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The Nigerian problems of development and human security

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Abstract

In the present age of globalisation, the threats to mankind not only arise from weapons of mass destruction and other conventional challenges but also arise from other serious issues, e.g. terrorism, secret cuts activities, homosexuals, trafficking in women and drug abuse. These issues can cause adverse effects on national security and the sustainable development of any nation in the age of globalisation. The present study examined the interwoven issues of human security and development in Nigeria. The paper asks and answers questions concerning to why the standard of living most Nigerians continues to shrink and the reasons why successive governments have been unable to lead the nation on the path of human security and development. The study analysed the changing concept of security parameters with special emphasis on the issues of human security and its relation to development. The data analysed during this research was gathered qualitatively from secondary sources, which included journals, books and publications from international and governmental organisations. The present study identified that the success of Nigeria's economic re-engineering, depends on the government's ability not only to push through macroeconomic reforms but also to address deep-rooted socio-political issues. The study also recommends and suggests some suitable steps in promoting human security and in bringing all-round development to Nigeria. This research is carried out using critical analysis.

Key words: Nigeria, development, human security, economic security, globalisation, unemployment.

1. Introduction

Development is a user-friendly term. It means progressive enhancement and material uplift. Many third world countries have remained underdeveloped on account of colonialism and poverty. Specifically, the continent of Africa has suffered immensely from colonialism and poverty and its home to many third world coun-

tries (Bassey, Mendie, 2019). Nigeria, the largest and most populous country in Africa, is infamous for her widespread and grinding poverty. The deprivation is recurrent and the country's proportion of unemployment is continuously rising. The suppression of rudimentary freedom is vicious and destructive. There is widespread political instability. The scale of corruption is gigantic. The country is infamous for low progress in both human development and human security. Even after fifty years of political independence, Nigeria is chronically underdeveloped compared to developed countries. The Nigerian economy is characterised by many development variables that reflect severe backwardness. Low national income, labour market instability and threats to job security are such indicators. There is contagious instability in the Nation's financial market. There is slow progress in education. The problems of poverty and health persists. The underdeveloped status of Nigeria not only poses many threats to national security but also leads to human insecurity. Therefore these features come together to share the concept of human security, which is represented by the pact of common defence.

The Non-Aggression Draft of Africa and the common defence pact divulge that human security means the security of the individual for the satisfaction of the basic needs of life (Dinstein 2017: 107). This implies that human security encompasses the creation of the political, social, economic, military, environmental and cultural conditions necessary for the survival, livelihood, and dignity of an individual, including the protection of fundamental freedoms, the respect for human rights, good governance, health care, access to education and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfil person's potential. Moreover, Nigeria provides an opportunity to study human security through a vast range of situations. The damming prevailing situations discussed earlier have thrown challenges to human security in the country. Therefore the problems of development and human security are central in the Nigerian context. For the above mentioned reasons, this paper attempts to analyse the problem of development and human security in Nigeria.

2. Linkage between development and security

Development means a progressive enhancement (Seers 2016). Today, it has a physical and monetary context. The physical enhancement is in the area of physical features and material resources. The monetary progressive enhancement is connected with economic development. It is connected to better maintained, extended, energising and liberating territories of environmental and cultural set-ups. Development is an evaluative term. It means a transition from one condition to another. The transition is simpler or more complete in some ways. Development is a concept that is friendly and certainly optimistic. It is associated with the notion of modernism. This, in turn, involves increasing value or desirability. Development is a standard carried by those who would promote the interests of the rich and the powerful. It includes the efforts to serve the poor and the powerless. It would stress the virtues of entrepreneurship and individualism.

