MILLENIAL OUTLOOK ON POVERTY AND ITS CONSEQUENCE ON HUMAN SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract. This research addresses millenial outlook on poverty in contemporary Nigeria and its impact on human security. The objectives of this study were to examine the causes of poverty, effect of poverty on human security and how poverty can be curbed in Nigeria from year 2000 - 2018. The data required for this study were acquired using secondary data sources. Two propositions were drawn from this study and content analysis was used to prove them. The result showed poverty had an effect on human security in Nigeria as well as being the root of many human security problems. Nigerian state must therefore deal with the issue of poverty in its soil concomitantly bettering human security.

Key words: Poverty, Human security, Insecurity, Nigeria, Impact.

1. Introduction

Poverty is a dire issue affecting countries worldwide irrespective of their economic status [1]. According to Townsend [2], poverty defies objectivity as it’s always difficult to clearly distinguish between the destitute and those not poor. Aluko [3], paints a picture of poverty as inability to meet basic human needs, namely feeding, shelter, and clothing. The underdeveloped status of Nigeria no doubt breeds an environment of frustrated desires and a state of sadness compounded by weak poverty alleviation programs. Despite this desperate circumstances, people and groups react differently by relying on situational factors and limits manifesting in different shades of antisocial practices such as robberies, kidnappings, ethnic clashes, militancy, abductions, terrorist activities and insurgency among others. The present and the most aggravating at present of these human security issues in Nigeria is the activist Islamic faction prominently called Boko Haram [4]. Poverty and human security are present day societal problems that hamper societal development and cause misuse of human and material assets in Nigeria. Poverty also has with it a myriad of security and other challenges which have been on the increase since the turn of the millennium [4]. This research work observes the challenges of poverty and its consequence on human security as it relates to Nigeria between the year 2000 and 2018. It also aims to propose methods for lessening the security challenges posed by them as well as improving the standard of living of Nigerians.
2. Methodology
Data obtained for this study were solely from secondary sources (journals, articles, thesis, books, newspapers, internet, and other materials that are of help to this study).

2.1. Poverty and its Resultant effect on Human Security
The thought that human insecurity is a consequence of poverty has been a disagreeable issue among researchers. A school of thought insinuates a connection between them, while others opposed that other mechanisms are responsible for insecurity. Extensive reports have been focused on negating the idea that poverty has an immediate outcome on insecurity on the planet [5]. Some research report that unending poverty and inequality breeds struggle and insecurity. Nonetheless, Kanbur [6] has raised questions such as:

- What is the reason for human insecurity in developing nations?
- Is it ethnicity, asset control clamor, religious prejudice or terrible administration?

Ted Gurr’s deprivation theory "hostility is dependably an outcome of frustration” and in the meantime "frustration dependably prompts some type of aggression” underscored this speculation [7, 8]. Relative hardship and inadequacy to meet basic human need have been attributed to increased violence by the poor; this occurrence concurs with Nigeria security issues [9]. The demonstration of dissatisfaction have incited a few of the young people in Nigeria to wage war against the state. A report by Akwara et al.[1], indicated that over 80 % of deaths related to conflict happen in less financial favorable states. Strife, violence and uprising are caused by poverty and different components that have been antagonistic to the improvement of any general public [7]. An insecure and unstable environment disregarded by the political class and government leads to mistrust in authority and relative unease of the framework [10].

3. Conceptual Clarification
3.1. Poverty
The impression of what makes up poverty has advanced over the years and it varies between countries in different ways depending on the standard of estimation. Hence, the number of definitions as well as researchers on this topic are numerous. Nonetheless, there are generally acknowledged markers and pointers of what makes up poverty and illuminate the thought. These pointers classify poverty into “absolute poverty, relative poverty, and material poverty” [1]. Absolute poverty is defined as the failure of individual(s) to give material/physical assets required for physical sustenance and security of the dignity of the human life. These materials or physical assets are feeding, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education, movement of people, and jobs in light of the fact that the people or groups don’t have occupations or sources of income[11]. Relative poverty then again is the lack of ability of particular areas of the general populace to fulfill those fundamental requirements and in addition to other necessities; while material poverty refers to the lack of possession of tangible resources, for example, terrains, and every other asset that the land delivers or exists on land such as birds, minerals etc. Poverty could be spatial i.e. rural/country or urban/city poverty. It is also a miserable condition which an individual is unequipped for using assets around him to enhance him/herself financially, socially and politically[12]. It could be due to absence of chances for training which is fundamental to any human advancement. Poverty can happen as a result of confused religious convictions. It could likewise be a condition of the brain or a mental model that places the person being referred to in need, material or spiritually. Physically, it includes the need for nourishment, dress and safety while spiritually, it includes need of true serenity, the soul and the inward man. Poverty involves a shortage or simply absence of fundamental resources needed basically for the existence and solace of human life. In other words it is food deprivation, lack of sanitation and lack of accessible essential
medicare. Poverty not only influences the individual, but rather individuals, societies and countries [13].

