

Interrogating the Nexus Between Insecurity, Poverty and Unemployment in North Eastern Nigeria: Contextualizing the Boko-Haram Insurgency

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Abstract

There is a common belief that the root causes of conflicts globally are issues of ethno-religious identities; however, this paper examines the relationships between conflicts with other variables like poverty and unemployment. In recent times, Nigeria is facing several security challenges such as commercial kidnapping, cattle rustling, arm robbery, banditry, Harmers/Herdsmen conflicts, separatist movements, Militancy in the Niger-Delta, oil bunkering, arms proliferation, political assassinations and the activities of the Boko-Haram. These violent acts have led to humanitarian catastrophes of unparalleled proportion in the history of Nigeria and had stagnated peace, unity and development. It is on this premise that the study interrogates the nexus between poverty, unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria's North Eastern region, with a focus on the Boko-Haram insurgency. The Frustration/Aggression theory is adopted as a theoretical framework for analysis of the qualitative data generated, which were thematically reviewed and descriptively discussed. The study revealed that there are significant correlations between poverty, unemployment and insecurity; it established that they are inter-connected, inter-dependent and inter-related. Their consequential effects breed, propels and sustains the Boko-Haram insurgency as bulk of the population are unemployed and live below poverty line of one U.S. Dollar per day. The study recommends that all stakeholders must partner with government at all levels to provide adequate social security mechanisms that guarantees ontological needs and upscale employment opportunities for poverty alleviation.

Keywords: *Boko-Haram, Insecurity, North-East, Poverty & Unemployment*

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Background to the Study

The North East is one of Nigeria's six geo-political zones; it is composed of five states, Adamawa, Bauchi Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. The existence of Non-State Armed Gangs (NSAG) like Boko-Haram (BH), a radical Islamist movement which emerged in 2009 as a combination of factors shaped by a history of poor governance and extreme poverty. The Movement according to Tar (2018), is unique in that it combines a sectarian, radical Islamic agenda with violence. Its stated aim is the establishment of a Sharia State with minimal interest in governing or implementing economic development (Political Economy). It is based on the fundamentalist Wahhabi theological system which opposes the Islam of traditional Northern Nigerian establishment. BH's multiple and complex set of followers and admirers (foot soldiers, sympathizers and sponsors), also called Yusuffiya, consist largely of impoverished northern Islamic students and clerics, as well as professionals, mostly unemployed or self-employed, who are fighting for the Islamization of the Northern part of Nigeria.

In July 2009, BH members refused to comply to a motor-bikes' helmet law, leading to heavy-handed police measures that set off an armed upheaval in Bauchi state, and like a raging fire spread into States of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Kano etc. The Nigerian Army suppressed the uprising and/or protests, leaving more than eight people hundred dead (Tar, 2018). The Human Rights Watch (HRW) (2018) reported that the sect's leader Mohammed Yusuf, and other sect members were arrested during the uprising and shot dead outside the State Police Command, in Maiduguri. Since then the current leader of the BH Abubakar Shekau, and his foot-soldiers have been engaged in violent conflicts in the North East which have drastically lessened the ability of the Sub-nationals in the zone to carry out their statutory functions of protecting the lives and property of the citizens, not to mention the basic amenities of enjoying good life. These conflicts have been expanded across the Lake Chad region, dispersing into Cameroon, Chad, Niger Republic and Northern Ghana with tremendous humanitarian catastrophes in the border regions.

The efforts to tame the BH terrorists have led to the establishment of a regional Multi-National Joint Task Force (M-NJTF), and local Joint Task Forces (JTFs). The Nigerian military has claimed to have killed Shekau up-teen times, but videos of the leader have appeared up-teen times declaring fire, threatening his enemies, and affirming allegiance with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, to form Islamic State in West African Province (ISWAP). However, the Nigerian Army are convinced that, Shakau has become a brand adopted by leaders of the different factions of the sects, and that the men in the videos are actually look-alikes (Sergie and Johnson, 2015). In Nigeria and the North East in particular, the BH has for close to two decades been engaging in violent destruction of lives and property. Indeed, since the end of the Nigerian civil war, never before a section of the country has faced a serious crisis of development and therefore requires an urgent revitalization as the NE. it is in this pursuit that the North East Development Commission, under the Chairmanship of General Tarfa was established. The, violent conflict in the affected areas since 2009 has taken the lives of more than 20,000 persons, the security of persons and property have since been under serious threat, infrastructure devastated,

families disintegrated and traumatized, economic activities destroyed and communities scattered and displaced with dire need of pressing humanitarian support (Habu, 2019).