Development is closely related to welfare. Development is equated with happiness, on the one hand, and, on the other, with the fulfilment of desire. It is based on the equality of capabilities. It is meant to raise human living standard. Society is the institution of co-operation between individuals for their mutual benefit. Society makes possible the implementation of a framework involving property rights. It establishes the organisation of both production and consumption. Without society, individuals cannot enjoy many of the activities that are central to their well-being. The institutions of production, consumption, and exchange are expected to lead all individuals to gain benefits from co-operation. The phrase *human security* denotes a state being secure or safe in the physical boundaries. The key premises of the 1994 United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) human development report are (1) its joint focus on "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want, and (2) its four emphases on universality, interdependence, prevention, and people centeredness. These forms, and continue to shape, human security discussions (McGillivray, White, 1993: 185). To elucidate this, Kofi Annan (2000), one time United Nations Secretary-General, presented a broad definition of human security:

"Human security, in its broadest sense, embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care and ensuring that

each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfil his or her potential. Every step in this direction is also a step towards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and preventing conflict. Freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment – these are the interrelated building blocks of human – and therefore national – security" (Annan 2000: 186).

From the above, one can say that human security is being protected in all facets of a person's well-being which includes economic, political, environmental, healthcare educational, and infrastructural surroundings. These are required to be free from both corruption and pollution. It is the safety standard of a nation-state.

Development and human security are interdependent. Development is not feasible without human security. Development and human security interweaving are almost like an organism's inner and outer cells. Human security is necessary for development. Development is likewise essential for human security. Both the terms *development* and *human security* are captured by the concepts of the well-being of an individual in a broader framework of the socially relevant matrix (Lind 2019). The inseparability of development and human security is likened to form and content. Both terms are engrossed with a positive progressive slant. Both strive towards increasing the enhancement of the physical, human and material resources. Human security for development and development for human security is the underlying connection between the two. Development and human security are concerned with the growth of positive indicators. They mean improvement in literacy, health, environmental awareness, income and cultural well-being. They include the reduction and elimination of negative indicators, e.g. violence, disease, corruption, pollution and ignorance. Both human security and development seek to guarantee that good should prevail. They yearn that evils should be eradicated from the conditions of human life. The notion of development is now an integrated process. It examines the interwoven issues of human security and developmental concerns. It attempts to establish the interlinking of development and human security in Nigeria.

3. Historical, geographical, and political profile of Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is located in western Africa on the Gulf of Guinea. It is borders with Benin, Niger, Chad and East Cameroon (Douglas 2004). The Nigeria's size is 923,768 km², including 13,000 km² the water bodies (ibidem). The climate is arid in the north, tropical in the centre and equatorial in the south (Achebe 2000). The three variations in the Southern, Central and Northern parts are equatorial, tropical, and arid. The existence of moist South-West monsoon and dry North-West winds controls those differences. The country comprises of 36 states and the federal capital, Abuja, located in the centre. The most ancient civilisation in Nigeria is identifiable by the characteristic artefacts of the Nok people. Those skilled artisans were ironworkers who thrived around the fourth century B.C. and, in the second century A.D. in a large area above the Niger and Benue confluence, in the northern part of Nigeria (Douglas 2004). The Nok people of Nigeria were rather advanced as is evident from the relics of their ironwork and terracotta artwork. With the disappearance of the Nok, things seem to fall silent for the next thousand years. Little information exists on this "silent millennium" in Nigeria's history. Long before 1500, various rich and powerful kingdoms emerged within the region. These formed the roots of some of the cultural groups existing in Nigeria today (Douglas 2004). These early states induced the Yoruba kingdoms in South-West Nigeria, the Edo Kingdom of Benin, the Hausa-Fulani cities and Nape. The earliest of the Nigerian kingdoms, Kanem and Borno were located near Lake Chad in the North-East of Nigeria. The king of Kanem adopted Islam as the religion of his kingdom.

To understand the current Nigerian politics and society, it is necessary to take into account two prevailing characteristics. Firstly, a millennium ago the propagation of Islam began, mainly in the North, but later extended to South-Western Nigeria. The establishment of the Sokoto Caliphate extended Islam within the present-day Nigeria. This history appears to account for the dichotomy between the Muslims North and Christian South (Falola 1999). Secondly, the slave trade era had a profound influence on nearly all areas of Nigeria. Between the 1960s and 1980s, transat-

