

ANALYSIS OF THE NEXUS BETWEEN NATIONAL SECURITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT: This paper analysed the nexus between National Security and Socio-economic Development. In the study, we proposed a conceptual framework for examining the concept of national security and development; the paper also examined various types of national security; the paper presents perspectives of scholarly thinking about national security and its interconnectedness with socio-economic development. The paper also identified objectives, elements/components used to measure socio-economic development. Furthermore, the paper identified some national security threats that have disruptive effects on Nigerian society due to their impact on national security and on critical infrastructure such as basic social amenities, economic and agriculture sector. The study utilized secondary sources to review literature, such as articles, journals, expert interviews, essays, and national policy documentation. Finally, we explore the proposed framework from an empirical perspective and apply it to Nigeria. Social Contract theory was adopted to explain and understand. The nexus between national security and socio-economic development.

Keywords: Security, Nation, National Security, Socio-Economic, Development, nexus

INTRODUCTION

National security remains the foundation and/or bedrock on which the socio-economic development of any country, developed or developing, depends. According to Irani (2015), socioeconomic development remains an essential component of national security. Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013), as cited in Sultan (2023), posit that security is a pivot upon which every meaningful development can be achieved and sustained. He observed that in the contemporary world, the security of life and property remains significant to the socioeconomic survival of any given state or nation.

Socioeconomic development can be defined as quantitative and qualitative changes aimed to achieve a sustained increase in the social, economic, cultural and political potential of a given territorial entity (Joanah, 2023: 615). For any nation to achieve these potentials, security remains a critical component to prioritize for any form of development to take place in any country, especially Nigeria. Sultan (2023) believes that without adequate security, economic growth and development can be significantly hindered. Thus, it could be aptly deduced that a significant relationship exists between national security and socioeconomic development. Ebeh (2015) posits that security and development are two sides of the same coin and cannot be

detached. This suggests that the relationship between security and development work both ways.

Many studies were conducted to investigate the relationship between national security and socioeconomic development. For instance, Iftikhar and Hassan (2019) reviewed the deteriorating economic conditions and their impact on national security in Pakistan. The study revealed a strong link between national security and development. However, Lila (2024) explored the relationship between national security risks and economic factors from a Nepalese perspective. The findings indicate that expanding trade, financial services, FDI, migration, and remittances positively and negatively influence national security concerns.

In contrast, growth in poverty and inequality, foreign aid and loans, crises, corruption, critical ICT infrastructures, and cyber risks heighten threats to Nepal's security. However, Godly and Wilfred (2012) examined the nexus between National security and development in Nigeria. It used public spending on security as a proxy for security and the gross domestic product (GDP) as a proxy for development. The work observed that there is a positive relationship between security and development..

Sultan (2023) examined security and national development in contemporary Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects. The finding of the study revealed that insecurity, such as Terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, communal and religious crises, farmers-herders conflicts and so on, have a negative impact on national development in Nigeria, affecting economic growth, social order, and political stability. The study attributed the rising state of insecurity in Nigeria as a result of bad governance, unemployment and poverty, porous borders and arms proliferation, weak and overburdened security apparatus, defective intelligence gathering and coordination, and a weak judicial system. The study observed a strong relationship between security and national development in Nigeria, as there can be no development without security, and there can be no security without development. Development can only occur when there is adequate security, while development initiatives can also address the root causes of insecurity in the country. According to Charles, Chidimma and Chinenye (2022), Nigeria's socio-economic development has been badly affected due to insecurity in the country. Insecurity has contributed to the daunting challenges of development., which has threatened socio-economic development in Nigeria. This paper examines the nexus between national security and socio-economic development against this backdrop.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Conceptual clarification

Security

The term security traced its origin from Latin *securus* or *secure*. *Se* means 'without', and *curus* means 'fear or uneasiness.' Thus, the term security means freedom or liberation from danger, and uneasiness, safe and tranquil or a peaceful situation free from risks, threats and any form of attack (Ehsan, 2022; Nwizu & Cyprian, 2018). The concept is as old as human history and has existed in varying forms, contexts and applications among people from all walks of life, the professionals, academia and analysts.

As a complex and heavily contested concept, security has as no universally accepted and precise definition. However, according to Adeleke (2013, as cited in, Nwakwo and Oyagi,

2021) opined that security implies freedom from threat or violence, which could result in loss of lives and valuable properties. From the above therefore, security means a situation where one or more of people are free from all forms of fears or threat to their precious lives and hard-earned valuables (properties). However, William (2013) sees security as anything widely associated with mitigating the threat to cherished value, particularly if left unchecked in the near future threatens the existence of a specific referent object.

