 64.2% of their income on food and 71.9% of them are extremely poor (National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, 2020). Nigeria prides herself as the Giant of Africa, being the largest black nation in the world with over two hundred (200) million people (Olufemi, 2020). The irony is that Nigeria is also the world's capital of poor people with over half of the population neck-deep in multi-dimensional poverty (Komolafe, 2020). The implication of this stark reality is that many Nigerians cannot afford a decent education for their children at any level (Mansur, 2020). It means they are so preoccupied with survival; they do not have any time left for innovative thinking and to deliberate on nation-building and community development efforts. Frustrations emanating from lack of access to the basic needs of life have made many Nigerians to take solace in nefarious activities like human trafficking, prostitution, cyber-crimes, armed robbery or even joining extremist groups (Osarerenren, This Day, 2011p.18, Egonmwan, 2019).

Unemployment

Unemployment is another major cause of violence and insecurity in Nigeria. Majority of university graduates are not gainfully employed (Liou, BBC, Broadcast, P. 2011). The challenge of high level of unemployment (particularly among the youth) and persistent inequitable distribution of wealth compromises the country's welfare and adversely render youth vulnerable to organized crime, violent extremism and terrorist recruitment. “Unless Nigeria tackles the issue of unemployment, the unharnessed potentials of the youths might be negatively employed and throw the nation into avoidable crisis. In a population where over seventy (70) percent are below thirty (30) years implies that the youths have to be critically engaged in productive ventures to

tap from their positive side, which if not properly harnessed, could be channeled towards destructive purpose. To stem this negative tide, providing jobs for the youths could definitely push down crime wave in the country (Ahamefula, The Nation, 2011, p.8).

Religious and Ethnic Crises

Religious and ethnic crises are drivers of heightened insecurity in the country. Tribalism and religious fanaticism hinder national integration and have been elevated to stumbling blocks to an atmosphere of peace and harmony, security of lives and property. Simmering discontents across ethnic groups and religious factions continue to grow and high levels of resentment and grievances have caused a lack of cordiality, suspicion, fear and violent confrontations (Hassan, and Kukah, 2011).

Poor Border Control is another cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria has very porous frontiers where movement of individuals are largely not tracked resulting in a continuing threat of small arms proliferation and advanced weaponry as well as drug and human trafficking that promote violence. Smuggled weapons become available to militant and criminal groups and the porosity of Nigerian borders allows an influx of immigrants from neighboring countries like the Republic of Niger, Chad and Benin who are indoctrinated into terrorism and extremist ideologies (Jaja, 2011).

The Use of Thugs and Violence by the Political Elite is a leading cause of insecurity in the country. Since 1999, consequent upon full restoration of electoral democracy in Nigeria, there have been several reports and cases of politicians providing arms for thugs and unemployed youths for election purposes. In a desperate bid to gain or stay in power, some governorship and presidential

candidates have been known to recruit armies of political thugs and engage in clandestine and illegal efforts during election periods to perpetuate election violence and shape election outcomes. The sad pattern is that after elections, these thugs take to criminality all across the country because they are now largely outside the control of the maverick politicians who created them and have become a menace to the society (Jega, 2015).

Politicization of employment of personnel and the decline in the quality of functions performed by most of the security agencies.

This is another salient cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Associated Press (in Punch, September 2, 2011:2) revealed how incompetence, corruption and nepotism in the security agencies have helped to boost the activities of the fundamentalist Islamic Sects. According to the report, most of the units created by the government under a United States-assisted Anti-Terrorism programme Focal Point in 2007 to monitor terror suspects have been abandoned because most of the recruited personnel were friends of Government officials who saw the units as opportunity for their boys to go on oversea trips and make money (the Punch, September 2, 2011). The issue of corruption and nepotism were aptly captured by Agekameh (The Nation, 2011: 19) when he enthused that: "Standards are fallen due to partisan politics and people occupying sensitive positions in the security agencies tilt towards nepotistic tendencies". He further argued that the twin evils of godfatherism and favoritism have eaten deep into the entire gamut of the security agencies. Sycophancy rather than professionalism has been criterion for career advancement.

High incidence of drug abuse is among the triggers of insecurity in the country. Drug abuse subsists due to its cheap availability

and affordability. It causes cognitive derailment and distortion of reality among its addicts (National Security Summit Report, 2021). Psychiatrists have noted that drug abuse in terms of usage, abuse and trafficking has also been related to the four areas of international concern which are terrorism, illicit financial flows, organized crimes and corruption.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper adopted the dependency theory for its framework of analysis. The main thesis of the dependency theory is the impoverished nature of underdeveloped countries as a factor on the ongoing legacy of colonialism, slavery and resource extraction rather than the geographical location of the poor countries outside Western Europe, North America and Japan is the consequence of the emerging relations between political and economic formations that were an offshoot of capitalism's expansion. The relationship between rich and poor countries is asymmetrical. There are unequal power relations and controls in favour of rich countries, especially as the political and economic happenings in the developed world impact heavily on poor countries, while the reverse is the case when it comes to the impact and influence of the poor countries on rich countries. For instance, the low demand for foreign crude oil by the United States of America has crushed the economy of Nigeria.

This is due to over-dependence on oil for the survival of Nigeria as a nation. Consequently, the political relations and economic ties are to the advantage of the core countries as they witness continuous growth of political and economic power while the interactions are detrimental to poor countries and thus widen the gap between rich and poor countries. Poor countries are intentionally being underdeveloped by the nations of the West/Northern Semi-spheres. Capitalist

enterprise is a binary of opposites (the simultaneous generation of underdevelopment on one hand and economic development on the other) which manifest in good health policy, military power/resources, well-fed citizens, quality education and a high literacy rate with diversified and industrialized economics in rich countries. On the contrary, the poor countries are at the bottom of the ladder by any conventional socioeconomic measure, less educated, with a high poverty rate, fatal mortality rate and depending on non-productive economy and subsistent agriculture. The exploitation of poor countries is a joint venture between the countries of the West and the ruling elites in poor countries, because both groups are driven by selfish gains. Poor countries are thus exploited at national, regional and local levels, leaving the greater majority of the population in a vicious cycle of repeated exploitation and misery.

Global poverty is a factor of the inequality and absolute poverty experience at local level. For Amin (1976) uneven development necessarily results from the capitalist accumulation process and Globalisation had done nothing to redress uneven development and furthermore, the supposed unstoppable force of Globalisation is merely the current incarnation of imperialism. Poor countries are destinations for obsolete technology and this can adversely affect the quality of technological gadgets for maintaining national security. All the Security Service Chiefs and other senior officers are trained by the developed countries and as such they cannot be more competent than their trainers. Sophisticated weapons and machinery are produced by the developed countries and Nigeria is heavily dependent on the technical military assistance from these developed countries in order to combat the various security

challenges confronting it as the acclaimed Giant of Africa.