lantic trade compensated for the forced migration of around 3.5 mln people (Falola 1999). The conversion to Islam and the propagation of Christianity were closely linked to slavery controversies and efforts to promote cultural and political autonomy. In the fifteenth century, the Portuguese initiated the transatlantic slave trade. By the end of the sixteenth century, the Dutch challenged the Portuguese influence in the region and the slave trade (Achebe 2000). The Dutch position was further undermined by French and British pressure. In the eighteenth century, Britain became the dominant imperialist power. By the end of the eighteenth century, the area that was to become Nigeria was far from a unified country. Additionally, the North and South orientation was entirely different. First, between 1804 and 1808, the Islamic holy war of Usman dan Fodio established the Sokoto centre in North-Western Nigeria. By the middle of the nineteenth century, it comprised of 30 emirates. All the important Hausa emirates including Kano were directly under Sokoto's rule. Secondly, in 1807, Britain declared the transatlantic trade to be illegal. It was at this time that Britain was responsible for shipping more slaves than any other country. Although the transatlantic slave trade persisted till the 1860s, merchandises of palm oil slowly replaced it. The shift in trade had serious economic and political consequences (Falola 1999).

At the Berlin Conference in 1885, the European powers tried to resolve their conflicts of interest in Africa. The conference accepted the principle known as the "dual mandate" that the interests of both Europe and Africa could best be assisted by preserving free access to the African continent (Munene 1990). Britain's claims to a sphere of influence in the Niger Basin were acknowledged formally. To establish effective British occupation, Lagos Colony and two protectorates of Northern and Southern Nigeria were created. Lord Frederick Lugard was the high commissioner of the colonial Nigeria from 1900 to 1919. His objective was to conquer all the region and to obtain recognition. He systematically subdued local resistance. His success was due to his policy of indirect rule. He called for governing the different region through the rulers who had been defected. British colonisation established Nigeria in an abstract political entity with little sense of Nigerian nationality joining diverse people and regions (Home 1983).

The demographic dynamics and social trends influenced regional disparities in Nigeria. Regional inequality is spotted in every society at all levels of national developments in terms of investment, revenue, employment, education, human resources, and health services. The socio-political and administrative perspective acknowledges that Nigeria was created out of European selfish ambitions in Western Africa in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Nigeria is a collection of hundreds of hitherto autonomous ethno-linguistic groups. The birth of *Nigeria* could be at best termed *artificial*. The boundaries of Nigeria were comprehended mainly as a geographical organisation for the administrative convenience of British imperialism. The diverse characteristics of Nigeria might have aided over time to create diverse rates of socio-economic development and, ultimately, the regional inequalities which involved a lack of development and threats to human security.

Nigeria became an independent state within the British Commonwealth of Nations on 1 October 1960 (Echeruo 1974). At the time of independence, the country was originally divided into three regions. After independence, the demand for decentralisation grew and subsequent states were created over decades up to 36 plus the Federal Capital Territory now (Vande 2012). The demand for new states continues as there are more than 200 ethno-linguistic groups. Many have started to mount stiff opposition to the further disintegration of the country.

The regional imbalance is on account of the uneven distribution of several mineral natural and human resources in these states. The development level of each state depends on its access to the material and non-material resources. It is noticed that the southern states of Lagos, Anambra, Bendel, and Oyo have more industrial establishments than the northern states of Bauchi, Gongola, Niger, and Benue (Vande 2012). The development strategy that was carried out in Nigeria has been ineffective as its focus was on the national needs rather than basic needs. There was no top-down trickling of the benefits of development.

4. Social problems, security and development in Nigeria

In June 2018, the World Poverty Clock named Nigeria as the poverty capital of the world, with statistics displaying 87 mln Nigerians live in poverty. This implies

that more than 50% of its population is in deep poverty (Akran 2018). This means that, at the bottom of the table, Nigeria exceeded India, a seven times larger nation. Poor Nigerians are more populous than whole Germany. Reports also indicate that almost six people in Nigeria fall into poverty line every minute. The common link among the majority of the Nigerian populace is poverty (Obadan 2001), which is widespread. Poverty pervades all sections of society, embraces all genders, ethnic groups and people of various religious affiliations but is not a binding force. It has raised disparity between the West and South. It has put the regional differences to light. Because of poverty, systemic social policies through government and private planned programmes have failed to create social coherence. Throughout Nigeria, there is a lack of social stability and development due to extreme poverty. Development does not progress equally in different parts of the country. Development is faster in western and eastern zones, with much slower growth in southern and northern states. This resulted in the largest number of poor people in the northern and southern regions. Apart from regional characteristics, poverty is strongly influenced by education, age and nature of employment. According to O. Odior (2014), among Nigerians with no education, the poverty rate rose from 30% in 1980 to 73% in 2017. Thus education is generally seen as providing an escape route from poverty, through access to formal sector jobs and public positions (ibidem). Yet access to education is still poor.

