

URBANIZATION AND PARENTING: THE REFLECTION ON NATIONAL INSECURITY

By

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Abstract

This study focuses on urbanization and parenting and its reflection on national insecurity in Nigeria society. The study made use of structured questionnaire to collect information from the respondents. The study randomly selected 100 respondents from four Local Government Areas in Oyo town: Atiba, Oyo West, Oyo East and Afijio Local Government Areas. Simple random sampling was adopted to select 100 respondents for the study. Simple percentage was used to analyze the data. The responses from the respondents show that most of the crime rates emanate from the cities and high rate of insecurity are well noticed in the cities than the rural areas. It was noticed that poor parenting, poor leadership and high rate of unemployment are the major contributing factors to incessant National Insecurity Lapses. It was therefore recommended among others for the parents to wake up to their responsibilities so as to train up their children in the legit way to behave in the society; Government are admonished to see to the security of lives and property as their major engagement in the office and strive to provide jobs for the youths.

Key words: Urbanization, Parenting, Population and Crime rate, and National Insecurity.

Introduction:

The only consistent experience in human life is change. Society keeps on changing with time and season. A community with few numbers of people keeps on growing through reproduction and with its attendant social facility growth. A growth in a community to become a rural populace might be in terms of biological reproduction or influx of people from one area to the growing area. It is obvious that human populations have tended to increase over time. This is noticed as more people were born, small groups of individuals found reasons to come together to form groups and, with the advent of agriculture, small sedentary communities are formed. A small number of these settlements grew into what we now call cities (Encyclopedic Entry, 2022). This kind of growth often corresponds with a shift from one way of organizing labour to another.

Incremental growth in the rural area in terms of human and social amenity transform the rural into urban. The mass movement of people from rural to urban settings and the consequential physical changes is what is regarded as urbanization. An Urbanized city is known to play multifaceted functions in all society. They are regarded as the heart of technological development and economic growth of many nations, while at the same time serving as a breeding ground for poverty, inequality, environmental hazards, social vices, communicable diseases and high rate of insecurity.

Truly a place is urbanized through influx of people from rural to urban, but it is noteworthy that each person comes from different family background, the composition of which makes the urban. The virtue and moral grade of a given society is directly traceable to the background in parenting of individuals constituting the society. Parenting or what is otherwise known as child rearing promotes and supports the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Encyclopedia Britannica defines parenting as the process of raising children and providing them with protection and care in order to ensure their healthy development into adulthood.

Critically looking into the situation of dwindling Nigerian economy, there is a great challenge to the efficiency of parenting roles in Nigeria society, most especially in the urban. Geometric inflation of prices of goods and services on daily basis has made parenting roles difficult in most of Nigerian society. Parents are failing in their roles just as a result of their inability to do the needful in the family. This laxity has greatly reflected in the upbringing of the children in the society. Parents are lacking parental discipline grips on their children because they cannot thereby reserve little or no reference to the control and order of their parents.

The quality of every nation is a direct reflection of the quality of her citizens and the quality of her citizens is determined primarily by the quality of the families they come from and the quality of families depends on the quality of parents (Thursday, August 31, 2016). This scenario is becoming a complicated one as the children that are ill-natured become parents that give birth to defective home training stuff. That is why there is need for parents to be deliberate about their responsibility. There is need for character re-orientation and it must begin from our homes built by role model parents. Effective parenting is tantamount to creating the next generation of what the society will become in the nearest future. A child in a family is not merely a child in that family, but a future citizen of the country. The role of parents is seen as a service to society. Parents thereby need to establish a channel of positive communication with their children, something that is missing at the moment (Sisodia, 2017).

There is direct link between parents' laxity and the level of decadence in our society. The Guardian (April, 21 2022) acclaimed that the task of raising children in today's globalized and technological age could be likened to that of raising sheep among wolves. It takes healthy families to raise healthy society. Poor parenting has spiked up all sorts of moral decadence ranging from corruption, terrorism, ritual killings, kidnapping, assassination, drug abuse, child trafficking to cybercrimes. Everybody, both the citizens and the foreigners begin to feel insecure as a result of high level of moral decadence in the society. Parents should ensure their children are groomed domestically, socially and spiritually, as the effects of those will reflect on peace and tranquility of the nation (Vanguard, Oct 1, 2015).

Without an iota of doubt, urban centre is equipped with different social amenities that attract people to settle and work in the area. It holds greater prospects in terms of mobility of labour and opportunities, better infrastructures for more comfortable living, and greener pasture for its residents. Examples of urban cities are Lagos, Ibadan, Abuja, etc. The concept of urbanization in some developed countries of the world is known to be hubs for civilizations and culture and with their unquestionable potentials; they are expected to offer employment, shelter, stability, prosperity, security, social inclusion and more equitable access to these services. All these make lives safer, healthier, sustainable and more convenient (Udeuhele, 2018).

Urban centers comprise of heterogeneous individuals from different home background. The reflection of this is the outcome of the behavior the individuals would be displaying in the cities where they find themselves. Due to lack of proper execution of civil laws, most especially in a developing country like Nigeria, more than average individuals in the urban cities engage themselves in different forms of immoralities and all sort of crimes and violence. Violence has reached record levels in many cities in Africa, most especially in Nigeria, and has become a critical threat to the security of urban dwellers and to productivity and development. Life is bearing a different experience to people (Moser, 2004). On daily basis, there are high records of kidnapping, raping, abductions, ritual killings, herdsmen/farmers' clashes, ethnic conflict etc.

