

A Review of the Nexus Between Security, Economic Growth and Development

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Article DOI: 10.48028/ijprds/ijormsse.v9.i1.03

Abstract

Security challenges or threats are social phenomena or challenges bedeviling the world and the issue of security of a state is pivotal to peace of the state and its economic growth; development of a state is crux to economic stability of a nation as the world is revolving around the orbits of economic spillage. Meaningful economic growth and development can be guarantee in a stable economy. This paper tends to examine how garnishing the nature of relationship and or implications of security challenges or issues on the economic growth and development of Nigeria. The paper adopts exploratory review of some related existing literatures on the topic of discourse. It is concluded that stability of economic growth and development can be achieved where the state uphold its mandate of governance and it therefore recommends that quality education and other social capital infrastructures projects should be given good consideration in the annual estimates and also ensure monitoring of such projects up to their completion and also put in place policy that would make it mandatory to enroll children and wards in schools. Corporate social responsibilities of business entities in both host and neighboring communities should be encourage by the government.

Keywords: *Social Contract theory, Democratic Peace theory, Security Challenges, Economic growth and Development*

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Background to the Study

Security challenges or threats are social phenomena or challenges suffered from continent to continent, country to country and even region to region which affect most part of the world, if not all; a fundamental human rights of the citizens of any given state is the right to security of life and properties as regards the social contract entered between the state and the public to abide by the state laws and in return the state provide social services, which security of life and properties is part of the social services. The Nigeria constitution stipulated in it in Section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 constitution that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government”. The developed and developing economies are faced with different security challenges from drugs, human trafficking, illegal arm dealings, banditry, kidnapping to name a few, where the kingpins, ringleaders, masterminds or warlords economical without impacting on the Gross Domestic Production (GDP)/National Income (NI) of an Economy; at the same time their activities is reducing the economic activities of a state by affecting the productivity of the able men and women whose contributions is dear to the economy growth and development, thereby rendering their services to the economy inefficient or worthless, Nigeria is also amongst such countries experiencing security challenges.

According to Onime (2018), insecurity in Nigeria has reached an alarming stage with its ugly head in various phase of the national life. Lives of the populace are lost virtually on a daily basis depleting the population of the country, businesses are in comatose as invested capitals are loss as well as the numerous economic opportunities available, unemployment is soaring up and the populace are in fears. Clearly, insecurity poses a threat to governance and economic growth in troubled nations like Nigeria; the world is revolving around the orbit of numerous business opportunities and pitfalls. Illegal arms dealings can impact negatively on an economy as the vending of such products impliedly or expressly affect the economic ability of the populations and gains made from vending of the products add no weight to the National Income of a country. Kidnapping and cattle rustlings also have it toll on country economic activities. The economic cost of insecurity are enormous (Stewart, 2004). People who became the fighting forces, those that are killed or flee can no longer work productively for the economy; schools, roads and other suavity social amenities that are affected or destroyed reduced the productive capacity of the economy as well. Despite government's continuous high recurrent and capital expenditure on internal security as popularly known 'security vote' both at the National, State and local levels, individuals in their various places of work and houses spend heavily to provide security for their personal lives and properties. Despite these efforts, the menace keep exacerbating (Onime, 2018).

Insecurity in Nigeria has become a dreaded monster which security agents in Nigeria are battling to handle due to it multifaceted manifestations like bombing, kidnapping/hostage taking, Creation of fear, destruction of properties and loss of lives of the public. Also, there are several economic related assassinations all over Nigeria which creates danger to the nation's economy (Adegbami, 2013). There is also the power play

and over-ambition of politicians who willfully encourage the procurement of weapons in order to pursue their obscene political ambitions (Egbewole, 2013). The issue of security challenges has become persistently a worrying one for Nigeria where no place is apparently secured (Iregbenu and Uzonwanne, 2015). The security situation has grown to the extent that many Nigerians, especially the government, are perplexed and at loss of what meaningful could be done to checkmate the menace of the insecurity situations. Yet, the Nigerian constitution (1999) expressly stated that the government is primarily responsible for the security of lives and property of the citizens of Nigeria. Every day we wake up to the news of petty crimes, armed robberies, ethnic/religious killings, armed insurgency, the Niger Delta problem, which appears to have died down after the hullabaloo of amnesty, terrorism, Boko Haram massacres and bombings in Abuja, Maiduguri and other Northern cities. The northern part of Nigeria is suffering from different security challenges, despite the present of arable lands for cultivation, animal rearing mineral resources waiting to be harness as well as the present of man power to grow the economics of the region to its fullest, the security challenges is affecting the region economic activities and it potentials for growth and as well bringing instability to the region thwarting foreign investments. Many economics activities haven grounded in the region due to security challenges likes cattle rustling, kidnapping and banditry where cattle breeders are force to migrate to safe and suitable environments or are force out of business completely, so also the farmers, as many farm in the region were left uncultivated and or the cultivated ones are left unattended due to security threat these can impact negatively on the economy as a whole.

Historically, the country, Nigeria was built from farm produce before the advent of oil mineral resources and the northern region has played a vital part of the development as soul producer of hides and skin, cotton, groundnut. Today the oil mills, ginneries, textiles that are used to generate revenue for the region as well as the country at large were no longer functional due numerous security threat and maladministration, the region is ravaged by different security challenges from state of the north to another. Hardly, a day pass without a report of one security challenge or the other in the country. Unfortunately, ordinary citizens as well as the nation's economic resources are at the receiving end of this wanton destruction(Adegbami, 2013).

