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THE EFFECTS OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA AND THE ROLE OF SELECTED UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES IN SOUTH-EAST, NIGERIA IN CURBING IT

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Abstract
The study investigated the effects of insecurity in Nigeria, and the role of some selected university libraries in South-East, Nigeria. The study employed a descriptive survey research design and used questionnaires as its primary data collecting instrument. 194 professional and paraprofessional librarians from the libraries of University of Nigeria Nsukka Library, Micheal Okpara University library Umudike and Nnamdi Azikiwe University library Awka made up the study's population. Only 169 of the 194 questionnaires that were issued were actually collected. Using descriptive statistics, the mean and percentage of the data were calculated. A mean score of 2.5 or above and a percentage score of 50% were considered for decision making. The findings revealed that that the effects of insecurity in South-East, Nigeria is as follows: Wanton murder of innocent people, the collapse of the economy, the overspending of the limited financial resources on fighting insecurity at the expense of welfare programs for the populace, the relocation and outflow of foreign investments, and damaged reputation of the nation among other countries respectively. The study further shows that the role of the libraries in curbing insecurity in South-East Nigeria as follows: cooperation with pertinent stakeholders, encouragement of lifetime learning, encouraging moral literacy and encouraging moral education. The study recommends that the Nigeria Government should put up various modalities to tackle insecurity in the country by understanding the root causes of insecurity, enhancing security infrastructure, investing in community initiatives, strengthening the role of the police and security forces. and improving education and job opportunities and by actively supporting, directing, and promoting ideas and deeds that enhance the general security of the nation, libraries and librarians should take the lead in national security talks.
Keywords: Effects, Insecurity, Nigeria, role, libraries,

Introduction

Over the past 10 years, Nigeria has experienced extreme insecurity, which has had an impact on both the social and economic well-being of the country and the life of humankind. The danger of lost economic and investment possibilities has no longer made members of the diplomatic community comfortable. The negative effects on society are apparent: They include the death toll and destruction of property, the diversion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from planned locations to other nations, and the depletion of public funds, particularly from the significant portion of tax revenue devoted to security measures, which impedes the attainment of development goals (Obi, 2015). Undoubtedly, Nigeria is facing serious security challenges that are upsetting not just the general public but also elites and the security personnel tasked with protecting people and property (Omoroje, Egbule & Emuebie, 2020).

The nation's current state of insecurity has resulted in the wanton murder of innocent people, the collapse of the economy, the overspending of the limited financial resources on fighting insecurity at the expense of welfare programs for the populace, the relocation and outflow of foreign investments, and a damaged reputation of the nation among other countries. Examining the library's role in reducing insecurity in the nation has become necessary due to its strategic location and significance in the creation and dissemination of information. According to Omode & Omode (2015), it is the educational system's major duty to recognize and handle each country's unique difficulties. This viewpoint holds that Nigeria's educational institutions, and its libraries, have a responsibility to help the nation overcome the urgent security challenges that are seriously affecting the country and jeopardizing its unity. This article seeks to investigate the effects of insecurity in Nigeria and the role of some selected university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Due to their critical importance to every facet of human and national development, academic libraries and other libraries that handle and administer knowledge and information are indispensable to national insecurity. Thus, the concern for national security is the core premise of librarianship. Academic libraries provide knowledge, tools, and guidance in a judgment-free environment so that users can explore and investigate any potential sympathies for terrorists without fear of shame or exposure. Libraries are used more during times of warfare in civilized nations because people go there to obtain information that will help them.

It has been observed that research works on the effects of insecurity in Nigeria and the role libraries exist. But there is no study on the effects of insecurity in Nigeria and the role of libraries with a particular reference to South-East, Nigeria. This study is therefore undertaken to find a permanent solutions to insecurity in Nigeria using some selected university libraries in South-East, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the effects of insecurity in some selected libraries in South-East Nigeria
2. To find out the role of the libraries in curbing insecurity in South-East Nigeria

Literature Review

In order to established a firm framework for the study, the researcher has to review literatures on the state of insecurity in Nigeria, nature of insecurity, etiology of insecurity, government's efforts to eradicate insecurity and the role of library in curbing insecurity.