Information technology provides its products for application in theatres of modern warfare and as such, battles are becoming more fluid, complex, ambiguous and uncertain. Despite the utilization of technological tools in combating the heightened security challenges, insecurity remains the major concern and at the same time the biggest threat to the development of the Nigerian economy.

It is also the singular element which jeopardizes steady and remarkable economic, social and political development. It is on the basis of adopting a neo-liberal economic policy, with its potential tendency to widen the gap between the haves and the haves-not that national power elites are classified as agents of imperialism and the international system.

METHODOLOGY

The study is qualitative research and it relied on desk analysis. Data were collected from secondary source such as textbooks, newspapers, articles, journals and international treaties on human security and armed violence by United Nations and African Charter as well as International Law's Principles of Complementary and Zero Impunity and conclusion was arrived at deductively.

IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON NIGERIA NATIONAL SECURITY

Alexis (1999) opined that Globalisation is often portrayed as a universal blessing that will ensure material welfare and progress for all mankind. Evidences had however shown that Globalisation is a two-edged sword, with winners and losers, and the capacity to produce gains for some countries at the expense of others. Kissinger (1999) had

contended that the essence of Globalisation is to create level playing field and bring benefits to all relevant players and subsequently ensure international stability. The negative aspects of Globalisation as it affects developing countries such as Nigeria has resulted in rapid and unprecedented adverse economic changes, the disappearance of local industries as well as the loss of local control over economic policies and national development. For more than two decades now, many developing economies have been in deep crises. Some of the manifestations of these crises as have been observed in Nigeria, include unprecedented distress in the banking sector, corporate bankruptcies, job losses, increased fiscal burdens, depletion of foreign exchange, depressed economic activities, heavy domestic and foreign debt burdens, social and political turbulence and so on.

This development has led to controversies as to the desirability or otherwise of Globalisation. The major argument is that Globalisation appears to be inconsistent with sustainable development (Pearce, 1996, Khor, 1997). Nwolise (2006) explained that security is an all-encompassing concept. This implied that the territory must be secured by a network of armed forces of the sovereignty which in turn must be protected by the military, police and citizens themselves. The people must not only be secured from external attacks but also from divesting consequences of internal upheavals, unemployment, hunger, starvation, diseases, ignorance, homelessness, environmental degradation, pollution and socio-economic injustices. In his analysis of national security in Nigeria, Dike, (2010), affirmed that Nigeria's security is based on a holistic view which sees the citizens as the primary beneficiary of every security and developmental deliverable that the State can offer. The national security in Nigeria is an encapsulation of two (2) broad

elements that is State security and human security.

The primary objective of Nigeria national security is to strengthen all-round security in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to advance her interests and to contain instability, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance genuine development, progress and growth and improve the welfare and well-being and quality of life of every citizen. The second aspect of the nation's national security entails the preservation of the safety of Nigerians at home and abroad and the protection of the sovereignty of the country's integrity and its interests. The task of guaranteeing human security is enshrined in the Constitutions of nations around the world. In Nigeria, sections 214 and 215 of the constitution captured the role of Nigeria Police Force in national security while sections 217 and 218 of same Constitution as amended clearly spelt out the functions of the Armed Forces of the Federation as;

Defending Nigeria from external aggression, maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land, sea and air, suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the President, but subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly, and performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly (FGN Constitution, 1999).

One dominant interpretation of the upsurge of Islamic fundamentalism is that it is a response to the failure of western civilization which Globalisation has attempted to impose on the Arabs and the rest of the world. In other words, global insecurity is linked with insurgency that can be traced back to the ills of Globalisation propagated by Western Europe (Akinyemi 2013, Ogbonnaya, 2013, Uchendu, 2012). Hence, the failure of

Globalisation leads to a rejection of Western civilization and recourse to purist Islam that can guarantee justice and eliminate oppression and inequalities (Richard, 2014). Boko Haram in Nigeria is translated to mean "Western Education is Evil," which suggests that the terrorist movement is directed more at the West than a single political order. Although the Boko Haram Terrorism is originally assumed to be a creation of the political elite, it is the extreme poverty in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria that transformed it into a mass movement (Uchendu, 2012).

Some scholars have interpreted the terrorist attacks of Al-Qaeda, ISIS and Boko Haram as a counter-force to the hegemony of Western Civilization promoted by Globalisation. Today Jihad is the world's foremost sources of terrorism inspiring a worldwide campaign of violence by self-proclaimed Jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Armed Islamic Group, Al-Gama'a, Al-Islamiya, Hamas etc (Ojumu, 2023).

CHALLENGES OF GLOBALISATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Many aspects of Globalisation now combine to increase the dangers of a variety of transnational threats from weapons proliferation, to cyber attacks, ethnic violence, environmental degradation, maintenance of public order and safety of lives and property and the spread of infectious diseases. This situation necessitated the continued adoption of various strategies, initiatives and counter-measures, all aimed at effectively controlling crime in the society, with a view to overcoming these challenges. Despite some of the conventional crime control strategies that are still being used today (conducting raids, stop-and-search process, nipping and

raiding of and flash-points, crime intelligence gathering, use of crime statistics, crime mapping and graph, police supervision of convicted criminals, road blocks and vulnerable points, cordon-and-search-operations, surveillance and intelligence gathering among others) the perception of the Nigerian people is that crime is still on the increase (Okeke, 2022). The key driver of Globalisation is information, and communication technology (ICT).

Technology is a double-edged sword. The current prevalence of criminal activities in Nigeria could be traced to access of one form of technology or another, which is necessary for the application of counter-measures to effectively respond to the threats and for informed policy formulation and guided legislation on policing and security by the executive and the legislative arms of government. Emplacement of sustainable institutional and legal frameworks to support the efforts of the security community lies with government. Government policies, legislation and regulations control who owns what kind of technology and its approved usage. Thus, every responsive government appreciates the fact that a useful piece of technology on one hand could be a harmful tool on another. The bottom-line is that criminals embrace and cherish innovations in science and technology in the same manner the security agencies need such technologies for crime control operations. The much-celebrated social media platforms are good examples of how the same technology could mean different things to different people. While the social media platforms such as: Facebook, Whats-app, Twitter, Instagram and so on, have profoundly improved the economic and social lives of the citizens, certain aggrieved individual (whether rightly or wrongly) are increasingly using the innovations as tools to perpetrate violence and other unlawful acts.

