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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32631/pb.2025.3.04>**OLUMIDE OLUMUYIWA OMODUNBI,***B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.,**Osun State University (Osogbo, Nigeria),**Department of Political Science;* <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3432-2940>,*e-mail: olumide.omodunbi@uniosun.edu.ng;***ADEBOWALE IDOWU ADEYEYE,***B.Sc., M.Sc., M.A. Ph.D.,**Osun State University (Osogbo, Nigeria),**Department of Political Science;* <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6865-0163>,*e-mail: Adebawale.adeyeye@uniosun.edu.ng;***OLUWADAMILARE SEGUN OLAWOLE,***OND, B.Sc., M.Sc.,**Osun State University (Osogbo, Nigeria),**Department of Political Science;* <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3761-3823>,*e-mail: Olawoleoluwadamilare4@gmail.com***INSECURITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OSUN STATE
(NIGERIA)**

Osun State, located in the southwestern part of Nigeria, has been grappling with significant security challenges in recent years, which have had adverse effects on its overall growth and development, especially in terms of socioeconomic progress. The study posits that Osun State has experienced increase in the numbers of cult violence, ritual killing, robberies, and kidnappings. Comparatively, these crimes are not as violent as insurgency or militancy as witnessed in the northeast and south-south regions of Nigeria, but they continually weaken tourism, education, and the local economic sustainability of Osun State. The study there seeks to investigate the root causes of insecurity in the Osun State, to determine the impacts of insecurity on social-economic development and to come up with policy-oriented action plan that will sustain a secure and viable economic environment. The study relied on the human security theory to explain the causes and effects of insecurity in Osun State. Using the qualitative research method, data were gathered from secondary sources such as books, journals, government reports, policy-based documents and briefs. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis. The study found that insecurity is caused by ineffective security architecture, unemployment, lack of quality leadership, and substance abuse and corruption, the study also found that the effect of the persistent insecurity includes fear, increased crime rate, decreased investments, decreased business activity and migration pressures, all of which denigrate development. The study recommends that insecurity demands a multidimensional approach, such as the application of modern security technology, intelligence gathering methods, community policing and political will, as well as overall reforms where peace and economic stability is guaranteed.

Keywords: *security, insecurity, development, socio-economic, growth, policies, conflict, governance.*

Original article

INTRODUCTION. In the early decades of the twenty-first century, concerted efforts were made globally to stimulate economic growth and foster sustainable development across nations. However, the 2007 recession that began in the USA, which spiraled globally came with attendant shock in the rate of economic growth and development. Another severe challenge was the COVID-19 pandemic that plunged more than 100 million

people around the world into extreme poverty¹, leaving the world with devastating consequences

¹ Mabler, D. G., Yonzan, N., & Lakner, Ch. (2022). *The Impact of COVID-19 on Global Inequality and Poverty*. World Bank Group. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099250510052241154/pdf/IUD01d94e70603dc804f990b6130751d75dccb52.pdf>.

such as indigence, criminality, and security issues turned out to be the rule of the day. Nigeria is not left out in the meltdown of the global economy which has seen a tightening up of economic growth and development and hardship which ensued leading to increase in crime and other social vices (Odalonu, 2022). This resulted in a case of insecurity that had never been felt before. Iwuoha (2019) indicates that the formal legal and institutional response to terrorism in Nigeria in the form of the Terrorism Prevention Act of 2011 and the subsequent amendments to it was heavily dependent on external security governance systems, thus resulting in stronger counterterrorism laws and marked the entry of higher state security expenditure. Although the government in Nigeria has tried to bring about security in the country, insecurity has not been reduced in Nigeria since Nigeria has always ranked low in Global Peace Index (GPI 2012), an indicator of a deteriorated situation of insecurity in Nigeria (Onunwa, 2025).