To Nasiru (2020) security means “safety to the average street man or woman, or protection from harm and risk”. To Nwakwo and Oyagi, the essence of security is to ensure that citizens are free to go about their normal businesses in any part of the country without any form of threat to their lives and means of livelihood. Security whether viewed from the angle of the state or individual is central to tranquillity, national cohesion, increased economic activities which are required to drive socio-economic development in any nation. To Mcnamara (1968) cited in Eugene (2011: 104) quoted:

Security means development. Security is not military force though it may involve it, security is not military hardware, though it may include it. Security is development and without development, there can be no security. The security of any nation lies not solely or even primarily in its military capacity; but equally in developing relatively stable patterns of economic and political growth.

According to Oyinloye (2019), security simply means development. To him, development implies positive impact on society. When there is positive impact in every aspect of society, and the society is secured from any form of attack of its enemies (such as hunger, illnesses, internal and external attack by aggressors) then that society is said to be developed. Oyinloye (2019), refers security to the freedom from danger, safety, fear or any kind of anxiety. It does not connote the existence of a mechanism for conflict resolution, protection against the breach of the rule of law and enemy attack. It equally brings the ability of a state to defend itself against any form of aggression, promote cherished values and enhance the well-being of its people. It is also a state of being safe and the absence of fear, anxiety, danger, poverty and oppression. It is the preservation of core values and the absence of threats to the nation values”.

Hussaini (2016) asserts that socioeconomic development in any society requires sustainable peace and security. Scholars and practitioners are in agreement that for there to be sustainable human security; society must evolve ways of addressing the root causes of insecurity by fostering participatory democracy, just and accountable governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a balance and equitable distribution of resources, among a host of others. Thus, security is defined as a gamut of all that it takes to protect and secure the lives and property of people in a particular society, state or nation.

Nation

Ehsan (2022: 5) opines that it is important to understand the meaning of ‘nation’ in the phrase “national security”. He argues that a ‘nation’ is much broader than an ethnic community. However, Isaac (2018) argued that, a nation consists of groups with a common descent, common language, religious believe and ways of life, and who must have been living in particular geographical area for long period of time. This implies that the people have been

together since ancestry or from time immemorial and have national heroes and traditions that define and bind them as a people.

The concept of nation comes from the Latin word *natio* which derives from *natus* “(of) birth”. Thus, nation in a mythical tradition traced the origin that binds people together. This implies that a nation consists of some contiguous groups brought together by an accident of history to become a people (Isaac, 2018: 3). These people are placed into a particular setting (territory), with some laws and legal rules, and national metaphysics expected to give the people a unity of purpose. Isaac (2018) believed however, that, a nation can be formed by bringing different groups together and giving them a national identity. A third force is needed for bringing about the latter. For example, the Nigerian “nation” emerged from two historical events: the allocation of Nigeria to the British at the Berlin West African Conference of 1884/5 and the effrontery of the British in amalgamating the northern and southern protectorates they had initially created for economic reasons (Isaac, 2018: 4). From the above therefore, a nation is group of people, who agree to come together under one sovereign authority under legal agreement, or bounded by blood to share common cultural ideologies, religious beliefs in a particular geographical lactation.

National

The word “national”, is an adjective of the word “nation”, has always been conceived in abstract terms to refer to the physical environment of a nation.

National Security

The concept of national security developed with the emergence of the first state in the seventeenth century during the Thirty Years War in Europe and the Civil War in England and with the socio-economic transition from the original human community in the slaveholding society (Kim, 2015). According to Kim, in 1648, the Peace of Westphalia established the idea that the nation-state had sovereign control not only of domestic affairs such as religion, but also of external security. The concept of national security was applied in the earliest territorially organized communities which had primitive (but long-lasting) mechanisms of social regulation and a kind of military-hunting (executive and defence) apparatus (Sasa and Dusan, 2014).

Thus, Ehsan (2022) opines that the traditional concept of national security focuses on the survival of the state: physical security aspects of the state against external threats (chiefly military response) to include national defence, national integrity and national sovereignty. Although, initially, the concern for national security ultimately focusses on the physical danger to a state that is posed by imbalances in military power, a concern for security cannot be limited simply to military power. Ultimately, national security demands military power sufficient to dissuade or defeat all forms of attack, be it internal or external (Chikodiri & Adaeze, 2014: 133). To Ehsan, the Westphalian idea of national security revolved around state sovereignty.

