
EXPLORING THE PHENOMENON OF HUMAN SECURITY IN NIGERIA: A LITERATURE PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The issue of human security is gaining global attention. This is unconnected with the various threats against human survival in the contemporary global system. Literature has established political, socio-economic, cultural and environmental factors that threaten the safety of humanity. Other threats include terrorism, state torture, cross border crime, violence against children and domestic violence. Accordingly, this study uses secondary data, sourced from published articles and other internet resources, to explore the challenges and threats against human security in Nigeria. Empowerment theory guides the analysis of the paper. This is to emphasize the need to liberate, emancipate, enfranchise, assist, ensure and empower vulnerable people undergoing intimidations to become self-reliant and have capacity to ward off threats to life. Consequently, findings from the study revealed the challenge of armed banditry especially in North-western states of Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna and Zamfara States; unemployment across all geopolitical zones; the calamity of internal displacement as a result of Boko Haram insurgency and farmers-herdsmen conflicts in the North-east, North-west and North-central; oil spillage in the Niger-Delta region; ethno-religious crises, communal clashes among other, as constituting threats to human security in Nigeria. Good governance, welfare economy policies, accessible education sector, credible elections, youth empowerment among other are recommended to cushion the effects of the identified threats to human security.

Keywords: Human security, Exploration, Empowerment, Threats to life, Good governance.

Introduction

The phenomenon of developments that are hazardous to human security has become a global challenge. For example, the Rohingyas mayhem in Myanmar created a condition of fear, anxiety among the Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Ahmadiyya followers beyond the orders of Bangladesh as well as security threats (Ghoshal, 2020). The Malian severity of poverty, insecurity, fragility within the country as a result of Tuareg rebellion in the Northern parts of the country attracted global attention and reaction. Human emergencies, such as population displacements and risk of terrorism have become serious threats to human security. Furthermore, domestic violence, cross border crimes and gender-based violence, inadequate

protection, abuses of human rights, injustices, discrimination, and illegal expropriation, especially for the marginal or vulnerable groups among the women, youth, local minorities and displacement had manifested in the African context (Greene, 2015). In the Nigerian context, many factors had contributed to human insecurity especially the internal insecurity, ethno-religious crises, criminal gangs, insurgency, terrorism, and unemployment (Oluka, 2022).

Buttressing the various manifestations of the threat to human security in the North east, the Boko Haram insurgency has been characterized with massacre, destructions of schools, houses, health centers, and places of worship, thereby pushing the country into perennial state of insecurity (Amalu, 2015). It is obvious that the phenomenon of human security is threatened by many factors in Nigeria; there are series of happenings that have threatened many aspects of livelihood of Nigerians. The cardinal objective of this paper is to explore threats to human security in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Based on this background, the paper is structured into five sections with this introduction being the first. The second section is two literature review and theoretical framework while the third section presents the methodology and propositions of the study. The fourth section presents the findings of the study while the last section discusses the findings, makes recommendations and concludes the exploration.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

i. Conceptual Review

The concept of human security was first coined and adopted in the year 1992 as part of the agenda for peace suggested in the United Nations Resolutions as announced by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the then Secretary General of the United Nations Organization. This stressed the roles of the UN devising an incorporated approach to human security. It introduced a new paradigm in peace-making, negotiation and post-conflict management. Nevertheless, it was Kofi Annan, another Secretary General of the UN, who first of all, implemented the human security programme in a personal pursuit for a new UN obligation, projected in the 1999 Millennium Declaration (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007). Human security has been defined in many ways. For instance, Adger *et al*, (2014) stated that it is a condition which exists when the vital aspects of human lives are protected; people enjoy freedom and dignity. These vital core aspects of human livelihood include the universal and culturally precisely material and non-material rudiments that are paramount to humanity. Human security is also the ability to identify threats, to avoid them where possible, and reduce their effects if they occur. It simply means helping victims to survive in the occurrences of some consequences of pervasive insecurity due to armed conflicts, violation of human rights and immense underdevelopment (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007).

