



Effects of Current National Insecurity on Inter-Personal Relationship Among Youths of Benue State Nigeria

KEYWORDS

Current, Insecurity, Inter-personal Relationship, youths.

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ABSTRACT *This paper examined the effects of national insecurity on inter-personal relationship among Benue State youths in Nigeria. Four research questions guided the study. A descriptive survey method was used. The population of the study included all youths from the 23 local government areas of Benue State. Purposive sampling technique was used for the study and 240 who volunteered their information were used for the study. A self-constructed questionnaire, tagged: Effects of national Insecurity on inter-personal Relationship among youths in Nigeria Investigation scale (ENIIRYIS) which contained fifteen (15) items was the instrument to data collection. The result showed among other things that insecurity in the nation has effect on inter-personal relationship among youth in Benue as shown on the tables. The study recommended among other thing that intending youth corps members should be given the opportunity to serve in the states of their choice.*

Introduction

Security, according to the new Webster's dictionary of the English language (1993) means freedom from danger and anxiety. This could also mean measures taken to guarantee the safety of a country, person, thing or value.

The daily security alerts on the nation's television, the Nigerian Television Authority one which reads: "remember, the issue of security should not be left in the hands of security agents alone. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the safety of lives and properties in the nation; be security conscious, life is precious" speaks volume and shows that insecurity looms large in present Nigeria.

As observed by Uwalaka (2012), violence and hatred abound on Nigerian streets. Violence has permeated into the country's veins and arteries that it is becoming difficult to see a gentle man in the streets. To the author, in the streets one cannot walk freely, it is either one is dodging bullets from militants, kidnappers, armed robbers, cult groups or one is afraid of a bomb.

Agreeing with Uwalaka, Eme&Onyishi (2011) stated that insecurity takes various forms in different parts of the country. Specifically, the authors said the spate of kidnapping across the country, the incessant wave of crime and armed robbery attacks, and the recent use of explosives as terrorist instrument all point to the fact that insecurity is fast becoming a norm in Nigeria. No section of the Nigerian society is freed from the current insecurity threat.

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) which was established in the early 70s by the Federal Government purposively for national unity has also suffered the effects of insecurity in Nigerian. Corp members have been killed in some parts of the country. This necessitated the redeployment of corps members from one state to another, for instance, a statement by NYSC Director-General as reported by Ikuomala, Amusan, Tesnughul and Nanlong (2012) reads: "This is to inform all prospective corps members deployed to Yobe and Borno States for the 2012 Batch B orientation course to note that all those posted to Yobe State will now hold their orientation course at the Na-

sarawa State NYSC Permanent orientation camp Keffi, and not as stated in their call up letter. This has been the practice of recent. Talking of insecurity of corps members, a lawyer Daniel Onwe as reported by Jibueze (2012) stated that, it is abundantly clear that posting southern Christians graduates to the north for youth service will be a dangerous infringement of their fundamental rights to life, human dignity and religion enshrined in chapter IV of the 1999 constitution. He further stated that such postings are only suitable for those who have suicidal instinct and are looking for where to die. But these youths do not possess suicidal tendency. They want to stay alive to contribute positively to the development of this country and so do their families.

As rightly observed by Uwalaka (2012), there is a positive correlation between sanctity of life and development. Wars, hatred, envy and barbaric tendencies under-develop a nation. In effect the respect of life, as well as a genuine love for others is the recipe for a developed, egalitarian society. Essentially as cited by Otto and Ukpere (2012), security must be related to the presence of peace, safety, happiness and the protection of human and physical resources or the absence of crisis, threats to human injury among others. This work examines the effects of national insecurity on inter-personal relationship among youths of Benue State Nigeria.

Statement of Problem

Today in Nigeria, people are afraid of kidnapping, assassination, extra-judicial killings, rapes and so on. This has made it almost impossible for one to trust even the closest friend. A good example is the recent murder of one Miss Cynthia Osukogu by friends who invited her to Lagos, checked her into a hotel where she was drugged with 10 tablets of Rahypnol in her drink before killing her (Isiquzo and Igbonweluundu (2012).

Insecurity is presently a major challenge in Nigeria especially in Northern Nigeria where Benue State falls. The Nigerian society is getting more and more unsecured, more people are getting into crimes and they are becoming more ruthless, desperate and sophisticated. New forms of

violent crimes have become common. These include kidnapping for ransoms, Boko Haram bombing, rape, political violence and more (Otto and Ukpere 2012).