Felix and Julius (2014) defined national security as the ability of a nation-state to, among other things, preserve the nation’s physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; preserve its nature, institutions, and governance from outside; and to control its borders. The ability of states and societies to maintain their independent identities and functional integrity is also an integral aspect of national security. Saleh and Emile (2018) define National Security as “the aggregation of the security interest of

all individuals, communities, ethnic groups, political entities and institutions in the territory of Nigeria.”

These components are aggregated into elements of state power, including defence, foreign policy, law and order; information management, social and economic development. Security is concerned with the complete cycle of human life from birth to death and takes into account people from different creeds, cultures, classes, professions, needs, aspirations and human security challenges (Ehsan, 2022: 6). National security is built on protecting and maintaining order in the dichotomy of public security and international security. In domestic policy, national security means maintaining public order, societal security, and legal order. In foreign policy, it is classified as the protection of rights and interests based on international agreements and criteria (Şengoz, 2019, cited in Bekir & Muhammed, 2021:240).

Benedict, Dominic and Andrew (2020), however, argued that national security must be broadened to accommodate economic, environmental and demographic issues as they are important in understanding the new causes of intra-state conflicts and other forms of dangers or threat to national security such as pollution, poverty, crime, and underdevelopment all of which fuel conflicts. The United Nations Development Programme (1994 & 1996) cited in Benedict (2020; 234) posits that human security (an aspect of national security) refers to “freedom from fear and freedom from want” and “safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression as well as protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the patterns of daily life whether in homes, in jobs or in communities.” Jega (2007) cited in Eugene (2014) has itemized the meaning of national security as consisting of the following concerns: “protection and defence of the country’s territorial integrity, promotion of peaceful coexistence in the polity, eliminating threats to internal security, ensuring systemic stability and bringing about sustainable and equitable socioeconomic development.” National security refers to a guarantee of peace and stability determined by ethno-religious/communal harmony; peaceful coexistence; food security; sustainable socioeconomic development; and democratic development (Eugene, 2011). By the above arguments, thus, national security is defined as all encompasses concept which guarantee total protection of all the security needs of citizens including, personal, health, physical, psychological, social, economic, energy, political, environmental security and so on, against threat by the state.

Types/Elements/ Dimension of National Security

There are many types of national security as identified by (Otakey & Bashir, 2023; Henry, 2022; Frances, 2004; Udeh, Okoroafor & Ihezue, 2013; Abdulkadir & Shuaibu, 2022; Otakey & Mshelia, 2023). These include but not limited to:

Political Security

This entails defence against all forms of political oppression and guarantee of fundamental human rights and citizens’ freedoms. It also refers to protecting the sovereignty of the government and political system and the safety of society from unlawful internal threats and external threats or pressures. It involves both national and homeland security and law enforcement (Kim, 2015:19)

Economic Security

It involves not only protecting the capacity of the economy to provide for the people, but also the degree to which the government and the people are free to control their economic and financial decisions. It also entails the ability to protect a nation's wealth and economic freedom from outside threats and coercion. It is a positive situation of stable income and job security that enables a good standard of living now and in the foreseeable future (Abdulkadir, 2022).

Energy and natural resources security

It is defined as the degree to which a nation or people have access to such energy resources as oil, gas, water, and minerals. It would be more accurate to describe it as access freely determined by the market without interference from other nations or political or military entities for non-market, political purposes.

Physical Security

This implies the ability of a nation to defend its territory and citizens from internal and external aggressions using its military might. This is the traditional conception of national security.

Homeland security

This is a set of domestic security functions that have been organized in a single agency, the Department of Homeland Security, since 9/11. These include airport and port security, border security, transportation security, immigration enforcement, and other related matters.

Environmental Security

This consists of environmental issues that pose threat to the national health and survival. Indiscriminate refuse disposal, desert encroachment, hazardous industrial activities and loss of biodiversity, water shortages, energy disruptions, or severe climate changes among others are threat to national survival hence, they are aspects of national security.

The other, more recent concept is that the environment and the "climate" should be protected as ends in and of themselves; the assumption is that the environmental degradation caused by man is a threat that must be addressed as a national security threat. In the past, natural disasters were not considered threats to national security. Still, that presumption is changing as the ideology of "climate change" and global warming takes hold in the national security community (Kim, 2015:20).

