

NIGERIA POLICE FORCE AND THE CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: A STUDY OF RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examined Nigeria Police Force and the Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria: A study of Rivers State. The study adopted six (6) research questions, objectives and hypotheses and they constituted the study guide. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design to investigate the Nigerian Police Force and Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria; Taro Yamane formula was used to determine the sample size and four hundred (400) respondents were randomly selected from three Local Government Areas in Rivers State namely, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, Emohua and Gokana. Frequency and simple percentage was used to analyze the data while Mean and the Spearman Rank Order Correlation were used to test the hypotheses. The findings reveal that there is problem of insecurity and crime in Rivers State, Nigeria with (grand mean of 2.69). It was also revealed that poverty, high rate of unemployment and underemployment of youths in the state, bad leadership/governance and corruption amongst other things are the major causes of insecurity in Rivers State with (grand mean of 3.44). It was further revealed that the shortage of crime fighting facilities by the Nigerian Police Force has a significant relationship with insecurity situation in Rivers State, Nigeria with ($\rho = 0.109$, $p = 0.04$). However, the Nigerian Police Force is not equipped and empowered to tackle insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria with (grand mean of 2.48). The study recommends amongst others that the Police Force should be well equipped to perform its functions well and in compliance with the rule of law; sensitization exercise should be taken as a priority in addressing relationship that exists between the public and personnel of the Nigerian Police Force.

Keywords:

Nigeria Police Force, Policing, Challenges, Security, Insecurity

INTRODUCTION

Adegbami (2013) assert that as insecurity continues to rise with its attendant loss of lives and destruction of properties, Nigerians have called to question the relevance of security votes for the President and the State governors because there is no record of concrete achievements arising from security votes (Editorial Comment, the Business Newspaper May 22, 2012). The Nigerian State is currently facing serious security challenges as the insecurity in Nigeria has graduated from petty crimes such as assault, stealing etc. to heinous crimes such as bombblast, highway robbery, burglary, arson, murder, rape etc.

Violent crime in Nigeria has become endemic. The Nigeria Police have recorded consistently rising cases of murder, bombblast, armed robbery over the last twenty years. Whatever the accuracy of crime statistics; the perception of growing danger has generated wide spread anxiety (Giana, 2011). Nigerians are however worried that despite the rising budgetary

allocation to security in the last few years, they are yet to experience stable peace and security capable of engendering social, political stability and economic growth and attracting foreign investment into the nation (Giana, 2011). Different militia groups at one point or the other have held the country to ransom; there is the Egbesu Boys in the Niger Delta, the Odua People's Congress in the Western Nigeria and the Boko Haram in the Northern Nigeria. In each of these times, the group reigned supreme as the security agencies are unable to contain them.

There are several security challenges which cut across the nooks and crannies of the country. The most common one is the terrorists' attacks in major parts of the Northern region. This according to Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2013) has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security. The rate of violent crimes such as terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery and banditry, suicide bombing, religious killing, ethnic clashes, politically-motivated killing and other forms of criminal activities in the country is becoming increasingly regular occurrence that characterized life in the nation. Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013).

In the same vein, Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013) assert that the challenges of insecurity has assumed formidable dimensions forcing the country's political and economic managers and indeed the entire nation to be in regret, the loss of their loved ones, investment and absence of safety in most parts of the country. The rate at which the citizens waste innocent blood on a daily basis and the display of bottled-up frustration remains a cause for concern. Nwaze (2011) explains that the rate of bloodshed during the Nigeria civil war is a Child's play compared to the terrorist attacks in recent times.

The problem of insecurity in the country seems to have grown beyond government capacity. Uhumwuangho & Aluforo (2011) in Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro (2013) are of the view that the efforts of the government have not yielded enough positive result. In looking at the causes of this abnormality, Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013) posited that there is connection between increasing ethnic hate, religious bigotry, political rivalry, and a growing population of disgruntled citizens in the country who felt short-changed and having limited

or no access to the common inheritance. The observation of Egwu (2001) in Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim (2013) express the fact that the primordial tendencies of various eruption of various ethnic militias and the preponderant religious fundamentalism in places, given expression to by some sections of the dominant religious establishments in Nigeria have inevitably aggravated the scale and propensity of insecurity and widened its scope in various ramifications.

In addition to the above revelations, various scholars such as Adelokun, (1990); Egwu, (1990); Odekunle, (2005); Aderinde, (2007); Arinze, (2010); and Ajibade, Olapade and Erinsho, (2011) pointed out some factors that are responsible for the spate of insecurity in Nigeria. They argued that the response of the Nigerian state to the crisis of the mass unemployment and fuel crisis have led to the worsening of the crime situation in Nigeria. Also, poverty, unemployment declining income and low savings, which has pushed many retrenched people into a struggle for survival, high rate of inflation, political intolerance on the part of the ruling party as pointed out have contributed not in a small measure to the rate of insecurity in the country.

