

**INCREASING SECURITY THREATS: ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS IN
NIGERIA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH: A STUDY OF ABAKALIKI
METROPOLIS, EBONYI STATE, NIGERIA**

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Abstract

This study focused on increasing security threat factors and implications in Nigeria socio-economic growth with particular interest in Abakaliki, the capital of Ebonyi State. The threat issues studied include poverty, political marginalization, unemployment, and ethno-religious strife and how they have impaired the socio-economic activities in Abakaliki metropolis. The study is undergirded by Relative Deprivation Theory of insecurity. Structured questionnaire was formulated and administered on 380 residents in Abakaliki to elicit the relevant data needed for this investigation. The data obtained were presented on simple percentage table, while the test of hypotheses was done using Pearson (r). The study found out that increasing security threat issues – poverty, unemployment, political marginalization and ethno-religious – have led to an increase in agitations like IPOB separatist movement, youth restiveness, kidnapping, terrorism, and armed robbery. The implications of these threats include destruction of life and properties, grounding of business and infrastructure, discouragement of foreign direct investment (FDI), disruption of economic development policies, social systems, health and peaceful co-existence. This study, therefore, recommends that government at all levels to urgently address the root causes of insecurity in the country such as poverty, unemployment, political marginalization, uneven distribution of infrastructural facilities, through good governance.

Keywords: Increasing Security Threats, Issues, Implications, Socio-economic Development, Abakaliki Metropolis, Nigeria

1. Introduction: Background to the Study

Different countries of the world have made security of lives and property the major preoccupation. This is essentially so because development cannot be recorded in an insecure environment. It, therefore, implies that there is a nexus between security and development in a given social environment (Sunday, 2019). Security – by and large – is generally seen as a social establishment that guarantees peace, liberty and freedom for the citizens of a country without known or impending threats (Erumebor, 2023; Adeleke, 2017).

In other words security threat implies situations that would make citizens afraid to walk and work peacefully or harmoniously without fear of intimidation, molestation, infliction of bodily injuries wherever they find themselves (Iwundu & ThomOtuya, 2018). The centrality of security in enhancing peaceful co-existence and promoting conducive environment for viable economic activities to thrive has been recognized by successive Nigerian governments. This may have partly explained the establishment of security agencies that are fully staffed with qualified officers and men with operational equipment to nip in the bud any perceived threat to lives and properties in the country. In addition, there is a national security policy formulated to ensure internal security which is enshrined in the constitution with obvious objective to secure effectively the lives and properties of the Nigerian citizenry.

Section 14 (2) (b) of the 2019 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) specifically states that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.”

Government at all levels have always carried out constant public enlightenment programmes on the need to give peace and security a chance by being law abiding. Apart from that, there have been huge budgetary allocation of funds for defense and internal security in the country, a trend that has denied capital projects the needed attention (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2019). Besides the huge expenditure on security at the federal level, the 36 states and 774 local government areas in Nigeria have continued to enjoy security votes that run into billions of Naira, yet, there is little or nothing to show for it (Eboh & Obodoechina, 2019).

On the other hand, socio-economic development is the combination of social and economic development. This is the process of social and economic development in a society. Socio-economic development is measured with indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy, infrastructure, health and levels of employment (Unicef, 2023; Tolu, 2019). Chrisman (2017) views socio-economic development as a process of societal advancement where improvement in the wellbeing of people is generated through strong partnership between all level of government, sectors, corporate bodies, ethno-religious groups and other groups in the society. Gboyega (2018) opined that development, as an idea, embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material wellbeing of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way such that today's activities do not imperil the future (CBN, 2023).

For over a decade, Nigeria has continued to witness a tremendous setback in its socioeconomic development fuelled by the emergence of different kinds of security threats particularly armed banditry, kidnapping, communal clash, terrorist insurgency, among others (Akinbi, 2015; Epron, 2018). However, despite government efforts to bring to an end the bewildering situation by spending over N4.62trillion on national security over the past five years (2015-2020), the security situation remains Nigeria's major challenge to socio-economic development (Olufemi, 2021). Nigeria, the giant of Africa, is still considered and regarded as a developing economy and still ranks low in all socio-economic indicators such as employment level, life expectancy, health, infrastructure, access to good water, literacy, among others (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014).