The alarming rate of insecurity and poverty in the North Eastern Nigeria grew like a cancer, as the insurgency and terrorism of the BH persists, eating deep into the very fabric of the entire states in the region. Illiteracy begets poverty, and poverty breeds insecurity which gives birth to a worse state of poverty, and the cycle goes on and on. Thus, according to Olufemi (2012) poverty leads to high level of illiteracy and unemployment in the zone which made insecurity worst? In the report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)(2019) 39.8 percent of the population of the North Eastern Nigeria (NEN) are illiterate. Hence, Olufemi further elaborates that when a young man or woman is poor, illiterate and unemployed; he or she becomes a mere tool and/or clean slate for all manners of manipulations and/or brainwashing. That the brainwashing provides a quasi-equivalent of employment, thus, the individuals feels engaged in acting out what they have been brainwashed to do. This is the typical situation in the NEN, because the teaming youth are illiterate, unemployed and impoverished by poverty, they became easy recruits for the Boko Haram leaders and sponsors.

It is imperative to note that security in its broadest sense, embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict, it encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education, health care, and ensuring that each individual or group has equal opportunities to actualize their potentials desires and aspirations. These include liberty from wants, fears, and freedom for future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment; cumulatively, these are geared towards good governance, reducing poverty, achieving sustainable economic growth and development, and preventing conflicts. The point here is that the Boko Haram devastation has made the adequacy of these incentives fruitless and/or absent in the entire NE; hence, the popular maxim in the area is “the fear of Boko Haram is the beginning of wisdom

The World Bank in 2015 described the zone as the worst poverty-stricken area in Nigeria, principally occasioned by the consequence of the Boko Haram insurgency, which created a situation described by the United Nations (UN) (2019) as humongous humanitarian catastrophe. Consequently, it props for wholistic approach for fighting poverty; it noted that a “Reactive Poverty Alleviation Intervention Measures (RPAMs)” centered on wrong concept of poverty, cannot adequately address the situation; hence translating to the proverbial “fighting shadows” instead of the real and/or main problem. This lucidly explains the conversation on why efforts towards poverty alleviation in the NEN in particular, and Nigeria in general are dismal failure and counter-productive. This corroborates the UNs paradigm that poverty alleviation should not just focus and ends at providing the basic necessities but the requisite sustainable development of the material conditions of the people towards the positive transformation of lives of individuals and groups in comity of nations.

Worst still, in the NEN, the poverty profile is exacerbated by the combinations of insecurity, unemployment and despondency. This negative condition is not caused by the unwillingness of the people to work, but by bad governance that creates capability gaps; this is very manifest in the distributive justice system, identity politics and the inability of government particularly at the federal level to effectively utilize the common wealth to better the lots of the citizenry through the provision of job opportunities, infrastructural development and viable poverty alleviation and/or eradication programmes and social security. This failure of government according to scholars breeds frustrated expectations which ultimately leads to aggressive behaviours (Berkwitz, 1963 and Dollard, 1939). It is in this context that the Problematique is deduced.

Operationalization of Concepts

Boko-Haram

This is a group of Islamist extremists established in 2002 and led by Mohammed Yusuf, a Muslim cleric, in Maiduguri, Borno State. Boko Haram (BH), literally means Western Education is forbidden and/or Illegal. It has its root in heretics, an un-Islamic mode of sermon and waging of Jihad or holy war. The head, heart and soul of BH is traced to Mallam Mohammed Marwa, the founder and leader of the Maitatsine Sect (the One Who Damns). Mohammed Yusuf, uses the style of Marwa to gain followership. Ideological and dogmatic Sermons are used to indoctrinate and win the young uneducated, unemployed and impoverished and/or poverty-stricken followers, as foot soldiers. Thus, it is upheld firmly that religious and non-religious factors led to the growth and blossoming of the BH sect in the North Eastern Nigeria (NEN). The religious factor focused on the diluted belief that an Islamic state must be established vide Jihad, that is, the institutionalization of Shari'ah Islamic Law, which is not in conformity with the provisions of Secularism in the Nigerian Constitution, and to the mainstream moderate Islamic or prophetic teachings. However, it is noted that religious conflicts in Nigeria have been exacerbated by issues of intolerance and the exploitation or manipulation of religious identity to achieve political and economic advantages, objectives and/or relevance (Maina, 2018).