One of the primary purposes of government of any nation is the provision of security. The role is emphasized in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that, "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government" (Section 14(2) (b). In performing this role, the government delegates the duty of maintenance of internal security to the Nigeria Police. The Nigeria police are by law saddled with the responsibility of preventing and detecting crime, preserving peace and order and enforcing all laws and regulations. They are expected to perform these roles efficiently and effectively with the high rate of insecurity in the country, the question that borders every mind is whether the police performed these roles as expected of them? Majority of the people are of the opinion that the Nigeria police falls below their standards of performance. They are seen as a toothless dog that can only bark but not bite.

Odekunle, (2014) argued that there is no need to prove the non-performance of the Nigeria police in the present condition. Rather, what is needed is the identification of the major inadequacies, problems and obstacles that are responsible for the situation. The Nigeria police are part and parcel of the civil society. Therefore, aside from other numerous problems

which have incapacitated their performance over the years, they have human problems that not only aggravate its material insufficiencies, but are also of tremendous adverse impact on its general performance from one day to the next (Odekunle, 2004). Poor funding for major development of the force such as training, logistics, arms and ammunitions etc. and under-utilization of funds are cogs in the wheel of adequate police performance. Morality among the police is not a virtue. Alemika (1999) discuss that corruption and extortion among the police is a serious issue because they are expected to be moral as law enforcement agents. In the quest of officers to meet up with mate in the society they end up slaughtering efficient and effective performance of duty on the slab of corruptions and extortions. Consequently, this study aims towards contributing to various studies on the activities of Nigeria police, its challenges and the challenges of insecurity in the country with a special focus on Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

The recent trend of insecurity in Rivers States shows the inability of security agencies especially the Nigeria Police Force to protect the life and property of its citizens. This has constituted a sort of worry to major stakeholders and the public at large. According to George (2017), the issues of insecurity in Rivers State can be attributed to poor synergy between the Nigerian Police Force and the members of the various communities, inadequate equipment of Nigeria Police Force and poor understanding of the terrain or the environment of the various communities.

This trend is alarmingly so because of the increasing inability of the Nigerian police to effectively control insecurity due to some inherent challenges in the system. On daily basis, comes strange tales of one form of insecurity. There is hardly any day that passes without one crime or the other being committed in Rivers State. From cult-related killings, to kidnap or suicide, armed robber, the killing of innocent people has become more or less the order of the day. Indeed cult-related criminal activities have wreck untold havoc in Rivers State including the loss of lives and limbs and the creation of fear and insecurity.

The persistent security problems and the inability of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in ensuring security and safety of life and property in the country are worrisome. The sources of security challenges in the country are numerous and cannot be blamed on one part of the system alone. They vary from the government to the police down to the people in the society. On the

part of the police, there are many inadequacies and problems which stand as obstacles responsible for its abysmal performance. The majority Nigerians describe police as a diverse crowd of lazy, inefficient, corrupt uniformed men and women contributing to the perpetration of crimes such as mass killing, intimidation, rape, extrajudicial killings/summary execution and other heinous crimes against citizens they are paid to protect.

It is also common with the police to falsely label innocent people as armed robbers, while the real criminals are working freely in the society doing what they know how to do best. They falsified post mortem result and to worsen the matter, people either criminals or none criminal disappear from their custody without good explanations and families of the innocent victims are faced with extortion.

In 2008 in the Annual report of the Nigeria Police Force it was reported that the Nigerian police is handicapped because of certain factors that plagued them, such as lack of resources, poor government support, poor condition of service, lack of appropriate and adequate training and ill-equipped workforce. In addition to these are the issue of police extortion and corruption and other vices common among the police system which contributes to their lack of efficiency. If the police which were employed and catered for with the people's money to protect and detect crimes are themselves corrupt and also a party to crimes, then the society is at the mercy and grace of the criminal. The above among many others contribute to the Police and the challenges of insecurity in the country.

Significance of the Study

Practical Significance

Considering the crucial role of security in any government, especially a democratically elected government, a study like this has become necessary. The task of eradicating insecurity in Nigeria is never a rosy affair but a herculean task. Insecurity in Nigeria has become so widespread and has taken so many lives on daily basis. It then follows that something is wrong with our security affairs and also with the state called Nigeria.

Practically, this work will help in re-emphasizing and fostering ways by which the problem of insecurity can be addressed. Even with the regrettably number of lives that have been lost. Moreover, the study seeks to benefit all stakeholders and players within the security agents especially the Nigerian Police Force and policy makers because the findings from the research

will provide an in-depth knowledge on practical implications on challenges of insecurity as well the factors responsible for the insecurity in the country. The findings will also be a direction for future research and practical implications as well, especially to those who want to do similar research by assessing the factors influencing insecurity within the Nigeria nation as a whole and Rivers State in particular.