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) put Nigeria's unemployment rate at 32.5%, of which youth unemployment is 59.4% (NBS, 2021). The World Health Organization in recently released data on the life expectancy of World countries, Nigeria's life expectancy was put at 55.2 of which male's life expectancy is 59.07 and female 62.8 (WHO, 2021). Similarly, a report in 2021 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Nigeria recorded an increase in GDP of about 440bn dollars (the country with the highest GDP in Africa), yet Nigeria's quality of life remains stagnant (IMF, 2021). This illustrates that our socio-economic development is still at a low ebb.

As Nigeria is re-strategizing to control the menace, having suffered from the terrorist groups like ISWAP and Boko Haram insurgency which have crippled its socio-economic development, new security threats are emerging – either to complement or to gradually replace – earlier threats to the country's socio-economic development. In Ebonyi State, with Abakaliki Metropolis as its capital, separatist groups under the aegis of Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB), Eastern Security Network (ESN), and Biafra Zionist Movement (BZM), have been campaigning for self-determination. This is not without violence as government formations are attacked and sit-at-home orders are enforced. There are also cases of kidnapping, arm robbery and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the metropolis. Drawing

from the foregoing, this study would examine the implications of these emerging security threats for Nigeria's socio-economic development, with a particular focus on Abakaliki Metropolis and recommend possible solutions.

2. Statement of the Problem

The violent activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Easter Security Network (ESN), Biafra Zion Movement and increase in the rural banditry, have gained an international attention. Traditional media – print and electronic and Social Media – Facebook, Twitter (X as the new name), have been awash with avalanche reports and commentaries about these violent activities. Scholars across disciplines have also conducted researches on this, using varied perspective and approaches. Some focused on different communities, local governments and states. However, there is a dearth of sufficient academic research on the emerging security threats, factors and possible solution that focus specifically on Abakaliki metropolis. It is on the heels of this, therefore, that I conduct this research. My research examines the effects of these emerging security threats on the socioeconomic development of the study area.

3. Aim and Objectives of the Study

The general aim of this study is to examine increasing security threats factors such as poverty, political marginalization, unemployment and ethno-religious strife and implications for Nigeria's socio-economic development with particular focus on the Abakaliki metropolis while the specific objectives are, to:

- a) Find out the extent political marginalization has affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis;
- b) Determine the extent has poverty affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis;
- c) Ascertain the relationship between unemployment and socio-economic development and effects of ethno-religious strife on the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

4. Significance of the Study

High level of insecurity has been of great concern to government, residents, investors and security agents. This is because it does not only victimize the individual but could also destroys communities, ruins business, discourages investment, drives away foreign aid, stalls socio-economic development and also empties the State coffers. The persistently high level of crime is also damaging Nigeria's image abroad, and more importantly, undermining the nation's efforts at achieving growth and development. The research would, therefore, contribute to knowledge by making a new addition to the body of literatures on the subject in Nigeria, highlight the effects of this menace with specific reference to Abakaliki Metropolis and recommend possible solutions to the disarming insecurity situation in Nigeria through the metropolis.

5. Review of Related Literature

Nwagboso (2018), probed the extent to which the internal security problems have negatively impacted on Nigerian economy. A content analytical method, based Relative Theory, the study found that security challenges in the country are traceable to bad governance. Achumba, et al (2017), examined the insecurity situation in Nigeria and its impact on business investment, operations and sustainable development. The study adopted content analytical method to probe into the research problem. It was found that the remote and immediate cause of insecurity in Nigeria include – weak institutional capacity, pervasive material inequality and unfairness, ethnic religious conflict among others. Issue of insecurity, as a major challenge

of the Nigerian state, and its eminent implications for Nigeria's socio-economic development attracted the research interest of Ewetan and Urhie (2014).

Epron (2019) in “Emerging Security Threats: Factors and Implications for Nigeria’s Socio-Economic Development 2015-2019” explored some emerging security threats, highlighting the factors and their extant implications on the Nigeria’s socioeconomic development. It is a historical research that employed content analysis as its methodology and secondary materials were used as the data sources. It used descriptive style to consolidate on the existing literatures on the subject area. Epron’s work is closely related to mine, however, they differ significantly in methodology, style and scope. While his deployed historical method and focused on Nigeria between 2015 and 2019, mine, conversely, is an empirical research that focuses on Abakaliki metropolis without a definite periodical delineation.