Osun State, located in the southwestern part of Nigeria, has been grappling with significant security challenges in recent years, which have had adverse effects on its overall growth and development, especially in terms of socioeconomic progress. Factors such as poor governance, inadequate revenue mobilization, political instability, and insecurity, among others, have contributed to the poor economic growth trajectory of the state. These factors have resulted in a declining standard of living, high rates of illiteracy, and significant poverty levels. Insecurity has also undermined social cohesion and fostered criminality, adversely affecting local businesses and foreign investment (Olaosebikan et al., 2025).

To address these insecurity challenges, the government has taken certain measures, such as establishing security agencies and instituting security-focused policies. However, these measures have not fully mitigated the security challenges, as the security agencies face equipment shortages and the policies have not been innovative, comprehensive, or effective (Nweke, Nwankwo, 2023). This study on insecurity and socio-economic development in Osun State, Nigeria (2018–2022) is an effort to understand the impact of insecurity on the state's socio-economic development.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH. Insecurity in Nigeria has manifested in various forms across states of the country. However, most research has concentrated on regions of rampant violence, e.g., the North-East, North-West, and the Niger Delta, leaving states along the South like Osun underserved. Since 2018 through 2022, Osun experienced increasing numbers of cult violence, ritual killing, robberies,

and kidnappings. These crimes are not as violent as insurgency or militancy, but they continually weaken tourism, education, and the local economic sustainability.

In comparison to Borno, the insecurity in Osun is criminal and socio-economic driven, whereas, in Borno, Boko Haram and ISWAP have developed a militarized ideologically-driven insurgency. Kidnapping by bandits is characteristic of Zamfara, a northern state on the border with Niger, and of Rivers, a Niger Delta state in the South-West. In contrast to these states, the security issue in Osun is not high-intensity but chronic and undermining trust bit by bit in semi-urban areas.

Even in the South-West, the nature of insecurity in Osun state is different from other states like Lagos who struggles with urban crimes but has more developed security measures, Ondo state has recorded farmer-herder conflicts and highway kidnappings. However, in Osun State, the pattern of insecurity has been that of ritual crimes, cultism, armed robbery and socio-economic fragility. This is what makes Osun unique as other states end up dominating the discourse because of extreme violence, Osun is a more subtle corrosion of insecurity. This paper thus covers a notable gap by placing Osun in the context of the Nigeria security environment.

Unlike existing literature that tends to address insecurity in Nigeria broadly or focus mainly on high-conflict zones such as the North-East or Niger Delta, this paper uniquely concentrates on Osun State a region often overlooked in security scholarship. It provides a localized, evidence-based analysis of insecurity within the 2018–2022 timeframe, capturing the peculiar dynamics, socioeconomic disruptions, and under-researched patterns of insecurity in the state. Furthermore, the study goes beyond descriptive accounts by proposing actionable policy frameworks specifically tailored to Osun State's context, thereby contributing both empirically and practically to the discourse on security and development in Nigeria.

The research work will determine the real causes of the insecurity issues, examining the multidimensional effects of insecurity on the investment, tourism and the growth of the economy, and will posit recommendations on what action should be taken to enhance the security infrastructure.

The specific objectives are:

- 1) to investigate the root causes of insecurity in the Osun State;
- 2) to determine the impacts of insecurity on social-economic development during the course of the study;

3) to come up with policy-oriented action plan that will sustain a secure and viable economic environment.

LITERATURE REVIEW. Security is involved with the procedure related towards the appeasing of any form of threat to individuals and their cherished values. It is because of this fact that Buzan (1991) in his book *people, state and fear* confirms that security is freedom of threat and capacity of states to retain self-identity and their operational integrity in the face of the forces of change, which they perceive as hostile and the bottom line of which is survival. Security does not just imply military security or security against foreign attack. To most of the residents of the developing nations, security is perceived as the lowest tier of the survival struggle. Hence, an integrated African Security Assessment should include the non-military aspect of security to deliver. Therefore, it is necessary that the concept of security will be used in its expanded meaning to mean economic security, social security, environmental security, food security, equality of life security and technological security (Johnson, 2014).