In addition, the research will be of great benefit to the government of Nigeria, its neighboring countries and other African countries who have similar problems with insecurity; because when the findings and recommendations from the study are well utilized and taken into consideration by the appropriate authority and stakeholders, then the issues of challenges of insecurity can be adequately addressed thus enhancing the capacity and productivity of their nations which onward will boost economic growth and development.

Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this work has filled the lapses identified in some research work. Several studies have been conducted on insecurities in Nigeria (Emeodu, 2019; Adekola & Enyeche, 2017; Agwanwo & Bello, 2019) but none have been able to look at the challenges of insecurities vis-à-vis the role of the Nigerian Police Force, except Okarah (2014) which only concentrated on the causes and effects of insecurity in Nigeria and the challenges and relevance of the Nigerian Police Force as a panacea. Okarah (2014) was on a national base while this current study is a state base. As no previous studies have been conducted on the activities of the Nigerian Police Force and the challenges of insecurity in Rivers State, this study thereby fills this obvious gap.

Scope of the Study

Every research endeavor has its scope and limitations; our scope of study is the Nigerian Police Force and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria: study of Rivers State. Since it is impossible for a research endeavor to cover the entire research population, the target population now becomes the selected communities in Rivers State because of the proximity of these communities.

METHOD

This section described the methods adopted in carrying out the study. It was organized under the following sub heading: research design, population, sample and sampling procedure,

method of data collection, validity and reliability of research instruments and data analysis techniques.

Research Design

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design to investigate the Nigerian Police force and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria; a study of Rivers State. Descriptive research design determines and reports the way things are. This approach is appropriate for this study because it involves fact-finding and enquiries from the selected sample about their views on the role the Nigerian Police force is playing on the challenges of insecurity in Rivers State. The purpose of using a descriptive survey was to collect detailed information that describes an existing phenomenon.

Population of the Study

Going by the research title, the population of the study becomes the entire population of Rivers State. It is denoted with the alphabet (N). According to NPC (2016), Rivers State population as projected is about seven million, three hundred and three thousand, nine hundred and twenty-four (7,303, 924) people. The target population for this study includes the Police officers (senior and junior) and members of the community living and working in the selected communities, local government areas and senatorial zones of Rivers State.

Sampling Procedure/Sample Size Determination

According to the last official census, Rivers State a population of 5,198,717 (NPC, 2006), while the projected estimated population for 2016 stood at 7,303,924 people living in the state. The population of 5,198,717 is too large to manage because of time and available resources. Therefore, Taro Yamane formula was used for determining the sample size for this study.

Thus;

Where n = Sample size = find

Where N = Population = 5,198,717

Where 1 = Constant

Where (e) = Margin of error = 0.05 = 5%

Substituting into the formula

We have,

$$∴ n = \frac{5,198,717}{\dots}$$

$$n = \frac{1 + 5,198,717 (0.05)^2}{1 + 5,198,717 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{5,198,717}{1 + 12,996.79}$$

$$n = \frac{5,198,717}{12,997.79}$$

$$n = 399.97$$

∴ n = 400.

The sample size for the study stood at four hundred (400).

The researcher used purposive sampling technique to select one local government each and two communities in each LGA across the three senatorial districts. This implies that three Local Government Areas were selected and six communities were also selected. Purposively the researcher selected Local Government Areas and communities that are prone to crime and insecurity. These Local Government Areas includes Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni (Communities: Omoku and Egi) for Rivers West senatorial district. Emohua LGA (Communities: Emohua and Ibaa) for Rivers-East Senatorial District. Gokana LGA (Communities: Bodo and Deeyor) for Rivers-South -East. In each of the three LGAs, 134 respondents were selected; while in each community 67 respondents were selected using the quota sampling technique, except in Ibaa where only 65 respondents were selected. See Table 3.1 for the detailed distribution of the sample size.

Table 1: Computed Purposive Sample Size Allocation to each Community's Contribution to the Total Sample

S/N	SENATORIAL DISTRICTS	L G A ' s	COMMUNITIES	S A M P L E
1	Rivers West Senatorial District	Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni	O m o k u	6 7
2			E g i	6 7
3	Rivers East Senatorial District	E m o h u a	E m o h u a	6 7
4			I b a a	6 5
5	Rivers South-East Senatorial District	G o k a n a	B o d o	6 7
6			D e e y o r	6 7

	T	O	T	A	L	4	0	0
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Source: Field Survey, 2023

Sources of Data

The types of data used in this study are primary and secondary data.