Oladopo, Aladejebi, and Ayeni, (2021) studied the implications of porous border on Nigeria economy and security. The exploratory search, anchored on secondary sources, found that the Nigerian unsecured borders with neighbouring countries are contributive factors to the increasing securing challenges in the country. With a particular focus on the South East of Nigeria, Onwubiko, and Ugorji (2022) in “The politics of marginalization in Nigeria: Challenges of the 4th Republic”, were of the view that the worsening security situation in the South East could be blamed on the prevailing marginalization of the South East in the Nigerian scheme of things.

Abdullahi (2022) gave a detailed account of what is known about Nigeria separatist group’s weapons stockpile. The study made a historical incursion into the remote and immediate causes of separatist agitation in Nigeria, particularly in the South East of the country while Akinyetun and Bakare (2020), carried out a comparative exploratory research on the implication identity crises to national development in Africa, specifically in Nigeria and Sundan. Igboin, (2021) researched ungoverned or alternatively governed spaces in North-Eastern Nigeria. He was interested in the sociopolitical issues of governance that birthed the Boko Harm insurgency in the East part of Nigeria and Tobi-Aiyemo (2020) explored possible role the Nigerian judiciary could play in arresting the security in Nigeria. However, none of these works concentrated on the increasing security threats in Abakaliki metropolis. My research will fill this gap in knowledge.

Adeleke (2017), in “Insecurity: A Threat to Human Existence and Economic Development in Nigeria,” revealed that power shift from the northern hegemony to a minority geo-political zone of South-south was responsible for some insurgent groups rising against the state. Porous boundaries, unemployment, job racketeering and illiteracy were also identified as enablers. Ekene (2015) viewed corruption as an "endemic disease" that has emerged over time as an obstacle to sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria. He was more concerned with the challenges corruption has posed to sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria. Adesina (2017) in “Cybercrime and poverty in Nigeria” employs the human security approach to examine the menace of cybercrime in Nigeria. The author further tries to link cybercrime and poverty in the study. He concluded that the increasing poverty level in Nigeria correlates with the increasing cybercrime in the country.

There is a near general consensus that security of lives and property is one of the determining factors that moved people to enter into social contract with the state. To Hobbes, life in the state of nature was short, brutish and nasty. In other words, life in the state of nature could be best described as the survival of the fittest. It was in the face of such precarious security situation, according to social contract theorists, that

people took a drastic action by appointing a few number of people (government) who could oversee their affairs as well as guarantee protection of their fundamental rights. Put differently, people surrendered their rights to government whose duty it should be to ensure their survival – security. To Adeleke (2017), security implies freedom from threat or violence which could result in loss of lives and valuable properties. From this view point, security is a situation where one or generality of the people are free from all forms of fears or threat to their precious lives and hard earned valuables (properties).

However, the United Nations Development Programme (2014), sees security as protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the day-to-day activities of individuals at homes, offices or communities. Security here implies a situation of being secure and safe; a state of being protected from threats such as hunger, disease among others. This definition calls to mind the crucial role of the government in the provision of adequate security. Similarly, Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese and Ogunde (2019), maintained that security encompasses all mechanisms put in place to protect and safeguard citizenry and resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the country against sabotage or violence. Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2017), opined that security can be perceived as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income) predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological harm (safety or protection from emotional stress). Insecurity stands for any of the following: absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection and lack of safety (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014).

It appears, from the different shades of opinion, that insecurity thrives in Nigeria mainly due to corruption and poorly governed environments characterized by weak institutions. It was the ‘weakness’ in the modus operandi of MASSOB in pursuing its objectives that paved way for the hysteria of the more radical IPOB as “an undisputable champion, fronting the Igbo secessionist cause” (Ekpo & Agorye, 2018:36).

The year 2010 ushered in a set of criminal gangs who specialized in armed banditry and so a new style of banditry emerged which involved not only rustling the cattle but killing the owners and scaring people away from their communities (Rufa’i, 2016; Shitu, 2017). Furthermore, Anka, (2017) posits that the 2019 general election in Nigeria brought about the emergence of these security threats that have crippled social and economic life in some Zamfara communities including Dansadau, Zurmi, Shinkafi, Anka, Maradun and Tsafe forest. The current rising wave of kidnapping, banditry, and cybercrime (yahoo) among others in Nigeria has affected among others, Nigeria's socio-economic development (Makinde, 2019).