Poverty additionally identifies with thoughts, ideas and data [14]. It can be caused by "exogenous powers" i.e. powers beyond a person's control (e.g. excess population, an increased standard, price for basic items, insufficient instruction, lack of job opportunities and ecological degradation) or "endogenous powers" i.e. powers which work inside the casualties (e.g. social welfare reliance, and self-made). By area of geography, poverty is equitably separated between city and country territories. In urban areas, destitution is high causing the financial weight of those poor combined with high level of unemployment of the young people adding to the developing issues of wrongdoings [15]. By and large, poverty is a situation that to some level reduces the human dignity of the individual due to different handicaps made available to the sufferer. The experience of drug dependence and ill effects of starvation and war are also felt by the sufferer. Also, the impacts of poverty incorporate high rates of infections, high crime rate among others which are all dangers to national security.

3.2. Human Security

Human security concept has extended the thought of security alone whereby strategists were more inspired by policing their borders to discourage threats from outside the country. Nonetheless, because of international system changes, where states hardly war against each other, challenges have made countries unite and pool assets together to handle challenges individual states can't resolve on their own. People were being saturated and more attention was given to their security as much as non-military hazard factors such as poverty, disease and violence [16]. In 1994, the previous Pakistani Finance Minister Mahbubul Haq assisted by a business analyst Amartya Sen drafted and championed the Human Development Report of Human Security [17]. Different scholars have defined the term in an unexpected way: as another hypothesis or idea, as a beginning stage for an analysis, a world view, a political plan, or as an approach system [18]. However, there is no generally acknowledged definition for the term. In spite of the fact that the meaning of human security remains an open question, there is agreement among its backers that it should be people-focused way to deal with security rather than state-focused [18]. It is also necessary to note that human security should not be swapped for state security but rather inspect each part of human life, taking into account the different conceivable dangers at various levels. Human security involves a worldwide approach connecting security, development issues, solidarity and governance. In a wide sense, it addresses security as regards political, financial, social and ecological threats [19].

The 1994 report on Human Development titled 'New Dimensions of Human Security' was without a doubt the main endeavour to characterize the idea in a widespread way. Human Security is characterized in connection with seven measurements reflecting the majority of the key parts of human development and they are:

1. **Health security**: access to medicinal treatment and enhanced wellbeing conditions. Needy individuals when all is said in done have less wellbeing security, and in creating nations the real reasons for death are irresistible and parasitic sicknesses.

2. **Economic security**: guaranteed essential salary; access to work and assets.

3. **Community security**: people infer their security from participation in a social gathering (family, group, association, political gathering, ethnic gathering, and so forth.). Pressures frequently emerge between these bunches because of rivalry over restricted access to openings and assets.

4. **Food security**: physical and monetary access to nourishment for all individuals constantly. Countless individuals on the planet stay hungry either through nearby inaccessibility of nourishment or, all the more regularly, through absence of privileges or assets to buy sustenance.
5. **Environmental security**: living in an environment void of deforestation, desertification and other ecological dangers that jeopardize individuals' survival.

6. **Political security**: living in a general public that certifies fundamental human rights and flexibility of articulation.

7. **Personal security**: individual security from violence. Dangers can take a few structures, for instance: dangers from the State, remote states, other gatherings of individuals (ethnic pressure), people or groups; dangers coordinated against ladies or youngsters in light of their defencelessness and reliance; threats to self (e.g. drug use, suicide, etc.)[20].

Kofi Annan a former UN Secretary General defines human security is an objective bond that connects globalization and global governance. In his Action Plan for the 21st century, he underlined that globalization is needed to rise as a positive power for individuals worldwide to help in building a better world for all of humankind. He also envisioned a world where peoples prosperity take center stage in all approaches, be it social, financial, political, security and so on. He consolidated the aggregate satisfaction of three essential human rights in his detailing of the idea of human security:

- The right to freedom of need;
- The right of future generations to inherit a healthy planet and;
- The right to freedom of fear.

In further conceptualization of the idea, it is critical to express that there are two schools of thought in understanding human security. The narrow school adopted by Canada and the Human Security Network advocates that individual are in danger of political violence by the state and/or some other political element. This point of view is primarily connected to the thought of freedom of fear[21]. The broad school adopted by Japan, the Commission on Human Security and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security advocates that human security implies in excess the danger of viciousness. In this school human security involves both freedom of fear and freedom of need. Recently, a second generation school of thought (the European school) is developing a third viewpoint on human security concept which includes both the narrow and broad school.