Insecurity refers to the state of feeling apprehensive, uncertain, and vulnerable about oneself or a particular situation. It is a psychological state that arises from a variety of factors, including past experiences, social comparisons, and perceived threats. It can also be influenced by external factors such as societal pressures, family dynamics, and cultural norms (Leary, 2005).

In many ways, definitions of development have varied over the centuries and have been passed as policy and strategic objectives by governments, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations with minor and intensified differences. Nevertheless, as Todaro and Smith (2020) note, development can be described as a multidimensional process, which entails significant shifts in social structure, popular attitudes, and national institutions, in addition to an increase in economic growth, decline in inequality, and elimination of poverty. Along the same lines, Sen (1999) makes it clear that development is a process of advancing the real freedoms enjoyed by people. To him, development is not about economic growth; he has emphasized the issue of enhancing the abilities of individuals and taking them off impediments to liberty or give an example of poverty, ill health, and lack of education.

For the purpose of the study, the Human Security becomes a paradigm to use. It was first summarized as an issue by the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues in 1982, and that framework became widespread after being advocated in the points out that the

security of individuals is no longer a military issue only, but also a problem on economic, social and environmental levels¹. Human security theory came into existence as a complex theory that seeks to focus on the wellbeing and safety of people as security. Lack of security is also a bigger setback to development in Nigeria, especially in Osun state where there is poverty and of youth unemployment. The theory focuses on issues including inequality and marginalization, health, education, and justice (Ladiqi et al., 2017). The manifestation of insecurity, especially in developing areas, takes many forms such as livelihood destruction, restriction of access to the necessary services, and greater exposure to the environment. All these structural issues are compounded by policy gaps and socio-economic exclusion. UNDP (2016)² stated that structural insecurity needs to be dealt with by a comprehensive framework encouraging the involvement of all community members in regulations making, environmental sustainability, and adequate governance. The strategy builds the strength of civil society, strengthens human dignity and builds resilience in communities. Implementation of such a strategy in Osun State, Nigeria has the potential of turning around the trends of chronic insecurity and building stable socio-economic development via rights-based reforms and local ownership.

METHODOLOGY. This research employed the use of qualitative research methodology that relies purely on secondary source of data. The combination of peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, the internet publication, government reports, policy-based documents, and briefs by credible institutions establish a wide base with credible foundation on addressing insecurity in the state of Osun. The materials provide a historical background, indicate patterns and trends and have scholarly information that can be understood to understand complexities of insecurity and socioeconomic development.

Secondary data was employed because there is sufficient literature that is relevant and reliable to the study of insecurity and development in Nigeria. Data were analyzed using thematic content

¹ United Nations Development Programme. (1994). *Human Development Report*. <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdr1994encompletenostats.pdf>.

² United Nations Development Programme. (2016). *Human Development report 2016. Human development for everyone*. <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/2016humandevlopmentreportpdf1pdf.pdf>.

analysis. This approach made it possible to identify common themes, associations, and patterns between various sources that allowed the researchers give a systematic meaning of the causes, consequences, and possible solutions to insecurity in Nigeria.

In addition, the basis of the study relies on the human security paradigm which affects the welfare, freedoms, and growth of individuals and the communities. The combination of a comprehensive and advanced secondary data and analytical thoroughness guarantees the validity of conceived conclusions, as well as the feasibility to frame operational recommendations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS. Insecurity in Nigeria goes way back to its colonial and post-colonial encounters. The British colonialism of indirect rule also worsened ethnic divisions in Nigeria by giving some groups of people advantage over others which brought about distrust and competitive attitude amongst the various ethnics in Nigeria (Osaghae, 1998). National unity was also shattered following political instability, military coups and the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970) which led to the militarization of politics after independence in 1960 (Suberu, 2001).

