

# Insecurity, Terrorism And Socio-Economic Development In Nigeria: Challenges To National Development

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**Abstract:** *This study therefore looks at the implications of insecurity and terrorism and the challenges they pose on socio-economic development in Nigeria. Data collection is based on qualitative research method, and the theory used in this research uses the theory of Structural Functionalism. Data were analyzed based on the results derived systematically and logically from journal articles, periodicals, documentary and other textual materials. The Study finds that insecurity and terrorism are a major threat to socio-economic growth and sustainable national development in Nigeria. The study, therefore, suggests that the Government needs to invest more in educational and youth empowerment initiatives, at least in the affected hard-hit areas. In addition, the paper calls for the promotion of more regional and international cooperation as "a necessary key to fight against transnational terrorism. On this regard, Nigeria should ensure the consolidation of intelligence sharing, coordinated deployment of security forces and better border management with its neighbours and international security organisations.*

**Keywords:** Insecurity, terrorism, social, economic, development

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

In a polity, the matter related to national security is one of the most important issues related to the material advancement of a nation. The fact that a stable and friendly environment is essential to sustainable development and is well accepted. By support of the Agwanda, Nyadera and Asal (2020), any society cannot be held together without law and order, which is critical in the issue of national security. Yet, in Nigeria's context the ongoing insecurity has always been accompanied by a legacy of suffering and suffering has not spared Nigeria and its people in the years to come. Nigeria as an underdeveloped nation has been challenged by a host of political, cultural, social and economic issues which over time have had a negative effect on the welfare of the citizens (Lawrence, 2018). However, even since its transition to democratic governance, it has faced with a number of problems which have been a serious limitation to its development and potential. Nigeria is facing a wide spectrum of security threats, from armed robbery to conflicts between farmers and herders, banditry, kidnapping which is an evil spread across the geo-political zones, terrorism and insurgency primarily in North-East and North-Central. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with an estimated total population of about 300 million (IEP, 2022). In fact, it is an economically the second largest economy on the continent, behind South Africa, at about US\$415 billion GDP (gross domestic product). Furthermore, Nigeria produces the most oil in Africa and 6th in the world's Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) (Stoddard, Harvey, Czwarno & Breckenridge, 2020). Nigeria has enormous petroleum, natural gas and large number of mineral resources. With a huge agricultural potential, the country is still heavily dependent on food imports. Without an environment of security, Nigeria as a sovereign state cannot focus on creating sustainable national development given the current conditions of structural violence, crime and social instability among Nigerians. There is no doubt that any blue print for the peace and national development will eventually sink if citizens' protection and safety are not guaranteed (Akinyemi 2018). Security remains one of the most pressing problems facing several countries especially in Africa and in turn can seriously affect the implementation of any policy and hamper the development process. There is a need to reduce the incidence of crime to its very lowest ebb as Ike (2018) stipulates, this should be a major goal in the drive for sustainable development as a nation in real sense.

The Nigeria security situation has grown so bad that Army Forces, Police Forces, Air Forces, and other security forces are being mobilized to deal with its internal security operations. This has created a fear factor among the people as there is no guarantee of safety of lives and property. This has undoubtedly taken a toll on the political, economic and social landscape of the Nigerian society since crime continue to be rampant (Azeez, Bakare & Balogun, 2023). Insurgency has introduced a new facet of terror in Nigeria's criminal matrix. Terrorist actors have conducted a series of bombings and kidnapped innocent population increasing the country's security problem. Either having rich or weakened economy, terrorist activities are a huge burden on the national economy. Still, it is more strongly felt in underdeveloped, multi-cultural and low-income economies rather than in highly developed and diversified industrial economies as the economic structures in the latter are more resilient and adaptive (Oriola, 2018). Therefore, the unchallenged trend of insecurity in the country is likely to trigger greater investor cautiousness which in turn will reduce investor inflow popularly known as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) if nothing obvious is done to stop the trend. Such an environment of instability would drive institutional investors to look around for more secure and stable economy where they will invest their money. Insecurity reduces people's commitment to invest, buy or consume products as a result of investment. Thus, across the globe, countries that send an apparently insecure signal to the world generally put off both foreign and local investors from venturing into

investment business (Ozigbo, 2019). Thus, crime and terrorism is an important risk for the economic, political and social security of a country and one of the most important obstacles to development. It hinders domestic and foreign investments, negatively affects the standard of living, reduces human and social capital, and puts citizens' and the state's relationship under stress. As a result, terrorism is a significant threat to the democratic governance and the rule of law and the ability of the nation to build sustainable development (Hussaini, 2017).