Cyber security

This refers to protecting the governments and peoples' computer and data processing infrastructure and operating systems from harmful interference, whether from outside or inside the country. It thus involves not only national defence and homeland security but also law enforcement.

Human security

It refers to a concept first developed at the United Nations after the end of the Cold War. It defines security broadly as encompassing peoples' safety from hunger, disease, and repression, including harmful disruptions of daily life. Over time, the concept has expanded to include economic security, environmental security, food security, etc.

Food Security

It is the ability of a nation to feed itself without or with minimal importation of food items from other countries. It has to do with availability of food, access to food and food use. Food availability is about its abundant supply; food access is having sufficient. Other dimensions of national security are, Military/Paramilitary security, energy, social, financial, Social/Humanitarian, Ideological, Local, Border, Demographic, Health, Internal/External, Information, security from crime.

Development

The term "development" needs clarification, as its meaning has changed over the last half-century. This is because of the proliferation of various perspectives in academic fields like economics, sociology, psychology and professional institutions on development. However, according to Gboyega (2003) cited in (Thomas, 2014) opposed the concept of development encompasses all attempts to improve the conditions of life of people in all human endeavours. For him, it implies the overall improvement in the material well-being of all citizens, irrespective of socio-economic class or status. Development, according to Jan (2010), is defined as a planned and comprehensive environmental, economic, social, cultural and political process that aims to continually improve the well-being of the entire population and all of its individuals. However, Abah and Nwoku (2017) cited in Nwoku and Oyagi (2021), development is a positive change and transformation in social, economic, political and cultural conditions of the society.

Objectives of Development

According to Abraham (2010), development in all societies must have at least the following three objectives:

- i. The availability and widen the distribution of basic life-sustaining goods such as food, shelter, and protection.
- ii. To raise level of living standard: This involves in addition to higher income, creating jobs, better education, attention to cultural and human values, and national self-esteem.
- iii. To expand economic and social choices available to individuals and nations by freeing them from servitude, dependence, ignorance and human misery.

Socio-economic Development

Socio-economic development is a key concept central to any problem of change in the socio-economic sphere (Zbyszko, 2010: 7). Stemplowski (1987: 5), aptly opined that "the concept of development functions as both a product of an optimistic vision and an articulation of social interests, and a tool of analysis." According to Wajuade (2021: 73)

Socio-economic development is a product of development and thus defined it as the process of social and economic transformation in a society. To him, socio-economic development embraces changes in the social and economic life. Thus, socio-economic development is made up of processes caused by exogenous and endogenous factors which determine the course and direction of the development.

Socio-economic development is measured with indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment (Charlse, Chidimma and Chinenye, 2022; Nwokwu and Ogayi 2021). Litwinski (2017) defines socio-economic development as a process of quantitative, qualitative and structural changes that are a result of actions of subjects taken within social (economic) practice. This change is related with the phenomena of economic growth), economic structure and entrepreneurship, access to public goods and services (that results in changes of education level, a way of taking care of someone's health, and so on.), relations within social system (integration between individuals, trust, security, social conflicts), environment condition, and life satisfaction. However, socio-economic development refers to the process of social and economic transformation in a society (Ewetan and Urhie, 2014, as cited in Nwakwu and Oyagi 2021).

To Litwinski, to understand development phenomenon, documents of international institutions (e.g., development agencies, UNDP, FAO, International Monetary Fund, World Bank) and declarations of countries that cooperate in order to achieve development goals. For instance, Millennium Development Goals, proposed by UNDP (2000), and Sustainable Development Goals SDGs encompass the reduction of poverty, health, sustainable use of resources, education, food security and good governance. Considerations on development are no longer taken mainly in the context of poverty alleviation in lagging regions (Massey, 1988) cited in (Litwinski, 2017). It is widely understood that socio-economic development plays a major role in national security as it seeks to identify both the social and the economic needs within a community and to create strategies that will address those needs in the best interests of the community for a long period of time. Generally, the idea of socioeconomic development is to find ways to improve the standard of living within the area while also making sure the local economy is healthy and capable of sustaining the population present in the area (Emanuel, Joseph & Jacob, 2021). From the foregoing, socioeconomic development can be defined as a gamut of quantitative and qualitative changes aimed to achieve a sustained increase in the social, economic, political, environmental and cultural potential of a given community.