6. Theoretical Framework

This research is undergirded by Robert Merton’s Relative Deprivation (RD) Theory. It states that some social movements arise among people who feel deprived and alienated from what ordinarily ought to be theirs. Development of the concept of relative deprivation is often attributed to American sociologist Robert K. Merton (1945), was expanded by Ted Robert Gurr (1971). The anger brought by frustration is an inspiring force that positions men to belligerence, regardless of its instrumentalities. The relative deprivation is the term employed to signify the strain or tension that emerges from a disagreement between the “ought” and the “is” or “the normative and the positive” of collective value satisfaction which prompts humanity to violence. Giving credence to this theory, Runciman (1966) cited in Obah-Akpowoghaha (2013), defines the prerequisite of “relative” deprivation as: (where individual A feels deprived of object X): individual A does not have X; individual A wants to have X; individual A knows of other persons who have X; individual A believes obtaining X is realistic. The construct of this theory shows that systemic failure or structural defect in a given society is significantly connected with

frustration and aggression that prompt criminality and violence. In contemporary Nigeria, systemic failure manifests in high rate of unemployment among graduates and non-graduates. Unemployment is a correlate of poverty and violent conflicts- youth militancy in Niger Delta (Ibekwe and Ewoh, 2012) Boko Haram Insurgency in the Northeast (Adebayo, 2013) and high rate of kidnapping in the Southeast (Nwagwu, 2014) political assassination (Igbafe and Offiong, 2007). Speaking of societal security dilemmas, Gurr maintains that in such cases “the benefit of one group is an automatic loss for all the others. Life is an inelastic pie” (1971). The failure of the state to meet people’s value expectations which they believe they are rightfully entitled to can eventually lead to disorientation amongst the citizenry and discontentment on the part of the people towards the state.

Methodology

The research design adopted in this work is the descriptive survey design. Descriptive research design aims to accurately and systematically describe a population, situation or phenomenon. It can answer what, where, when and how questions, but not why questions. Descriptive research is used to describe characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. It does not answer questions about how/when/why the characteristics occurred, it rather addresses the "what" questions.

3.2 Area of the Study

Abakaliki is the capital city of Ebonyi State in southeastern Nigeria, located 64 kilometres (40 mi) southeast of Enugu. The inhabitants are primarily members of the Igbo nation. It was the headquarters of the Ogoja province before the creation of the Southeastern State in 1967. The name Abakaliki originally means 'Aba Nkaleke' and is the name of a community in Izzi land (Nkaleke). Abakaliki, as in the past, is a center of agricultural trade including such products as yams, cassava, rice, and both palm oil and palm kernels. It is also known for its local lead, zinc, salt, and limestone mining or quarrying.

3.3 Scope of the study

This study focused on emerging security threats factors and implication for Nigeria socio-economic development with particular focus on Abakaliki. The study concentrated on threats such as separatist movements, banditry and how they have impaired the socio-economic activities of Abakaliki metropolis.

3.4 Population of the Study

The last known population of Abakaliki was 915,438 (year 2019). This was 0.253% of total Nigerian population. If population growth rate would be same as in period 2006–2015 (+15.31%/year), it is estimated that the population of Abakaliki as at 2021 is about 1,179,280 (NPC, 2021). This would form the population.

3.10 Limitations of the study

This refers to the handicaps of inherent factors that might affect the result of the research. It deals with the constraints which prevented the writer from exhaustive or detailing finding. In dealing on a topic like this, one is bound to be confronted with a number of problems. The limitations encountered in the course of this research were lack of finance, poor response and lack of statistical record. The limitations, notwithstanding, the validity and reliability of the instruments were not affected. Therefore, the result of the research is reliable.

Data Presentation and Analysis

In this chapter, the data elicited from the respondents were presented using simple percentage table and the hypotheses were tested using Chi-square in accordance with the descriptions stated in chapter three.

Out of the 384 questionnaires distributed, 380 received consent and were recovered and used in making the analyses.

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Data were obtained on respondents' sex, age, education qualification, religion and marital status. Information gathered on their sex are contained in table 1

Table 1: Age Distribution

| Age (Years) | Total | Percentages (%) |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Below 18 | 24 | 6.316 |
| 18 – 23 | 63 | 16.58 |
| 24-29 | 105 | 27.63 |
| 30-35 | 87 | 22.89 |
| 36-40 | 48 | 12.63 |
| 40 and above | 53 | 13.95 |
| Total | 380 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

The respondent age range indicates that approximately 80% of the respondents are between 18-40 years; this implies that most of the respondents were youthful adults.