The Human Development Report (1994) revealed that human security is characterized by the freedom from fear and want. Thus, it gives two phases, firstly, protection from severe threats such as diseases, hunger and subjugation. Secondly, protection from sudden mayhem of daily life, touching on shelter, employment and societal life. From this conception, seven components of food, economy, health, security of persons, the environment, community security and freedom to partake in political activities were identified as integral to the phenomenon of human security (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007). As such, human security is influenced by the state, market operations, civil society, poverty, natural factors, discrimination and technological calamities which weaken the human survival (Adger *et al.*, 2014). Consequently, human security entails protecting essential aspects of freedom and life. It is an effort to protect people from severe and pervasive extortions. It is about building strengths and aspiration of the people. It means creating social, political, environmental, military, economic, cultural systems which offer the people some strategies for livelihood, survival and dignity (Commission on Human Security, 2003).

Accordingly, human security is often viewed from socio-economic threat in the aspect of employment, income, wages, access to many public services especially health care, shelter and education over and above the traditional threats of hunger, poverty, pollution and diseases among others. Structural violence is also listed in this category. Personal security threats are also recognized as violence and apprehension, fear of inadequate access to health care, fear of losing a job if companies carry out restructuring altogether etc. contributed to stress. Others include terrorism, state torture, cross border crimes, violence against children, domestic violence, environmental and political threats. Environmental threats are simply dangers to environment through destruction of natural resources which affect people and increase their vulnerability to pollution leading to food shortage and fresh water. Similarly, political threats comprise of civil rights and violation of human rights restrictions of armed conflicts. Irresponsible behaviour from corrupt public officials, and civil servants, institutions characterized by instability, deficient judicial system as well as inadequate enforcement breeds insecurity (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007).

Literature has indicated that human security features into human elements of safety, rights and development. It is thus, an inter-disciplinary concept characterized by people-centered, multi-sectorial, comprehensive, prevention-oriented and context-specific issues (Commission on Human Security, 2003). Its people-centered nature places the individual at the center of analysis. Accordingly, it perused multi-range of situations that threaten the survival, dignity and livelihood as well as identifies the degree below human life becomes unbearable. Furthermore, human security is also based on multi-sectorial outlook of insecurities in the aspect of causes of insecurity in relation to food, economic, health, personal, environmental, community and

political security. The interdependence of these diverse elements has vital implications for policy-makers as it denotes that human insecurities might not be tackled in separation through fragmented unconnected reactions. The idea is that of those dealing with development, security and human rights need strong integration with local community and other states globally. The context-specific perception of human security recognizes that insecurities vary considerably across diverse settings as well advances contextualized clarifications that are responsive to the specific situation they pursue to tackle. The risks and root causes of insecurities, by which human security is prevention-oriented, presented a dual focus on the protection and empowerment of people (Commission on Human Security, 2003).

The global human security approach ponders human beings as the cardinal basis of analysis; it explains that the security of individuals is the foremost concern in governance. Thus, from this perspective, the position of individual is categorically transformed from not just mere citizen of a country, but an actor reasonably involved in the international affairs. The individual is considered as agent who is vigorously involved in defining potential dangers and participate in mitigating threats (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007). Furthermore, the global expansion of markets created an environment that neglected human security as nations, corporate bodies, individuals compete internationally in downsizing the economic efficiency of one another. Financial instability, inadequate job security, global crimes, genocide, violence and conflicts among others are manifesting with disastrous impacts on human security. Paradoxically, the international corporations to protect human security and ensure social protection are insufficient across the globe. Thus, more international collaborations among nations and NGOs, as well as corporations, are required (Fukuda-Parr, 2003).

Countries across the globe are taking the initiatives of the UN on human security. For instance, Japan and Canada promoted political approach in defining their security policy. Furthermore, Canada and Norway created the Human Security Network of eleven foreign affairs ministers in the year 1999 and prioritised issues related to common security. These and efforts of other countries such as Austria, Greece, Costa Rica, Jordan, Mali, Slovenia, Ireland, Netherland, Thailand and Norway among others champion some threats to violent, human rights abuses, control of small arms, protection of children, climate change and human rights education and poverty related problems (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012).

In the African context, the leaders are increasingly aware that a cooperative approach will address the multifaceted challenges affecting the continent in the aspects of human security as well as development. The strategies of challenges, and opportunities are being adopted through coordination, and collaborations among themselves (Nana, Neil & Joao, 2007). Consequently, the New Partnership for

African's Development (NEPAD) by the African Union (AU) and other regional economic communities has been institutionalized. More than twenty-five countries have voluntarily agreed with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and these processes had already begun with Senegal, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Madagascar and Malawi. Additionally, there are large parts of the continent where legitimacy is in jeopardy due to rebellion, internal disorder, insurgency and other lawlessness especially, the Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Chad and Ethiopia (Nana, Neil & Joao, 2007).