The high level of income inequality has compounded the problem of poverty, however, and heightened social conflict. Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) indicates that poor children increasingly do not attend school as they consider the quality of education being weak and education slightly increasing employment prospects (Adepoju 2004). Of all households, polygamous households experience the greatest depth of poverty, with the majority of them located in northern and middle regions. The majority of the poor in Nigeria are concentrated in poor communities rather than scattered around. The poverty rate is higher in the northern states (70%) than in southern (60%) – (Obadan 2001). As in other developing countries, poverty is a rural phenomenon in Nigeria. The average household income in rural areas is significantly lower than the national average. The north-western states (Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna,

Kano, Kebi, Zamfra) and the south-eastern states (Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta) are the poorest regions of the country, with the highest share of income spent on food (more than 70%). More than 60% of Nigerians spend 70-80% of their income on food (Odior 2014). The reasons for this might be understood when take a look at the Nigerian strategy on land management. Presently Nigeria has no national strategy or policy on integrated land management. The land-use practices are mainly based on ad hoc administrative plans for project execution. The various local land use practice does not give effective protection of the land from degradation.

"The only major document presently in place on national use is the Land Use Act of 1978. The Act dwells more on the demarcation of the Nation's land into urban and rural areas. There are no provisions in the 1978 Act to ensure that the lands opened up-fitted well for particular uses and will be protected and sustained" (Ebeku 2002: 202).

For instance, Forest Management in Nigeria is also mostly limited to government programmes. All the forest reserves, which form the bulk of the nation's productive forest, are under the management of the States or Local Governments. The forest outside forest reserves (free areas), where most of the wood products in the market come from, are not put under any form of systematic management. There is no land use policy in the country. There is, however, a Land Use Act. There is no forest certification practice, either.

This has led to the degradation and depletion of the forest reserve base, which is has major effects on other sectors of the economy. The disappearance of forest cover leads to erosion, soil degradation, and unfavourable hydrological changes. These forest reserves have for some time been seriously neglected and have received little or no improvement in terms of management and investment. The most people depends on fuel wood for cooking energy. Besides, forestlands are seen as potential farmlands, which encourage shifting cultivation. The economic status of people has a direct bearing on the exploitation of forests for fuel wood and agricultural expansions. Poverty leads to almost a total dependence of over 90% of the rural population on the forest for livelihood and economic survival (Ebeku 2002). The economic base and well-being of the citizens, therefore, have a direct bearing on the exploitation of forests for fuel wood, arrays of food and fodder, medicinal plants, expansion of shift-

ing cultivation. Of all the rural people's activities, fuel wood extraction, shifting agriculture and nomadic cattle rearing are the ones that have the most serious impact on the forests. Shifting cultivation has resulted in forest encroachment and occasionally outright deforestation to pave the way for farming activities. The high level of poverty in the country, especially among women, could be said to harm sustainable forest management. As shown above, there is an inextricable link between poverty and environmental degradation.

Over time, Nigeria has been experiencing a rapid rate of urbanisation. In 1952, 10% of the population lived in urban centres sized 20,000 or above. This increased to 20% and 38% in 1970 and 1993, respectively, and it is further increasing (Omohan, Maliki, 2007). The country's problems and threats resulting from rapid urbanisation are enormous. These include inadequate shelters leading to overcrowding, inadequate and inefficient transport systems, urban slum development, poor infrastructure facilities and services, and generally poor environmental conditions. Many obstacles to planning and executing physical development have been encountered in the numerous attempts of the government to achieve sustainable human settlement development. Such restrictions include rapid urbanisation rate, deteriorating socio-economic standards, fund limitations, shortcomings in human resources, fluctuating political will, non-integrated policy focus, the dearth of base maps, insufficient planning and monitoring database, and inadequate international technical assistance. Potential emergency preparedness and response preparation aim at quickly reducing the negative impacts of natural and man-made disasters on human settlements, the environment and the national economy.