Primary Source of Data

These are data that the researcher independently gathered for the study using tools like questionnaires, interviews, and observation.

Secondary Source of Data

The use of already published literature that was created by previous researchers for the study's objective is the secondary source. In order to learn more about the research topic, the study specifically gathered published or printed information on the Nigerian Police force and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria from Internet, textbooks, periodicals, publications, articles, journals, seminar papers, government documents, magazines, newspapers, and previous works of graduated students from other higher institutions of learning.

Data Collection Methods

The researcher administered the questionnaires personally to the respondents.

Instrument Design

Research instruments used in the study consists of questionnaire developed by the researcher. The questionnaires were used to collect data from the police officers and members of the community living and working in the six (6) selected communities from the three (3) selected LGAs and senatorial zones of Rivers State. The questionnaire was divided into seven (7) sections with the first section seeking demographic information of the respondents, then the subsequent sections seeking to solicit data to the research objectives. The questionnaire assessed the variables of the study based on a four point Likert-type scale.

Validity/ Reliability of the Instrument

The instrument used for the study, which is the questionnaire was validated through constructive suggestions by the supervisor for corrections and final approval. These processes ensured the validity of the instrument in order to remove bias and misleading questions. Reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. Reliability is the scale of consistency of an instruments or

procedure. It is the extent to which a test or any measuring procedures gives the same result on repeated trials in similar circumstances. Reliability means accuracy and consistency measuring device. Reliability test is conducted to determine and ascertain the reliability level of the research work. The instrument for this study hence was subjected to a pre-test analysis that utilized 10% from the whole material shared and the result was then subjected to Cronbach alpha test to get a reliability test score. The reliability test score above 0.7 is considered acceptable and reliable for the study.

Data Analysis Techniques

Quantitative data was analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution and simple percentage. Frequency and percentage tables were used to present the data. In carrying out this research works, mean and rank order statistical methods were used in relation to the items of factors studied. The conclusion was taken based on the calculated mean scores. A criterion means is determined as follows:

$$SA = 4; A = 3; D = 2; SD = 1; \text{ This } 4, 3, 2, 1 = 10/4 = 2.5$$

Hence, the sum of the mean divided by the total number of respondents is 2.5 and this becomes the criterion mean, here negative and positive responses were determined. Any item that has a mean score below 2.5 is regarded as negative and therefore rejected while any one from 2.5 and above is regarded as positive and therefore accepted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presentation of Data and Analysis

Research and Analysis

This section deals with analysis and presentation of data. The results are presented based on the objectives of the study. The data analyzed were presented using frequency.

Table 1: Distribution and Retrieval of Questionnaires

Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
Administered Questionnaire Retrieved	355	88.75
Administered Questionnaire Not Retrieved	45	11.25
Total	400	100

Source: Researcher's Survey Data, 2023.

Table 1 above indicates the details of how the copies of questionnaire were distributed and retrieved from the respondents. A total of four hundred (400) questionnaires were administered to the various respondents among the officers of the Nigerian Police Force and the residents of the selected communities in Rivers State. A total of three hundred and fifty-five (355) copies of the questionnaire were adequately filled and returned giving a percentage response of 88.75% while the remaining forty-five (45) copies were not returned.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2: Name of LGA/Community

LGA/Communities	Frequency	Percentage
O g b a / E g b e m a / N d o n i – O m o k u	52	14.65
O g b a / E g b e m a / N d o n i – E g i	50	14.08
E m o h u a – E m o h u a	67	18.87
E m o h u a – I b a a	60	16.9
G o k a n a – B o d o	62	17.47
G o k a n a – D e e y o r	64	18.03
Total	355	100

Source: Researcher’s Survey Data, 2023.

Name of Community and LGA

The above table indicates the local government area (LGAs) and the communities of the respondents. The responses showed that fifty-two (52) respondents representing 14.65% were from Omoku community in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA, fifty (50) respondents representing 14.08% were from Egi community also in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA, sixty-seven (67) respondents representing 18.87% were from Emohua community in Emohua LGA, sixty (60) respondents representing 16.9% were from Ibaa community in Emohua LGA, while sixty-two (62) respondents representing 17.47% were from Bodo community in Gokana LGA, and the remaining sixty-four (64) respondents representing 18.03% were from Deeyor community also in Gokana LGA. This indicates that all the selected communities were adequately represented in the study, so the result of the study based on the location distribution can be generalized and accepted.

Table 3: Sex distribution of respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	191	53.8
Female	164	46.2
Total	400	100

Source: Researcher's Survey Data, 2023.