The non-religious factors include despise of western education, life styles of the elites and democratic governance which the group abhors and wants to eliminate in the polity and to replace it with an Islamic order. The killing of Mohammed Yusuf in 2009 by the Nigerian Police further generated sympathy from the un-employed youths in the region, hence, the numbers of his foot- soldiers increased tremendously. The sect has employed several terrorists' modus-operandi to inflict humungous intra, inter-state and international devastations on Man, flora and fauna in Nigeria in particular, and in Cameroon, Chad and Niger in general. The BH and their collaborators, the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISIWAP), the ISIS and the Al-Qaeda have sustained their criminal activities of maiming, killings, abductions and destructions for nearly two decades. The alliance with these dreaded foreign terrorist groups signposts how complicated and intractable the war has assumed. The Nigerian and Multi-National forces have been using/ deploying the kinetic and non-kinetic strategies to totally subdue

the terrorists but to no avail in view of the guerrilla tactics the group adopts in its operations. It is worthy of note however, that the ability, capacity and the dominance of the terrorists have been seriously degraded.

Poverty

As a Social Science concept, there is no single universally acceptable definition of the word Poverty; as a matter of fact, it is mostly never defined in itself, but through other concepts like hunger, mal-nutrition, consumption of contaminated foods, ailment from preventable diseases, absence of well-being, growth and development to mentioned but a few. Thus, Dairus (2015) opined that the basic feature of Poverty is its complex and multidimensional nature which makes the plurality of its definition inescapable. It is in this approach and/or direction that the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) provides that poverty should include all the most important areas in which people of either gender are deprived and perceived as incapacitated in different societies and local context. it should encompass the causal links between the core dimensions of poverty and the central importance of gender and environmentally sustainable development.

Dairus (2015) described poverty as a state where an individual and/or group of people are not able to cater adequately for their basic needs in the realms of food, clothing and shelter, lacks gainful employment, skills, assets and self-esteem; are unable to meet social and economic obligations, and have limited access to social and economic amenities/infrastructure, education, health, potable water, and sanitation; and consequently, have limited chances of advancing or improving their welfare to the limit of their capabilities. According to the Britton Woods, Poverty is a miserable material condition of people whose livelihood is not beyond one US Dollar a day. Poverty alleviation means the various strategies and/or measures through which the causes of deprivations and inequalities are addressed by considering the level, degree, size and extent of the poverty and then attempting to reduce it. Poverty alleviation is key to working towards the unattainable goal of eradicating poverty. According to Dodo (2012), 73 percent of people in the NEN lives in relative poverty and 27 percent live in absolute poverty. However, in terms of absolute poverty by geo-political zones, it has been noted that the NEN since 1985 is the poorest zone in the country, with the highest incidence of poverty, ranging between 54.9% - 72.5% (Laden, 2012).

Hence, Piazza (2011), in a study on poverty, minority economic discrimination and domestic terrorism observed that nations whose minority communities are affected by economic discrimination are more vulnerable to domestic terrorism. Highlighting the case in the NEN, Forrest (2012) opined that many kinds of grievances can lead to schisms between the state and its citizens, and sometimes this can result in various forms of violence, including insurgency and terrorism. Throughout Africa, one of the most common areas of a population's animosity towards the state has involved bad governance, governance in Africa has often been based on very narrow, parochial interest..... including tribal, clan, religion, or family loyalties.....to which collective

