

## **Influence of Communication and Migration on Security Issues in Nigeria: a study of Enugu East Senatorial Zone**

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The increasing level of insecurity especially terrorism in the North and kidnapping in the South in recent years in Nigeria has largely threatened our national security. This study, therefore, ascertained influence of communication and migration on security issues in Nigeria using Enugu East Senatorial Zone of Enugu State as the study area. The study adopted The Agenda Setting Theory as its theoretical framework. The major instrument for data collection was the questionnaire and the focus group guide (FGD). Findings revealed a statistically significant relationship between place of residence and experience of security challenges as shown by chi-square test values ( $\chi^2 = 34.328$ ;  $df=1$ ;  $P<.000$ ), while there was no strong statistically significant relationship between educational qualification and pattern of migration as indicated by the chi square values ( $\chi^2 = 2.044$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P <.153$ ). The study recommended government implementation of strict migration and communication policies in order to reduce security challenges etc.

**Keywords: Influence, Communication, Migration, Security, Terrorism**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Insecurity is not a new phenomenon to the West African region. In other words, instability and conflict have always been a common characteristic in the westernmost region of Africa, even prior to the rise of Boko Haram in North Eastern Nigeria. Examining the challenges to stability and security in West Africa, Marc, Verjee, and Mogaka (2015) trace the rise of conflict in the region to the early 1960s. Enumerated in their study are the Civil Wars in Guinea Bissau (1962-1974 and 1998-1999), the Biafran Civil War (1967-1970), Niger Delta insurgency (2004-2009), the Boko Haram uprising (2009-present) in Nigeria and the Liberian Civil Wars (1989-1996 and 1999-2003). The Malian Tuareg rebellion/insurgencies (1990-1995 and 2012-2013), the Civil Wars in Sierra Leone (1991-2002) and Côte d'Ivoire (2002-2007) are other examples of conflicts in the West African sub-region.

The vast majority of these conflicts are intra-state in nature. In the new millennium, the frequency of civil wars and large-scale conflicts has dropped significantly in the West Africa sub-region. In their place, other forms of violence and new threats have, however, emerged (Institute for Security Studies, 2013; Themner & Wallenstein, 2014; Marc, Verjee, and Mogaka, 2015). Examples of such new threats range from violent extremism to ethno-national conflict, election-related violence, drug trafficking and sea piracy (Marc, Verjee, & Mogaka, 2015). These new security threats and challenges assume different manifestations in their respective countries and environs of origin. In Nigeria, for instance, the emergence of Boko Haram and its activities in the North East has continued to change the security architecture and dynamics of the country. Partially, the insurgent activities of the Boko Haram group in its operational centres and strongholds have also contributed to the instability and security challenges in adjoining countries including Cameroon, Niger, Benin Republic and Chad (Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, 2017).

According to Jadesola (2015), the unseeingly security challenges in Nigeria occasioned by cross-border activities particularly in the areas of exploration and benefits of mineral and natural resources, migration, border control and closure, access to and utility of energy resource and infrastructures through dam construction and diversion of water within the sub-region, crime issues and illicit transnational trade across the porous borders, unrestricted frontiers and smuggling which is harmful to the economy; the rise and threats of emerging separatists, militia and terrorist groups and its implication for national security suffice. Jadesola further posits that records available to the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) revealed that there are over 1,400 illegal routes

into Nigeria – 1,316 more than the approved number of border control posts. The 84 approved border controls cover 4,047km, the total length of Nigeria’s land border. Ogun and Adamawa states, for example, have 83 and 80 illegal posts respectively. The activities of smuggling and tax evasion in cross-border movements across Nigeria-Niger border provides the transitional features of border economic activities, interaction patterns in the border regions and flouting of international laws and convention on border crossing to the detriment of the national interest and invariably the national security in that area. It also indicated that porous features of the border region and the prevailing economic policies of the neighbouring states are tantamount to influence illegal cross-border transactions in goods, currency and other threatening circumstance.

According to security information released by Crime Guard cited in Okonkwo, Ndubuisi and Anagbogu (2015), between March and December 2012, there were a total of 153 successful explosions in Nigeria which claimed several lives and properties and led to closure of many businesses in the country. As a result of insecurity in the country many businesses and companies in their numbers are closing down operations in the north and relocating to other African countries for fear of loss of lives and properties. And the few remaining companies operate on skeletal bases. Insecurity in the country not only affects foreign direct investment and business activities; it also affects business confidence as many companies lost confidence in establishing businesses in some parts of the country.

