

## INSECURITY CHALLENGES: A STUDY OF LECTURERS' PERCEIVED SOLUTIONS TO INSECURITY IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

<sup>1</sup>Olusoga Rasheed OTELAJA, <sup>2</sup>Oluwaseun OYEWOLE

<sup>1,2</sup>Social Studies Department, School of Arts and Social Sciences,  
Tai Solarin College of Education, Omu-Ijebu, Ogun State.

otelajasoga@gmail.com, oyezeun@gmail.com

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### Abstract

This study investigated Insecurity Challenges: A Study of Lecturers' Perceived Solutions to Insecurity in Ogun State, Nigeria. The study adopted qualitative research approach and descriptive research design. Lecturers that taught Social Studies at Colleges of Education formed the population for this study. Six lecturers were purposively selected from two Colleges of Education in Ogun State, that is, three lecturers from each College of Education. Those lecturers were selected based on their deep knowledge on the contemporaries' issues in Social Studies in which security issue is among. The instrument for this study was structured open interview for lecturers' perception on solution to insecurity in Nigeria. The result revealed that there is need for decentralization of the police force to tackle local insecurity issues on time and there must be adequate funding to equip security personnel with necessary security equipment. It is therefore recommended that government must see the need for decentralization of police force to address security issues at local level.

**Keywords:** Insecurity, Perception, Kidnapping, Decentralisation, Ritual

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### Introduction

Security could be described as freedom from threat, elimination of threat not only to the state but also to the individuals in the state and the development and the promotion of the general upliftment of the people. Security as old as 'man' himself (Ogor, 2008). The security of humans in the environment led to the building of houses and living in groups. Nations around the world are said to form armies and alliances amongst themselves for fear of being dominated by stronger ones. Therefore, security is issue that has been in the forefront of human needs and concern. Security is very crucial to development and nation building. It is also difficult to achieve progress which is a positive development without security.

Security is one of the basic needs; it can also be seen as a basic value in societies, where more and more systems are developed to guarantee security. Security is a highly valued goal, which may be difficult to reach because of different threats

and risks in personal lives and in near and global environments. In this recent time, only one thing that can guarantee the survival of any given nation socio-economic is the security of citizens' life and property (Niemele, 2000). Security of life and property is one of the main duties of every government to guarantee her citizens. Social, economic and political development of any nation can be guarantee if there is security of life and property (Tella, 2015).

In the Nigeria context of today, the national security and individual security is being threatened by ethnic bigotry, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy quality of leadership and other social vices. Ethnicity and tribalism are the major factors that are obstacles to the building of a virile Nigeria nation. The occupier of the seat of government at the center always tilt towards its ethnic background rather than seeing himself as President of the nation. How do you explain a

situation where political offices are skewed in favour of a particular ethnic group? This scenario surely is a security threat because ethnic groups that were sidelined will not be contented. This is why there is call for restructuring and breakup of the nation by various groups in Nigeria such as like Yoruba nation and Indigenous People of Biafra.

In Nigeria, government is trying to ensure that there is security of life and property through security agents from federal level. Despite all these efforts, there are a lot of security challenges in Nigeria. There is no state in Nigeria as of today that does not have any security challenge. No citizen is with two eyes closed any longer. Residents in different regions now sleep with one eye open while the government that is normally entrusted with life and property security appears confused and unable to do so, (Emmanuel & Emily, 2019).

State of nation insecurity threatened the very fabric of national integration in the country and created the ecology of fear, disquiet and anxiety (Imhonopi & Urim, 2012). People cannot work freely because environment is no longer friendly. Everyone is working around with caution because government has failed to ensure secure environment. No region is free; every region has its share of insecurity issues. These prompted the researchers to look into *Insecurity Challenges: A Study of Lecturers' Perceived Solutions to Insecurity in Ogun State, Nigeria*. Ogun state is one of the states in Nigeria that is threatening with serious insecurity issues such as kidnapping, ritual killings, army robbery and so forth. These issues prompted this study to look into solutions to insecurity in Ogun state.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The specific objective of this study is to find plausible solutions to challenges of insecurity in Ogun State, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

The following question was asked to guide this study:

What are possible solutions to challenges of insecurity in Ogun State Nigeria?

### **Methods**

The research focused on the interpretive paradigm. This implies the need for interpretative analysis of data by the researchers, which can only gain meaning if the researchers understand the subject's language, along with all its attendant nuances. This study used a qualitative approach because the researchers interviewed the respondents who are lecturers in order to allow them to explain their perception. The study adopted phenomenological research design because it is a study that attempts to understand people's (lecturers) perceptions, perspectives and understanding of the solutions to insecurity in Ogun State in Nigeria. The target population used for this study was lecturers of two Colleges of Education in Ogun State: Federal College of Education, Osiele and Tai Solarin College of Education. This population was chosen since it is very close to the researchers' location and the researchers are familiar with the terrain. It was easy for researchers to reach the Colleges of Education and deal with lecturers.