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

The terrorism and insecurity became popular in Nigeria from about 2009 with the commencement of insurgency by Boko Haram which resulted from the death of one of the leaders of Boko Haram, Mohammed Yusuf. In fact, since then, the sect's activities have continued unabated, even in the face of several government initiatives to put their shocking criminal activities under arrest and annihilate them. Across Nigeria, more than 100,000 lives have been lost due to terrorist activities (Ike, Antonopoulos & Singh, 2025). Most of these activities are in the North-East and North-Central parts of the country. Additionally, the kidnapping and the sexual assault against women were used strategically by the terrorists in Nigeria as a weapon of war (Okoli & Maduka, 2024). Nigeria has faced a formidable security challenge especially in the North-East over a decade. The magnitude and sophistication of these security challenges have grown to never-before-seen levels since 1999. Terrorism is a serious threat in fragile states like Nigeria as it hinders development and creates new risks on international security as stated by Akwara and Akpan (2019). Right now, Nigeria is caught up in a complex web of security issues seriously jeopardizing the security and development of the nation. Terrorism increases the expense of private sector business activities and hampers public service provision. Finances that might otherwise be spent on boosting productivity, education, healthcare, etc. and other welfare programs become invested in crime control and prevention. Together, the paper of Onapajo (2017), Adelaja, Labo and Penar (2018), Ujene (2020), Dibia (2021) argue that if a nation spends a sum almost equivalent to what it allocates for the education, health and critical infrastructure sectors within a fiscal year, it is detrimental to both peace and national development; as Nigeria presently does.

In recent days a lot of scholarly works have been undertaken to address the alarming situation of terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria over the years and the activities of the terrorists are becoming sophisticated. Despite the extensive literature available on the prevalence and effects of terror and related issues on national security and development (some with a specific focus on the North-Eastern and North-Central parts of the country), there is relative dearth of studies that take an empirical approach in studying the wider ramifications and implications of terrorist acts on peace and national development. Therefore, this paper is set to examine the impact of terrorism on peace and the development of the nation of Nigeria as a whole with detailed survey and critical analysis of relevant secondary textual sources.

## **2.0 CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS**

### **2.1 Insecurity and National Development issues in Nigeria: An Overview**

One of the pressing challenges militating against the national development in Nigeria is insecurity. Nigeria has recently experienced increasing violent conflicts, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, herder-farmer conflicts, cultism and secessionist agitations over the last twenty years. These security issues have affected economic activities, caused destabilisation of communities, loss of public confidence in government and prevented proper roll out of development policies. The relationship between insecurity and underdevelopment in Nigeria is bidirectional and direct; insecurity can retard development, and underdevelopment can give birth to more insecurity (Omonijo et al, 2017). The impact of insecurity has been devastating on key sectors including agriculture, oil production, manufacturing and trade. Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East has left millions of North-East farmers displaced, infrastructure destroyed and land rendered uncultivable. Again, for example, agricultural production and movement in the North-West and parts of the North-Central has become very risky due to armed robbery which has led to food insecurity and increased inflation. A major problem in the Niger Delta is the rising theft of oil and the vandalization of pipelines, which has cut the national oil output, robbing the country of much needed income. This economic uncertainty discourages and deters foreign direct investment and hinders the growth potential of the country. Socially, there are resulting population displacement, loss of education opportunities, an increase in poverty, and psychological trauma. Today, there are millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who reside in often poor-quality camps, with restricted access to education, healthcare, and productive employment opportunities. Youths who are victims of insecurity are susceptible to recruitment by terrorist groups, criminal gangs and political thugs. Much of the social fabric of many communities has also been eliminated, causing established divisions and mistrust between ethnic and religious groups for long-term periods. Politically, insecurity undermines governance and democracy. Dibia (2021) states that it hinders electoral processes, weakens state institutions and challenges the authority of the government. Violence frequently deters people from voting or causes them to be intimidated to vote, as well as encouraging vote-buying especially in countries that are afflicted by violence. This causes a loss in trust for the government's ability to secure citizens thereby resulting in civil unrest, protest and separatist attitude.