Components Used for the measurement of Socio-economic Development

Socioeconomic development of any region, nation, state or area depends on many components. Some of these components as identified by Hicks and Streeten (1979):

- i. Per Capita Income
- ii. Level of Agricultural Development
- iii. High rate of Industrial Development
- iv. Occupational Structure
- v. Levels of Educational Development
- vi. Level of Health Status
- vii. Transport and Communication
- viii. Population Structure
- ix. Housing

- x. Political stability
- xi. High standard of living
- xii. Freedom and respect for the rule law

Development of a country is measured by its overall economic stability, industrial development, technological advancements, and so on. A developed economy is defined as one with relatively high level of economic growth, improved standard of living, enhanced technological infrastructure and security (Metu, 2017).

National Security Threats that Pose Security Risks to National Security and Socio-economic Development

There is no nation in the world that is free from threats. Threats remain a part of human existence. According to Henryk (2021) identifies the following types or sources of national security threats: Natural disasters, destabilization of the ecological system; energy, food and strategic supply crises; economic crises, demography and health system; migration and integration; political and social system crisis; internal security system crisis; social, national and regional inequalities; political instability; economic and social problems. However, Nigeria has been worse off since 1999. There have been rising waves of new dimensions of security threats as identified by Atelhe (2014), and Ezeajughu, (2021):

- i. Terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the North East Nigeria.
- ii. The Niger Delta crisis (1999-2009),
- iii. Ethno-religious violence and communal land clashes in North-central States of Plateau, Nasarawa, Niger, and Benue
- iv. Political, Electoral and post-election violence of 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011 polls
- v. The Islamist uprising orchestrated by the 'Boko Haram' sect since 2009
- vi. The prevalence of Banditry, kidnapping and ritual killings
- vii. Sectarian violence #EndSAS
- viii. Insurgency and militancy
- ix. Farmers/herdsmen crises
- x. High profile murder and political assassinations

The paper also takes into account inequalities and discrimination, unemployment, deepen poverty, migration and trans-border crimes, drug paraphernalia and pandemics such as COVID-19 and so on as national security threats. These national security threats have negative impact on socioeconomic development of many societies in the world, including Nigeria.

The Nexus between National Security and Socio-Economic Development

According to Iftikhar and Hassan (2019) national security is a fundamental need of any state for its socioeconomic survival and existence. According to Sheu (2021:56):

National Security and Development are two sides of a coin. In an increasingly interconnected and complex world, it is crystal clear that security and development are inextricably linked, especially in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Threats to national security can have socio-economic undertones to include spillover effects of environmental degradation, contests over natural resources, social and economic inequalities, political and economic

migration, and natural disasters, among others. For decades, development has been linked to security through the concept of human security. The relationship can be complex: retarded development can lead to grievance, and conflict can threaten development and corporate existence of a nation. Peace and security are prerequisites for poverty reduction and countries mostly affected by political instability, conflict and displacement are those whose citizens battle most with poverty and hunger.

Atelhe (2014) wrote, apart from the issues of security, government has equally not fared very well in the areas of human development. Hence, there is rising incidence of poverty, unemployment, livelihood crisis, humanitarian crisis, illiteracy, disease, malnutrition, and the likes. Iftikhar and Hassan (2019), however, noted that power projections, political connections, diplomatic linkages, economic prosperity and maintenance of law and order are encompassed in the domain of national security. It includes ensuring socio-economic security of the nation. Paul Kennedy has aptly correlated the link between economy and security by stating that “Nation’s military security strength rests on economic strength. However, he argued that economically weak states with fragile societal cohesion and economic disparities tend highly to face security challenges. Stronger states face different challenges, which are more indirect and distant and usually external in content (Iftikhar & Hassan, 2019: 37).

Irani (2015) is of the opinion that national security can only be achieved on a well-defined economic support which has enough material, financial, scientific, and human premises. He further said that to discuss national security or to design without having in mind its economic component is similar to raising a sand castle close to the sea waves.” Thus, economic security is an essential component of national security. This is mostly visible when the economic situation encompasses features like balance, legality and sustainable socioeconomic development.