The researchers believed that the population chosen was relevant and suitable for the study since the lecturers are well grounded in the emerging issues in Social Studies in which security is among. In this research the researchers used non-probability sampling. This type of sampling does not require a list of a large population. Participants for this study were purposively selected from two Colleges of Education. The sample of six lecturers, that is, three lecturers in each College of Education, was purposively selected to provide information through interview on the solutions to security challenges in Ogun State, Nigeria. The researchers were the only one who undertook fieldwork. The duration of interviewing was two weeks. The researchers placed the raw data got from interview into meaningful categories in order to examine them in a holistic fashion.

### **Results**

The research question constitutes the themes of analysis from which sub-themes will be emerged, for the purpose of data analysis.

### **Research Question**

What are possible solutions to challenges of insecurity in Ogun State Nigeria?

Many Social Studies lecturers believed in creation of state police. The following are their responses:

#### **Theme 1: Decentralisation of Police**

**Lecturer A1:** The solution to insecurity in Ogun State amongst others is the creation decentralization of the police While lecturer B2 also revealed the similar report:

**Lecturer B2:** The State police is more needed now than before due to peculiar state of security in Ogun state with incessant kidnapping and killing of innocent people in the state Meanwhile lecturer A3 gave more detail for the need for decentralization of police:

**Lecture A3:** There is need for the state police because it is absurd for a setting Governor to give directives to the Commissioner of Police in his State as the Chief Security Officer, and for the Commissioner to wait for directive from the Inspector General of Police.

Point of view of Lecturers A2 and B1 were aligned with lecturer A2.

#### **Theme 2: Funding of Security Agencies**

Many of the respondents attributed problem of insecurity to inadequate funding of security agencies in Nigeria in the area of procurement of ammunition, patrol van, guns and many others

**Lecture A2:** Availability of fund to procure equipment like patrol van, guns and ammunition One lecturer responded that:

**Lecturer B1:** Without adequate funding no security personnel in Nigeria can function according to expectation. There is need for adequate funding if government wants to secure environment for her citizens. Every other respondent has similar idea with Lecturer A2 and B1

#### **Theme 3: Employment and Training of Qualified**

#### **Security Personnel**

**Lecturer B3:** If challenges that come up as a result of insecurity will be resolved there will be need for employment of qualified security personnel that are ready to work and resolve security issues in Ogun State and Nigeria at large. All other lecturers have similar ideas with Lecturer B3 above

**Lecturer A1:** Continuum training and orientation for both senior and junior police officers and other security agencies will help to update security personnel on current challenges on the security of the State.

Lecturers B1, B3 and A3 firmly agreed with Lecture A1 view.

#### **Theme 4: Creation of Job Opportunities**

**Lecturer B2:** There should be employment because unemployment of youth is making them idle and in order for them to get busy, they look for easy ways to make money like stealing, kidnapping, ritual killings e.t.c Another Lecturer buttress Lecture B2 opinion:

**Lecturer A3:** The major cause of insecurity is poverty. An hungry man is angry man. Therefore, employment opportunity will reduce the rate of crimes in the societies.

Lecturer A1 agreed with view of Lecturers B2 and A3.

#### **Theme 5: Equitable Wealth Distribution**

**Lecturer B3:** Insecurity is caused by how our wealth are being distributed, the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer. If you look at the people been kidnapped in Nigeria today, many of them are wealthy people, if they are poor, they have connections with the rich. If the wealth of this country are properly distributed, there will not be oppression, everyone will be at least be satisfied and peaceful with one another Lecturers A2 and B1 agreed with the Lecturer B3 opinion

#### **Theme 6: Ogun State Border**

**Lecturer B1:** Ogun State border should be well

fortified, not all kidnappers are Nigerians, the firearms are brought into Ogun State through border, by this, we will reduce the rate of crime in Ogun State.

All other respondents shared similar views.

### **Discussion**

The findings revealed that if the security of a nation will improve positively, there will be need for a decentralization of police for that can cater for the local security issues. Through decentralization, a quick action could be taken by local security personnel on time when there is need for such. The study revealed that government must provide adequate funding for all security agencies in the areas of procurement of ammunition, patrol van, guns and many others. Adequate funding will improve their effective security services. The study brought to the limelight that both senior and junior security agencies must be well trained and also provided with adequate orientation as regard their duty in safeguarding lives and properties of the citizens.

The study revealed that employment opportunity must be provided in order to reduce crime rates among the youth. The findings revealed that our borders must be fortified because many kidnappers are not Nigerians, therefore, there is a need for government to ensure that foreigners are checked in properly in order to reduce the level of insecurity of the in Ogun State and nation at large.

### **Conclusion**

One of the mandates of any government is to safeguard lives and properties of her citizens. Insecurity in any nation is a threat to lives and properties and it can render nation's economy useless as many foreign companies are leaving Nigeria due to insecurity. The study has found out that if there will be security improvement there will be need for government to create local police that can stand against any local insecurity and as well provide adequate funding to make all security agencies do their work without hindrances.

### **Recommendation**

- i. There must be decentralization of police force that can cater for each state

security matter or issues on time, especially in Ogun State where there are incessant insecurity issues.

- ii. Government must make provision for adequate funding of our security agencies in the areas of procurement of ammunition, patrol van, guns and many other things for adequate security services.
- iii. Employment opportunity must be provided in order to reduce crime rates among the youth.
- iv. Nigeria borders must be fortified in order to check against criminals among foreigners

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