Therefore, insecurity can be a big challenge to Nigeria's national development. It impacts across all areas (economic, social and political) and results in a vicious cycle of poverty, insecurity and poor government.

## 2.2 Fundamental Traits of Terrorism

Terrorism has become an ongoing affair and for any person it consists of different responses, emotions and perceptions. These perceptions vary from very strongly negative to very strongly positive condemnations of such acts and the moral reasoning and personal histories that underlie these opinions differ accordingly. Terrorism is also conceptualized as being driven by doctrinal rigidity while perceptions of injustice and inequity against a repressive social and political structures makes it a vehicle for reaching these goals (Alade, 2016). Botha and Abdile (2019) have stated that this duality is said to be the root cause for the expression that came to be famous "one man's terrorist is another's freedom fighter", which indicates that such acts are perceived differently among people with different ideological and cultural views. However, there are multiple definitions of terror given by individuals, scholars and institutions depending on their understanding or experience of terrorism. An example of that, as defined by the United States Department of Defense, is: the systematic use of violence and threatening acts that are conducted against persons or property with the intention of causing fear for the purpose of securing political, religious, or ideological objectives. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) says that terrorism is the unlawful use of force and violence to intimidate or force a government or civilian populations, or part of a civilian population, to achieve political or social agendas. Likewise, the United States Department of State defines terrorism as the "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets, usually perpetrated by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, and intended to affect a larger audience". The United Nations has defined terrorism as the use of anxiety inducing methods through repeated acts of violence, conducted by clandestine or semi-clandestine individuals, groups or state actors in 1992. This activity is driven by a personal, criminal or political goal. However, unlike assassination, the immediate target of the violence is not the victim, but rather the larger audience affected by the violence, with the intent being to influence or intimidate this larger audience.

Terrorism is therefore viewed by several considerations. The international community (sovereign states and intergovernmental organizations) has also experienced difficulty in reaching a universally accepted definition and scholars are likewise engaged in the challenge of developing a universally acceptable definition. In spite of the absence of a definition of terrorism, however, it has not hindered these organizations from taking position or imposing sanctions on acts that they consider to be acts of terror. For example, in dealing with definitional ambiguities in the United Nations Security Council, Duerksen (2021) pointed out that the Security Council treated every form of terrorist activity as violations of international peace and security regardless of the nature of the attack (transboundary or within a country). Though the Council used the concept of 'terrorism' as a legally operative concept with significant implications for individuals and entities, it did not formally define the term until late 2004. In the definition from 2005 the United Nations Security Council defines terrorism as a criminal act, whether of violence or otherwise, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm or to take hostages (Grip & Kotajoki, 2019). They are done with the intention of causing fear of the general population or a particular group or groups of people and are designed to compel a government or international organisation to do or not to do an act.

In 1974, the United Kingdom (UK) defined terrorism as the "use of violence for political ends, including the use of violence to cause fear in the public, or part of it". These kinds of actions, Granville (2020) argued, are similar to acts of genocide because they involve the deliberate and systematic destruction of an ethnic, racial, religious or national group, in whole or in part. Secondly, Schuurman (2020) believed that terrorists could have a socio-economic and political theory based on individual personality and environment. Motives might include internal desire for revenge, financial gain, fundamentalism, deprivation, political frustration, religious disputes, resentment of the existing government, violation of one's personal freedoms, oppression, unequal treatment or governmental weakness. Terrorism, as defined by these definitions, has four key components: the deliberate and intentional use of illegal force to purposefully cause terror to the civilian population. These acts can be committed by individuals, groups and even countries, and represent actions that are adversarial with the aim of an effect reaching an audience beyond the target. As cited by Brisibe (2018), terrorism as a tool serves as a psychological weapon under the cover of ideological goals (whether political, economic, or religious) and Boko Haram insurgency falls in this category since they attempt to implant and enforce the law of Islam in the northern Nigeria. Likewise, it appeared in mannerisms such as Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) whose operations were due to the aim of staving off environmental degradation of their land, staving off exploitation by other ethnic groups, and getting an equitable share of oil proceeds. Also, when government agents or who holds senior position in the government engages with acts of negative attitude in an unlawful manner to obtaining some benefits for subordinates is a form of terrorism (Omonijo et al, 2017). Terrorism, by its nature, is therefore political in the sense that it requires those ultimately responsible for it to make a political claim for an individual or group satisfaction by intimidation or by placing pressure which demands acquiescence or compliance.