Table 3 indicates the sex distribution in the survey. The responses showed that one hundred and ninety-nine (199) respondents representing 53.8% were male, while One hundred and sixty-four (164) respondents representing 46.2% were female. This indicates that the opinion of both gender were adequately represented in the study, so the result of the study based on the gender distribution can be generalized and accepted.

Table 4: Age distribution of respondents

A g e	Frequency	Percentage
1 8 - 3 2 Y e a r s	86	24.23
3 3 - 4 7 Y e a r s	97	27.32
4 8 - 6 2 Y e a r s	140	39.44
> = 6 3 Y e a r s	32	9.01
Total	355	100

Source: Researcher's Survey Data, 2023.

Table 4 shows the age group distribution of the respondents. The data revealed that one hundred and forty (140) respondents representing 39.44% were between 48 – 62 years, ninety-seven (97) respondents representing 27.32% were between 33 – 47 years, eighty-six (86) respondents representing 24.23% were between 18 – 32 years, while the remaining thirty-two (32) respondents representing 9.01% were between 63 years and above. This revealed that the age of the participants might be adequate for them to give reliable information on the subject matter, being; Nigeria Police Force and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria: A study of Rivers State, Nigeria.

Table 6: Marital Status

M a r i t a l S t a t u s	Frequency	Percentage
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S i n g l e	1 1 9	3 3 . 5 2
M a r r i e d	1 3 2	3 7 . 1 8
D i v o r c e d	2 8	7 . 8 9
S e p a r a t e d	2 2	6 . 2
W i d o w / W i d o w e r	5 4	1 5 . 2 1
T o t a l	355	100

Source: Researcher’s Survey Data, 2023.

Table 6 above represents the responses of the respondents according to their marital statuses. One hundred and thirty-two (132) participants representing 37.18% of the total respondents were married, while one hundred and nineteen (119) participants representing 33.52% were still single as at the time of this study. It also revealed that fifty-four (54) participants representing 15.21% were either widow or widower, twenty-eight (28) participants representing 7.89% were divorced, while the remaining twenty-two (22) participants representing 6.2% were separated. This further indicates that the views of all participants based on marital were adequately represented.

Analysis of Research Questions

Here the research questions that were derived from the research objectives were analyzed. the research objectives and five research questions were raised to investigate the Nigerian Police Force and Challenges of Insecurity in Nigeria: A Study of Rivers State.

The mean (\bar{x}) was used in proffering answers to the research questions. The decision rule is to accept $x \geq 2.5$ and to reject the $x \leq 2.5$.

Problem of Insecurity and Crime in Rivers State, Nigeria

Table 7

				Table 7: Descriptive Statistics on Problem of Insecurity and Crime		
	N	Minimum	Maximum	S u m	Mean	Std. Deviation
Are you aware of insecurity challenges in Rivers State, Nigeria?	355	2 . 0 0	2 . 0 0	710.00	2.0000	. 0 0 0 0 0
There is no problem of insecurity and crime in Rivers State, Nigeria.	355	1 . 0 0	3 . 0 0	634.00	1.7859	. 5 4 1 3 1
There are cult related crises in the community.	355	2 . 0 0	4 . 0 0	1148.00	3.2338	. 5 4 6 1 6
There are cases of armed robbery, one chance and other crimes in the community.	355	2 . 0 0	4 . 0 0	1129.00	3.1803	. 5 1 6 5 7

Generally speaking, there is problem of insecurity and crime in Rivers State, Nigeria.	355	2	.	0	0	4	.	0	0	1162.00	3.2732	.	5	6	3	7	2
Valid N (list wise)	355																

Source: Survey Data, 2023, and SPSS Window Output, Version 22.0

The first objective was to investigate if there is problem of insecurity and crime in Rivers State, Nigeria while the first hypothesis states that there is no problem of insecurity and crime in Rivers State, Nigeria. For this purpose questionnaires were provided to the respondents. The section B of the questionnaire comprises of 5 questions on the problem of insecurity and crime in Rivers State. These questions were designed in such a way through which we can achieve our first objective to solve the first research question. The respondents were asked to express their degree of agreement or disagreement against each question. In this section of the questionnaire, 4-Point Likert scale was used for each statement ranging from “Strongly disagree” to “Strongly agree”. However, the first question in this section was on the awareness of insecurity challenges in the state and it requires only a “yes” or “no” response. The results are shown in Tables below

The Major Causes of Insecurity in Rivers State

The table shows the descriptive statistics for all the items listed as possible major causes of insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria and the results indicates that poverty had the highest mean of 3.99, followed by high rate of unemployment and underemployment of youths in Rivers State with the mean score of 3.83. All the items had a mean score above 3.0 except in the case of resource control and marginalization of sections of the society that recorded an above average mean score of 2.99.