Nigeria has several crises caused by natural and man-made disasters. The natural phenomena include tropical storms, soil erosion, floods, windstorms, drought, human diseases, desertification, coastal erosion, crop pests, animal and human diseases, wildfire, landslides, etc. Certain potential hazards include volcanoes and earthquakes. The major man-made hazards include civil strife; water, air and road traffic accidents; and technological occurrences, e.g. hazardous wastes dumping, oil spills, and industrial accidents. All of these hazards call for urgent action to

reinforce emergency preparedness to reduce vulnerability among people and cushion the impact of disasters on settlements, the economy and the environment.

The Nigerian state is a victim of bad governance, high-level corruption, cyclical legitimacy crisis and political instability. Corruption is one of the many unsolved problems that have critically hobbled and hampered development in Nigeria. It remains a long-term major political and economic challenge for Nigeria. Corruption had severe negative consequences on economic growth and development of Nigeria. Even where improper conduct, e.g. fraud and bribery do not directly involve government, the public effects are severe. Corruption has unhelpfully affected governance and the larger social structure. It has crippled the state's ability to deliver for its citizens enjoyment of even the maximum social and economic rights, including health and education. This generally leads to a retardation of economic development and the deterioration of public infrastructure. Corruption and mismanagement swallow about 40% of Nigeria's annual income (Mquro 1995). It also disrupts the capital flow and stunts international trade. The disturbing trend of corruption in Nigeria is concretely reflected in the corruption ratings, which shows that Nigeria is one of the most corrupt countries where government officials were the readiest to accept bribes. This is corroborated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Report of 2000, according to which Nigerians see corruption as very pervasive in the country. Corruption includes favouritism, nepotism, bribery, graft and other prejudiced means adopted by any government employees and the public alike to get some legally and socially prohibited favours (Mquro 1995). Policemen are mostly notorious for this in Nigeria, because of the enormous discretion of enforcement of laws given to them. The issuing of Nigerian passport, import licenses, vehicle licenses, submission of contract tenders, contract awards and many other things or benefits that should be normally obtained without tensions is difficult to be accessed by her citizenry. Nigeria is one of the most prosperous world's countries but it has squandered mineral and oil wealth and produced unfair income distribution.

Unemployment is a problem that has long gripped Nigeria. It still is one of Nigeria's most pivotal social epidemics due to its rising rates. The days of career offers by employment opportunities for students have gone. The government does not

have a detailed and systemic blueprint for minimising and addressing social issues like unemployment. Even those who are employed often take recruiting tests because they want to improve their prospects. The lack of youth employment programmes has resulted in the number of youths indulging in crime and violence.

Crime and violence pose a threat to national security and had a serious negative impact on efforts to bring about economic development. Nigeria suffers from divisive tensions. The more than 250 ethnic groups lining in Nigeria continue to complain about their marginalisation. In some parts of the country, there are open revolts where groups are demanding better economic terms from the federal authorities. This explosion of discontent is connected with the state of the economy in Nigeria. The threat underlying all types of conflict in Nigeria is access to and control over already scarce resources, whether economic or political. Armed violence is not a rare occurrence in Nigeria. The overall pattern and level of violence in the country appears to be increased during the period before and even after the 2007 elections. Even in a short span of four months from December 2006 to March 2007, there have been 239 incidents of violence taking place in 27 out of the 36 Nigerian states. Violent crime is the most common and its occurrence is reported in almost all the states.

The Islamist militant group (Boko Haram) has destabilised the North of Nigeria since 2009, killing tens of thousands of people and has displaced millions more. This has led to a severe humanitarian crisis, as about 7.7 mln people in 2018 in need of humanitarian aid, one of the worst in the world (Botha, Abdile, 2019). Christian farmers and the mostly Muslim cattle herders have often faced prolonged violent clashes in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria. At the centre of the conflicts are differences over rights and access to water and land resources in the region. These clashes are not new, however, since 2018 more than 2000 people have been killed.