The importance of the media in addressing national security in a democratic setting cannot be overemphasized as it is the bridge between the people and its societal activities. For any activity to get noticed, it must be reported by the media. The media must therefore make national security part of its principal agenda so as to make positive impacts. Therefore, the focus of this study is to ascertain the influence of communication and migration on security issues in Nigeria using Enugu East Senatorial Zone of Enugu state, South East Nigeria as a case study.

## II. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

### Migration

Because of the complexity of human life and fast changing socio- economic conditions, human migration is gaining importance day by day. Basic factor that has influenced the mobility of man from one region to another was uneven distribution of population and resources, unbalanced utilization of resources and variation in economic and cultural developments. Migration has been defined as a form of geographical or spatial mobility that involves a permanent or semi-permanent change of usual residence between geographical units (Ekpenyong & Egerson, 2015). Change must be between clearly defined geographical units. Movement within the country is referred to as in-migration and movement outside an area is called out-migration, while movements between countries are immigration and emigration (Mwageni, 2007). Different types of migration are noted in literature and these are inter alia internal migration, external migration, emigration, immigration, impelled migration, step migration, return, seasonal and chain migration.

Gimba and Mustapha (2011) define migration as the movement of people from one geographical location to another, involving permanent or temporary settlement. The region where people are leaving is referred to as the source region whereas the region to which people are entering is known as destination region. Oluwafunmiso (2013) posit that migration is the geographic movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new permanent or semi-permanent residence or it is the movement of people from one place to live in another. People may decide to migrate as individuals, in family units or in a large group. The migrant may be compelled to participate in the migrant labour which is considered as an adult initiation. However, migration, whether internal or international, has a profound effect on economic development, which could be negative or positive. In the process of migration people were exposed to several hazards ranging from harsh weather, diseases, prejudice, discrimination and exploitative labour to as marketing commodities. Migration issues lie at the heart of security concerns because individuals, families and sometimes, whole communities are involved as migrants, who aim at settling in environments inhabited by people whose values, morals and culture may vary significantly from theirs. In such situations, culture-shock may result, with the host community viewing migrant communities as posing security threats to their state and, or society.

### Communication

According to Peters (1999:7), the Latin word *communicatio*, rooted *incommunicare* meaning “to impart, share or make common” as well as in *munus* meaning “gifts or duties offered publicly,” “did not signify the general arts of human connection via symbols, nor did it suggest the hope for some kind of mutual recognition,” but “generally involved tangibles,” stylistic devices employed by an orator to assume “the hypothetical voice of the adversary or audience.” Many scholars define communication as transmission of ideas. But that simple definition places great emphasis on the process of communication. Adler and Rodman (1985) described communication as the process of human beings responding to the symbolic behaviour of others.

However, that definition recognizes both the process and the behavioural interaction of the persons engaged in the communication act.

Blundel (2004) defined communication as a tool used by humans in their daily communication and collaboration. Essentially, communication is a process where information is transferred between the sender and the receiver. Perfect or clear message exchange between managers and employees is an indication of good communication, and in order for the information to be transmitted successfully to another individual, the receiver, needs to know which a good communication channel is in the contemporary era (Blundel, 2004:2-4).

Communication is a necessary part of everyday work interaction. Managers and subordinates as well as the customers of the specific organisation who are buying, selling and employed within the organisation are directly or indirectly involved in organizational communication. Knowing the channels needed for positive communication at work place will lead to wider influence on other people and increase of usefulness and helpful at regular organisation (Gerson, 2007:2-3). Communication therefore is a means by which any organisation coordinate conversation and information exchange within the organisation to develop successful management of activities between the employers and employees of company. Institutes, organizations and industries encourage effective communication tools in order to make sure that top management and low members of organisation should accomplish fixed objectives, goals and have a perfect vision of the organisation. Coover and Murphy's (2000) views are that the essence of communication is the formation and expression of an identity. Being completely on one's own and developing one is not an independent event generated by an autonomous actor, but it is actually the self that emerges through social interaction. This helps in understanding that, 'a sense of personal identity is achieved through negotiation with others' (Postmes *et al.*, 2006: 226). Actually this helps in bringing in the quality of interacting effectively with others. Communication is a necessary ingredient to achieve success. Communication plays a very important role in the learning process and sharing of the knowledge. Communication is an essential condition for our existence and that is the reason we cannot but communicate. The worst and inhuman punishment is depriving one from any communication with other person in the society. Communication is the basis for creating awareness, consensus building, making informed decisions, resolving conflicts, and generating participation in processes of change and development.