Empirical Review

Olabode (2024) on insecurity and Nigeria’s Socio-Economic Development. The paper analysed the effects of insecurity on the socio-economic development of Nigeria, with the main objective of proffering policy solutions to address insecurity challenges that have almost brought the county to her knees and stunted her development. The paper adopted the conflict theory propounded by Karl Marx. The study employed qualitative research methods, with the use of secondary data, using in-depth explanatory analysis that produces results. The study identified severe unemployment, endemic poverty, ethno-religious conflicts, corruption, deprivation, inequalities and small arms and light weapons proliferation as the major causes of the unending insecurity challenge in Nigeria. The study recommended that governments at all levels should implement development policies that will ensure serious reductions in unemployment rate, and strengthen the country’s entire security architecture.

Iftikhar and Hassan (2019) conducted a study on deteriorating economic conditions and their impact on national security. They reported that national security is a requirement for maintaining the survival of the state through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political strength. They further avers that, core interests of a nation cannot be protected through military muscles alone, while neglecting economic development. However, found that the security situation in Pakistan has made the economic development difficult due to unprecedented problems in the country, various macro-economic targets have suffered set-

backs in the past. Large fiscal deficits, population growth, higher unemployment, coupled with weak national security require a fresh approach to revive economy. They recommended that Pakistan's national security can be ensured through uplift of socioeconomic revival at grass-root level, coupled with national integration, interfaith harmony and development in education sector.

Frances (2004), in his working paper on development and security, reviews the connections between development and security both within developing countries and globally. Three connections were hypothesised: that human security forms an important part of people's wellbeing and is therefore an objective of development; that lack of human security has adverse consequences on economic growth and poverty and thereby on development; and that lack of development, or imbalanced development that involves sharp horizontal inequalities, is an important cause of conflict and general insecurity. Evidence supporting these relationships is surveyed for developing countries. He found that for both developing countries and to prevent global terrorism, it is essential to promote inclusive security and development. He recommended that military solutions alone will not succeed in providing security and socioeconomic development.

Bertha, Osei and Napoleon (2020) examined the Security-Development Nexus: China's Policy Framework towards Africa. The article analyses China's foreign policy approach in Africa in the post-Cold War era using the security-development nexus. It examined the nexus is based on the domestic experience of promoting planned development to tackle poverty to foster peace and security. The nexus indicates that security and development are intricately intertwined. The nexus is articulated through the Forum on China Africa Cooperation. However, the rapid and increased involvement of China in Africa's security and development and increased violence against Chinese businesses and citizens have generated heated debate between the pessimists and optimists about its role while paying little attention to the position of Africa on the security-development nexus.

Fabian (2011) conducted a study on development and international security: Many Theories, One World. The paper examined the construction of notions and the establishment and consolidation of the discourses that the main theories that shape the field of Development Studies and International Security have created across time. He explained how theories explain development and underdevelopment to understand International Security. Consequently, the theories explained development and underdevelopment as important to the improvement of the Human Security paradigm.

However, Lilah (2023) Explored the Relationship between National Security Risks and Economic Factors: A Nepalese Perspective. Employing the Critical Political Economic Approach (CPE), the study focuses on Nepal as a case study to analyse the interplay between economic determinants and national security risks. The findings indicate that in today's globalized world, economic variables have become pivotal in shaping national security threats. It also revealed that the expansion of trade, financial services, migration, and remittances both positively and negatively influences national security concerns, whereas growth in poverty and inequality, foreign aid and loans, crises, corruption, critical ICT infrastructures, and cyber risks heighten threats to Nepal's security. The study suggests that fostering strong economic conditions and positive trends can mitigate the likelihood of national security incidents.

Sheu (2021) examined insecurity and national development: Nigeria at the crossroad. Content analysis was adopted for the paper, and relevant journals, texts and other academic documents

were used. The paper revealed that since the emergence of nascent democracy in 1999, major cities, towns and local communities have become flashpoints of violent clashes, kidnapping, assassination, rape, hijacking, sabotage, insurgency and looting. It also found that Nigeria's national security is at a crossroads, and the effect is dastardly felt on her development. Corruption, injustice, high levels of inequality, poverty and religious intolerance are revealed as the impetuses that heighten the tension of insecurity in Nigeria. The paper recommended a holistic overhauling of Nigeria's security architecture, equality in the distribution of national wealth and tolerance.

Theoretical Framework

The Social Contract theory is adopted as the framework for this study.