Table 5: Marital Status of Respondents

| Marital status | Total | Percentages (%) |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Never Married | 140 | 36.84 |
| Married | 155 | 40.79 |
| Divorced or Separate | 40 | 10.53 |
| Widowed | 45 | 11.84 |
| Total | 380 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

There are more never-married respondents than the widowed and divorced add together. Though most of the respondents are married, this may be considered an indicator of high social responsibility among the respondents.

Table 4: Religion of Respondents

| Religion | Total | Percentages % |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Christianity | 340 | 89.1 |
| Islamic | 15 | 4.1% |
| Others | 25 | 6.8% |
| Total | 380 | 100% |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Respondents indicate that south-east is predominantly Christians, with little spices of traditional worship; Islamic adherents are seldom in the region.

Table 4: Occupation of Respondents

| Religion | Total | Percentages % |
|----------------------|------------|---------------|
| Trader | 315 | 82.89 |
| Public/Civil Servant | 15 | 3.947 |
| Farmer | 25 | 6.579 |
| Others | 25 | 6.579 |
| Total | 380 | 100% |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Most of the respondents are traders, accounting for 82.89% of the total respondents, while 50 respondents either famers or other crafts, only 4% are public servants.

Table 3: Educational Qualifications of Respondents

| Qualification | Total | Percentages (%) |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| FSLC | 20 | 5.26 |
| SSCE | 170 | 44.74 |
| BSC/HND | 160 | 42.11 |
| MSC | 30 | 7.89 |
| Ph.D and above | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 380 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

More than 90% of the respondents have at least a senior secondary school certificate, while at least 50% are graduates or have higher educational certificate.

Table 3: Level of Income (Annually)

| Age (Years) | Total | Percentages (%) |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Below 500,000 | 177 | 46.58 |
| 501,000 -1,000,000 | 103 | 27.11 |
| 1,001,000 – 5,000,000 | 55 | 14.47 |
| 5,001,000-10,000,000 | 27 | 7.105 |
| 10,001,000/above | 18 | 4.737 |
| Total | 380 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Approximately 74% of the respondents has an annual income of 1,000,000 and below; and about 11% has an annual income above 5,000,000, notably about 47% has an annual 47%.

Family Type

| Sex | Total | Percentages (%) |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Monogamy | 230 | 60.53 |
| Polygamy | 150 | 39.47 |
| Others | 0 | 0% |
| Total | 380 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Most of the respondents were from a monogamous family (60.53%), while, 150 respondents were from a polygamous family.

Sex Distribution

| Sex | Total | Percentages (%) |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Male | 210 | 55.26 |
| Female | 170 | 44.74 |
| Total | 380 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

There were more male respondents in this study, though the discrepancy from the number of females is not that large.

4.2 Thematic analysis

Question 1: To what extent has political marginalization affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis?

Table 5: Scaled Responses on the extent has political marginalization affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis

| S/N | Questionnaire | SA | A | N | D | SD |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| 1 | Political marginalization of the south-east responsible for the separatist movement | 125 | 120 | 40 | 50 | 45 |
| 2 | Political marginalization of the south-east lead to the escalation of protest movement such Endsars, #Revolutionnow, and ResueNigeria | 130 | 120 | 40 | 45 | 45 |
| 3 | Political marginalization of the south-east fostered political apathy, chaos and fracas form the youth | 160 | 100 | 40 | 55 | 25 |
| 4 | Youth exhibits anti-government character both online and offline as a consequence of political marginalization of the south-east. | 100 | 140 | 40 | 63 | 37 |

*Data in parentheses are percentages

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Result as obtained in table 5 above shows the following; in item 1, majority 64% of the respondents affirm that Political marginalization of the south-east responsible for the separatist movement, 25% held a negative view, and 11% were indecisive.

In Item 2, majority 65% of the respondents affirm Political marginalization of the south-east lead to the escalation of protest movement such Endsars, #Revolutionnow, and ResueNigeria, while 24% held a negative view, and 11% were indecisive.