The State of Insecurity in Nigeria

Insecurity is one of the social ills that threaten humanity's existence, create fear within its environment and limit its free movement. Obi (2015) describes insecurity as 'a chronic threat to human's life, territories, states, religious beliefs, property and institutions among others'. His description portrays insecurity as a phenomenon threatening humans' existence and affecting their environment. This situation has led to several insecurity cases that have claimed many people's lives and destroyed people's businesses and property. Nche et al.'s (2019) research revealed from the words of a participant in their work that the people in their area sleep with one eye open because of the daily reoccurrences of insecurity such as kidnapping and armed robbery cases. The daily reoccurrence of insecurity in Nigeria has spread to all parts and strata of the country, leaving Nigerians with no place to run to for safety. Nigeria's security issues during the past 10 years have drawn attention from across the world, despite significant yearly financial allocations to national defense and government investments in national security. Every year, all attempts and hopes to eradicate crime from Nigerian territory were met with failure. Instead, there has been a rise in criminal activity, threats to people's lives and property, and total disruption of their ability to engage in economic activity.

In the twenty years since Nigeria's restoration to democracy, Hassan (2014) noted that the country has gone through a number of violent crises caused by conflicts driven by political, religious, and ethnic motives, which have resulted in many fatalities and significant property damage. The author voiced alarm over the rising number of bombings, homicides, mass killings, kidnappings, abductions, and other actions against humanity that have become more frequent in the nation. Adegbami (2013) also highlighted that because of the complexity and breadth of the issue, which can take many different forms, including bombings, kidnappings, property destruction, and inciting fear in the public, insecurity has become a challenge that the nation's security apparatus has found difficult to handle.

Nature of Insecurity

Throughout the past few years, the nation has experienced many types of insecurity. Nigeria has seen a variety of criminal actions, including kidnapping, ritual killings, bombings, the mass slaughter of defenseless and innocent individuals, kidnapping of foreign nationals, and other crimes against humanity. According to Nwafornso and Obiora (2018), the nation is now dealing with a number of difficult problems, including political violence, extremism (Boko Haram) or insurgency, community violence, abduction, Niger Delta, and maritime insecurity. There is a pervasive lack of security in the nation, which leads to the insecurity and others. There is a pervasive lack of security in the nation which leads to the destruction of companies and assets and the wanton murdering of individuals.

Nigeria faces a number of security challenges, including the insurgency led by Boko Haram in the country's Northeast, Central, and West; unprovoked killings by Fulani herdsmen in the country's North; ongoing settler and indigenous feuds in the Plateau; kidnapping for ransom in the South-East and South-South; kidnapping for rituals in the South-West; the threat of Niger-Delta militancy in the South-South; and banditry in Northern Nigeria. These issues have solidified Nigeria's place in the annals of international notoriety (Hassan, 2014). In Nigeria, there is seldom a location that is completely safe from criminal activity. All over the nation, the problems of ritual killings and yahoo-yahoo exploiting human life as a means of exchange for money are prevalent. The tragic killing of a defenseless youngster aboard a public bus, which is supposed to be the safest mode of transportation, has everyone concerned. The South-east is confronted with the separatist operations of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), while the coastal states in the South-South area suffer from illicit oil bunkering, piracy, and militancy (Elem, 2021).

The core causes of the nation's insecurity were also emphasized by Ozoigbo (2019), who focused on a number of human-related issues, including bad governance, economic inequality and marginalization, intolerance based on racial or religious differences, insufficient or weak security structures, the erosion of moral and traditional systems, porous borders that facilitate the proliferation of weapons, political-motivated insecurity, and the serious problems of unemployment and poverty. Ellen, (2021) bemoaned the extent to which corruption had seeped into the nation's political, social, economic, security, and educational institutions. The article characterized corruption as a harmful factor that impedes growth and development, resulting in societal unrest, political unrest, and a high crime rate. The author also outlined other causes that are fueling insecurity in Nigeria, including the spread of weapons from both domestic and foreign manufacturers, as well as from war-torn countries like Libya, Afghanistan, and Chad.