Fukuda-Parr and Messineo (2012) asserted that deliberate action and neglect from the government of many states on the citizens resulted to massive displacement of people across borders and within countries; these led to vulnerability especially poverty, destitution, threats to violence and conflicts. It also exposes the people to natural disasters, economic downturns, climate change, inequality, deprivation which are threats to security of humanity (Fukuda-Parr & Messineo, 2012). In the Nigerian context human security is at risk due to the challenges of joblessness, cybercrime, armed robbery, kidnappings, cultism, youth restiveness and other unethical activities observed as threats to humanity (Ogele, 2020).

Macpherson *et al* (2020) argued that the level of threats to human security had become widespread in Nigeria as almost all the six geo-political zones of the country face risk to humanity of different magnitude. For instance, the North-east is bedevilled with insurgency; North-west, banditry; North-central, ethno-religious crises; South-south, oil theft; South-east secessionist agitation by the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign Republic of Biafra (MASSOB) and Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) which all contributed to inhumane crimes leading to bloodshed and economic setbacks (Ajaegbu, 2012). Therefore, these have exposed the country to the socio-economic threats in the aspect of employment, income, wages, and access to many public services especially health care, shelter and education over and above the traditional threats of hunger, poverty, pollution and diseases among others. The political threats, environmental, economic, personal security threats are glaring (Ogele, 2020 & Ajaegbu, 2012).

ii. Empirical Review

This section of the exploration reviews empirical studies in order to showcase the findings of studies on indices and dimensions of human security. Ogele (2020) conducted a study on unemployment crisis and human security threat in Port Harcourt city of the South-south geo-political zone of Nigeria, 2010-2019, using descriptive research design, triangulation method of data collection in which both questionnaire and interview were used. Findings from the study indicated that unemployment has linkage with insecurity, unethical activities especially cybercrimes, cultism, electoral violence, armed robbery in Port Harcourt. Thus, high

rate of unemployment in the city, which is the capital of Rivers State subjected the humanity to insecurity in the city. The study recommended for revival of agriculture, increase vocational centers to equip the youth with more skills and reduce unemployment in the study area. In spite, of the application of triangulation, this study is restricted to a Port Harcourt city and neglected the rural areas.

A study was carried out on human insecurity of irregular migration of the Rohingyas movement from Myanmar to Malaysia. The data for the study was collected through ethno-graphic method with the combination of two techniques of Focus Group Discussion and In-depth Interview in 2013 and 2016 respectively. Findings from the study indicated that the victims of Rohingya smuggled to Malaysia using the networks in Thailand and Bangladesh which facilitated profit-oriented crime, torture, killings by the Burmese army; they were forced to climb mountains and sought for protection in Thailand; Malaysia; India and Pakistan. It was also discovered that physical harassment and sexual abuse were carried out on them. Other challenges they faced include the risk of manipulation, deceit, torture, physical abuse, violence and exploitation (Abwahab & Khairi, 2020). The study was unable to offer recommendations to policy makers, and international organizations on how to alleviate the sufferings of the Rohingya victims.

A study on the impact of banditry, terrorism and kidnapping on human security in Nigeria found that, in the year 2020, the Global Terrorism Index ranked the country third among (163) states. The study expounds that increased insecurity, frequent violent attacks by terrorists, kidnappers, bandits, rape and murder of unarmed civilians contributed to negative consequences on human security in the country. In achieving its objectives, the study collected data from secondary sources and affirmed the appearance of the poverty, weak correctional agencies, pathetic synergy, bad leadership, among agencies of social control, and failure to arrest and punish offenders as the peril which posed serious threat to humanity (Dami, 2021). This study has expanded its scope to include wider variables each should have been an area of research, thus, a narrowed as well as in-depth review of literature shall offer better understanding of the phenomenon under study.

Furthermore, a study on the impact of Boko Haram insurgency on human security in Nigeria was conducted using secondary data and findings revealed that insurgency has led to the destruction of lives and property and jeopardized food security. It also denied millions of youth access to education, shelter and health care services. It led to internal displacement, destruction of houses, schools, places of public worships. The study recommended that government should ensure the provisions of basic amenities, the need to invest in agriculture in order to improve food production, provision of more health care centers, free education and establishment of adequate internal and external protection against aggression (Amalu, 2015). This study is

confined to insurgency, thereby neglecting other human security challenges such as banditry and kidnappings.