In this post-war period, militias with ethno-regional interests emerged, such as the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) in the south-west, Bakassi Boys in the southeast, and the Arewa People's Congress (APC) in the north, which were the result of local reactions to the perceived failure of the state (Okumagba, 2009). Control over resources, environmental degradation and marginalisation were issues that came to the fore when a militant group emerged in the Niger Delta in the 1990s (Watts, 2007). The violent actions of Boko Haram since 2009 have led the country into a new state of instability, as the group's core values have shifted from religious fundamentalism to a full-fledged terrorist threat (Adesoji, 2010). The depth and complexity of the ongoing crisis in Nigeria today takes the form of multiplicity of security threats including banditry, kidnapping, herder-farmer conflicts fueled by socio-economic inequalities, weak state institutions, and poor governance to name but a few.

The establishment of the National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NERFUND) in the year 1990 was also through the government to facilitate the ability of SMEs to borrow funds within the World Bank and African Development Bank as well as in other international financiers. In the period between 1990 and 1998 NERFUND provided a total of 144.9 million (foreign exchange) and 18.1 billion (local currency). Other funding windows were Family Economic Advancement

Programme (FEAP) and the National Bank for Commerce and Industry (NBCI). SMEs were also benefited by sectoral lending as provided in the CBN credit directives¹.

A more contemporary one is the creation of the Small-Scale Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) of the Ministry of Industries. It is believed that SMEDAN will offer a new stratum towards SME development that will be coupled with the Poverty Alleviation Programme. Dagogo (2020) explains how Nigeria has effectively used institutional financing, with the aid of the government that has helped capitalize some entities such as the Bank of Industry (BoI) as ways to help SMEs as well as development agencies such as SMEDAN. Although it has been said that the capitalization will amount to ₦35 billion in some policy reports, larger records indicate that BoI has been capitalized severally in order to increase access of manufacturing companies and SMEs access to long-term credit. This bank will additionally make funds accessible to the SMEs at the appropriate rates and also act as a facilitator of the subcontracting between the small and large businesses (Making Small Business Finance Profitable in Nigeria) (Abdullahi et al., 2015).

However, SMEs experience significant difficulties. Small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria exhibit a very high mortality rate, with most failing within the first five years of operation. Research indicates that only 5 % or fewer survive past their initial half-decade, underscoring the persistently fragile ecosystem for SMEs in the country. That is alarming considering the fact that there is high rate of unemployment, poverty and illiteracy in Nigeria (Nwankwo, Kanyangale, 2022). The share of the SMEs in the GDP and their share in industrial output is also not satisfactory. Most of the Nigerian industries have been functioning under 30 percent level, thus multinationals flourish and local SMEs crumble down increasing unemployment and crime (Ariyo, 2000).

The state of Osun, which is in the southwestern state of Nigeria, has a long heritage of relative peace and stableness. But it has been encountering a number of security challenges to the safety and security of its citizens. It happened as early as 1990s when the Oodua People Congress (OPC) as a socio-cultural Yoruba group was established, peaceful at the beginning but later engaging in violent conflicts, causing further tensions in the

¹ Central Bank of Nigeria. (2003). *Seminar on Small and Medium Industries Equity Investments Scheme (SMIEIS)*. <https://www.cbn.gov.ng/out/publications/guidelines/dfd/2004/smieis.pdf>.

state¹. Lately, cultists, robbers, kidnappers, and herdsmen have been attacking farmers, locals, and travellers which increases the concerns of food security and economic stability. One of the outstanding events was the 2019-arm robbery in Osogbo where a number of people were killed in a gun battle that took place between the robbers and the police². However, the farmer-herder crisis used to be a local problem but now emerged as a serious threat. Popoola and Shittu (2020) explain that inter-communal conflicts first cropped up in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria but have since left mark on states like Osun, which have seen communal conflicts escalate substantially. According to report, the conflicts left an estimated 2,0002,500 dead by 2016 alone³.