5. Implications of human security issues on development in Nigeria

Human security does not simply refer to the questions of survival alone but it also refers to the basic needs of life, e.g. access to clean water. Moreover, it is concerned with the issues related to the quality of life. The goals of *freedom from fear* and *freedom from want* may well be accomplished only through the protection of the em-

powerment structure of human security. This will promote the growing quality of life with honesty. This supports an open, detailed, people-oriented system. Nevertheless, unequal political, social and economic systems still endanger human security in Nigeria. The fragmentation process of social groups, economic systems, and political structures threatens human security at every step.

Civil unrest and conflicts have made Nigeria insecure for many years after independence in 1960. As shown further on, the security of many Nigerians is endangered by poverty, unemployment, hunger, health hazards, ecological degradation and discrimination. These sources of insecurity need to be addressed holistically. It is essential to focus on human security to focus on a wider development agenda. Piecemeal strategies and initiatives will not be enough and a detailed development strategy is required. It is already known that there are connections between human security and human development, which are closely related.

Economic security is also of paramount importance. Any progress can be made without economic resources. Economic security relies on stable, frequent and sufficient wages, earned jobs for every competent person and the optimum level of the country's population. Economic insecurity is characterised by poverty, unemployment, inequality, and undue population growth of the country concerned. Even the world's largest developed countries face the challenges of poverty and unemployment. Nigeria is seriously threatened by the fact that more than half of her population is required to make both ends meet on the meagre income of less than two US dollars (2 USD) a day. One of the root causes of poverty in Nigeria is inequalities in wealth distribution. Another cause is unemployment and underemployment which young people in Nigeria are suffering bitterly. The consequences of these signs of economic insecurity in Nigeria are seen in the Nigerian social development situation in terms of inflation, unemployment, and population rise.

It should be remembered that since many Nigerians live in poverty, their plight is so severe that it is impossible to motivate them. The prosperity of the people is unlikely without the eradication of poverty. Non-empowerment of people implies that development is thwarted. Despite growth and prosperity all avenues of development remain blocked. Extreme poverty dynamics prohibit the participation of the

Nigerian community in developing the mechanisms to prepare, execute and track poverty reduction policies and programmes. The indexes of poverty in Nigeria are various. Poverty is untiringly debated both locally and internationally but it has endured. The involvement of the people and their empowerment are both obstructed by poverty. It is hindered the promotion of moral dignity. People's expertise, knowledge history and creativity cannot be used to the maximum for development purposes (*Nigeria…*, 2000).

The implication of unemployment in the social development of Nigeria is noticed in the increase in prostitution. The unemployed do not find anything to do, cannot find any gainful employment and this leads them to other paths. Many of them find it easy to fall prey to the luring prostitution business, especially the females. They venture into the sex trade in order to earn for living and maintain their lives. Some of these sex workers have contracted AIDS. Some of them have undergone many abortions (Ishola 2008). Even among university students, it is common to see young girls "hustle" (a niche in Nigeria given to the term prostitution) to survive and pay school fees. Many lecturers also engage in "sex for grade" within the Nigerian university system.

The effect of insecurity on social development is seen in the rising drug trafficking trend. In the area of drug trafficking, unemployed youth are made to work. They trade on drugs, primarily hard drugs, e.g. cocaine, smuggled from other countries. Some of them use their buttocks and other body parts to conceal the drugs to avoid authorities. This is a dangerous business, and this criminal activity brings some to prison and includes them in violent clashes. Because of that the societal system is vitiated. Another implication of unemployment in Nigeria is that unemployment has caused the growth in the incidents of armed robbery in Nigeria. The incidents of highway robbery, bank robbery, and similar incidents have increased to a large number. The kidnapping of children is on the rise. Extorting money with the threat of arms and weapons is the activity that has increased due to the growth in unemployment in Nigeria (Englama 2001). Another implication of unemployment on social development is the increase in false religion and fake pastors. Today, due to unemployment many youths resorts to becoming fake Pentecostal pastors who uti-

lised magical powers and sometimes lies and deceits to demonstrate miracles in other to attract people to them. This leads to the situation in which new churches are permanently created. Most of the pastors are there to make money. They propagate a pseudo-religion. They frighten people just to get money.