A study in Mali indicated the severity of copious challenges of poverty, insecurity, fragility within the country, Tuareg rebellion in the Northern parts of the country, human emergencies, population displacements and risk of terrorism. Categorically, findings from the study revealed that violence in the aspect of regional conflicts, domestic violence, cross border crimes and gender-based violence, inadequate protection, abuses of human rights, injustices, discrimination, and illegal expropriation, especially for the marginal or vulnerable among the women, youth, local minorities and displaced people. Other humanitarian emergency issues on food, water and exclusion from callous public goods or natural resources were also exposed. The study recommended for enhanced human security through climate change and resilience programmes, peace-building initiative, dispute settlement, synergies with democratic governance, gender and human rights. The prioritizing of access to justice for vulnerable groups particularly the women and girls, inclusive local peace –building initiatives, access to justice for the vulnerable sector of the community and other safety measures were also advocated (Greene, 2015). However, the study was characterized with methodological and data analysis shortcomings.

Jacob (2014) studied practicing civilian protection; human security in Myanmar and Cambodia, using field work in the two countries on the protection of children affected during the armed conflicts. Findings from Myanmar indicated that there were seven armed groups that recruited children, massacre and mutilated them for more than five years consecutively. Additionally, forced labour and relocation of population; other forms of economically and environmentally created poverty as well as severe hardship were discovered. Other anti-human security discovered include social problems related to poor education, underdevelopment on the minority and denial of child rights. The country also became porous to child protection, domestic abuses, human trafficking, armed conflicts and marginalization. Furthermore, findings from the study show that the specific array of governance that appeared in the post-conflict Cambodia were elite's politics, patronage, judicial and law enforcement segments operate with unprecedented corruption as well as social injustice. The country faced high level of social violence and criminal activities. It also faces the expansion of trafficking, exploitation, insecurity, protection was explained within the context of genocide particularly in the 1970s (Jacob, 2014). Despite the exposition of the problems identified in the two countries, this study has neglected the methodology techniques expected of the study.

Based on the literature reviewed from the different studies across various context human security is at jeopardy globally with peculiar manifestation in Africa and

Nigeria specifically. Consequently, this study identified multifarious gaps which call for a study of the different manifestation of threats to human security.

iii. Theoretical Framework

This study utilized the postulations of empowerment theory in the exploration of the phenomenon of human security. Literature has indicated that prior studies had applied the theory in different disciplines (Jo & Park *et al*, 2016; Lord & Hutchison, 2009; Carr, 2003; Handler, 1989). Consequently, empowerment entails liberation, emancipation, enfranchisement, assistance, self-reliance and confidence-building. Empowerment is the increase and expansion of abilities and accomplishment for the people to access security, dignity in a country and to take part, regulate, discuss and become party to their development in addition to general well-being (Cornwall & Brock, 2005). The term empowerment, as contained in this study, explains human development and liberation in multifaceted as well as interconnected process with the political, economic, legal, social transformation enabling people living in deprivation scourge and undergoing relegation; denial to actively partake in shaping their futures (Alsop & Holland, 2006).

The recent view on empowerment appeared in late 1980s. It inculcates empowering people from political threats typically civil rights and violation of human rights restrictions as results of armed conflicts. Irresponsible behaviour from the corrupt public officials, and civil servants, institutions characterized by instability, deficient judicial system as well as inadequate enforcement. Furthermore, empowered individuals are liberated from personal security threats especially violence and apprehension, panic of inadequate access to health care, fear of losing a job and restructuring altogether which contributed to stress (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007). Similarly, other scholars identified the suppositions of empowerment theory to participation, information, initiatives, self-management, behavioural changes and self-worth (Conger & Kanungo, 1988; Cornwall & Brock, 2005).

Grootaert, (2003) recognized that there are three fundamental features which show the direction of the theory. Firstly, making governmental institutions more proactive to the rights of less privilege, denial from human rights violations, democratic values and promote the rights of all. Secondly, abolishing social barriers, gender-based discrimination, imbalances, social stratification, social division and armed conflicts. Thirdly, building resilient social organizations, capital reinforced by local establishments to support cohesion, innovations and stimulate community-driving developmental programmes. Furthermore, empowerment strategies are supported by the formal and informal institutions which remove barriers that on the improvement of welfare both at an individual level as well as the group domain of their livelihood.