In Item 3, majority 68% of the respondents affirm that Political marginalization of the south-east fostered political apathy, chaos and fracas from the youth, 21% held a negative view, while 11% were indecisive

In Item 4, majority 63% of the respondents affirm that Youth exhibits anti-government characters both online and offline as a consequence of political marginalization of the south-east, 11% were indecisive, while 26% held a negative view.

Question 2: To what extent has poverty affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis?

Table 6: Scaled Responses on extent has poverty affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis

| S/N | Questionnaire | SA | A | N | D | SD |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| 6 | Poverty leads to increase in crime rate, loss of life and property | 130 | 100 | 40 | 40 | 70 |
| 7 | Poverty leads to poor education and low human capital development | 170 | 105 | 40 | 30 | 35 |
| 8 | Poverty facilitates the advancement of terrorism and banditry in Abakaliki | 160 | 135 | 40 | 15 | 30 |
| 9 | Poverty makes crime an inevitable alternative in Abakaliki | 106 | 180 | 40 | 32 | 22 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Result as obtained in table 6 above shows the following; in item 6, majority 67% of the respondents affirm that Poverty leads to increase in crime rate, loss of life and property, while 33% held a negative view.

In Item 7, majority 81% of the respondents affirm that poverty leads to poor education and low human capital development, while 19% held a negative view.

In Item 8, majority 86% of the respondents affirm that poverty facilitates the advancement of terrorism and banditry in Abakaliki, while 14% held a negative view.

In Item 9, majority 84% of the respondents affirm that Poverty makes crime an inevitable alternative in Abakaliki, while 16% held a negative view.

Question 3: What is the relationship between unemployment and socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis?

Table 7: Scaled Responses from the Respondents

| S/N | Questionnaire | SA | A | N | D | SD |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| 11 | Banditry and kidnapping are a products of unemployment in Nigeria | 115 | 105 | 40 | 70 | 50 |
| 12 | Internet fraud and other financial insecurity is traceable to over 33% unemployment in Nigeria | 145 | 130 | 40 | 45 | 20 |
| 13 | Unemployment is the backbone of Nigeria security threat | 130 | 130 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| 14 | Increase in unemployment leads to increase to insecurity | 150 | 135 | 40 | 25 | 30 |

Source: Field Survey, 2021.

Result as obtained in table 7 above shows the following; in item 11, majority 65% of the respondents affirm that Banditry and kidnapping are a products of unemployment in Nigeria, while 35% held a negative view.

In Item 12, majority 81% of the respondents affirm that Internet fraud and other financial insecurity is traceable to over 33% unemployment in Nigeria, while 19% held a negative view.

In Item 13, majority 76% of the respondents affirm that Unemployment is the backbone of Nigeria security threat, while 24% held a negative view.

In Item 14, majority 83% of the respondents affirm that Increase in unemployment leads to increase to insecurity, while 17% held a negative view.

Question 4: What is the effect of ethno-religious strive on socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis?

Table 8: Scaled Responses from the Respondents

| S/N | Questionnaire | SA | A | N | D | SD |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|
| 16 | Neptotism and favoritism affects the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis | 145 | 135 | 40 | 40 | 20 |
| 17 | Religion contributes to the crises that affect development of Abakaliki metropolis | 110 | 149 | 40 | 60 | 21 |
| 18 | There are cases of tribal war in Abakaliki Metropolis which causes socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis | 120 | 125 | 40 | 45 | 50 |
| 19 | Obnoxious cultural practices inhibits socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis | 150 | 105 | 40 | 40 | 45 |

Source: Nwede's Field Survey, 2021.

Result as obtained in table 8 above shows the following; in item 16, majority 82 of the respondents affirm that nepotism and favoritism affects the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis, while 18 held a negative view.

In Item 17, majority 76 of the respondents affirm that Religion contributes to the crises that affect development of Abakaliki metropolis, while 24 held a negative view.

In Item 18, majority 72 of the respondents affirm that there are cases of tribal war in Abakaliki Metropolis which causes socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis, while 28 held a negative view.

In Item 19, majority 75 of the respondents affirm that obnoxious cultural practices inhibits socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis, while 25 held a negative view.

4.3 Test of Hypotheses

4.3.1 Test of Hypothesis One

H₀₁: Political marginalization affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis to low extent.

H1₁: Political marginalization affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis to high extent.