In 2018, a group of gunmen kidnapped eight including two students outside the Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke (OSCOTECH). According to Olatunji (2019), an orthopedic surgeon was kidnapped in the Ibadan-Ife expressway. Victims always point out Fulani herdsmen as culprits. It is observed that the Osun highways are becoming very unsafe as the kidnapping has been rampant, mostly during night or early morning hours.

Since its inception in 1991, the socioeconomic foundation of Osun State has been advancing in a dramatic way. The state which is located in the southwestern region of Nigeria is blessed with a variety of resources including agriculture, mineral resources and tourism which have enabled it to develop most sectors. With a large contribution to the economy of the state, agriculture has played a great role. The state government has facilitated agriculture and rural development through input supply, extension services, construction of rural roads and development of irrigation systems which also brought about more productivity due to their cocoa, kolanuts, palms trees and rubber production.

In education, the Osun State government has implemented policies to ensure access to quality education. The Osun State Basic Education Quality Assurance and Development Agency aims to improve the quality of basic education through teacher training, renovation of schools, and provision of classroom blocks and learning facilities. In healthcare, the government introduced the Osun State Health Insurance Scheme to provide affordable healthcare, especially for vulnerable populations⁴. However, debate remains over its cost-effectiveness and educational impact (Ige, Omodunbi, Omolade, 2021).

A lot of infrastructural development (making it possible to construct new roads and bridges, reconstruction of existing infrastructure and construction of modern markets, etc.) has also been achieved in Osun State. The government has also promoted tourism by promoting investment in the private sector as well as the development of tourism facilities. Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove The sacred grove is a major tourist destination and is ranked as a World Heritage site by UNESCO⁵.

Impact of Insecurity on the Socio-Economic Development in Osun State

Any responsive government has to be concerned with social, economic and political development. Nevertheless, in an atmosphere of fear and violence, sustainable development cannot take place. Insecurity interferes with peaceful co-existence, infrastructure is weakened and human and capital growth is thwarted. Case in point, the insurrection in Northern Nigeria which has decimated economic endeavor and militancy within the state of the Niger Delta that impacted negatively on the national oil income (David, 2025).

Insecurity in general in Nigeria has reduced the appeal of the country to local and foreign investors. Violence crimes, inter-communal conflicts, and terrorism have started to spill high because the rule of law is being eroded the road to development is impeded. As it was observed by Onifade (2013), there is only one way out of the insecurity issue and that is the nation should develop a style of governance that would support inclusive growth and provide access to jobs,

¹ Human Rights Watch. (2023). *The O'odua People's Congress (OPC): Fighting Violence with Violence*. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2003/02/28/oodua-peoples-congress-opc/fighting-violence-violence>.

² This Day. (2019, January 25). *Three Killed as Armed Robbers Attack Bank in Osun*. https://www.thisdaylive.com/2019/01/25/three-killed-as-armed-robbers-attack-bank-in-osun/?utm_source.

³ International Crisis Group. (2017). *Report on escalating herder-farmer conflicts across central Nigeria, including Middle Belt States and their spillover into Osun State, estimating approximately 2,000 deaths in 2016*. https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/252-herders-against-farmers-nigerias-expanding-deadly-conflicts?utm_source.

⁴ Osun State Government. (2013, November 8). *Osun Education Reform Patterned after America, British, UNESCO Standards*. <https://www.osunstate.gov.ng/2013/11/osun-education-reform-patterned-after-america-british-unesco-standards/>.

⁵ Osun State Government. (2017, January 20). *Opon Imo: How Aregbesola Laid Foundation for Digital Education in Nigeria*. <https://www.osunstate.gov.ng/2017/01/opon-imo-aregbesola-laid-foundation-digital-education-nigeria>.

healthcare services, and education. The insecurity that occurs in Osun State takes the form of cultism, armed robbery, herders and farmers confrontation, and police brutality. In spite of rising security budgets, security agencies, usually, lack resources or interest to act properly and even seem to be involved (Oriakhi, Osemwengie, 2012).