These platforms are also deployed to create and disseminate fake news to confuse the public, hence, it is difficult to determine the preponderance of right information from the social media platforms. The credibility of political parties and their candidates, and even the electoral systems are being compromised on the basis of manipulated information that is sourced from these social media platforms. The vulnerable segments of the population are also turning to them for information, rather than the traditional sources of news/information, this is fast becoming a global phenomenon. Nations have been forced to divert huge resources to counter threats which originate from social media networking, and which also have aspects on policing (Onuoha & Ogbonnaya, 2019). It is pertinent to take the Global System for Mobile (GSM) technology and kidnapping in Nigeria as clear example. The Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication, debuted in Nigeria in August, 2001. It has all the attractions and conveniences or interpersonal communication for doing business. Within ten years of its introduction, Nigeria became one of the fastest growing telecommunication markets in Africa due to its demographic dividends but sadly it is also not currently occupying enviable position in the global digital rankings because of limited cyber infrastructure.

“It is not in contention that the novel but revolutionary communication tool has improved lives, impacted on the economy in diverse ways and greatly enhanced interpersonal and group communications both within and outside the country”. This sounds fantastic as far as the socioeconomic development of the nation is concerned, and even more strides have been made to date. However, the mobile phone has also become a tool of horror in the country due to the activities of kidnapers. Kidnapping is one

crime that feeds on this technology. But the fact remains that G.S.M is just a tool for facilitating the crime, the motivating factors exists. The old fixed-line telephone system did not have the fluidity of the GSM, because proper catalogues and directories of subscribers were not kept by Nigeria Tele-Communication Limited (NITEL) with the telephone numbers, names and full addresses of subscribers. Whereas now, the telephone numbers, names and full addresses of subscribers are being updated and monitored by the regulatory authority-Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC).

But with the Global System for Mobile (GSM) technology, the network providers are too busy selling the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) to whoever comes to them as a customer with strict adherence to biometric details which can be accessed by both Security and Anti-corruption Agencies in the event of any criminal investigations. Currently, the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria is so deep and vast that no one feels safe any longer and this has affected our ways of life. On daily basis, there are serious concerns among knowledgeable netizens from different socio-cultural and professional backgrounds that 21st Century lifestyles are covertly foregrounded by the pervasive influences of Globalisation and these bear high risks on personal and economic security via privacy violations, personal data theft, industrial espionage, cyber-hacking, online child abuse and exploitation (Bala & Quedraogo, 2018).

PROSPECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Globalisation through the instrumentality of information and communication technology can improve the operations of Nigeria's security agencies in the following ways;-

a) Home Alarm System

This will greatly contribute to reduction in the prevalence of break-and-enter crime in the country.

b) Improve Street Lighting

This can contribute to community safety and control of crime in the area of improved visibility and by increasing the risk of detecting and recognizing criminals. This technology would help to reduce crime its fear in the community.

c) Close-Circuit Television (CCTV)

This technology is mainly used for surveillance. It is a system in which video cameras are connected in a close-circuit loop, with the images produced being sent to a central monitor. Video surveillance technology recognizes license plates on moving vehicles and also monitors traffic flows and apprehends people violating traffic laws. CCTV aims at increasing the perceived risk of being apprehended which is a factor for the people to behave in a rational manner.

d) Setting up Websites for Security Agencies

The significance of establishing websites for the security agencies in the country cannot be overemphasized. Inherent in modern security practices is the need to reach out to the communities served in order to control criminal activities in them. Today's most effective communication tools are the internet and the use of social media. Crime prevention campaigns, mailing out crime newsletters on crime control can be done easily by law enforcement agencies.

e) Surveillance and Detection Technology

It is one of the latest technologies to detect crime and all criminal activities in the country. Portable alarm systems are

now available for crime detection and reporting.

f) Location and Tracking Technologies

A variety of technologies for location and tracking have already emerged in most developed countries. It is generally called LOJACK system and involves a concealed transmitter in the chassis of an automobile, which facilitates the stolen vehicle's recovery.

This technology has been extended to cellular smart phones it enables one to identify their precise location in the event of theft. It also enables the law-enforcement personnel to determine location from which an emergency call is made and also to locate suspects. Personal Location System Technology is also used in monitoring the movement of convicted criminals or persons on court bail or probation, or individual who may be subject to court restraining orders.

g) Vapour Detector Technology is also used for bomb detection at airports or motor parks and worship places. New technology that detects concealed weapons known as Low-Level scattered x-ray and computer image processing, millimeter wave and long-wave infrared receivers are now being used to control crime in public places.

h) Drug Detection Technology

It has become a fertile area for technological development. The use of infrared spectroscopy is an addition to sniffer dogs. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a non-invasive means of identifying contraband and other concealed prohibited items.

i) DNA Profiling and Testing Technology

One of the most significant developments in Forensic Science since the advent of

Biometric system is DNA profiling and testing. Not only this technology been used to conclusively establish the guilt of a suspect, it has also served to exonerate subjects of investigation and even persons who have been convicted in the court of law of crimes which they did not commit.

j) Ballisto-Cardiogram Technology

This technology has given rise to what is known as "Heartbreak Detectors" which can find and locate persons hiding in vehicles. It is also useful in the prevention of escapees from lawful custody.

k) Geographic Information System (GIS) Technology

One of the most influential tools facilitating exploration of the spatial distribution of crime is GIS technology. The fundamental strength of GIS technology over traditional crime analytical tools and methods is the ability to visualize, analyze and explain the criminal activity in a spatial context. GIS technology will always provide geographical advantage for law enforcement enterprise information system by turning data into actionable knowledge. A GIS technology combines layers of data about a location to give you a better understanding of that location and what is occurring around it. It is used also to analyze crime to detect emerging patterns, examines the best location of conduct crime surveillance for a recent crime series or establish a perimeter for a crime scene or natural disaster. GIS is also used to provide police management team with a comprehensive view for long term decision-making.

l) Biometric Intelligence-led Policing Technology

This includes finger print identification, palm-print identification, facial

recognition and multi module called Bio-fuse Cataloguing. It involves putting two or more bio-metrics together so that when there is a hit on either biometric, the results for both are displayed.

CONCLUSION

This paper stressed that Globalisation has brought the compression of space and time so that people from various areas are able to interact with others without barriers. This makes the world closely knitted and interactions among diverse people in it look like those within a village square. It is the contention of this paper that technology-inspired Globalisation in National security not only promotes development but also heightened the level of insecurity in Nigeria as has been made visible in the sophistication of criminal activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- Reducing poverty and unemployment to redress socioeconomic development through a focus on infrastructure and jobs creation drive and initiative by the Federal, State and Local governments.
- Equitable distribution of resources: This is because exclusion creates fertile ground for mobilizing group grievances to violence especially in areas with weak state capacity or legitimacy or in the context of human rights abuses.
- Strengthening and instructing widespread use of the centralized national criminal database by the Nigeria Police Force and mandate access for other security agencies including resources to ensure this can be done. This should modernize the national finger prints database.
- Deploy Early Warning Systems nationwide including installation of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) and

other surveillance, Satellite and electronic equipment along major highways, public places, major cities and borders.