Table 9: Correlation between Political marginalization and Socio-economic development

| | | Political marginalization | Socio-economic development |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Political marginalization | Pearson Correlation | 1 | 654** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 380 | 380 |
| Socio-economic development | Pearson Correlation | .654 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 380 | 380 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: SPSS Data output.

Table 7 showed the correlation result between Political marginalization and Socio-economic development ($r = 0.654$, P-value: 0.000). The result shows that Political marginalization has a positive and significant influence on Socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis. Since, $P < 0.01$, the study rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternate hypothesis that Political marginalization affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis to high extent.

4.3.4 Test of Hypothesis Two

H0₂: Poverty affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis to low extent.

H1₂: Poverty affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis to high extent

Table 10: Correlation between Poverty and Socio-economic development

| | | Poverty | Socio-economic development |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Poverty | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .874** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 380 | 380 |
| Socio-economic development | Pearson Correlation | .874 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 380 | 380 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: SPSS Data output.

Table 8 the correlation result between Poverty and Socio-economic development ($r = 0.874$, P-value: 0.000). The result showed that Poverty has a significant and positive relationship with Socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis. Therefore, since $P < 0.01$, the study rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternate hypothesis that Poverty affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis to high extent.

4.3.3 Test of Hypothesis Three

H0₃: There is no significant relationship between unemployment and socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

H1₃: There is a significant relationship between unemployment and socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

Table 11: Correlation between Unemployment and Socio-economic development

| | | Unemployment | Socio-economic development |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Unemployment | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .786** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 380 | 380 |
| Socio-economic development | Pearson Correlation | .786 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 380 | 380 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: SPSS Data output.

Table 9 shows the correlation result between Unemployment and Socio-economic development ($r = 0.786$, P-value: 0.000). The result showed that Unemployment has a significant and positive relationship with Socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis. Therefore, since $P < 0.01$, the study rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternate hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between unemployment and socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

4.3.4 Test of hypothesis Four

H0₄: Ethno-religious strive has no significant impact on socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis

H1₄: Ethno-religious strive has a significant impact on socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

Table 12: Correlation between Poverty and Socio-economic development

| | | Ethno-religious | Socio-economic development |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Ethno-religious | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .874** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 380 | 380 |
| Socio-economic development | Pearson Correlation | .874 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 380 | 380 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: SPSS Data output.

Table 10 shows the correlation result between Ethno-religious and Socio-economic development ($r= 0.874$, P-value: 0.000). The result showed that Ethno-religious has a significant and positive relationship with Socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis. Therefore, since $P<0.01$, the study rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternate hypothesis that Ethno-religious strive has a significant impact on socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

The correlation result between Poverty and Socio-economic development ($r= 0.874$, P-value: 0.000). The result showed that Poverty has a significant and positive relationship with Socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis. Therefore, since $P<0.01$, the study rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternate hypothesis that Poverty affected the socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis to high extent.

The correlation result between Unemployment and Socio-economic development ($r= 0.786$, P-value: 0.000). The result showed that Unemployment has a significant and positive relationship with Socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis. Therefore, since $P<0.01$, the study rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternate hypothesis that there is a significant relationship between unemployment and socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

The correlation result between Ethno-religious and Socio-economic development ($r= 0.874$, P-value: 0.000). The result showed that Ethno-religious has a significant and positive relationship with Socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis. Therefore, since $P<0.01$, the study rejected the null hypothesis and accepted the alternate hypothesis that Ethno-religious strive has a significant impact on socio-economic development of Abakaliki metropolis.

Conclusion and recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, emerging security threats factors include poverty, unemployment, political marginalization and ethno-religious. These threats fuel agitations by separatist movements, youth restiveness, banditry, kidnapping, terrorism, and armed robbery. The attendant implications of these threats, among others, are destruction of life and properties, grounding of business and infrastructure, discourage foreign direct investment, disruption of economic development policies, health care and peaceful co-existence. The research recommends the need for government at all levels to urgently address the root causes of insecurity in the country such as poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, uneven distribution of infrastructural facilities, uneven development. The security architecture of the country should be properly trained and overhauled to be proactive through intelligence gathering so as to nip any perceived security threats in the bud since the reactive posture maintained by these security agencies in crisis situation, has not curbed security challenges in the country.

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