The Nigerian Police Force Challenges in Tackling Insecurity

The third objective was to ascertain if the Nigerian Police Force is facing any challenge in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria while the third hypothesis states that the Nigerian Police Force is not facing any challenge in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. For this purpose questionnaires were provided to the respondents. The section D of the questionnaire comprised of 7 questions on the challenges inhibiting the Nigerian Police Force in tackling the insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. These questions were designed in such a way through which we can achieve our third objective to solve the third research question. The respondents were asked to express their degree of agreement or disagreement against each question. In this

section of the questionnaire, 4-Point Likert scale was also used for each statement ranging from “Strongly disagree” to “Strongly agree”.

The first question in this section was raised to ascertain if the Nigerian Police Force is facing any challenges in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria and it required a “yes” or “no” response. From tables 7, item Q#1, the high mean of 2.00 implies that all of the respondents agreed that the Nigerian Police Force are facing challenges in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. Table 7 gave the detailed data on the participants’ opinion on the challenges faced by the Nigerian Police Force in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. From tables 7, it can be inferred that, when asked if the Nigerian Police Force are facing any challenges in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria, all the respondents said yes, that the Nigerian Police Force are facing challenges in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. Based on the data in table 7 and the high mean value of 2.0 in table 4.24, the study thereby accept that the Nigerian Police Force are facing some challenges in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. The table shows that respondents who strongly agreed that dearth of manpower and inadequacy of officers in terms of quality and training at various ranks is a challenge inhibiting the NPF in tackling insecurity had the highest frequency of 305 (85.9%) while those who agreed had the frequency of 50 (14.1%). Also, in item Q#2, the high mean score of 3.86 in table 4.24 indicates that majority of the respondents agreed that dearth of manpower and inadequacy of officers in terms of quality and training at various ranks is a challenge inhibiting the NPF in tackling insecurity in Rivers State. Since the mean score of 3.86 is ≥ 2.5 , we thereby accept the statement that dearth of manpower and inadequacy of officers in terms of quality and training at various ranks is a challenge inhibiting the NPF in tackling insecurity in Rivers State.

Challenges of Insecurity in Rivers State

	N	Minimum	Maximum	S	u	m	M	e	a	n	Std.	Deviation
Is the Nigerian Police Force facing any challenges in tackling insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria?	355	2	0	0	2	0	0	7	10.00	2.0000	0	0
Dearth of manpower and inadequacy of officers in terms of quality and training at various ranks.	355	3	0	0	4	0	0	13	70.00	3.8592	3	4
C o r r u p t p r a c t i c e s .	355	3	0	0	4	0	0	13	62.00	3.8366	3	7
Insufficient funding by the government.	355	3	0	0	4	0	0	13	65.00	3.8451	3	6

Lack of public confidence.	3	55	3	.	0	0	4	.	0	0	1340.00	3.7746	.	4	1	8	4	0	
Lack of effective community policing and inadequate intelligence gathering.	3	55	3	.	0	0	4	.	0	0	1308.00	3.6845	.	4	6	5	3	7	
Poor remuneration and lack of motivation by the force and superior officers.	3	55	3	.	0	0	4	.	0	0	1312.00	3.6958	.	4	6	0	7	3	
V a l i d N (l i s t w i s e)	355																		

Source: *Survey Data, 2022, and SPSS Window Output, Version 22.0*

The Level of Equipment and Empowerment of the NPF

The fourth objective was to ascertain the extent to which the Nigerian Police Force is equipped and empowered to tackle insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria while the fourth hypothesis states that the Nigerian Police Force is not equipped and empowered to tackle insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. For this purpose questionnaires were provided to the respondents. The section E of the questionnaire comprised of 5 questions on the extent to which the Nigerian Police Force is equipped and empowered to tackle insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria. These questions were designed in such a way through which we can achieve our fourth objective to solve the fourth research question. The respondents were asked to express their degree of agreement or disagreement against each question. In this section of the questionnaire, 4-Point Likert scale was also used for each statement ranging from “Strongly disagree” to “Strongly agree”.

The first question in this section was raised to ascertain if the Nigerian Police Force are equipped with adequate forensic and other investigative tools for investigating crimes in Rivers State, Nigeria. From tables above, item Q#1, the low mean score of 2.21 implies that most of the respondents disagreed that the Nigerian Police Force are equipped with adequate forensic and other investigative tools for investigating crimes in Rivers State, Nigeria. Table gave the detailed data on this. From tables, it can be inferred that, when asked if the Nigerian Police Force are equipped with adequate forensic and other investigative tools for investigating crimes, it was revealed that respondents who disagreed that the Nigerian Police Force are equipped with adequate forensic and other investigative tools for investigating crimes had the highest frequency of 280 (78.9%) while those who agreed had the frequency of 75 (21.1%). Also, in item Q#1, the low mean score of 2.21 in table 4.32 indicates that majority of the respondents disagreed that the Nigerian Police Force are equipped with adequate forensic and other investigative tools for investigating crimes in Rivers State. Since

the mean score of 2.21 is ≤ 2.5 , we thereby reject the statement that the Nigerian Police Force is equipped with adequate forensic and other investigative tools for investigating crimes in Rivers State.