- Nigeria must take major steps to control the flow of illegal arms into the country and strengthen the control of our borders to detect and seize any illegal shipment of arms into the country, and arrest and prosecute any person associate with the illegal flow of arms into the country.
- Strengthen the Intelligence Unit with the Nigeria Immigration Service to generate useful analytics from immigration data (cross-border movements) and feed into the central intelligence pool to be used by the State Security Service (SSS) and National Intelligence Agency in their operations and Cryptographic warfare including crypto-analysis aimed at intercepting enemies' communications while defeating any attempts to intercepts the nation's own.
- Government authorities should establish the use of online reporting platform for crime reporting. All security officers should be trained in the use of modern technology as part of new way of working.

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GLOBALISATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

The paper examined Globalisation and National security in Nigeria: challenges and Prospect. The paper sought to investigate the challenges and prospects of Globalisation on Nigeria's national security with the aim of proffering solutions to them. Dependency theory was used as its framework of analysis. Desk analysis technique was adopted to collect secondary data / materials from books, documentaries and other relevant materials. The paper underscores that Globalisation has shaped Nigeria's security landscape since 1980s. It further revealed that the impact of Globalisation on national security in Nigeria is both positive and negative as information and communication technologies are the drivers of Globalisation and development and also the most potent threats to Nigeria's national security. The negative aspects of Globalisation has resulted in deep crises manifested in rapid and unprecedented disappearance of local industries, loss of local control over economic policies and national development, job losses, increased fiscal burdens, depletion of foreign exchange, depressed economic activities, among others. These

findings accent the complex interaction between Globalisation and security dynamics. It concluded that technology-inspired Globalisation is a double-edged sword which portends dangers and dividends for national security and Nigeria is said to be a loser in the international politics of Globalisation. The paper thus recommended poverty and unemployment reductions and massive investments in the manufacturing of home-grown technological tools by the Nigeria's security agencies among others.

Key Words: Globalisation; National Security; Challenges; Prospects; Al-Qaeda

INTRODUCTION

Across the world particularly in recent times, Organisational and strategic national security discourse has shifted from traditional to contemporary and complicated warfare; with the modern trend of terrorism being strategically organized and systematically financed through international network of terrorist groups with religious or ideological undertones. The attack on the New York Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, in the United States by Al-Qaeda has been recorded as the deadliest in the modern era of international terrorism, followed by the Hamas attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, resulting in the capture and killing of approximately one thousand four hundred (1,400) innocent civilians (Ojumu, 2023). These international terrorists attack has taken the Centre- stage in contemporary international space. Continents, regions, States among others are thus battling directly and indirectly to improve their domestic and international security status. It stands to be reasoned that security unavoidably would attract a major policy challenge to decision makers as well as communities and groups around the globe. The concept of security

remains a complex phenomenon that unarguably require not just counter-measures to deal with but concrete preventive and resilient decisions to manage in order to avoid loss of lives and properties (Uchendu, 2012, Akinyeni, 2013, Ogbonnaya, 2013).

Since the 1980s when the era of Globalisation started, growing interdependence subsisted due to the fact that uncertainties in national security management has given it a new meaning, scope, perspective and dimension. Consequently, policy makers in different countries around the globe have gradually come to recognize that the protection of states and their citizens require a fully integrated multi-dimensional and comprehensive approach to national security issues, which directly influences civil, social, cultural, political, economic and environmental sectors of the society. Such recognition has precipitated a number of measures to deal with national security and Nigeria is not an exception (Dharam 1994, Barikor, 1999, Ukase, 2018, Adebolu, 2018). These measures are encapsulated in the signing of regional and international security pacts by the African Union, the United states and the European Union to give support to Nigeria and other African Nations in the fight against terrorism. Nigeria as a major player in global affairs and a leading nation in Africa has its fair share of insecurity emanating from diverse sources such as: Boko Haram Terrorism, Banditry, Fulani Herdsmen-Farmers' clashes, poverty-induced militancy, economic-induced kidnappings for rival cult groups' killings, growing cases of sophisticated armed robberies, chieftain tussles, ritual-related murders and self-determination and others. (Doyle, 2001, Agbolor, 2015, Adeyemi & Bamigbose, 2018, Itodo, 2020).

STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Globalisation has continued to shrink the world into a mere village enhancing information flow, shaping public opinion, influencing political stability, and development on one hand and creating challenges in managing narratives that may affect national security on the other hand. Protection of lives and property is of utmost concern to any responsible and responsive government of the World. This resonates the views and persuasions of renowned political thinkers like Niccolo Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. Where the government has shown itself incapable of discharging this responsibility, its legitimacy and moral authority is often called to question. No nation can be developed effectively where peace, security and stability are not assured (Igbinovia, 2014). Insecurity is the most insidious social ill affecting the globe and Nigeria inclusive. The Nigerian statehood seems too fragile with unending violence and insecurity (Ekweremmadu, 2016, Osadolor, 2019). The emergence of terrors, insurgents, bandits, Kidnappers and Cyber-criminals holding sway in different parts of the country has resulted in the atrocious loss of lives, livelihoods and investment (Aghedo, 2020). This has been exacerbated by Globalisation as issues like terrorism and organized crime transcends borders to gain prominence raising concerns for resource driven conflicts and potential threats to national security.