## 2.3 Terrorism and Economic Underdevelopment in Nigeria:

Since the emergence of Boko Haram in Nigeria 2009, economic underdevelopment has been one of the major challenges resulting from the terror group's activities. However, large parts of the country have been destabilized, particularly the North-East, by activities of terrorist groups like Boko Haram, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and other violent non-state actors (VNSAs). The continuing terrorist risk has led to the loss of life, loss of property, and an atmosphere of fear and insecurity that significantly impedes economic growth, investment and development.

The immediate effect of terrorism on the economy of Nigeria is the disruptions of the agricultural production. The North-East, which used to produce millet, sorghum, and maize, had a vast majority of the farmers forced to flee from the area owing to the terrorist attacks. Thousands of hectares of agricultural land have been left, resulting in lower production of foodstuff, growing food insecurity and escalating inflation. Rural markets and transport systems have been destroyed, compounding the problem and making it difficult and costly to transport goods. As such, both local and national food chains have been severely impacted. Foreign and domestic investment has also been put off due to the threat of terror. Investors are not very enthusiastic about investment in the areas where there is no security guarantee. The study by Okoli and Maduka (2024) notes that Nigeria's reputation as a risky business location has resulted in capital flight, falling foreign direct investment (FDI), and a lack of progress in key industries like manufacturing, infrastructure, and tourism. In many cases, business operations have been forced to close down or move elsewhere as there have been threats to personnel and equipment, resulting in loss of employment and decreases in productivity. Furthermore, the cost to the government of terrorism is extremely high. The country spends billions of naira every year on military operations, intelligence gathering, procurement of arms and post conflict interventions etc. Security spending results in a reallocation of resources from other key development areas such as health, education and infrastructure. The economic burden of anti-terror activities in such a country which is already struggling with debt and low revenues further hampers the country's budget and delays development activities. In addition, terrorist acts impede realization of human capital development. In Nigeria, the closure of schools and healthcare facilities are as a result of the displacement of millions of the population from conflict areas. Children are denied access to education in terrorist affected areas and there is also a brain drain; this decreases human capital in the long term, particularly of teacher, doctors and professionals. This divide not only hampers socio-economic mobility, but also contributes to regional disparities.

#### **2.4 Terrorism and Political Instability; Challenges to National Development:**

Terrorism has become a major determinant which is fueling Nigeria's political crisis and a threat to national development. Nigeria has been caught up in an ongoing conflict ravaging the country since the emergence of groups like Boko Haram in 2009 and the formation of splinter groups like ISWAP that impacted the nation's political atmosphere. The sustained operation of such terrorist outfits, banditry and armed militias have severely affected the systems put in place by the State; undermined the confidence of the citizens to the government and compromised the country's sovereignty especially in the North-East and some parts of the North-West. Moreover, the lack of an effective government response to the terrorism and insecurity has also brought about a Public Confidence crisis. The public perception of the state to safeguard life and property is becoming stronger and stronger. This loss of trust contributes to social unrest, to civil disobedience, and to some extent to separatist tendencies and armed resistance. Citizens' lack of trust in the political system undermines the ability of a nation to develop, as it is impossible to make any real development without citizens' support and cooperation (Ike, Antonopoulos & Singh, 2025). Moreover, terrorism takes governments' focus and resources away from long-term development planning. Billions of dollars are pulled out to fund military action, intelligence collection and humanitarian relief efforts, reducing funds available for infrastructure, education, healthcare and economic development. The ongoing emergency situation fueled by terrorists serves as a conducive environment for governance by crisis and hinders the development of institutions and policy continuity.