One type of insecurity which is very devastating is the herder-farmer conflict. Land has become a controversial commodity with increasing interest in agriculture as a substitute of oil. The increasing population of individuals practicing crop agriculture and animal rearing increases competition in the access of land. Livestock would feed at the farmlands killing crops and causing conflicts. The exchanges of reprisals between the groups result in the deaths of people, destruction of property and sectarianism. Amnesty International (2018)¹ estimated approximately that more than 3,600 people died in Nigeria during a certain period, but those killed do not include the injured and kidnapped by Fulani herdsmen. The farmers in their turn have been assaulting and killing cattle owned by herdsmen. These forms of insecurity in Osun State have very many implications on socio-economic development. Noteworthy implications are:

1. Fear and Anxiety: People fear to go out and they live in the fear of their lives and families and property. Any socialization, economic activities as well as mobility which are all referred to as being critical as far as development is concerned are then frustrated by such fear. The spirit of insecurity spoils the productivity and numbs the local business.

2. Loss of lives: The trend that has seen lives continuously being lost in clashes, robberies and other violent crimes is a breach of the sanctity of human life and is threatening to destabilize the state. The lack of public safety is lacking and as a result, students, traders, and farmers have fallen victim to stray bullets and deliberate shooting.

3. Destruction of Property: Most crimes that are violent and militant in nature result to the destruction of property that was of great value. Such destruction has not spared farmlands, homes and businesses in Osun.

4. Industrialization: Industrialization is deterred by the element of insecurity as this is the stepping stone towards healthy economic growth and generation of job opportunities. Investors do

not want to set up operations where there is a lot of conflict. The industry without a stable setting cannot raise or progress in technology.

5. Emigration and High Rates of Migration: The rates of high emigration as well as migration are as a result of insecurity, which has compelled many Nigerians to run away in their search of security. Internally displaced peoples (IDPs) migrate to the more stable states and this causes strain to the host societies. The able-bodied ones fly out of the country altogether, and this causes brain drain and lack of man power to develop further.

6. Less Immigrants and Foreign Investments: The view of Nigeria as a dangerous place makes tourists, business tourist and outside investors to avoid traveling there. Economic effects are immense because foreign currency and foreign skills are needed in the development of a country. As such, there is limited development potential of Osun due to security misperceptions (Agbibo, 2013; Falana et al., 2023).

7. Weak security contributes to the rise of crime. Insecure regions often report high rates of theft, kidnapping, sexual violence, and drug abuse. Young people, especially those unemployed, may be drawn into criminal networks, further endangering social stability.

8. Migration from insecure areas to safer zones results in overcrowding in urban centers. This puts pressure on infrastructure and leads to environmental issues such as poor sanitation, waste accumulation, and housing shortages. Makeshift homes under bridges and poor drainage systems become common.

Comparative Socio-Economic Indicators of Selected States in Nigeria (2021 NBS Statistics)

The following table contains a comparative analysis of socio-economic indicators against selected Nigerian states as given in the figures published in 2021 and 2023 by the² National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)³. It underscores influential elements including the unemployment rate, the level of poverty, and the index of crime in determining the facet of insecurity and growth in the Osun State compared to the other three states (Lagos, Oyo and Ekiti State).

² National Bureau of Statistics. (2019). *2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria: Executive Summary*. <https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/elibrary/read/1092>.

³ National Bureau of Statistics. (2023). *Nigeria Labour Force Survey: Statistic Report Q4 2022 & Q1 2023*. <https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/download/1241365>.

¹ Amnesty International. (2018, December 17). *Nigeria: The Harvest of Death – Three Years of Bloody Clashes Between Farmers and Herders in Nigeria*. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/9503/2018/en>.