3.3. **The Influences of Poverty on Human Security in Nigeria**

Poverty stirs up situations that are a threat to human security and they are as follows:

3.3.1. **Conflict**. Boko Haram uprising in Nigeria, emergence of Al-Shabab in Mali and Kenya, the Niger-Delta oil struggle to mention a few are some cases of conflict brewed from poverty with grave ramifications. Fundamentally, the multiplication of light arms and ammunitions has impelled these current clashes. The Boko Haram menaceis similar to wars due to high compassionate issues such as increased death rates, bombings of civilian and government infrastructure [19]. Using Boko Haram as an example, they get majority of their foot soldiers from “Almajiri”. This occurrence would not have been possible if these children were well taken care of. Nonetheless, due to poverty, they are neglected and hence recruited to wreak havoc and threaten human security.

3.3.2. **Weak security system.** Security systems and networks fail when there are inadequate hardware/equipment, weaponry and training. It is evident in developing countries where poverty thrives and all these can be traced back to the poverty of the state, poor attitude and demeanor of the security work force. Security staff appointed to manage given security circumstances do not have the skill and hardware to not only deal with the challenges but prevent them from happening. When these circumstances occur, some of them get impacted by ethnic or religious slant as well as their own enthusiasm to serve their individuals rather than country. They do not protect national interest and values but rather become saboteurs of government effort, by supporting and fueling weakness through
releasing indispensable security data, helping and abetting culprits to get weapons and/or get away from the long arm of the law. Bribery and corruption also runs rampant in poor countries and their security systems. Hence, the weakness in security systems brings about lack of freedom hence a human security threat[10].

3.3.3. Unemployment.

Akande and Okuwa[22], defined poverty as an issue which has a great effect on the advancing rate of jobless young people wandering the nation among other influences it has had on the human security of the citizens in Nigeria. Obadan and Odusola[23], posit that poverty in Nigeria was intense in the 1980s and has been growing from that point on. As at 2008, 15 % out of the country's working populace was jobless with the number increasing to 20 % in 2011 [24]; the casualties as it pertains to these are the young people who, till now, make up the biggest number of the jobless populace in Nigeria. About 40 – 60 % of the jobless populace in Nigeria range from 15 - 25 years old [22]. Rotimi[25], further buttressed the finding as the ages of those jobless ranged from 18 and 45 years.Obviously, in aspects of the economy as regards under-employment, reducing wages, decreased levels of incentives, lessened individual interest in these areas of the country's economic system, and a diminishing level training made available to the citizens in systems of education across the nation. Increasing crime level is a concomitant cause effect of unemployment in a bid to overcome poverty.

3.3.4. Ill-Health/Diseases.

Poor weak states lack infrastructures to screen and control rising pandemics. Poverty does not just increase the prevalence to deadly diseases and destructive pathogens, it hampers the state's ability to recognize, prevent, contain and treat them. WHO takes note of that in spite of the fact that the world has made extraordinary steps in lessening kid mortality since 1975, "the rate of decrease in under-five death rates has been much slower in low-salary nations all in all than in the wealthier nations" [26]. Over thirty new maladies such as SARS, H5N1 avian influenza infection, West Nile infection, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and others began in poor nations that did not have simple ailment reconnaissance ability hence, there spread worldwide. Good health aids social and economic development as poor health limits human capital, reduces the chances of education, kills entrepreneurial activities and holds back economic development. Diseases cause poverty and vice versa. Malaria, HIV/AIDS and other diseases have been reported to cause poverty in most parts of the world[26].

3.3.5. Environmental degradation.

In the meantime, poverty itself can be a reason for ecological debasement. In Nigeria, various ecological assets are integral to the realization of different products and ventures which supplement salary most particularly in time of intense financial pressure [27]. Disintegration of the natural asset base can make certain classes of individuals desperate even at the point when the economy develops [28]. In a few nations of the world unavailability of the poor to credit and asset inputs abandons them with no decision arranged other than to utilize common assets (backwoods, forests what's more, streams) with a specific end goal to survive. Regularly, their constant misuse of these assets have prompted pressure, exhaustion and environmental degradation making poor both operators and casualties of unsuitable natural practices[29, 30].

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study established the relationship between poverty and insecurity in Nigeria. It also elucidates the various factors responsible for poverty, the influence of poverty on human security and the deleterious effect on insecurity in Nigeria. Against this backdrop, the following are recommended:
1. Nigeria should be desist from being symptom oriented as regards human security but rather be root cause oriented. Deployment of security personnel’s to areas of prolong unrest should be the first combative step; with good governance, robust institutional framework, prudent and effective resource management as the long term goal.

2. Government expenditure in budgetary notes should be focused on various poverty alleviation measures while ensuring policies are friendly for both local and foreign investors.

3. Intensification of the anti-corruption war should be made via enactment of stricter rule of law.

4. Irrelevant institutions should be scraped and/or reformed to allow/build the viable ones that can proactively respond to the challenges of poverty and human security in Nigeria.

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