interests of the general citizenry are subordinated.....in Nigeria there is truly an abundance of problems that challenge most people's basic quality of life..... and many of them are a result of policy decisions made by leaders in government..... the most common and salient grievances includes corruption among political and economic elites, economic disparity, barriers to social and educational opportunities, energy poverty, environmental destruction, human insecurity, and injustice, Poverty has eaten deep into the communities in the NE, the situation is worsened by the seventeen year of insurgency which has displaced millions of people, destroyed property and infrastructure worth billions of naira, worst still, farmlands and crops are destroyed and those in the internally displaced camps IDPs are living below standards and several children are ravished by/with mal-nutrition. Bad governance, poor leadership, corruption, extreme poverty accounted and/or facilitated the deepening BH membership/followership and recruitment drive. The jobless youths saw BH as a panacea to their growing and unending frustration with life challenges (Tar, et al 2014).In view of the wide spread poverty in the NE, BH lured people into its membership by using material inducements in cash and kind. Some elements of the group were offered motor-cycles and tricycles, while the commanders were enticed with cash worth thousands and millions of naira (Akwash and Nweze, 2013).

Unemployment

Unemployment is the state of lack of job, the state of being unemployed. Unemployment with all its ramifications has played an integral role in deepening poverty in the NEN. Since majority of the population are illiterates, they cannot be gainfully employed even when the opportunities are there. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) 2019, unemployment in the NE geopolitical stood at 19.7 percent in the third quarter of 2019. This negative circumstance provides clement atmosphere and veritable opportunities for the exploitation of redundant human resources as armies for the Boko-Haram war and/or insurgency. This ugly situation must therefore be turned around if a robust panacea and/or political solution is to be proffered.

Insecurity

As a generic term, insecurity refers to a state of being subjugated to fear, threat, danger, humiliation, oppression repression and suppression. In all aspects, it refers to a state where there is the absence of that feeling of security. This is juxtaposed to Security which refers to the absence of conflicts, violence or wars, the presence of peace, safety, happiness, prosperity and the adequate protection of human and material resources. Insecurity is the absence of security, peace and tranquility. It is a theatre of violence, conflicts, banditry, insurgency, assassinations, kidnappings and/or forceful abductions for ransom. The insecurity in the NEN has inflicted huge devastation on the region both in human and material terms; infact the conflict/insecurity has succeeded in decimating an already vulnerable people. The extent of the damage suffered by the region is estimated to worth billions of US Dollars. The breakdown of the impact indicated that Borno State is the worst hit/affected, followed by Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba, Gombe and Bauchi States respectively in terms of the gravity of devastation/destruction. In terms of human cost,

the UNDP estimated that about 20,000 people have been killed, while an estimated 2.4 million persons have been displaced and property worth billions of naira had been destroyed.

The situation is so gruesome and pathetic, which President Buhari (2018) described as callous, mindless, reckless, barbaric, irresponsible and condemnable by all well-meaning people irrespective of tongue and creed. He noted that the communities have been decimated and devastated that many people have lost everything and have nothing to return to. Furthermore, it has also been noted that social and public services are also lacking due to the massive destruction of public and private infrastructure worth billions of naira. The UNDP in 2018 assessed changes in livelihoods and economic recovery vis-à-vis the living conditions of the people in the frontline States of Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe and posited that 7 out of 10 people in these States were living below the World Bank's standards of acute poverty index, of less than 1.90 U.S. Dollars per day (UN OCHA-ng, 2018). In the sphere of education, the Presidential Initiative on the North East (PINE) observed that an estimated 1,200 school facilities were destroyed, and 1,500 schools were closed down for over four years due to insecurity. The result according to PINE is that about 9652, 029 school-aged children were left with no access to education. The damages to education infrastructure in the frontline States of the insurgency stood at 249 million U.S. Dollars as at November, 2018.

Contributing to the multilateral/multidimensional impacts of the insecurity in the NEN, Ogwu (2017) averred that the BH insurgency induced insecurity affected access to basic services, farmlands, markets and other sources of livelihoods, which manifested in the high rates of poverty, unemployment, low economic participation and frustrations. The lack of economic activities, especially agriculture, fisheries and cattle husbandry has pushed up market prices of basic commodities. In effect Nigeria suffered huge loss in terms of human and materials resources to the BH insurrection in the NE. the consequence according to Ugwu (2017) have been estimated to take have a century to recover from. The predicament of the people of the NE as a result of the violent insurgency has aptly been captured by Habu,(201p) who euphemistically stated that their worsening condition is informed by what he called the "three BAS", "Kasuwa ba, Kar ba and bare ba", meaning "No business, No education and No farming". These intricately, facilitates and ware-houses food in-security, poverty and unemployment in the region. This therefore forecloses and resonated the nexus between insecurity, poverty and unemployment in the NEN.