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to examine the effect of current national insecurity on interpersonal relationship among youths in Nigeria especially in Benue State. The specific objectives include:

1. To find out the effects of current insecurity in Nigeria on youths' social relationship/interactions.
2. To find out the effects of current national insecurity on youths' perception of interstate, interfaith marriage and relationships.
3. To find out the effects of the current national insecurity on youths' perception of NYSC posting and travelling.
4. To find out the effects of the current national insecurity on youths' choice of workplace, school location/University admission placement and marriage partner.

Research Questions

This study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the effects of the current national insecurity in Nigeria on youths' social relationship?
2. What are the effects of the current national insecurity on youths' perception of interstate, interfaith relationship and marriage?
3. What are the effects of the current national insecurity on youths' perception of NYSC posting and travelling?
4. What are the effects of the current national insecurity on youths' choice of workplace, university admission placement and marriage partner?

Research Design

This study is based on descriptive survey method, which is a systematic description of an event in very factual and accurate manner (Ogunloye, 2000). This research design was therefore chosen because it is applicable to this type of survey research.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

The population for this study consists of all youths from the 23 local government areas in Benue State. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 240 youths from among 350 youths drawn from the local government areas for a one-day security tips seminar in Makurdi, Benue State. Out of the 370 respondents given questionnaire, 240 properly filled their questionnaire which represent 68.6% return rate.

Instrumentation

The instrument used for data collection was a self-constructed scale tagged: "Effects of National Insecurity on Interpersonal Relationship among Youths in Nigeria Investigation Scale (ENIIRYIS). The instrument is divided into four sections, A,B,C and D. Section A gathered information on the effects of current insecurity in Nigeria on youths' social relationship and interaction. Section B looked for information on effects of the current national insecurity on youths' perception of interstate, interfaith relationship and marriage; Section C dealt with information on the effects of the current national insecurity on youths' perception of National youth Service Corps (NYSC) posting and travelling while section D gathered information on the effects of current national insecurity on youths' choice of workplace, university admission placement and marriage partner. The reliability of the instrument was established after vetting by

three professionals in counselling and psychology, whose suggestions were used to improve upon the ENIIRYIS.

The instrument was administered to the respondents through hand-to-hand method. The respondents were given about one and half hours to fill and submit the instrument. The data collected was analyzed using frequency distribution and percentages. The results were presented in a tabular form.

Results

Research Question 1

What are the effects of the current insecurity in Nigeria on youths' social relationship and interaction?

Table 1: Percentage Response of Youths' on the Effects of Current Insecurity in Nigeria on their Social Relationship and Interaction

S/No	Items	Frequency		Total
		Agreed	Disagreed	
1.	Security state of the nation is a major source of concern to me	240(100%)	-	240
2.	I feel every youth in the street is a security threat to me	190(80%)	50(20%)	240
3.	I do not stay out longer than 6.00 p.m. all the time due to insecurity	185(77%)	55(23%)	240
4.	I still attend social gathering inspite of security challenges	230(96%)	10(4%)	240
5.	I honour peer invitation to parties at night	58(76%)	182(76%)	240
6.	I trust my roommates/classmate despite security challenges	22(9%)	218(91%)	240

Table 1 shows 240 representing 100% of the respondents accept there is insecurity in the country and it is a major concern to them, 190 of the respondents feel every youth on the street is a security threat to them while 48 feel otherwise. A total of 185 of the youths do not stay out longer than 6.00 p.m. 230 representing 96% still attend social gathering despite security challenge while 10 representing 4% disagreed. While 58 of the youths still honour peer invitation to night parties, 182 representing 76% no longer honour such invitations. On the issue of trust, 22 representing 9% still trust their roommate/classmates while 218 representing 91% no longer trust roommates/classmates due to the insecurity in the country.

Research Question 2:

What are the effects of the current national insecurity on youths' perception of interstate, interfaith relationships and marriage?

Table 2: Percentage Response of Youths Perception on the Effects of Current Interstate, Interfaith Relationship and Marriage

S/No	Items	Frequency		Total
		Agreed	Disagreed	
1.	I relate with only people of same faith	110(46%)	130(54%)	240
2.	I still believe in interfaith marriage	20(8%)	220(92%)	240
3.	I still believe in interfaith marriage	170(71%)	70(29%)	240

Table 2 showed that 110 of the respondents relate with only people of same faith with them while 120 representing 54% disagree that statement. On interfaith marriage 220 representing 92% do not agree with interfaith marriage while 20 representing 8% still believe in interfaith marriage. On interstate marriage, 170 of the respondents representing 71% still believe in interstate marriage despite of the security challenges in the country.