The deplorable condition of national security in Nigeria is graphically captured by Nigeria's ranking in the annual surveys on Global Peace Index (GPI) and Fragile State Index (FSI), using social, economic and political indicators to determine the level of stability of fragility in each country (Ikelegbe, 2021, Osadolor, 2019). Nigeria's best performance was in 2005 when it ranked

fifty –four (54) out of one hundred and seventy-seven (177) countries. Since then, particularly with the ascendancy of Boko Haram Terrorism and other related internal conflicts, Nigeria has been grouped with other conflicts-ridden countries that have high security alert category. These countries include Afghanistan, Iraq and Democratic Republic of Congo which have seen war in the recent past and still have a part of their territories swathed in acute conflicts (Ikelegbe, 2021, Osadolor, 2019). The Federal Government of Nigeria has made concerted efforts in the implementations of security sector strategies such as the National Defense Policy, the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) of 2016 developed by the Counter Terrorism Department in the office of the National Security Adviser, the National Policy on Public Safety and Security, an inter-ministerial and inter-disciplinary initiative under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Interior, and the National Cyber Security Strategy since 2015 yet Nigerians are still facing existential threats by way of kidnapping, and senseless killings. In view of these ugly narrative, peace and security of the country appears to be endangered. It is against this backdrop that this paper sought to investigate the challenges and prospects of Globalisation on Nigeria's national security with the aim of proffering solutions to them.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to:

- I. identify the causes of insecurity in Nigeria
- II. Examine the effects of insecurity on Nigeria development;
- III. examine the impact of Globalisation on Nigeria's national security
- IV. Determine the challenges of insecurity on Nigeria development and;

- V. make solutions on how to surmount the challenges of heightened insecurity in the country.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Globalisation

Globalisation is a process for advancement and increase in interaction among world's countries and people facilitated by progressive technological changes in growth, communication, political and military power, skill and knowledge, as well as culture and value system. It is an interaction intertwined in a socio-political, economic and cultural ecosystem facilitated by government policies, private corporations, international agencies, treaties, conventions and civil society Organisations. The emergence of Globalisation in the 1980s, starred up a pivotal point, spotlighting technological advancements, and facilitating rapid financial transactions across borders (Omagu, 2012). Throughout the 20th century, Globalisation surpassed the confines of individual nation-states, symbolizing a shrinkage of the world and an amplified acknowledgement of global inter-connectivity (Adesina, 2012; Okoli, 2012 in Abdulsalami, Okeke, &Tajudeen,2023). Globalisation encompasses political, cultural, and environmental dimensions, which makes it multifaceted. Oji & Ozioko (2011) portrayed Globalisation as paradoxical, fostering both integration and division, eroding the significance of conventional borders while scrutinizing the idealization of globalism (Oji & Ozioko, 2011).

Presently, there exists a disparity between the perception of Globalisation as flourishing and the reality that its sustainable management necessitates substantial power and expertise. The pervasive nature of Globalisation contrasts starkly with the imperative for robust control and informed

guidance, revealing how it can breed unrest and bias in its outcomes (Udalla, 2012). Furthermore, Dunning (1998) viewed Globalisation as the multiplicity of linkages and interconnections among States and societies which make up the present world system. It describes the process by which events, decisions and activities in one part of the world have significant consequences for individuals and communities in quite distant parts of the globe or which operate worldwide. On the other hand, it also implies an intensification or interdependence among States and societies, which constitute the world community. In consonance with Dunning, Ajie & Ogbaji (2009) saw Globalisation as a comprehensive term for the emergency of a global society, in which economic, political, environmental and cultural events in one part of the world quickly have significance for people in other parts of the world. Globalisation is the result of advances in communication, transportation and information technologies. It describes the growing economic, political technological and cultural linkages that connect individuals, communities, businesses and governments around the world. Beyond this, Globalisation is changing the way the world looks and the way people look at the world by adopting a global outlook and mindset; people become more aware of their connections to other people in other societies (Giddens, 2001).

The era of Globalisation is characterized by greater integration, of the world in the economic, social cultural and political spheres. It is a process which intensifies the integration of the world economy and the people through technological advancement in several areas, particularly in the area of information technology. Scholars were also quick to recognize that though the process intensifies the integration of people and nations, it has

impacted on different countries and people in an unbalanced manner-marginalizing some and rewarding some with unequal distribution of benefits and losses (Khor, 2001, UNDP, 2001). Hassan (2021) asserted that the economic Globalisation and the performance of Nigeria's economy in all sectors, has simply made the country a contented loser and not a benefiting player. Omojuwa (2015) sees Globalisation as the growing intensive and extensive interdependence of people around the world. This definition draws attention to the increasing use of Information Communications Technology (ICT) and the free flow of goods and services under the World Trade Organisation (GATT agreements).

Security

Security is a very important issue in the survival of any nation. Without adequate security of lives and property, the system will be rife with lawlessness, chaos and eventual disintegration. This is why security is considered as a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interests. Accordingly, the security of any State embodies a nation of order, or of the conditions necessary to maintaining the smooth functioning and reproduction of an existing society. McGrew (1988) asserted that the security of a nation is predicted on two central pillars. On one hand, it entails the maintenance and protection of the socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threats. On the other hand, it entails the promotion of a preferred international order which minimizes the threats to core values and strategic interests, as well as to the domestic order.

The Grand Strategy for National Security of Nigeria defines National Security as: "the aggregation of the security interests of all individuals, communities, ethnic

groups, political entities and institutions that inhabit the territory of Nigeria” The contemporary landscape of global peace faces unprecedented challenges stemming from the forces of Globalisation and technological advancements, which have transformed traditional security threats into globalized risks and interconnected criminal networks (Abdulsalami, et al., 2023). Consequently, the discourse surrounding Nigerian National Security has rapidly evolved, acknowledging the dynamic and unpredictable security environment the country navigates. This environment is fraught with various transnational threats that have the potential to escalate into more severe forms of instability. Consequently, this study underscored the profound impact of Globalisation on Nigeria's security.

The Nigeria security sector comprises the Armed Forces (The Army, the Navy and The Air Force), the intelligence agencies: State Security Service (SSS), The National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). The civilian security outfits-the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), the Nigeria Drug Law and Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), and the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) formerly known as Nigeria Prisons Service and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) among others.

PERCEIVED CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Several factors such as the ones discussed below has been attributed to the high spate of insecurity in Nigeria.

Poverty

Poverty has become domesticated in Nigeria and it is pervasive in the northern states particularly in the North-East geopolitical zone (Taraba, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, and

Borno states). The North-East zone spends 64.2% of their income on food and 71.9% of them are extremely poor (National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, 2020). Nigeria prides herself as the Giant of Africa, being the largest black nation in the world with over two hundred (200) million people (Olufemi, 2020). The irony is that Nigeria is also the world's capital of poor people with over half of the population neck-deep in multi-dimensional poverty (Komolafe, 2020). The implication of this stark reality is that many Nigerians cannot afford a decent education for their children at any level (Mansur, 2020). It means they are so preoccupied with survival; they do not have any time left for innovative thinking and to deliberate on nation-building and community development efforts. Frustrations emanating from lack of access to the basic needs of life have made many Nigerians to take solace in nefarious activities like human trafficking, prostitution, cyber-crimes, armed robbery or even joining extremist groups (Osarerenren, This Day, 2011p.18, Egonmwan, 2019).