Etiology of Insecurity

A sense of uncertainty and inadequacy is called insecurity. It causes worry about someone’s objectives, interpersonal connections, and capacity to handle particular circumstances. Everyone experiences insecurity occasionally. It may arise from a multitude of sources and manifest itself in every aspect of life. According to Ogheneakoke (2014), there are several different reasons that contribute to Nigeria's insecurity. A few of these are: religious intolerance; foreign infiltration leading to insurgency; corruption; marginalization; social inequality; ethnic divisions; poverty; greed; dominance and exploitation; and the overt display of materialism as a core cause of insecurity in Nigeria. From a different angle, Omode and Omode (2015) agreed that a number of important elements contribute to Nigerian insecurity. These include perceived persecution, extreme poverty among affluence, poor governance, lack of access to high-quality education or training, inadequate basic infrastructure, and ethnic and religious differences.

The ethnic divide and the exclusion of certain regions from basic infrastructure supply have been heavily blamed on Nigeria's present leadership, and these issues have seriously hampered Nigeria's security (Nwadialor, 2011). As it is, the South-East has been left out of important political posts, favoring those from the North. That might account for the agitation for the Biafra Republic, the powerful Shi'a organization known as the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), and the several security breaches that transpired as a result of the movement. Furthermore, it is evident that the opportunities for success in life are wildly uneven in Nigeria. The vast majority of the population feels oppressed, deprives them of opportunities, and is marginalized. This has left many unhappy and without hope, especially the youth, who are now using any legal or illegal means to express their dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs. The result is a growing sense of uncertainty (Onuoha, 2011).

Over two million Nigerians have reportedly been internally displaced by the insurgency in the Northeast. The national economy is also impacted by insecurity because of the actions of several terrorist and militia organizations, which have decreased government revenue from oil sales and slowed the GDP's growth rate. Furthermore, there is a dearth of international and local investment in the nation's economic growth, which exacerbates the insecurity that affects people's lives and property (Finintell, 2013).

Government's Efforts to Eradicate Insecurity

Ensuring that the lives and property of its residents are adequately protected is the government's primary duty. In order to fulfill the aforementioned duty, the state establishes security institutions to defend its people from both foreign and internal threats. There has not been much progress made in ensuring public security, despite the government's massive job in that regard. Mukhtar (2022) agreed that tackling security issues had to be the top priority for Nigeria's government at all levels, given its recognition of the government's critical role and comprehension of the effects of insecurity on development. The author emphasized that the country cannot advance its growth significantly.

Nigerian regimes have employed a range of techniques to counter insecurity, including the use of direct force as well as incentives and punitive measures. Periodic reviews of the security agencies in charge of handling the issue have also been a part of these strategies (Omoroje, Egbule & Emuebie, 2020). Nevertheless, the authors expressed disappointment that residents had not been able to notice any good effects despite significant government resources being set aside to address insecurity risks. The public expects the government to do more to curb the continued violence that is severely affecting the nation, even in the face of large investments and the deployment of substantial resources from supplemental budgets to combat insecurity.

The Ministry of Defence has been given N878 billion, and the government has purchased equipment and resources estimated to be worth N983 billion, demonstrating its commitment to tackling insecurity. However, these initiatives have not had positive results (Elem, 2021). The government's annual recruitment of security personnel, both military and paramilitary, has been attributed to its efforts to reduce insecurity. This is in addition to its efforts to strengthen the military, which has been criticized for being underprepared in comparison to other developed nations, and to prepare the nation for potential security threats.

Role of Library in Curbing Insecurity

Nwafornso and Obiora (2018) underlined that meaningful learning, education, and growth are difficult to occur in an atmosphere of instability and widespread devastation of lives and property in their examination of the role of librarians in conflict management. The writers emphasized how important it is for libraries to practice conscientious librarianship. They stated that libraries have a responsibility to provide knowledge that might promote harmony and strengthen Nigeria's security as a country. They emphasized how important it is to use library resources to help individuals understand their part in national security. The library may implement the following community service areas to help reduce insecurity in Nigeria:

Methodology

Research methodology

The study used a descriptive survey research approach and questionnaires were used as the main means of gathering data. The study's population consists of 194 professional and paraprofessional librarians from the libraries of Michael Okpara University in Umudike, Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Awka, and the University of Nigeria in Nsukka. Out of the 194 questionnaires issued, only 169 were in good condition. The data's mean and percentage were computed using descriptive statistics. Consideration was given to a mean score of 2.5 or higher and a percentage score of 50% and above.