The Social Contract Theory is pioneered by three great philosophers, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Locke's social contract theory asserts that government exists only with the consent of the people in order to protect fundamental rights and promote the common good of society. (Nation, 2019). The theory explains the role of the government in protecting its citizens. Solomon and Fidelis (2023) opined that social contract theory says that people live together in society in accordance with an agreement that establishes moral and political rules of behaviour. It is informed by the responsibility of states to protect their citizens rather than leaving them to provide security for themselves. In other words, the state is socially responsible for ensuring that lives and property within its borders are not jeopardised. According to Laslett (1967), Locke posits that the government is an organisation that derives consent from the people, and the social contract exists because citizens are willing to give their consent to governments (states) to protect their lives and property. As a result, the government uses the legitimacy granted to act based on a social contract to prevent all forms of insecurity in order to discourage self-help, which could lead to anarchy.

However, Atelhe (2014) argued that, government has not fared very well in the areas of human security and development, especially in the less or developing nations. Hence, there is rising incidence of poverty, unemployment, livelihood crisis, humanitarian crisis, illiteracy, disease, malnutrition, and the general national security threats and socioeconomic development.

Application of the theory

In relation to national security and socioeconomic development in Nigeria, the social contract theory can be applied. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), implies that Nigerians willingly and collectively surrendered their respective freedoms and liberties to the government of Nigeria in exchange for protection of their lives and property, as well as guarantee to enjoy certain natural rights such as the right to life, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement, among others. By Section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution, the Nigerian government has the primary obligation of securing the lives of Nigerians and promoting their welfare. However, it rather unfortunate that on a daily basis, the print and electronic media are awash with stories of the loss of lives caused by armed robbers, armed bandits, insurgents, Boko-Haram, politically motivated violence and assassinations, communal clashes, farmers-herders' conflicts, criminal gangs, and even law enforcement agents till today (Ambi, 2021, cited in Fidelis, 2022: Pp. 104). According to Ogbuju and Eneh (2014), the Boko Haram insurgency is having its way, bombing and burning and destroying places, kidnapping school children, and inflicting terror to the Nigerian society. A most recent case in point is that of the

Chibok Girls where over 250 girls from a Girl's Secondary School, Chibok, Bornu State, were kidnapped by a Terrorist Gang. Some girls were said to have escaped, remaining about 217 of them yet to be found. The Niger Delta militants have been causing serious havoc to national resources and infrastructure. There has been mounting anxiety, nationally and internationally. All these are costing Nigeria so much in human and material resources which has significant effect socioeconomic development. The cause of these is attributed to growing unemployment and the youth, gross poverty among citizens, inequality and injustice in the distribution of national resources, widespread corruption among political office holders and technocrats at all the strata of the government; and the Nigerian government, especially the criminal justice system has failed to find a lasting solution to the menace.

This above explanation refers to the failure of the state to play its part in the social contract – in delivering socioeconomic benefits or survival. With the present socio-economic stagnation or decline, and worsening state services, the social contract breaks down, and national security is threatened. A nation that is threatened by security challenges such as the ones mentioned above, no significant investment or development will take place. Hence, high rising levels of poverty and a decline in state services would be expected to cause conflict that would significantly jeopardize socioeconomic development. No nation will develop in an atmosphere of violence and threats.

Conclusion

The paper analysed the nexus between national security and socioeconomic development. It noted that there is a strong link between national security and socioeconomic development. Hussaini (2016) asserts that socioeconomic development in any society requires sustainable peace and security. Security have been defined as freedom from all gamut of existential threats, fears and attacks. The concept of security was conceived as state centric, that is to say that security is the ability of the state to secure its territory from internal and external attacks by its military might. However, the concept of security is broadened to include social, economic, political, personal, psychological, environmental and national security. The concept of national security hinges on regional and global power ambitions and seeks to develop in military and economic terms (Ehsan, 2022). However, in Nigeria, national security is threatened by increased security challenges like, armed banditry, kidnapping, ethnic or communal violence, Boko Haram terrorism, farmers- herders clashes, insurgency, militancy and politically motivated violence, assassinations; pandemics and natural disasters. The causes of this menace are attributed to corruption, unemployment, poverty, weak security system, lack of political will to address the issues. These security issues challenged national security and socioeconomic development in Nigeria. According to social contract theory, it the responsibility of the state to provide it citizens with adequate security that allows for socio-economic development. However, the Nigerian state has failed in its responsibility of ensuring national security and socioeconomic development. Finally, government should design a holistic and all-encompassing national security measures to optimize socioeconomic development of all the nations of the world particularly, Nigeria because without security there cannot be development of any kind.

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