Unemployment

Unemployment is another major cause of violence and insecurity in Nigeria. Majority of university graduates are not gainfully employed (Liou, BBC, Broadcast, P. 2011). The challenge of high level of unemployment (particularly among the youth) and persistent inequitable distribution of wealth compromises the country's welfare and adversely render youth vulnerable to organized crime, violent extremism and terrorist recruitment. “Unless Nigeria tackles the issue of unemployment, the unharnessed potentials of the youths might be negatively employed and throw the nation into avoidable crisis. In a population where over seventy (70) percent are below thirty (30) years implies that the youths have to be critically engaged in productive ventures to

tap from their positive side, which if not properly harnessed, could be channeled towards destructive purpose. To stem this negative tide, providing jobs for the youths could definitely push down crime wave in the country (Ahamefula, The Nation, 2011, p.8).

Religious and Ethnic Crises

Religious and ethnic crises are drivers of heightened insecurity in the country. Tribalism and religious fanaticism hinder national integration and have been elevated to stumbling blocks to an atmosphere of peace and harmony, security of lives and property. Simmering discontents across ethnic groups and religious factions continue to grow and high levels of resentment and grievances have caused a lack of cordiality, suspicion, fear and violent confrontations (Hassan, and Kukah, 2011).

Poor Border Control is another cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria has very porous frontiers where movement of individuals are largely not tracked resulting in a continuing threat of small arms proliferation and advanced weaponry as well as drug and human trafficking that promote violence. Smuggled weapons become available to militant and criminal groups and the porosity of Nigerian borders allows an influx of immigrants from neighboring countries like the Republic of Niger, Chad and Benin who are indoctrinated into terrorism and extremist ideologies (Jaja, 2011).

The Use of Thugs and Violence by the Political Elite is a leading cause of insecurity in the country. Since 1999, consequent upon full restoration of electoral democracy in Nigeria, there have been several reports and cases of politicians providing arms for thugs and unemployed youths for election purposes. In a desperate bid to gain or stay in power, some governorship and presidential

candidates have been known to recruit armies of political thugs and engage in clandestine and illegal efforts during election periods to perpetuate election violence and shape election outcomes. The sad pattern is that after elections, these thugs take to criminality all across the country because they are now largely outside the control of the maverick politicians who created them and have become a menace to the society (Jega, 2015).

Politicization of employment of personnel and the decline in the quality of functions performed by most of the security agencies.

This is another salient cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Associated Press (in Punch, September 2, 2011:2) revealed how incompetence, corruption and nepotism in the security agencies have helped to boost the activities of the fundamentalist Islamic Sects. According to the report, most of the units created by the government under a United States-assisted Anti-Terrorism programme Focal Point in 2007 to monitor terror suspects have been abandoned because most of the recruited personnel were friends of Government officials who saw the units as opportunity for their boys to go on oversea trips and make money (the Punch, September 2, 2011). The issue of corruption and nepotism were aptly captured by Agekameh (The Nation, 2011: 19) when he enthused that: "Standards are fallen due to partisan politics and people occupying sensitive positions in the security agencies tilt towards nepotistic tendencies". He further argued that the twin evils of godfatherism and favoritism have eaten deep into the entire gamut of the security agencies. Sycophancy rather than professionalism has been criterion for career advancement.

High incidence of drug abuse is among the triggers of insecurity in the country. Drug abuse subsists due to its cheap availability

and affordability. It causes cognitive derailment and distortion of reality among its addicts (National Security Summit Report, 2021). Psychiatrists have noted that drug abuse in terms of usage, abuse and trafficking has also been related to the four areas of international concern which are terrorism, illicit financial flows, organized crimes and corruption.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper adopted the dependency theory for its framework of analysis. The main thesis of the dependency theory is the impoverished nature of underdeveloped countries as a factor on the ongoing legacy of colonialism, slavery and resource extraction rather than the geographical location of the poor countries outside Western Europe, North America and Japan is the consequence of the emerging relations between political and economic formations that were an offshoot of capitalism's expansion. The relationship between rich and poor countries is asymmetrical. There are unequal power relations and controls in favour of rich countries, especially as the political and economic happenings in the developed world impact heavily on poor countries, while the reverse is the case when it comes to the impact and influence of the poor countries on rich countries. For instance, the low demand for foreign crude oil by the United States of America has crushed the economy of Nigeria.

This is due to over-dependence on oil for the survival of Nigeria as a nation. Consequently, the political relations and economic ties are to the advantage of the core countries as they witness continuous growth of political and economic power while the interactions are detrimental to poor countries and thus widen the gap between rich and poor countries. Poor countries are intentionally being underdeveloped by the nations of the West/Northern Semi-spheres. Capitalist

enterprise is a binary of opposites (the simultaneous generation of underdevelopment on one hand and economic development on the other) which manifest in good health policy, military power/resources, well-fed citizens, quality education and a high literacy rate with diversified and industrialized economics in rich countries. On the contrary, the poor countries are at the bottom of the ladder by any conventional socioeconomic measure, less educated, with a high poverty rate, fatal mortality rate and depending on non-productive economy and subsistent agriculture. The exploitation of poor countries is a joint venture between the countries of the West and the ruling elites in poor countries, because both groups are driven by selfish gains. Poor countries are thus exploited at national, regional and local levels, leaving the greater majority of the population in a vicious cycle of repeated exploitation and misery.

Global poverty is a factor of the inequality and absolute poverty experience at local level. For Amin (1976) uneven development necessarily results from the capitalist accumulation process and Globalisation had done nothing to redress uneven development and furthermore, the supposed unstoppable force of Globalisation is merely the current incarnation of imperialism. Poor countries are destinations for obsolete technology and this can adversely affect the quality of technological gadgets for maintaining national security. All the Security Service Chiefs and other senior officers are trained by the developed countries and as such they cannot be more competent than their trainers. Sophisticated weapons and machinery are produced by the developed countries and Nigeria is heavily dependent on the technical military assistance from these developed countries in order to combat the various security

challenges confronting it as the acclaimed Giant of Africa.

Information technology provides its products for application in theatres of modern warfare and as such, battles are becoming more fluid, complex, ambiguous and uncertain. Despite the utilization of technological tools in combating the heightened security challenges, insecurity remains the major concern and at the same time the biggest threat to the development of the Nigerian economy.

It is also the singular element which jeopardizes steady and remarkable economic, social and political development. It is on the basis of adopting a neo-liberal economic policy, with its potential tendency to widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots that national power elites are classified as agents of imperialism and the international system.

METHODOLOGY

The study is qualitative research and it relied on desk analysis. Data were collected from secondary source such as textbooks, newspapers, articles, journals and international treaties on human security and armed violence by United Nations and African Charter as well as International Law's Principles of Complementary and Zero Impunity and conclusion was arrived at deductively.

IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON NIGERIA NATIONAL SECURITY

Alexis (1999) opined that Globalisation is often portrayed as a universal blessing that will ensure material welfare and progress for all mankind. Evidences had however shown that Globalisation is a two-edged sword, with winners and losers, and the capacity to produce gains for some countries at the expense of others. Kissinger (1999) had

contended that the essence of Globalisation is to create level playing field and bring benefits to all relevant players and subsequently ensure international stability. The negative aspects of Globalisation as it affects developing countries such as Nigeria has resulted in rapid and unprecedented adverse economic changes, the disappearance of local industries as well as the loss of local control over economic policies and national development. For more than two decades now, many developing economies have been in deep crises. Some of the manifestations of these crises as have been observed in Nigeria, include unprecedented distress in the banking sector, corporate bankruptcies, job losses, increased fiscal burdens, depletion of foreign exchange, depressed economic activities, heavy domestic and foreign debt burdens, social and political turbulence and so on.

This development has led to controversies as to the desirability or otherwise of Globalisation. The major argument is that Globalisation appears to be inconsistent with sustainable development (Pearce, 1996, Khor, 1997). Nwolise (2006) explained that security is an all-encompassing concept. This implied that the territory must be secured by a network of armed forces of the sovereignty which in turn must be protected by the military, police and citizens themselves. The people must not only be secured from external attacks but also from divesting consequences of internal upheavals, unemployment, hunger, starvation, diseases, ignorance, homelessness, environmental degradation, pollution and socio-economic injustices. In his analysis of national security in Nigeria, Dike, (2010), affirmed that Nigeria's security is based on a holistic view which sees the citizens as the primary beneficiary of every security and developmental deliverable that the State can offer. The national security in Nigeria is an encapsulation of two (2) broad

elements that is State security and human security.

The primary objective of Nigeria national security is to strengthen all-round security in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to advance her interests and to contain instability, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance genuine development, progress and growth and improve the welfare and well-being and quality of life of every citizen. The second aspect of the nation's national security entails the preservation of the safety of Nigerians at home and abroad and the protection of the sovereignty of the country's integrity and its interests. The task of guaranteeing human security is enshrined in the Constitutions of nations around the world. In Nigeria, sections 214 and 215 of the constitution captured the role of Nigeria Police Force in national security while sections 217 and 218 of same Constitution as amended clearly spelt out the functions of the Armed Forces of the Federation as;

Defending Nigeria from external aggression, maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land, sea and air, suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the President, but subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly, and performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly (FGN Constitution, 1999).

One dominant interpretation of the upsurge of Islamic fundamentalism is that it is a response to the failure of western civilization which Globalisation has attempted to impose on the Arabs and the rest of the world. In other words, global insecurity is linked with insurgency that can be traced back to the ills of Globalisation propagated by Western Europe (Akinyemi 2013, Ogbonnaya, 2013, Uchendu, 2012). Hence, the failure of

Globalisation leads to a rejection of Western civilization and recourse to purist Islam that can guarantee justice and eliminate oppression and inequalities (Richard, 2014). Boko Haram in Nigeria is translated to mean "Western Education is Evil," which suggests that the terrorist movement is directed more at the West than a single political order. Although the Boko Haram Terrorism is originally assumed to be a creation of the political elite, it is the extreme poverty in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria that transformed it into a mass movement (Uchendu, 2012).

Some scholars have interpreted the terrorist attacks of Al-Qaeda, ISIS and Boko Haram as a counter-force to the hegemony of Western Civilization promoted by Globalisation. Today Jihad is the world's foremost sources of terrorism inspiring a worldwide campaign of violence by self-proclaimed Jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Armed Islamic Group, Al-Gama'a, Al-Islamiya, Hamas etc (Ojumu, 2023).

CHALLENGES OF GLOBALISATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Many aspects of Globalisation now combine to increase the dangers of a variety of transnational threats from weapons proliferation, to cyber attacks, ethnic violence, environmental degradation, maintenance of public order and safety of lives and property and the spread of infectious diseases. This situation necessitated the continued adoption of various strategies, initiatives and counter-measures, all aimed at effectively controlling crime in the society, with a view to overcoming these challenges. Despite some of the conventional crime control strategies that are still being used today (conducting raids, stop-and-search process, nipping and

raiding of and flash-points, crime intelligence gathering, use of crime statistics, crime mapping and graph, police supervision of convicted criminals, road blocks and vulnerable points, cordon-and-search-operations, surveillance and intelligence gathering among others) the perception of the Nigerian people is that crime is still on the increase (Okeke, 2022). The key driver of Globalisation is information, and communication technology (ICT).

Technology is a double-edged sword. The current prevalence of criminal activities in Nigeria could be traced to access of one form of technology or another, which is necessary for the application of counter-measures to effectively respond to the threats and for informed policy formulation and guided legislation on policing and security by the executive and the legislative arms of government. Emplacement of sustainable institutional and legal frameworks to support the efforts of the security community lies with government. Government policies, legislation and regulations control who owns what kind of technology and its approved usage. Thus, every responsive government appreciates the fact that a useful piece of technology on one hand could be a harmful tool on another. The bottom-line is that criminals embrace and cherish innovations in science and technology in the same manner the security agencies need such technologies for crime control operations. The much-celebrated social media platforms are good examples of how the same technology could mean different things to different people. While the social media platforms such as: Facebook, Whats-app, Twitter, Instagram and so on, have profoundly improved the economic and social lives of the citizens, certain aggrieved individual (whether rightly or wrongly) are increasingly using the innovations as tools to perpetrate violence and other unlawful acts.

These platforms are also deployed to create and disseminate fake news to confuse the public, hence, it is difficult to determine the preponderance of right information from the social media platforms. The credibility of political parties and their candidates, and even the electoral systems are being compromised on the basis of manipulated information that is sourced from these social media platforms. The vulnerable segments of the population are also turning to them for information, rather than the traditional sources of news/information, this is fast becoming a global phenomenon. Nations have been forced to divert huge resources to counter threats which originate from social media networking, and which also have aspects on policing (Onuoha & Ogbonnaya, 2019). It is pertinent to take the Global System for Mobile (GSM) technology and kidnapping in Nigeria as clear example. The Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication, debuted in Nigeria in August, 2001. It has all the attractions and conveniences or interpersonal communication for doing business. Within ten years of its introduction, Nigeria became one of the fastest growing telecommunication markets in Africa due to its demographic dividends but sadly it is also not currently occupying enviable position in the global digital rankings because of limited cyber infrastructure.