Theoretical Perspective

The Frustration/Aggression theory is adopted for analysis; the theory was propounded and/or developed by John Dollard and his associates in 1939 but was expanded and modified by Yale, 1962 and Berkowitz 1963, emphasizing the psychological basis for motivation, attitudinal change and behavior. Consequently, the conversation of the theory dwells on the explanation of violent behavioural dispositions resulting from the inability of an individual or group of people to fulfill their basic needs and aspirations.

This is predicated on the premise/human need indices that all humans have basic needs which they seek to fulfill and that any attempt and/or attempted attempts to constrain the realization of these needs by individuals or groups will be violently resisted and/or elicits violent responses. This theoretical model upholds that aggression is a natural result of frustration borne from deprivation; it posited that aggressive behavior is not motivated by genuine hostility, but by frustration. In the local parlance, all the narratives on the key assumptions of the theory imply that “a hungry man is an angry man”, and that “there is no smoke without a fire” (Ogege, 2013). The theory juxtaposes between “what people feels (emotions), “what they desire and/or wants” (needs), and the discrepancies and/or contradictions between “what is needed” and “what is gotten”. Thus in these contradictions are tantamount/synonymous with deprivations which elicits frustrations and violent outcomes from the vulnerable individuals or groups. They may also be a ready-made instrument to cause crisis and havocs in the society. As observed earlier, in a situation where the legitimate desires of an individual, group or groups are denied directly or indirectly by the consequence of bad governance or in the manner a community is structured, the ultimate feeling of frustration compels such person, group or groups to express their anger through violence towards those responsible for their deprivation and their collaborators. The significance and relevance of this theory to the study cannot be overemphasized; it justifies the extent to which man could go towards the pursuit of desirable comforts.

Methodology

The Qualitative method was utilized for paper; the data obtain through this approach provides immense insights on the problematique. All the 'secondary resources' used for the paper are properly acknowledged. To facilitate easy comprehension of the general conversations on the theme and sub-themes discussed, the paper was divided into sections.

The Nexus between Insecurity, Poverty and Unemployment in the North East

In reference to the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECDs) Guidelines (2000) on the phenomenon of poverty, it was lucid that the phenomenon called poverty affects different facets and/or aspects of peoples' lives, it exists or it is noticeable when people are denied the opportunities to work, learn, live healthy and fulfilling lives, and to live out their retirement years in security. The lack of income, or adequate income, access to good/quality health care, education, housing, proper sanitation and hygiene affects peoples' well-being, hence, parameters for measuring poverty in communities (Maina, 2020). No matter how poverty is operationalized or who conceptualized it, it becomes synonymous with physiological as well as psychological deprivation.

Considering the multidimensional nature of poverty, the World Bank (2015) stated that poverty is hunger, Poverty is lack of shelter, Poverty is being sick and nor able to see a doctor/physician. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read, write and speak in conventional language. Poverty is not having a job, poverty is fear,

worries and apprehension for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by drinking of unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom. Thus, the basic determinants of poverty to great extent points to the absence of job and physical securities, as the poor is endangered by hunger, sickness, illiteracy, and ultimately, psychological and physical death. Everyone who is endangered by these factors is poor no matter the parameter used. This informed the submission of Townsend (1979) that “individuals, families and groups in population can be said to be in poverty when they lacked the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or are at least widely encouraged or approved, in the societies to which they belong. Their resources are so seriously below those commanded by the average individual or family that they are in effect, excluded from ordinary/common living patterns and activities”.