In linking the theory with the phenomenon of human security, Kofi Annan's inclusion of human security programme in the United Nations obligation, projected in the 1999 Millennium Declaration typical encapsulate empowerment of people (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007). Thus, making the theory relevant to the study.

Methodology

This study utilized secondary data sourced from published journal articles, United Nations Organization reports and internet resources in exploring the phenomenon of human security in the Nigeria context.

Propositions

- i. There are many challenges bedevilling the phenomenon of human security in Nigeria.
- ii. Adopting different empowerment strategies might tackle the horrible human security in Nigeria

Findings and Results

Some of the dominant human security threats in Nigeria, as established in the literature include: armed banditry, unemployment, Boko Haram insurgents, secessionist agitation, oil spillage during exploration and exploitation in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria and ethno-religious crises, communal clashes and other internal challenges. These are regarded as push factors of human security threats in Nigeria. Nigeria has long been confronted with armed banditry which became a threat to the people especially in North-western states of Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna and Zamfara. This is posing serious security threat to the entire nation. Unprecedented challenges especially cattle rustling, ritual killings, maiming, kidnappings, and displacement as well as disruption on the socio-economic activities are facing the country. Bandits carry out attacks through which they rape, loot, murder and plunder people's wealth. Between the years 2018 and 2020, bandit attacks led to at least 4,900 deaths. It has also rendered many people homeless and displaced. For example, around January 6 and 8, in the year 2022, the bandits attacked many villages in Zamfara State in which more than two hundred (200) people as well as ten thousand (10,000) displaced. (Ojo, Oyewole & Aina, 2023). The lawless activities of the armed bandits have constituted a serious danger to human security in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The increasing magnitude of unemployment especially in the South-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria among other states is a major threat to human security. The jobless youth partake in other criminal activities, principally cultism, cybercrime, armed robbery, youth restiveness, electoral violence, oil theft etc. to earn livings (Ogele, 2020). The International Labour Organization (2019) stated that youth unemployment is a global challenge across both the developed and developing

countries. For instance, Belgium has 22.4 percent; Germany 9.7; Spain 41.6; Italy 27.3; Sweden 22.5; United States 18.4 and federal republic of Nigeria 35. 2 percent respectively. The calamity of internal displaced persons also constitutes one of the global humanitarian emergencies bedeviling Nigeria and some other countries. For instance, between 2013 and 2014, the country hosted over 3,300,000 internal displaced persons (IDPs). Similarly, the post-election violence of 2011 alone recorded 65,000 IDPs in the Northern Nigeria (Osagioduwa & Oluwakorede, 2016). The Internal Displacement Centre (IDMC) stated that it recorded three million people in 2013 due to the insurgency. Evidences indicated that over one million internal displaced persons (IDPs) were recorded from April to December 2015, in Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Adamawa, Gombe, Yobe and Taraba States. The figure later increased to two million, one hundred and fifty-two people (2,5152,000) as a result of communal clashes (Alobo & Obaji, 2016 & Ejiofor, Oni & Sejoro, 2017).

Boko Haram insurgents had carried out series of attacks, killing of innocent people, destructions of homes, health centres, classrooms, places of public worships and farms into persistent insecurity. Their wrong doings had threatened food security, shelter, education, safety and defense thereby constituting hazards to human security. Mohammed (2020) indicated that the phenomenon of Boko Haram insurgency has caused a horrible humanitarian catastrophe leading to human death, human rights abuse, economic crises, population displacement, refugee disaster and general insecurity. The insurgency has claimed a lot of lives and properties aided spread of communicable diseases, denied many children access to education and led to the displacement of several people (Mohammed, 2020). The Boko Haram insurgency also affected food security specifically in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, which were worst hit by the negative impact of the group's activities on agricultural production. It led to the shortage of products such as cowpeas, rice, tomatoes, onions, corns, rice, fish, livestock and sorghums which are largely produced in these areas (Amalu, 2015).