Among the largest effects of 'terrorism' on political stability is the decline of government control in terrorist dominated areas. Terrorist groups typically control vast land areas without effective presence of the Nigerian State. There they make up their own rules and levy their taxes, forcing others to obey them. This challenges the legitimacy and sovereignty of the Nigerian government and results in what the authors term "a fractured state", in which some territories are de facto ungovernable or administered by other powers controlling the territory. This lack of control within the state is a prime impediment to national cohesion and stability of governance. But even more so, terrorism is a threat to the credibility of democratic institutions and electoral processes. Election insecurity results in low voter participation, election postponement and disenfranchisement of whole communities. For example, during national elections, in conflict-stricken areas polling units are closed or faced with heavy violence, restricting participation and leading to a disproportionate representation. Furthermore, politicians have in some instances been involved in raising armed groups to cow dissenters or to sway elections, which erodes democratic norms and institutions.

#### **2.5 Insecurity, Terrorism and Social Development:**

Insecurity caused by terrorism has tremendously affected social development of Nigeria. However, the social cloth of the nation has been torn as a result of the continued operations of terrorist groups like Boko Haram, ISWAP, and other forms of wickedness, including kidnapping, communal clashes and banditry. Social development (improvements in education, health care, social cohesion, equality and quality of life) has been significantly affected and is mostly lacking in conflict zones and areas affected by war. Terrorism is reflected on social development in various ways, one of the most apparent being displacement of populations. Several million Nigerians have been displaced by the terrorists' attacks, especially in the North-East and the North-Central. According to Ujene (2020), these internally displaced persons (IDPs) reside in superbly congested and poorly resourced camps with few educational prospects, access to clean water and care, and employment. This diminishes not only their life quality but is also a strain to the life quality of the host communities and social infrastructure, increases inequality and social exclusion. Terrorism also weakens the cohesion of the social plane, as well as the relationship between groups. In many instances these are aimed at an ethnic or religious group, which further fuels suspicion, fear and a rift between communities. This undermines trust and working together between groups formerly living in harmony. Growth of social development flourishes in a climate of unity, inclusion and mutual respect, whereas terror fosters the opposite, fragmentation, intolerance and isolation.

Moreover, the psychological impact of terror events (fear, gruesome experiences, helplessness, etc.) is deep and persistent. A child in a conflict environment is apt to be emotionally unstable and not to get proper care, and may also be exposed to radicals. Together these conditions produce an environment that encourages the radicalisation of youths which can be the lions of tomorrow, can turn the victims into perpetrators and vice versa, resulting in the cycle of violence (Akwara & Akpan, 2019). Education has also been seriously impacted by terror attacks, more so. Terrorist groups often target schools in conflict areas, where children and teachers are kidnapped and/or murdered. Using the name Boko Haram, which loosely translates to 'Western education is forbidden', the group has consciously targeted schools to cause fear and stop education. Thousands of schools are shut in the North-East, and many children have suffered for lack of schooling for years. These educational disruptions result in a longterm human capital problem which affect future opportunities and keeps people living in poverty (Ozigbo, 2019). Moreover, healthcare systems in terrorized-stricken areas of health care systems have also broken down or have become unavailable. Often health facilities are destroyed or abandoned, and health personnel are forced to flee from insecurity. This has contributed to increased preventable illnesses, mothers and children death and mental health problems of persons confronted with violence. This is particularly true of women and children, who are at great risk, with a lack of reproduction health services, immunisation, and psychosocial assistance being extremely limited in the high-risk areas.

## **2.6 The Significance of Education in Combating Insecurity and Terrorism in Nigeria:**

Education has a catalytic and critical role as a preventative and transformative force in the struggle against terrorism. Ultimately, education of the youth helps in developing their critical thinking skills, educates them to be tolerant, responsible citizens, and sensitizes them about socio-political issues, which, in turn, are crucial in combating extremist ideologies. If the people know and can analyze, as well as question those harmful stories, the people will become less vulnerable to be recruited by a terrorist group. Moreover, education fosters social inclusion and has a role to play in helping to overcome the barriers among ethnic, religious and ideological groups which can give rise to terrorism.