“It is not in contention that the novel but revolutionary communication tool has improved lives, impacted on the economy in diverse ways and greatly enhanced interpersonal and group communications both within and outside the country”. This sounds fantastic as far as the socioeconomic development of the nation is concerned, and even more strides have been made to date. However, the mobile phone has also become a tool of horror in the country due to the activities of kidnapers. Kidnapping is one

crime that feeds on this technology. But the fact remains that G.S.M is just a tool for facilitating the crime, the motivating factors exists. The old fixed-line telephone system did not have the fluidity of the GSM, because proper catalogues and directories of subscribers were not kept by Nigeria Tele-Communication Limited (NITEL) with the telephone numbers, names and full addresses of subscribers. Whereas now, the telephone numbers, names and full addresses of subscribers are being updated and monitored by the regulatory authority-Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC).

But with the Global System for Mobile (GSM) technology, the network providers are too busy selling the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) to whoever comes to them as a customer with strict adherence to biometric details which can be accessed by both Security and Anti-corruption Agencies in the event of any criminal investigations. Currently, the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria is so deep and vast that no one feels safe any longer and this has affected our ways of life. On daily basis, there are serious concerns among knowledgeable netizens from different socio-cultural and professional backgrounds that 21st Century lifestyles are covertly foregrounded by the pervasive influences of Globalisation and these bear high risks on personal and economic security via privacy violations, personal data theft, industrial espionage, cyber-hacking, online child abuse and exploitation (Bala & Quedraogo, 2018).

PROSPECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

Globalisation through the instrumentality of information and communication technology can improve the operations of Nigeria's security agencies in the following ways:-

a) Home Alarm System

This will greatly contribute to reduction in the prevalence of break-and-enter crime in the country.

b) Improve Street Lighting

This can contribute to community safety and control of crime in the area of improved visibility and by increasing the risk of detecting and recognizing criminals. This technology would help to reduce crime its fear in the community.

c) Close-Circuit Television (CCTV)

This technology is mainly used for surveillance. It is a system in which video cameras are connected in a close-circuit loop, with the images produced being sent to a central monitor. Video surveillance technology recognizes license plates on moving vehicles and also monitors traffic flows and apprehends people violating traffic laws. CCTV aims at increasing the perceived risk of being apprehended which is a factor for the people to behave in a rational manner.

d) Setting up Websites for Security Agencies

The significance of establishing websites for the security agencies in the country cannot be overemphasized. Inherent in modern security practices is the need to reach out to the communities served in order to control criminal activities in them. Today's most effective communication tools are the internet and the use of social media. Crime prevention campaigns, mailing out crime newsletters on crime control can be done easily by law enforcement agencies.

e) Surveillance and Detection Technology

It is one of the latest technologies to detect crime and all criminal activities in the country. Portable alarm systems are

now available for crime detection and reporting.

f) Location and Tracking Technologies

A variety of technologies for location and tracking have already emerged in most developed countries. It is generally called LOJACK system and involves a concealed transmitter in the chassis of an automobile, which facilitates the stolen vehicle's recovery.

This technology has been extended to cellular smart phones it enables one to identify their precise location in the event of theft. It also enables the law-enforcement personnel to determine location from which an emergency call is made and also to locate suspects. Personal Location System Technology is also used in monitoring the movement of convicted criminals or persons on court bail or probation, or individual who may be subject to court restraining orders.

g) Vapour Detector Technology is also used for bomb detection at airports or motor parks and worship places. New technology that detects concealed weapons known as Low-Level scattered x-ray and computer image processing, millimeter wave and long-wave infrared receivers are now being used to control crime in public places.

h) Drug Detection Technology

It has become a fertile area for technological development. The use of infrared spectroscopy is an addition to sniffer dogs. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a non-invasive means of identifying contraband and other concealed prohibited items.

i) DNA Profiling and Testing Technology

One of the most significant developments in Forensic Science since the advent of

Biometric system is DNA profiling and testing. Not only this technology been used to conclusively establish the guilt of a suspect, it has also served to exonerate subjects of investigation and even persons who have been convicted in the court of law of crimes which they did not commit.

j) Ballisto-Cardiogram Technology

This technology has given rise to what is known as "Heartbreak Detectors" which can find and locate persons hiding in vehicles. It is also useful in the prevention of escapees from lawful custody.

k) Geographic Information System (GIS) Technology

One of the most influential tools facilitating exploration of the spatial distribution of crime is GIS technology. The fundamental strength of GIS technology over traditional crime analytical tools and methods is the ability to visualize, analyze and explain the criminal activity in a spatial context. GIS technology will always provide geographical advantage for law enforcement enterprise information system by turning data into actionable knowledge. A GIS technology combines layers of data about a location to give you a better understanding of that location and what is occurring around it. It is used also to analyze crime to detect emerging patterns, examines the best location of conduct crime surveillance for a recent crime series or establish a perimeter for a crime scene or natural disaster. GIS is also used to provide police management team with a comprehensive view for long term decision-making.

l) Biometric Intelligence-led Policing Technology

This includes finger print identification, palm-print identification, facial

recognition and multi module called Bio-fuse Cataloguing. It involves putting two or more bio-metrics together so that when there is a hit on either biometric, the results for both are displayed.

CONCLUSION

This paper stressed that Globalisation has brought the compression of space and time so that people from various areas are able to interact with others without barriers. This makes the world closely knitted and interactions among diverse people in it look like those within a village square. It is the contention of this paper that technology-inspired Globalisation in National security not only promotes development but also heightened the level of insecurity in Nigeria as has been made visible in the sophistication of criminal activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- Reducing poverty and unemployment to redress socioeconomic development through a focus on infrastructure and jobs creation drive and initiative by the Federal, State and Local governments.
- Equitable distribution of resources: This is because exclusion creates fertile ground for mobilizing group grievances to violence especially in areas with weak state capacity or legitimacy or in the context of human rights abuses.
- Strengthening and instructing widespread use of the centralized national criminal database by the Nigeria Police Force and mandate access for other security agencies including resources to ensure this can be done. This should modernize the national finger prints database.
- Deploy Early Warning Systems nationwide including installation of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) and

other surveillance, Satellite and electronic equipment along major highways, public places, major cities and borders.

- Nigeria must take major steps to control the flow of illegal arms into the country and strengthen the control of our borders to detect and seize any illegal shipment of arms into the country, and arrest and prosecute any person associate with the illegal flow of arms into the country.
- Strengthen the Intelligence Unit with the Nigeria Immigration Service to generate useful analytics from immigration data (cross-border movements) and feed into the central intelligence pool to be used by the State Security Service (SSS) and National Intelligence Agency in their operations and Cryptographic warfare including crypto-analysis aimed at intercepting enemies' communications while defeating any attempts to intercepts the nation's own.
- Government authorities should establish the use of online reporting platform for crime reporting. All security officers should be trained in the use of modern technology as part of new way of working.

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