#### **An overview of Insecurity in Nigeria:**

Once the word "insecurity" is mentioned while referring to Nigeria, the first words to come to mind are Boko Haram, kidnapping, Niger Delta Crises, and ethno-religious crises and recently the Herdsmen Killings. These words constitute a brand used in identifying the nature of insecurity peculiar to Nigeria among other African nations. Before the public manifestation of Boko Haram terrorist activities in 2009, Nigeria had been witnessing series of kidnapping of mostly foreign expatriates by militants in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The militants were said to be agitating against what they saw as injustice against their region. They were initially operating in the creeks but once their activities extended to the streets, they constituted palpable insecurity in the south southern region of Nigeria.

Similarly, Nwabueze and ebeze (2013) opined that the emergence of series of kidnapping in the southeastern part of the country, has contributed to the worsening insecurity level in the south east and south southern geographical regions. These were in addition to the growing level of ethno-religious violence in Jos, Plateau State and some other parts of North central region with reprisal attacks in some parts of the south. At a point, the *Jamaatu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad* Islamic sect otherwise known as Boko Haram brought another dimension to the threats to life in Nigeria - terrorism. With a strong aversion to western education and persistence on instituting Sharia law in the Northern states of the country, the group went into a killing spree and suddenly states like Borno, Bauchi, Niger, Sokoto, Jigawa, Yobe, Kano, Adamawa, Kaduna, Kogi and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) became insecure at varying degrees, some seriously terrorized, while some others had a few flash points. Churches, schools, markets, motor parks, offices and office complexes, special day celebrations (Independence, Christmas, Sallah etc. celebrations), public transport, villages, public and even private places, became insecure. Though attempts are being made by the Federal Government to ameliorate the issue, tension, anxiety, terror, fear and general insecurity are still thick in the air (Ekanem, Dada & Ejue, 2012; Muozoba, 2011; Udoudo & Duyra, 2012).

#### **Theoretical orientation**

This study is situated within the fulcrum of agenda setting theory of the mass media. There have been arguments as to when this theory was propounded. However, many scholars (Orr, 2018; Kim, Kim & Zhou, 2017; Scheufele, 2000) hold the view that the theory was propounded by McCombs and Shaw in 1972. To provide a better context for this theory, McCombs posit that;

The power of the news media to set a nation's agenda, to focus public attention on a few key public issues, is an immense and well-documented influence. Not only do people acquire factual information about

public affairs from the news media, readers and viewers also learn how much importance to attach to a topic on the basis of the emphasis placed on it in the news.

To this end, this theory holds the view that the media are responsible for most of the pictures we hold in our heads. Therefore it behoves on the mass media to pay attention to salient events that happen in our society so that they will reflect such issues (Asemah, 2011). However, in raising these issues, there has to be balance and fairness, objectivity, etc, on the part of the media. The media therefore are not to ignore any issue for political, religious or environmental reasons.

According to Takeshita (2005) there are three current and critical problems that agenda-setting theory has been facing recently: the problems of *process*, *identity*, and *environment*. These problems are critical because each has implications that might call into question the value of agenda-setting theory. For instance, the *environment* problem tries to understand if the development of communication technology and the subsequent growth in the number and variety of news outlets will minimize the impact of media agenda setting at the social level, leading to fragmentation of the public agenda. Orr (2018) has also argued that advances in technology provide many new avenues for influencing the masses. At the onset of the agenda setting theory, communication was conducted primarily via print and radio, followed by film and television. Today, communication sources are nearly unlimited, allowing for greater public engagement and setting the trend for increased attention on agenda setting. These have been the pattern in the media reportage of cases of insecurity in Nigeria which have resulted into conflicting news reports on the activities of the Boko Haram in the North or the insurgents in the South south due to a plethora of news communication outlets. The place of this theory in this study is to explain the security agenda setting in Nigeria amidst the politicisation of these security threats by the government.