The limited access to inclusive and quality education is one of the challenges faced in a country with a high terror rating like Northern Nigeria. Many young people, especially those living in marginalised communities, are at risk of being radicalised due to limited opportunities for formal education. For instance, extremist factions such as Boko Haram have taken advantage of the absence of education and have had the ability to provide false promises of purpose and belonging while teaching a warped version of religion. It is crucial to break this cycle and this can be done by investing in education; especially in the areas affected by conflict. Moreover, education also plays a direct role in nation building by creating informed inquisitive citizens who are inquisitive and productive in governance and development. Education fosters greater likelihood of enacting citizenistic values, holding leaders accountable, and resisting violence as a way to make any difference. The integration of civic and peace education into the school curriculum can, in turn, help foster a culture of dialogue, peaceful relations and respect for differences. This in turn, adds to the unity of the country in times of national crisis and terrorism. Therefore, education must be perceived not only as a social function, but also as an investment in security namely. Access, equity, and quality in education should be enhanced through joint efforts of the government, civil society and international partners, in particular for vulnerable groups. Such actions will help to diminish the attractiveness of the extremist ideologies, and create a solid base for sustainable peace, security and development in Nigeria and other countries where the menace of terrorism has crippled development.

## **2.7 THEORETICAL FOUNDATION**

The basic theory for this study was the often used structural-functional theory (structural-functionalism).

Structural-functionalism is a sociological and political theory which developed in the early 20th century that emphasizes the interdependent functions of the different parts of a society that contribute to stability, order and function. The theory has ancient origins in the writings of early thinkers such as Émile Durkheim, who stressed the importance, for the maintenance of social cohesion, of the social institutions, and Herbert Spencer who likened society to an organism with interconnected parts. In the middle of the 20th century, the theory was extended and formalized by the important players: Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton, Gabriel Almond and Bingham Powell.

### **Core Tenets of Structural-Functionalism:**

- Society is like a living organism that operates by having inter-related parts each of which plays a role to keep society stable and working.
- Social structures serve basic functions; institutions have been created for basic needs of the society.
- The central focus is equilibrium and stability; The main assumption of the theory is that society has the tendency to balance and that disturbances are temporary more or less unless it is required to undergo some kind of structural reform.
- Consensus and common norms are essential ingredients of cohesion: Stability is based on common values and social norms, that regulate the behavior of individuals and bring them into the social system.
- Change is slow, evolutionary and adaptive; Structural-functionalism believes that change should happen slowly, evolvably and is due to adaptation rather than conflict.

Structural-functionalism as a theoretical framework sees society as a complex system that consists of inter-dependable parts that function together to keep the system ordered, stable, and functional. Each institution (government, education, economy, security, religion etc.) has specific roles to play to ensure the lives of the society exist and grow. The whole system would be affected if one of these structures fails or is dysfunctional. Tracing this back to Nigeria, it is seen that terrorism jeopardizes the base structures which are essential for the national development and can be said to be a very potent factor to underdevelopment.

Terror (mostly in the form of Boko Haram, ISWAP, banditry and ethnic militia violence) undermines basic institutions designed to facilitate stability and development in the case of Nigeria. The security apparatus, which should uphold law and order is undermined by insurgency, for example. Poor institutional capabilities have been identified due to frequent attacks on military formations, police stations, and civilian populations in the North-East, North-West and North-Central. This breakdown in the security apparatus has an impact on other sectors; education is affected, health services are neglected and economic activities cease. Even more, education and economy, two important structures from the structural-functional point of view, are both structures that need to build human capital and create wealth. Particularly in the North-East and North-Central region, schools have been disrupted and thousands of students and teachers forced to flee from home due to terrorism. This, in turn, undermines the role of education as a process of socialization and learning of skills. Likewise, terror hampers markets, displaces farmers communities, scares off investors and undermines infrastructures, stymieing the economy (yet another cornerstone of national development).