Review of Related literature

The concept of insecurity has been view differently by different scholars worldwide. Insecurity connotes different meanings to different individuals such as absence of peace, present of danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety, (Okonkwo, Ndubuisi- Okolo, and Anagbogu, 2015). Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpan-Robaro, (2013) sees insecurity from two different perspectives, insecurity as “the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune”. These views on insecurity draws attention to a major point, that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of the aftermath but are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers of the incidence.

According to Okonkwo, Ndubuisi-Okolo, and Anagbogu (2015) high level of insecurity has become a threat to business activities. Despite huge investments made by both entrepreneurs and governments in communities or states in order to maximize wealth in the future and better the lives of the general public respectively (Abdullahi, 2014). Ewetan and Urhie (2014), opined that insecurity hinders business activities and discourages foreign and local investors from investing in the economy. Security is important for the growth and development of a state and the absent of it is detrimental to general well-being of the people, and can lead to the obstruction of business activities and destruction of properties and as well relocation of industries (Adegbami, 2013). Any kind of security challenges caused by hoodlums or militants may not continue forever, neither would any anticipated benefit derived from it continue to be enjoyed or recorded (Abdullahi, 2014). In this regard one may vividly perceive that the universally agreed accounting concepts of going concern is threaten (Abdullahi, 2014). Insecurity challenges Nigeria's effort towards national economic development and consequently its vision for development, and scares the attraction of foreign investors and their contributions to economic development in Nigeria (Udeh and Ihezue, 2013). A study carried out by Obi (2015) shows that insecurity and terrorism impacts negatively on economic development of Nigeria, as it has made government to divert resources meant for development purposes to security votes as state has to purge or be secured against threats of any nature.

Omede (2011) sees security as a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to stale threats to its core values and interests. Abdullahi (2014) state that Peace and stability played an important role in the development of an economy. Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) opined that, security provides opportunity for national development. The operations of various security monsters with in a state affect the economic activities of both the affected region and non affectd region (Ajibola, 2016). According to the (United Nation Development Programme, 1994), security could be seen as protection from hidden and hurtful disruption in our daily activities at home, offices and or communities. Security is the state of been safe or distance from any danger like threat on life, hunger, reprisal attacks or even diseases and repression. Human security encompasses freedom from harm, fear, assurance of future wellbeing and fulfillment is important for the socioeconomic wellbeing of a state.

Security when seen from socio-political perspective can be asserted that its involves the capacity of government to pursue cherished political and social ambitions, as it is socio-political in nature and without it, there can be no political stability, consequentially social activities will be disrupted. Various government has paid varied attention to this problem of insecurity in their own different ways (Onime, 2018). In this regard it is no longer a concern of handful of few individuals in a state for the social and environmental effects of such insecurity, but rather of the general public who showed concern and perplex when security challenges erupted (Abdullahi, 2014).

The underpinning theories for this study are Social contract theory and Democratic Peace Theory to explain the Security challenges bedeviling Nigeria. Security largely depends

on recognized institutions to discharge their responsibilities creditably (Okonkwo, Ndubuisi- Okolo, and Anagbogu, 2015). According to the theories, Security depends largely on the robust correlation between peaceful inclination and the democratic nature of a state. "Man is born free, and he is everywhere in chains. A man believes himself to be the master of others, but is for all that more a slave than they are" (Rousseau, 1893). Thus, there was a difference in liberal practice towards liberal societies and liberal practice towards non-liberal societies (Russett, Layne, Spiro, and Doyle, 1995).

The philosophical treaties of Kant propose three mechanisms which foster peace among nations and societies and they are: "the presence of a 'republican constitution', which entails the requirement of public approval before the government can decide on the use of military force, the pacifying effects of close trade relations - what is termed Kant as 'the spirit of commerce', and lastly a federation of states to overcome the condition of lawlessness in international politics. While the third mechanism emphasis on the importance of international law, s argument regarding the first two mechanisms essentially rests on utilitarian cost-benefit calculations. He assumes that peaceful interstate relations as the citizens were given a say in decisions on war and peace, likewise, if countries had close trade relations with one another, then Kant presumes that it would be irrational for them to engage in armed conflict, since that would threaten their mutual welfare (Mello, 2016). Where there is mutual relations among peoples, communities and states security challenges should be something of the past and economic activities will flourish.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Security threats of any kind and in any environment constitute threat to lives and properties of the populace and can disrupt or hamper economic activities and discourages both local and foreign investors from participating in the economy, all of which hinders and retards development of a country; stability in economic growth and development can be achieved where the state uphold its mandate of governance to fulfil the social contract expressly and impliedly entered between the state and the public.

It is recommended that the government should bring up a policy that will mandate parents and guardians to enroll children and wards in schools and quality education should be provided and make affordable to the populace irrespective of region, tribe, religion and or social status and also provision of other social capital infrastructures should be given good consideration in the annual estimates and also ensure proper and appropriate monitoring of the projects up to completion, a policy should be made to include communities in having a say in the project awarded in their communities. Public private partnership should be encourage and partake with sincerity of purpose. Corporate social responsibilities of business entities in both host and neighboring communities should be encourage by the government and monitor, as most corporate entities enjoy social amenities provided for such communities without hindrance.

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