State	Unemployment Rate (%)	Poverty Incidence (%)	Crime Index (reported cases)	Remarks
Osun	14.0	35.2	Low (comparatively)	Moderate unemployment but lower crime rate
Lagos	37.3	8.5	High	Economic hub with high unemployment and crime
Oyo	19.8	28.5	Medium	Moderate unemployment and poverty rates
Ekiti	16.0	20.9	Low	Relatively low poverty and insecurity levels

Nigeria Labour Force Survey (NLFS): Key Labour Market Indicators (Q4 2022 & Q1 2023)

Indicator	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	77.8	79.9
Employment-to-Population Ratio (%)	73.6	76.6
Share in Self-Employment (%)	84.0	86.0
Time-related Underemployment (%)	13.7	12.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	4.1
Labour Underutilisation (LU1) (%)	21.0	18.2
Labour Underutilisation (LU2) (%)	18.2	15.8
Labour Underutilisation (LU3) (%)	9.5	6.7
Labour Underutilisation (LU4) (%)	21.9	18.1
Own-use Producer of Foodstuff (%)	5.6	3.9
Youth Unemployment Rate (15–24 yrs) (%)	8.3	6.9
Urban Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3	5.4
Rural Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	2.9
Wage Employment Rate (%)	13.4	11.8
Informal Employment Rate (%)	93.5	92.6

Implications of Insecurity in Osun State

Political Implications

The increase in insecurity in Osun state is a reflection of the national crisis. According to Odoma (2013) states should be able to adjust to the peculiarity of threats that Nigeria is experiencing currently. As the society gets tense with heightened fear particularly during election, the questions become loud whether the state will manage to save lives and preserve democracy. A key problem that is brought out is the fact that the Nigerian criminal justice system is ineffective. Naturally, instability in politics is usually entrenched in a lot of insecurity. Rising anger indicates that people are unhappy with their rule and view elections as fixed.

Religious Implications

Another hazardous effect of insecurity is religious violence or the violence labeled as religious. Attacks on sacred places including bombings have created a culture of insecurity in these sacred spaces and therefore preventing faithful to worship on a regular basis and develop a culture of fear. There is a risk of creation of fake religious

practices since individuals would find shelter in the religious identity driven by fear and not by faith (Ayanjoko, 2024).

In territories where people are not sure of their lives, it could be considered that by following a religion of the majority, one will survive. Religion therefore turns out to be more of a social protection than spiritual vow. This defeats the actual religious values. Nonetheless, it is possible to notice that religion may serve peace, promoting tolerance and dialogue among warring parties when religious leaders become active.

Cultural Implications

The threat to insecurity is also being posed to culture in the Nigerian society. Common values and interethnic harmony should promote the unity. Nonetheless, ethnic separations, as interpolated are normally facilitated by violence such as which occurred in Warri. When there is lack of security there will be paranoia and animosity instead of cooperation (Balogun, Obosi, 2018).

Moreover, most parents have taken their children to foreign lands due to educational insecurity. This hence protects them but this can

cause loss of culture. The values that the children are brought up with are foreign, and it causes alienation to the culture and leads to identity crisis.

Solutions to Insecurity in Nigeria

For Nigeria to overcome its insecurity challenges, swift and deliberate actions are needed.

1. Government's Role: Security is the fundamental responsibility of any government. Through good governance transparency, accountability, inclusive policies, and effective service delivery government can restore public confidence. It must enforce laws without favoritism and prioritize the well-being of citizens above political or personal gain (Onifade, 2013).

2. Religious Institutions: True religion promotes peace. Religious leaders should actively preach and model peaceful coexistence. By emphasizing moral values and reconciliation, places of worship can become platforms for social healing and community unity.

3. Corporate and Individual Responsibilities: Companies and individuals also have roles to play. Responsible corporate governance includes community investment, employment creation, and supporting local peace efforts. On a personal level, citizens must reject violence and corruption, and instead, uphold justice, accountability, and mutual respect.

The study published by Gbirevbie et al. (2017) argues that augmented by the transformational and genuine leadership concepts, visionary leadership is the key to improving governance, decreasing corruption, facilitating socio-economic equality, and increasing national security levels in Nigeria. These leadership qualities have to be complemented by this broad-based approach that has to be built up using government, religious institutions, civil society as well as individual commitment to effectively deal both with organized and grass root terrorist threats.