From the tables, respondents who disagreed that the Nigerian police force is equipped with adequate data and data management system for criminals and ex convicts had the highest frequency of 219 (61.7%) while those who agreed had the frequency of 136 (38.3%). Also, in item Q#2, the relatively low mean score of 2.38 in table 4.32 indicates that majority of the respondents disagreed that the Nigerian police force is equipped with adequate data and data management system for criminals and ex convicts in Rivers State. Since the mean score of 2.38 is ≤ 2.5 , we thereby reject the statement that the Nigerian police force is equipped with adequate data and data management system for criminals and ex convicts in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Problem of Insecurity and Crimes in Rivers State, Nigeria

The findings connected to the investigation of the problem of insecurity and crimes in Rivers State, Nigeria revealed that there is a problem of insecurity and crimes in Rivers State, Nigeria. A critical assessment of the finding reveals that all the respondents were aware of insecurity challenges in the state. There are cult-related crises in the communities that were selected for the study, just as there were cases of armed robbery, one chance and other crimes in the communities. The finding of the study in this regard aligns and agrees strongly with the position of Emeodu (2019) on insecurity and development challenges in Rivers State, which supported that the occurrences of crime and insecurity in Rivers State are as a result of cult activities, poverty and unemployment. Also, the findings are in tandem with the study of Adekola and Enyeche (2017) that reveals that as crime and insecurity exist, it brought about the problem of displacement of people. Therefore, the fact that these challenges, quagmire and conundrum exist in Rivers State further help to establish the fact that there are problems of insecurity and crimes in the state.

This also corroborates the findings of Agwanwo and Bello (2019) that the predominance of violence, perpetrated by the state and non-state actors have made the security in state to collapse. Incidences of armed robbery, cultism, politically motivated killings, kidnapping, militancy, among other manifestations of violence in the state have gravely compromised the

security of lives and property in the state. In many parts of the state, human lives means nothing to others, as they at will kill, behead and even eat human body. Also, apart from the economic recession and its negative impact of the economic sector, which has made many companies to wind-up, the insecure nature of the state is also responsible for this condition.

Major Causes of Insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria

Consequently, it is to provide a holistic view to the suggestion or recommendations of solutions, thus like in many other societies, the sources of insecurity in Nigeria have been traced to a number of factors and explained by different people. These factors have been classified or grouped into external and internal factors. Beyond the external-internal dichotomy, sources of insecurity have also been classified as either remote or proximate and immediate sources/causal factors. In Nigeria, the challenge is not so much about insecurity of external sources, but rather that of internal sources. Hence, our focus in this work is on the internal sources. We recognize that some internal factors have been enhanced and strengthened by the presence of external forces, but, there is no doubt that, if the internal situations did not present themselves, the external forces would be unable to infiltrate. We present the internal causes of insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria using a certain eight (8) major factors.

Challenges Inhibiting the Nigerian Police Force

Taking into account the amount of quality protections provided by the Nigeria police for the entire population and the level of confidence and encouragement it enjoys from these people, one cannot but conclude that the Nigeria police performance is far below the expectation many people place on them. There are several cumulative problems that contribute to the abysmal performance of the Nigerian Police Force. This ranges from material to human and external challenges.

Poor police remuneration for both officers and men of police command is another notable factor that has created abysmal performance for police officers in performing their constitutional duties. The issue of police corruption as discussed earlier does not only occur between the police and the public but also with the strata of police structure. There have being cases whereby senior police officers have deprived other officers especially junior ones the right of increment in salary for some time. These people have been alleged to have

stacked the money in a fixed deposit out which will yield some interest for them before releasing it fund.

Shortage of Crime Fighting Facilities and Insecurity in Rivers State

The findings show that the Nigerian Police lack adequate provision of crime fighting facilities, most of the personnel of the Nigerian police force operate in an unhygienic environment, the rate of insecurity in Rivers State can be linked to the shortage of cutting edge crime fighting equipment by the Nigerian Police force. It was also revealed that the Nigerian police have not been able to achieve optimum result with the arms and ammunition giving to them, and the shortage of crime fighting equipment/facilities has a lot to do with the insecurity situation in Rivers State. It was further revealed that the shortage of crime fighting facilities by the Nigerian Police Force has a significant relationship with insecurity situation in Rivers State, Nigeria. This is in consonance with findings of Abdulkadir (2004) who argued that the Nigeria police force lack adequate communication gadgets, vehicles, computers and patrol boats.