Due to the phenomenon of poverty, many youths in the Sub-nationals in the NE have been denied choices and opportunities to go to better schools, hospitals, and to have basic social amenities, and to actively participate socio-economic and political activities that will add values to their material conditions. Since poverty is the denial of all these basics; the illiterate unemployed youths in the NEN are therefore engaged by politicians as political thugs, while some were engaged as religious extremists by the leaders of the Boko-Haram sects. It is obvious that most of the foot soldiers of the Boko-Haram are from the poorest of the poor masses.

Hence, Charas (2015, p.31), was quick to observed that poverty has been intricately linked to high crime rates in areas where there is a sharp contrast between the rich and the poor. The poor youths caused social upheavals because the wealth meant for the development of their region was high jacked by the political elites, hence the region is left in endemic poverty. It was his candid opinion that the link between economic and political power must be broken for any meaningful progress to be made”. Consequently, the nexus between insecurity, unemployment and poverty is one chain that cannot be broken as they are inter-related and inter-connected, there seems to be a mutually reinforcing relationships between the trio. Khan and Cheri (2016) opined that the nexus between insecurity, unemployment and poverty is like the “chicken and egg” relationship which is likened to the recurrence of ethno-religious violence or wars in majorly poor countries like Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan, Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Syria, Haiti and Nigeria to mentioned but a few.

In contrast, economically advanced countries hardly experience such violence and/or wars. This is a pointer that rising penury in societies of the NEN forces the poor unemployed youths to feel alienated, cheated, deprived, hungry, angry, frustrated and aggressive (Charas, 2015), and (Birkwitz, 1963). Insecurity has held the Nigerian nation in general, and the NEN in particular to ransom. Charas (2015) further observed that observed that the Boko-Haram insurgency has devastated the socio-economic activities of the entire North Eastern and had heaped heavy burden on the Nation's security agencies, particularly the Nigerian army which is at the frontline of the quagmire and/or crisis.

Poverty bequeaths violence, and violence leads to worsening poverty by affecting the means of subsistence, hindering commercial undertakings and impeding agricultural activities. Thus, any serious academic discourse on the roots of insecurity in Nigeria must necessarily highlight the poverty – insecurity- unemployment nexus. However, this does not mean that other factors, such as political, religious and ideological, etc., do not contribute. The point here is that, there is a primacy of economic factors in terrorist gaming. This brings to the fore what Engels means when he opines that, “the ultimate causes of all social changes and political revolutions are to be sought, not in the minds of men, in their increasing insight into eternal truth and justice; but in changes in the mode of production and exchange; they are to be sought not in the philosophy but in the economies of the epoch concerned” (Engels, Cited in Burns, 1935:279). The significance of Engels' assertion is such that it intricately links conditions of material want and people perceptions to their attitude towards both the society and the state. An attitude they extend to any other person they arguably perceive to be part of the system that oppresses, represses and suppresses them. There exists preponderance of views which upholds that the conditions of unemployment and poverty predisposes people to terrorist activities or enhance the goals of terrorism (Whitehead, 2007; Aftab, 2008, and Ibada, 2013; Raimi and Akubor, 2015).

To further explain the problematique, Piazza (2006 and 2011) was of the opinion that poverty and economic inequalities also triggers insecurity; a claim he demonstrated with the list of ten 10 Countries worst hit by insecurity, using Gross Domestic Products (GDP) per capita and Human Development Indexes (HDI). Ibaba (2013), also observed that poverty and unemployment can hardly be disconnected from terrorism and insecurity; he stated that poverty without freedom and good governance would catapult and/or facilitate insecurity, just as poverty within the context of a failed, fragile or failing state would drive insecurity. However, Okereke (2013) observed that poverty does not stand alone as monolithic cause/driver and hotbed for insurgency and insecurity in the NEN; rather it occurs in conjunction with other socio-political realities which served as conductors, corridors and/or conducive grounds for the incubation, spread and propagation of terrorists' psychologies and/or ideologies. To further expand the scope of this narrative, he opined that “Beyond the guise of religion and politics, there must be some compelling forces or phenomena that can galvanize people to waste their lives and those of others vide suicide bombing.