Research Question 3:

What are the Effects of the Current National Insecurity on Youths' Perception of National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) Posting and Travelling?

S/NO	Items	Frequency		Total
		Agree	Disagree	
1.	I still love travelling to other places outside my state of origin	120(50%)	120(50%)	240
2.	If I had my way, I would love to do my National Youth Service in my state of choice	240(100%)	-	240

Table 3 above indicate that 120 representing 50% of the respondents still love travelling to other states outside their state of origin while 120 or 50% also would want to remain in their stat for safety reason.

Research Question 4:

What are the effects of the Current National Insecurity on Youths' choices of workplace, university admission placement and marriage partner?

Table 4: Percentage Response of Youths on the Effects of Current National Insecurity on their Choice of Workplace, School and University Admission placement and Marriage Partners

S/NO	Items	Frequency		Total
		Agree	Disagree	
1.	I prefer schooling in my state of origin	180(75%)	60(25%)	240
2.	I would like to work in my state of origin	190(79%)	50(21%)	240
3.	I would love to marry someone from my state of origin	180(75%)	60(25%)	240
4.	My friends are people from my local government area/state	80(33%)	160(67%)	240

Table 4 shows that 180 representing 75% of the respondents would want schools located in their states of origin while 60% representing 25% thought otherwise; 190 representing 79% as against 20 representing 21% would want to schools outside their states of origins. On the issue of marriage, 180 representing 75% would love to marry from their states of origin while 60 (25%) would want to marry outside their states; 80 of the respondents maintained friendship with people from their state while 160(67%) are friendly with people from other states/local government areas.

Discussion

The insecurity situation has become a source of major concern for every well-meaning Nigerian. As seen from table 1 all the respondents agreed that the situation is a source of major concern to them. The Nigerian Television Authority

agreeing with this, places security alert on the screen on daily basis to sensitize the citizenry of security consciousness. The table also shows that youths are scared of the happenings in the nation that majority of them no longer trust other youths enough to honour their invitation, stay longer than 6.00 p.m. outside their homes and so on. Uwalaka (2012) cited that in the streets one cannot walk freely. It is either one is dodging bullets from militants, kidnapers, armed robbers, cult groups or one is afraid of a bomb.

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents do not believe in interfaith marriage while majority believe in interstate marriage. As observed by Uwalaka (2012), Otto and Ukpere (2012), in a situation where wars, hatred, envy and barbaric tendencies exists, there can never be development, talk less of interfaith marriage and relationship with people of other faith.

Table 3 shows that despite the security challenges in the country, 50% of the respondents still love travelling to states other than their own. On National Youth service Corps, all 240 respondents would want to do their national service in their states of choice for safety reason. Onwe in Jibueze (2012) observed that, posting southern Christian corps members to the north for service will be a dangerous infringement of their fundamental rights to life, human dignity and religion enshrined in chapter IV of the 1999 constitution.

Table 4 shows that majority of the respondents would love to school (75%) work (79%), and marry (75%), in their states of origin for security reasons. Uwalaka (2012) stated that violence has permeated into the country's veins and arteries and that it is becoming difficult to see gentlemen in the streets. It is possible that fear and uncertainty in the country would push youths to marry, school, and work in their states of origin where they would be close to their people.

As shown on table 4, the insecurity situation in the country has not deter the youths from making friend with people from other state/local government areas as 160 representing 67% of the respondents disagreed with the statement which reads "my friends are people from my local government/state of origin". This is heartwarming encouragement as friendship of youths with those from other states and local government areas could lead to eventual peace and harmony in our states, local government areas and in the country at large.

Recommendations

Awareness creation

1. Seminars on national security should be organized by governmental and non-governmental organization for violence prone young men and women from the thirty-six states of the country and the Federal Capital Territory where papers would be presented on the ills of violence in the country.
2. Victims of violence should be counseled as that will help them regain their self-confidence, self-esteem and increase their sense of security consciousness in a nation that is being taken over by insecurity.
3. The counsellor can also organize seminar on the need for positive inter-personal relationship among youth. This will help the youths to understand the need for love, peace and harmony among them which can eventually lead to love, peace and harmony in the nation at large.

4. Intending National Youth Service Corps members should be allowed to serve in their states of choice considering the security situation in the country that makes it unsafe for youths to serve in some certain state in the country.

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