The implications of pollution, modernisation, urbanisation, and industrialisation are noticed in the lack of integrated development. There was a lack of unity, cohesion, and integration in the social structure. The country is required to bring growth and utility through the vehicle and channel of development. The social implications have been the change in the lifestyle of the Nigerians. This change has given rise to the change in the pattern of social behaviour. The elements related to the sense of oneness in the units of the social environment. The result is the loss of the indicators of social development in Nigeria, in particular, the components of the development of the country (Anago 2002).

The first implication of violence on social development in Nigeria is that social cohesion is decreasing and armed conflicts continue to shake the social framework violently. The second implication of violence is that ethnic clashes continue to disrupt the law and order in the country. The third implication of violence is in the division of Nigerian society on religious loyalties, in particular, the divide between the North and South. The fourth implication of violence is that the political conditions remains under various tensions and that leads to the social and political instability. The fifth implication is that the continuous violence in Nigeria has affected the economic growth and development of the county adversely.

The mismanagement of the environment has an impact on the economic development of Nigeria. It is noticed that the petroleum and gas industry is estimated to cover about 97% of the Nigerian gross domestic product (GDP) (Asuz 2000). There was increased exploitation of oil on the land in the Niger Delta due to the results of over-population and increased demands for more diversity of production. This exploitation of the energy and oil industry has been accompanied by inadequate attention to the proper use of environment and instability in the eco-system. The environmental mismanagement, in turn, has resulted in environmental insecurity in Nigeria. The socio-political impact of the environmental insecurity is on the economy of

the country is enormous. Environmental mismanagement leads to a fall in output and productivity. This fall in production results in the people's and the nation's capacity-generating income decline. This has negatively affected the ability of the economy to generate increased unemployment and there are inadequate industrial materials (Asuz 2000).

6. Conclusions

Nigeria is among the world's 27 poorest countries, according to the United Nations Development Programme. Poverty has been on the rise in the past decade, and now more than half of Nigerians live on less than 1 USD a day. However, despite the enormous problems in the social sectors, they have not received the same priority in policy reforms as other sectors have. For example, education and health spending have declined sharply as a share of the federal budget since the mid-1990s. It is a fact that as a nation Nigeria remains economically, politically and institutionally weak. Nigeria's dismal per capita income, shaky industrial base, and almost non-existent non-oil income generation have contributed to the weak economy and unstable governance. Underdevelopment is a national problem in the country. The human security challenges have deprived Nigeria of political stability and peace. However, due to a wealth of oil and human resources, Nigeria still has the potential to become the best African economy. However, years of mismanagement and social division have paralysed the giant of Africa.

Many Nigerians often look to the federal government for the solutions to all problems. However, they also realise that the government does not work well. They distrust politicians (and the military) and think that most if not all politicians are driven purely by self-interest. People believe that the system provides no accountability for local government authorities. They see corruption as a complex issue – one that stems from poverty and greed – and many see it as a major moral issue. People in the Delta refer to the "legitimate" constitution of Nigeria, which allowed each region to retain 50% of its revenue. They complain that before the discovery of oil, when the sources of revenue were cocoa, oil palm, and groundnuts, there was no push to divide the pot equally.

In almost every discussion Nigerians complains about policy implementation and lack of continuity in policy formulation is paramount. They are cynical about the new programmes the government announces because they have seen so many failures. They believe in expanded private participation in key sectors but are wary of full privatisation because they think assets will be sold for far less than their true value. They see education as critical, not only for development but also for the preservation of the nation. Nigerians speak a lot about the lack of patriotism and the tendency of their compatriots to identify themselves with ethnic or religious groups rather than with the nation. There is a deep sense of loss of values over the past 50 years. People feel that greed, lack of trust, high regard for wealth, and an erosion of traditional cultures and values characterise Nigerian society.

The success of Nigeria's economic re-engineering, therefore, depends on the government's ability not only to push through macroeconomic reforms but also to address deep-rooted socio-political issues. These issues have emerged as formidable barriers to the realisation of any future president of Nigeria.

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