Result

Table 1

Population of the study

S/N	Institution	Professional librarians	Para professional librarians	Total
1	University of Nigeria Nsukka Library	44	36	80
2	Micheal Okpara University library Umudike	23	24	47
3	Nnamdi Azikiwe University library Awka	36	31	67
	Total	**194**		

The population under research is displayed in table 1 above. There are 44 professional librarians and 36 paraprofessionals working at the University of Nigeria Nsukka Library; similarly, the Michael Okpara University library in Umudike employs 23 professional librarians and 24 paraprofessional librarians; and the Nnamdi Azikiwe University library in Awka employs 36 professional librarians and 31 paraprofessional librarians.

Table 2

The effects of insecurity in some selected libraries in South-East Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-X	Decision
1	Wanton Murder of innocent people	77	81	9	2	3.3	Accepted
2	The collapse of the Economy	69	74	16	10	3.1	Accepted
3	The overspending of the Limited Financial Resources On fighting insecurity at the expense of welfare programs for the populace,	65	74	12	18	3.1	Accepted
4	The relocation and outflow of foreign investments	72	76	11	10	3.2	Accepted
5	Damaged reputation of the nation among other countries.	75	76	19	1	3.3	Accepted

The table 3 shows that the effects of insecurity and the roles of some selected university libraries in South-East, Nigeria is as follows: Wanton murder of innocent people (3.3), the collapse of the economy (3.1), the overspending of the limited financial resources on fighting insecurity at the expense of welfare programs for the populace, (3.1), the relocation and outflow of foreign investments, (3.2), and Damaged reputation of the nation among other countries (3.3) respectively.

Table 3
The role of the libraries in curbing insecurity in South-East Nigeria

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	-X	Remarks
1	Cooperation with pertinent stakeholders	76	87	3	3	3.3	Accepted
2	Encouragement of lifetime learning:	78	70	21	0	3.3	Accepted
3	Encouraging moral literacy:	67	92	8	2	3.3	Accepted
4	Encouraging moral education:	70	94	4	1	3.3	Accepted

Table 3 identified four (4) role of the libraries in curbing insecurity in South-East Nigeria as (3.3), cooperation with pertinent stakeholders (3.3), encouragement of lifetime learning (3.3), (3.3), encouraging moral literacy (3.2), and (3.3) encouraging moral education respectively.

Discussion of findings

From the findings above, one can infer that the effects of insecurity in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. The wanton murder of innocent people, the collapse of the economy, the overspending of the limited financial resources on fighting insecurity at the expense of welfare programs for the populace, the relocation and outflow of foreign investments and damaged reputation of the nation among other countries can be seen from the study as a major threat to the nation and the world at large. This is in line with Hassan, (2014) when she opined that these issues have solidified Nigeria's place in the annals of international notoriety.

Furthermore, the study note that the role of the libraries in curbing in security is critical such as cooperation with pertinent stakeholders, encouragement of lifetime learning, encouraging moral literacy and encouraging moral education respectively. This is supported by Nwafornso and Obiora (2018) when they asserted that meaningful learning, education, and growth are difficult to occur in an atmosphere of instability and widespread devastation of lives and property in their examination of the role of librarians in conflict management. Therefore, the role of libraries and librarians is critical in conflict management.

Recommendations

The study recommends thus:

1. The Nigeria Government should put up various modalities to tackle insecurity in the country by understanding the root causes of insecurity, enhancing security infrastructure, investing in community initiatives, strengthening the role of the police and security forces and improving education and job opportunities.
2. By actively supporting, directing, and promoting ideas and deeds that enhance the general security of the nation, libraries and librarians should take the lead in national security talks. To increase public awareness of the negative effects of national insecurity, they should investigate creative strategies like printing and putting up posters in public areas.

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