To address the above identified problem, Eriksson (2000) suggests the combination of agenda setting and what he called 'securitisation'. According to Eriksson, issues of security challenges should be presented in the media and by the media as one requiring an urgent attention. Security agenda setting should be approached by using a theory of agenda setting complemented with notions of framing and securitisation. To this intent, the media should frame security issues over the issue domain, where meaning implies not only what is at issue, but what is to be done. In this perspective, issues such as 'threats', 'risks' and 'security problems' are frames with negative connotations however in conformity with securitisation.

### III. METHODOLOGY

Enugu-East Senatorial District is made up of 3 federal constituencies, 8 state constituencies, 6 local councils, 77 electoral wards, 143 autonomous communities. It is the most populous and evidently the only cosmopolitan of the three zones. This status is conferred on it basically because Enugu city, comprising 3 council areas, is part of the zone. Going by 2006 census figures in Nigeria the zone is estimated to have a population of 1,166,548 (NPC, 2006). And also the zone is politically segmented into the rural and urban districts where the rural divide is predominantly agrarian. The 3 federal constituencies are: Nkanu-East/Nkanu-West Federal Constituency, Enugu-East /Isiuzo Federal Constituency and Enugu North/Enugu-South Federal Constituency. The 8 state constituencies are: Enugu-North, Enugu-South Urban, Enugu-South Rural, Enugu-East Urban, Enugu-East Rural, Isiuzo, Nkanu-East and Nkanu-West. Enugu State was one of the states that witnessed the killings occasioned by the marauding Herdsmen, thus justifying its choice as the study area. The study adopted cross-sectional survey design. The sample consists of 533 respondents from Enugu East Senatorial Zone and was selected through multi stage sampling technique based on Comfrey and Lee (1992) sample size range. Questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection while qualitative data was collected using Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The data collected from the respondents were analysed using tables, frequencies, while chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistics was used to test the hypotheses.

### IV. RESULTS

#### Place of residence

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by place of residence**

Place of residence	Frequency	Percentage
Urban	129	24.2
Rural	404	75.8
Total	533	100.0

**Source:** *Field work 2018*

Table 1 shows distribution of respondents by their place of residence. The result indicates that that majority of the respondents 75.8% resides in the rural area and 24.2% resides in the urban area.

**Level of education**

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents by educational qualification**

Educational qualification	Frequency	Percentage
No formal education	15	2.8
First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC)	17	3.2
Senior Secondary Certificate Examination(SSCE)	357	67.0
Bachelor of Science and above (B.Sc)	144	27.0
Total	533	100.0

**Source:** *Field work 2018*

The above Table 2 shows that respondents who had no formal education were the least (2.8%). They were followed by those with First School Leaving Certificate (3.2%). Majority of the respondents had Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (67.0%), while 27.0% of the respondents had Bachelor of Science and above.

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents on whether they have experienced any security challenge in their community**

Have you experienced any security challenge in your area?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	437	82.0
No	96	18.0
Total	533	100.0

**Source:** *Field work 2018*

Table 3 shows, that 82.0% indicated that they have experienced some security challenge in their community, and 18.0% indicated that they have not experienced any security challenge in their community. However, data from focus group discussion (FGD) indicated also that all the participants have experienced some form of security challenge or the other. The security challenges they have experienced so far ranges from armed robbery, Fulani-herdsmen attacks as well as kidnapping in their communities. This was also confirmed by some of their expressions:

*“In fact, there were times we could no longer sleep, we can only sleep with one eye closed. The fears of armed robbers and those who use to steal small children were high. Then the Fulani-Herdsman just came from nowhere and started to become a terror here. You can say you do not hear about the killings in this our side. It was on air and I know newspapers carried it, people were killed and women raped where they went for farm work. It is bad”*

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents on pattern of migration**

Pattern of migration	Frequency	Percentage
Rural-urban	240	45.0
Urban-urban	175	32.8
Urban-rural	78	14.6
Rural-rural	40	7.5
Total	533	100.0

**Source:** *Field work 2018*

The responses on table 4 show that 45.0% of the respondents indicated rural-urban migration pattern, 32.8% indicated urban-urban migration pattern, 14.6% urban-rural migration pattern and 7.5% indicated rural-rural migration pattern. Data from FGD revealed that majority of the participants agreed that people from rural areas move to urban centres in search of better jobs and good quality of life, while others stated that people from the cities are now relocating to rural areas because some basic amenities in the cities are now made available in the rural areas.

**Test of Hypotheses**

This study is designed to ascertain influence of communication and migration on security issues in Nigeria: a study of Enugu East Senatorial Zone. To achieve this objective, two hypotheses propounded for this study were tested in this section using chi square ( $\chi^2$ ).