CONCLUSIONS. Findings made in this paper have shown that Insecurity is the biggest issue that contributes to inhibited economic growth in Nigeria. The impulse response functions have shown that the impact that insecurity in Nigeria has on economic development with unit innova-

tion is negative and this means that the economic development rate can be hampered by an increase in the impact and rate of insecurity as it would slow down the development process.

Insecurity in any given situation is a form of threat to life and property, business encumbrance and discouragement to both local and foreign investors hence impairment and slowdown of socio-economic growth of a nation. Since 1960 when Nigeria gained its independence there has been an upward trend in the insecurity wave in the country. This wave of uprising has become stronger than before and now it has taken a risky level that is even endangering the corporate life of the nation as a single territory. Governments at all levels in Nigeria should make the removal of these threats their first priority because no meaningful development would take place in Nigeria when it is characterized by insecurity and violence.

In view of the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made, for the government and the people of the state to enhance the effective improvement of socio-economic development in Osun state and Nigeria at large. Firstly, Government should take initiatives in handling security matters and challenges, by using modern technology in collection of intelligence, training, logistics, motivation, as well as adoption of sophisticated technology in managing security problem. Secondly, the governments need to do to come up with a panacea to insecurity problem in Nigeria is to hasten the rate of development. The development here is the development of the economy to make it capable of providing good economy in terms of social, economic and physical infrastructure in the context of carrying out business activities and development of industries so that the people can be provided with gainful employment, high quality education facilities, and medical aid. Finally, the concerned governments at all levels should see to it that the increasing poverty index has to be set back and a realistic social security programme should be sought and implemented in systematic manner as to ensure that the populace is now in a position to satisfy their basic needs.

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НЕБЕЗПЕКА ТА СОЦІАЛЬНО-ЕКОНОМІЧНИЙ РОЗВИТОК У ШТАТІ ОСУН (НІГЕРІЯ)

Штат Осун, розташований у південно-західній частині Нігерії, в останні роки стикається із серйозними проблемами безпеки, що негативно позначається на його загальному розвитку, особливо в соціально-економічному аспекті. Дослідження свідчить, що у штаті Осун зросла кількість випадків насильства з боку культів, ритуальних убивств, пограбувань і викрадень людей. Порівняно з повстаннями та бойовими діями, що спостерігаються в північно-східних і південних регіонах Нігерії, ці злочини не є настільки жорстокими, але вони постійно послаблюють туризм, освіту й економічну стійкість штату. Досліджено першопричини нестабільності у штаті Осун, визначено вплив нестабільності на соціально-економічний розвиток і розроблено орієнтований на політику план дій, який забезпечить безпечне та життєздатне економічне середовище. Дослідження базується на теорії безпеки людини для пояснення причин і наслідків відсутності безпеки у штаті Осун. За допомогою якісного методу зібрано дані із вторинних джерел, таких як книги, журнали, урядові звіти, політичні документи та брифінги. Ці дані проаналізовано за допомогою тематичного аналізу змісту. Виявлено, що причиною небезпеки є неефективна архітектура безпеки, безробіття, відсутність якісного керівництва, зловживання наркотиками та корупція. Зазначено також, що наслідки постійної небезпеки включають страх, зростання рівня злочинності, зменшення інвестицій, ділової активності та міграційний тиск, що в сукупності гальмує розвиток. Рекомендовано застосовувати до проблеми безпеки багатовимірний підхід, наприклад використання сучасних технологій безпеки, методів збору розвідувальної інформації, забезпечення громадського правопорядку та політичної волі, а також проведення загальних реформ, що гарантують мир та економічну стабільність.

Ключові слова: безпека, небезпека, розвиток, соціально-економічний, зростання, політика, конфлікт, управління.

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