Additionally, integration and common values are emphasized by structural-functional theory. Terrorism fosters ethnic and religious differences and the trust formed by these people is undermined, thus resulting in disunity among the various ethnic groups in Nigeria. This slows down the process of national integration and hampers larger development efforts to be coordinated among them. If communities believe the state cannot provide for their security, they may either organize themselves into vigilante justice groups or encourage extreme ideologies in their households, or use other means of self-help that can cause additional instability. Finally, the structural-functional theory explains structural dysfunction and underdevelopment of critical society functions and institutions resulting from terrorism in Nigeria. It demonstrates connections between institutions and how a problem in one sector (security) can affect other sectors (e.g., education, economy, governance).

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

Qualitative approach was applied in the research. The data collected in the course of this research were from secondary sources. The research utilized well-chosen publications that are relevant to the topic and were retrieved from the Internet. For this reason, all the data used in the analysis of the study was carefully collected from the chains of logic contained in the publication of books, conference papers, articles in the Journal, periodicals and documentary publications. Moreover, this study revisits the taken-for-granted notions about the effects of terrorism and insecurity on development, concentrating on the socio-political, economic and educational arena. It thus expands on work done in recent empirical studies and offers a critical analysis on the effect of violent conflict, insurgency and terrorist acts, with a particular focus on some of the ways in which a negative effect can be and is observed

in economic and socio-political outcomes in developing and negating nation-building and development. The study also offers analysis, taking into account the interactions with the national and subnational socio-political economy, that robustly measures the costs of Nigeria's security challenge through their impact on development. Hence, this study gives special focus to social, political and economic developmental impact because of the contemporaneity of the insurgency and terrorism.

#### **4.1 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

To conclude, terrorism has not only been a signpost of Nigeria's underdevelopment but also engendered the underdevelopment of Nigeria. Its multidimensional impact on national development is experienced in weakening security, destabilizing politics, destroying economy and fragmenting the society. This challenge can only be addressed through comprehensive and holistic approach (security, with social and educational investments, inclusive governance, economic empowerment, and reconciliation efforts) which will turn the tide of violence and build a robust, united and developed Nigeria.

#### **4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Nigeria's social and economic development is hampered by the effect of terrorist attacks and therefore there is a need for a multidimensional and practical dimension in solving this problem and to ensure that the country is taken out of the underdevelopment syndrome once for all.

- The government's number one priority is to reinforce its security system. This means bolstering the military and police resources, as well as overhauling security methods, intelligence and information collection and implementing technology-based security infrastructure. Community policing and intelligence-building with the local communities themselves can make a significant contribution to being able to detect dangers early and regaining the trust of the populace in government protection.
- At the same time, investment in education, empowerment of young people is extremely important, particularly in some areas that have been mostly affected by terrorism. There are many youth who join extremist groups as they have no opportunity, and are being impoverished and disillusioned with the state. The Government should introduce specific educational activities, training programmes and job creation to offer viable alternatives to radicalisation. There are also measures for job creation in agribusiness, infrastructure and digital economy to dismantle the socio-economic causes of terrorism.
- Also, governance need to be more inclusive, transparent and accountable. Terrorist groups ride on marginalisation, absence of service delivery and corruption as grievances. Equitable resource distribution and political inclusion, and a strong anti-corruption regime, should be promoted by the government. Building institutions and making all the citizens feel represented and protected can aid in the reconstruction of the nation's unity and legitimacy.
- Moreover, there is also a great need to rebuild and rehabilitate territories hit by terrorism. Infrastructure needs to be restored like schools, hospitals, roads and markets. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) should be safely resettled, and social support services provided to help them reintegrate into society. These activities can be complemented with the involvement of NGOs, religious organizations and international agencies.
- Finally, regional and international co-operation plays an active role in combating the transnational terrorism. Nigeria needs to reinforce and rewrite its relationship with the neighbouring countries as well as international security organizations to share intelligence, collaborate on security deployments and control of porous borders. Where borders are weak and coordination is poor, opportunities exist for terrorism to prosper.

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