**Hypothesis one**

**H<sub>1</sub>:** People who reside in urban areas are more likely to have security challenges than those who reside in the rural areas.

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no relationship between place of residence and experience of security challenges.

**Test Statistics:** The Chi square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic is employed in testing this hypothesis.

**Significance Level:** A significance level ( $\alpha$ ) of 0.05 was used in testing this hypothesis.

**Statistical Computation**

**Table 5: Cross-tabulation of respondents place of residence and experience of any security challenge in their community (N=533)**

Place of residence	Experience of any security challenge		Total
	Yes	No	
Rural	128(99.2%)	16(0.8%)	129(100.0%)
Urban	309(76.5%)	95(23.5%)	404(100.0%)
Total	437(82.0%)	96(18.0%)	533(100.0%)

$\chi^2= 34.328$ ;  $df=1$ ,  $p<.001$  (N=533)

Source: *Field work 2018*

Table 5 is a cross tabulation of respondents' place of residence and experience of any security challenge. Place of residence involves an index built from table 1 that contains options on where the respondents resides. Experience of any security challenge was measured with the respondents' agreement on whether they have experienced any security challenge in their communities from table 3.

**Rejection region:** If  $p \leq .05$  reject the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ), but if  $p > .05$ , we accept the null hypothesis. The test is a one-tailed test.

With the computed  $\chi^2= 34.326$ ;  $df=1$ , the test shows that there was a statistically significant relationship ( $P \leq .001$ ) between place of residence and experience of any security challenge by the respondents. Therefore, the substantive hypothesis which states that people who reside in urban areas are more likely to have security challenges than those who reside in the rural areas is valid and therefore upheld. In other words, respondent's experience of any security challenge is indeed influenced by their place of residence.

**Hypothesis two**

**H<sub>1</sub>:** People who are more educated are more likely to in-migrate than those who are less educated.

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no relationship between level of education and patterns of migration

**Test Statistic:** The Chi square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic is employed in testing this hypothesis.

**Significance Level:** A significance level ( $\alpha$ ) of 0.05 was used in testing this hypothesis.

**Table 6: Cross-tabulation of respondents level of education and pattern of migration (N=533)**

Level of education	Pattern of migration		Total
	Out-migration	In-migration	
Less educated	240(61.7%)	149(38.3%)	389(100.0%)
More educated	79(54.9%)	65(45.1%)	144(100.0%)
Total	319(59.8%)	214(40.2%)	533(100.0%)

$\chi^2= 2.044$ ;  $df=1$ ,  $p<.153$  (N=533)

Source: *Field work 2018*

Table 6 is a cross tabulation of level of education and pattern of migration. Level of education involves an index built from table 2 that contains categories on level of education. The categories of no formal education, FSLC, SSCE were grouped into “less educated” while the category of bachelors and above was grouped into “more educated”. Pattern of migration on the other hand involves an index built from table 4 that contains categories on patterns of migration. The categories of rural-urban, urban-rural were recoded as “out migration”, while the categories for rural-rural-urban-urban was recoded as “in-migration.”

**Rejection region:** If  $p \leq .05$  reject the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ), but if  $p > .05$ , we accept the null hypothesis. The test is a one-tailed test.

With the computed  $\chi^2 = 2.044$ ;  $df=1$ , the test shows that there was no statistically significant relationship ( $P \leq .153$ ) between level of education and pattern of migration. Therefore, the substantive hypothesis which states that people who are more educated are more likely to in-migrate than those who are less educated is not valid, and therefore rejected. In other words, pattern of migration is not influenced by one's level of education.

## V. CONCLUSION

Security issue is one that calls for a very serious concern among all member of the society. By applying securitisation, insecurity leaves the domain of just being an ‘issue’ to finding solutions as to how they can be tackled. The media therefore have the utmost responsibility to ensure this securitisation through their framing and reportage of matters of threats and insecurity to lives and property in the society.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government should implement strict migration and communication policies in order to reduce security challenges.
- The real solution for solving insecurity challenge in Nigeria is for government to speed-up the pace of development. By development we mean creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, high level of educational facilities, and medical care for the people.
- Governments at all levels should ensure that rising poverty indices are reversed and a realistic social security programme is pursued and systematically implemented to ensure that the populace meets their basic needs.

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