The impact of oil spillage during exploration and exploitation in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria constitutes another multifaceted man-made threat to human security. It adversely affects people, families and farmland. The oil spillage affects human health in addition to socio-economic implications. Other damages include the wildlife, fisheries, marine and coastal habitats. It damages the soil fertility, growth of plants, and also kills marine mammals especially dolphins, whales, seals and other living organisms beneficial to humanity (Akhakpe, 2012). Additionally, the activities of Niger-Delta militants since its inception, sabotaged the activities of the oil companies with negative implications on the livelihood of the people (*Sahara Reporter*, 2016). In addition, ethno-religious crises, communal clashes and other internal agitations are impacting negatively on human security in Nigeria (Nwankwo, 2015; Fayemi, 2011; Osaghae & Suberu 2005). Undoubtedly, ethnic

identity and mobilization from ethno-religious contestations has been an albatross for Nigeria since independence. Starting from the Nigerian Civil War of 1967-1970, there are countless instances of ethno-religiously motivated crises in the country with serious implications on human security. These include the Kafanchan-Kaduna crises of the 1980s-1990s and Zagon Kataf crisis; the Sharia riots of the 2000s; the Ugep-Idoma war of 1992; the Mangu-Bokkos conflicts of the year 1995; the Ife-Modekeke crisis of 1997; Tafawa Balewa crisis in Bauchi state, the Idi-Araba/Oko Oba conflicts in Kano and Lagos; Tiv-Jukun conflict of the year 2001 among others (Warner, 2012; Okpanachi, 2010; Shehu, 2011; Kura, 2010; Eukora, 2005).

Discussion, Recommendations and Conclusion

i. Discussion

In discussing the findings of this study, recap of the first proposition stated that there are many challenges bedevilling the phenomenon of human security in Nigeria. The results indicated that armed banditry has become a serious threat to the public's safety especially in North-western states of Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna and Zamfara states. Buttressing the results, prior studies revealed that armed banditry has taken different manifestation in Africa. It is associated with massacre of innocent citizens, maiming and cruel destructions of properties (Rufa, 2018). Bandits carry out their heartless activities in form of semi-organized groups using arms in order to overpower victims thereby collecting their valuables. Other strategies adopted by the group include cattle rustling, armed robbery and storming. They disrupt socio-economy activities of the people pastoralist, farmer and other traders on the highways. It is a widespread harmful practice undertaken both in rural and urban areas (Ojo, 2020). Therefore, these callous attitudes constituted dangers to the humankind.

Similarly, unemployment was discovered to be a danger specifically in the South-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria as well as other parts of the country (Ogele, 2020). Another explored threat to human security is the mishap of internal displaced persons which also constitutes one of the major global humanitarian emergencies bedevilling Nigeria and other countries. Boko Haram insurgency attacks had claimed many lives and property specifically in Northeast geopolitical zones of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States among others. The results attested to the reality anti-human nature of oil spillage, mostly happens, during oil exploration and exploitation in the Niger-Delta region. It is a multifaceted man-made disaster which displaces many people and on their farm lands. Furthermore, ethno-religious crises, communal clashes and other internal agitations contributed to civil conflict and ethnic militia in the country.

ii. Recommendations

This study suggests some strategies to improve human security in Nigeria. Firstly, good governance through accountability, transparency, adherence to the rule of law, openness and effective communication will tackle the insecurity and other national challenges thereby enhancing human security in the country. Secondly, the use of welfare approach through the provision social amenities such as good road network, electricity, portable drinking water, communication gadgets and hospitals in across the urban and rural areas in the country. Thirdly, Accessible education for all the across all ages as enlightened citizens are bound to value human dignity, life and integrity. Fourthly, electing credible leaders in the helm of affairs across the three tiers of the federal, states and local governments. Finally, promoting a free and fair electoral process; restoring the capabilities of state institutions, especially those responsible for resolution conflict; military/paramilitary, anti-corruption agencies and enhancing the capability of public service delivery systems. Establishment private public partnership agencies across the thirty-six states of the federation and the FCT for the empowerment of mass body of unemployed youth in the country would help in addressing the problem of youth unemployment in the country. Further studies are hereby suggested through empirical research design.

iii. Conclusion

It can be concluded that human security is being threatened in Nigeria in various dimensions. Findings from the study indicate that armed banditry, Boko Haram insurgency, unemployment, ethno-religious conflict, oil bunkering, and secessionist agitation among other challenges in the country are threatening human security from different magnitude, leading to crimes and bloodshed and economic setbacks. Categorically, the socio-economic livelihood condition of the populace most especially in the aspect of employment, wages, public services, shelter, and education. Similarly, the threats of hunger, poverty, pollution and diseases to personal security, environmental, political and other threat were discussed. As such, overcoming the debilitating impact of these issues on human security would demand aggressive empowerment of the people and putting in place mechanisms that would restore peace and tranquillity in the country.

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