Abysmal poverty, despondency, deprivation, dispossession, unemployment and/or joblessness and the attending frustrations have the potency to drive anger, violent aggression and terrorist's act like suicide bombing; this underscores the popular paradigm that a hungry man is an angry man. It will take an amazing brain washing dexterity to convince a gainfully employed, or somebody with thriving career to abandon the frills of endeavors and be a slavish stool or stooge for terrorist act like suicide bombing”. It is in this context, that this paper posited that there is a co-relation and admixture, or in lucid term, nexus of insecurity, poverty and unemployment in the NEN. Contributing to the conversation, Chukwuebuke (2018) posited that, he is not against the

argument whether there is a cause-effect relationship between insecurity, poverty and unemployment, but the point is that the causal analysis of insecurity in the NE in particular, and in Nigeria in general vis-à-vis insecurity policy, cannot overlook grievances emanating from material subsistence that terrorist ideology resonates which render people vulnerable to recruitment and radicalization by terrorist group like the BH. While emphasizing on the possible nexus between insecurity, poverty and joblessness,

Ibaba (2013), observed that the dominance of the poor in membership of protest movements that engage in terrorism globally, as evidenced by the poor socio-economic status of those arrested on allegations of terrorism and the concentration of these groups in poorer neighbourhoods, significantly highlights poverty as a critical factor which should and must be investigated and/or interrogated through insecurity studies in Nigeria. A survey conducted by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMA&RD) (2019) indicated that thousands of peasant farmers in the NE are affected by the Boko-Haram crisis and most of them have abandoned their natural calling, and migrated to safer cities, towns and villages for fear of attacks by the Boko-Haram terrorists. The point here is that there will be insecurity of food resources in the affected areas in particular, and in Nigeria in general. The three BAs explained above would definitely expand their scope to produce other BAs ... Ba kasuwa, (NO Market), BA makaranta (No school), BA abinchi, (No food), etc if the situation is not addressed quickly.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The devastation caused by the BH terrorists on human and material resources in NEN is humungous; all facets of lives of the peoples/communities in the frontline States have been negatively affected. The multi-lateral impacts of the insecurity in the NE have manifested in anxiety, fears, displacements, deprivations, frustrations, aggressions, killings, and destruction of means of subsistence. These have occasioned poverty, unemployment and other attendant consequences. No doubt, the military has reduced the capacities of the insurgents to occupy territories; but there are empirical evidences that BH and its likes cannot be defeated by kinetic method alone, thus, finding appropriate counter narratives against these extremist sects will immensely be a big push towards stopping their negative activities in Nigeria and the sub-region.

A well designed economic and social policies are required to help in building peace to resolve conflicts, insurgency and insecurity in the NE. Peace agreement with the insurgents should be the first step towards peace and confidence building, the aggrieved segment/insurgents need to be taken into consideration for good-civil-military relations. This will assuage fear, contempt and doubt of the citizens to return to their various communities. Stable peace must be built on social, economic and political a foundation that serves the needs of the populace. A social problem which triggers frustrations and conflicts like the skewed economic distribution, environmental factors, and unequal political, religious and cultural representation must be restructured for

inclusiveness and popular participation. Interventions should be aimed at the local people affected by the insurgents to facilitate their willing and safe return to their places of habitual residence. Sources of livelihoods must be guaranteed to alleviate poverty. More importantly, Habu (2019) posited that insecurity with its attendant physical, economic, social, psychological and environmental devastations experienced in the NE following the dreadful onslaught of the BH insurgency, the successful implementation and/or execution of negotiation, reconciliation, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development will improve general security and subsistence; provide employments for the teeming unemployed youths, and alleviate poverty in the NE. This can be done with good governance and the readiness of principal stakeholders to constructively overturn misfortunes into greater future in the entire region in general, and in the frontline States in particular. Development in the NE must entail constructive efforts by governments at all levels, development partners, corporate organizations, communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); mostly, NGOs must pull their resources and deploy them for revamping social infrastructure so as to bring back socio-economic activities for sustainable peace and development. This is to suggest that the primary objective of development needed in the NE is to improve the living conditions of the people and qualitatively make them the principal actors in the process of recovery. There is the utmost need for Jaw-Jaw with the members of the Sects to halt their nefarious activities and get integrated into the society for vocational training. Government may consider granting Amnesty for the members of the Sects as a political solution and/or panacea.

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