The efficiency of any law enforcement agency is influenced by the degree of input at its disposal. Odekunle (2004) argued that efficiency is the capacity to perform functions with the least amount of wasters in term of time, material, personnel public goodwill and lives. It further explain efficiency with references to cost and benefit analysis of “protection” output relative to monetary, human and material in-put. Most police commands that stand as the headquarters of the police in states are not well taking care of to properly undertake their constitutional roles in such state. Instead they are found being used by the government. It has being suggested by various scholars and well meaning Nigerians that Nigeria police should be autonomous in such that there will be no interference of external forces like the government on how they should carry out their duties. Proper funding should be made available for the police. Abdulkadir (2004) submit that the truth is that the situation should actually be attributed to the inadequate provision of funds necessary to finance the operations of the force.

Summary

The purpose of this study was to examine the activities of the Nigerian Police Force and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria: A study of Rivers State. The study adopted the descriptive and inferential statistical techniques in the investigation of the operational relationship

between the variables. The study used structured questionnaire instrument to collect data from the respondents.

The summary of the findings of this study based on the analysis results in chapter four have been made. The study sampled 400 officers of the Nigerian Police Force and residents of the six (6) selected communities in the three (3) selected local government and 355 of them representing 88.75% response rate were actually analyzed. It revealed that 53.8% of respondents were males and 46.2% of them were females indicating that majority of the respondents were males. On the main aim of the study, the study found that there are challenges of insecurity in Rivers State, Nigeria and the Nigerian Police Force had some major challenges that hinder them from effectively and efficiently tackling the problem of insecurity in the state. The findings of the study on the first objective revealed that there are problems of insecurity and crimes in Rivers State, Nigeria. The results of the analysis revealed that there are cult and gang-related violence in the state. The study also revealed that there are cases of armed robbery, one chance and other crimes in the state.

Nigeria's security concerns and threat perception emanated from many quarters. Over the years, the inability of the government to address the root causes of dissatisfaction, anger and agitation among various groups in the country resulted to serious security challenges confronting the contemporary Nigerian state. This ugly situation has not only denied the Nigerian government enormous revenues, but also led to serious problems such as unemployment, infrastructural decay, poor health status, poor image of Nigeria at regional and global scene, low participation of investors in Nigeria's economic development, relocation of existing investors to peaceful states in Nigeria, among others. These problems are traceable to internal security challenges in Nigeria occasioned by the activities of militias in Niger Delta region, kidnapping in the South-East, the Islamic extremists in Jos crisis, Boko Haram group, armed robbery in many parts of the country, bunkering of Nigeria's oil outlets by saboteurs, among others. In consideration of the consequences of these challenges on the economy of the Nigerian state and to save the country from the brink of total collapse, the need for an effective Nigerian police force is needed despite various shortcomings which includes absence of comprehensive and sustainable welfare policy; inadequate and improper

budgetary allocations by government; and corruption both in the budgeting and expenditure processes of the Nigerian police force.

From the foregoing, it is obvious that there is still a long way to go in order to rid the Nation of insecurity. The onus is on the government to work hand in hand and also aid the Nigerian police force with more human, financial and material resources as well as monitor and ensure the optimal utilization of these resources.

CONCLUSION

The empirical study has explored the activities of the Nigerian Police Force and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria with a special focus on Rivers State. The study revealed that the effectiveness of the Nigerian police has been highly hindered by inadequate manpower in terms of quantity and quality, inadequate funding, poor remunerations and un-hygienic working environment, poor crimes and operational information management, etc. Considering the factors that hinder the efficiency and effectiveness of the Nigeria Police, expecting miracle in their performance amount to unrealistic imagination. Security cannot be compromised; it is the life wire of any nation and is ranked the highest amongst the basic needs of human beings. Effective policing gives the people the confidence and vigour to pursue their legitimate activities. It is the greatest legacy any government has for the people. The Nigeria police should be repositioned to measure up with the modern day policing by retraining towards attitudinal change, professional efficiency and effectiveness among the officers and rank and files. There is a great need for cordial relationship between the police and the public. The government should encourage the Nigeria Police by proper funding and welfare activities.

One can conclude that the relevance of the Nigerian police force in relation to the security of the country can be questioned and is incapacitated by the inability of the government to address root causes of insecurity and proffer solution to these root causes. Based on the findings, the study further concludes as follow:

- i. Shortage of crime fighting facilities has a significant relationship with the insecurity situations in Rivers State, Nigeria.

- ii. Police inefficiency/ineffectiveness has a negative and significant relationship with the insecurity situations in Rivers State, Nigeria.

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