As a result of poor parenting in the country, the perpetrators are operating as if they are not from a parent that can call them to order. The inherent developing nature of Nigeria in the area of bad leadership seems to grant the perpetrators freedom to do and undo. The issue of insecurity in Nigeria has become something of grave concern to all well-meaning citizens most of who continue to wonder how the control at such a dastardly situation where no one is safe; and worse still, rather than abate, the problem is escalating and now totally out of control (The Guardian, 29 April, 2022).

When a problem affects a large number of people, we must look beyond individuals to social structures – the larger economic, political, and social patterns of a society, we cannot solve the problems of a society that is structurally flawed by changing individuals one at a time. The challenge cannot be resolved successfully by an individual, but with modernistic social approaches that is strong enough to trigger a paradigm shift among the populace, that can feed them with hope and dreams that are far better than for them resorting to violence (The Guardian, July 08, 2021). The paper tried to investigate the link between parenting and urbanization in the trend of insecurity in Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Nigeria society is becoming uneasy and unbearable as a result of incessant rate of insecurity: Banditry, Kidnapping, ritual killing, ethnic clashes, herdsmen/farmers' clashes

and all sort of violence. The scenario is mostly found in the so called cities of the country. The instances make life uneasy and unsafe for everyone. The expectation of the society to see parents curbing the menace through parenting influence is vague and lackadaisical attitude of leaders endanger the resultant insecurity in the country. The paper therefore tried to investigate the populace about their opinion on the issue of urbanization and parenting as it has to do with present insecurity cases in the country.

Research Questions

1. What is the comparative crime rate between rural and urban cities in Nigeria?
2. Is there link between National Security Lapses (NSL) and parenting in Nigerian societies?
3. What are the symbiotic effects of bad leadership and dwindling economy on the state of insecurity in Nigeria?

Methodology

The study adopted survey research method and structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Simple random sampling was employed to randomly select 100 respondents in Atiba, Oyo East, Oyo West and Afijio local government areas of Oyo State. Twenty-five respondents were randomly selected in each of the Local Government Area. Data collected from the respondents were analyzed using frequency counts and percentage to answer the research questions.

Results

Table I: Distribution of respondents by sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	45	55%
Female	55	45%
Total	100	100%

Table I described the nature of sex component of the respondents: there were 45 male which is 45% and 55 females which is synonymous to 55%. The sum total of male and female are 100.

Research question I: *What is the comparative crime rate between rural and urban cities in Nigeria?*

Table II: Comparative crime rate between rural and urban cities in Nigeria

SN	Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	There are recurrent crime scenes in the cities than the rural areas	40	40%
2.	Many city dwellers have no family link in the city.	25	25%
3.	Criminals prefer cities to rural areas	10	10%
4.	Most crime news on social media emanate from cities	10	10%
5.	Population in the cities allow for unscrupulous elements	15	15%
	TOTAL	100	100%

The report of the Table II reveals that, though there are crimes cases in the rural areas, yet the rates of crime in the urban centers are alarming. 40% of the respondents affirmed it that there are more recurrent crime scenes in the cities than the rural. Overall response of the respondents show that criminals prefer cities and most crime news are originated from the cities. It can therefore be inferred that there is high rate of crime in the cities than the rural areas.

Research Question 2: *Is there link between National Security Lapses (NSL) and parenting in Nigerian society?*

Table 3: Link between National Security Lapses (NSL) and Parenting in Nigeria society

SN	Items	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Many children owe no apology to anybody to do and undo, even their parents.	20	20%
2.	Nigeria economic challenges have reduced parenting roles	30	30%
3.	Poor parenting can pave way for crime cases in the society	15	15%
4.	Most of the thugs around have little or nothing to do with their parents	15	15%
5.	Most parents don't know how their children are surviving	20	20%
	TOTAL	100	100%

From Table 3, the submission of the respondents shows that the so called crime in the society is as a result of poor parenting. Many miscreant individuals in the society lack parental control 20%, while economic hustles have made many parents to neglect their parental roles (30%). In an attempt to dodge parental responsibilities, many children don't have any link or dealing with their parents for donkey years. Larger percentage (35%) of the respondents attest to the claim that most of the thugs in the society do not have anything to do with their parents right from their youthful age. It is therefore affirmed that security lapses in the society is in consonance with the poor parenting roles.

Research question 3: *What are the symbiotic effects of bad leadership and dwindling economy on the state of insecurity in Nigeria?*

Table 4: Symbiotic effects of bad leadership and dwindling economy on the state of insecurity in Nigeria

SN	Items	Frequency	Percentage(%)
1.	Bad leadership in Nigeria aggravate high rate of insecurity.	25	25%
2.	Governments are not up to the task in the area of security discharge.	20	20%
3.	Poor economy has made many Nigerians to engage themselves in illegal means of living	20	20%
4.	It is true that idle hands are the devil's workshop	15	15%
5.	High rate of unemployment contribute skyrocketing crime rate	20	20%
	TOTAL	100	100%

From Table 4, it was noticed from the response of respondents that the high rate of insecurity in Nigeria is traceable to bad leadership in Nigeria, 25% of the respondents' opinions are in support of this. It was discovered from the views of the respondents that Nigeria government is not up to the task when it comes to the issue of National Security. That is why many causes of insecurity are abounding on a daily basis. It was confirmed from the respondents that poor economic condition in Nigeria is another factor contributing to high rate of insecurity. Above 55% of the respondents were of the opinion that due to poor economic situation in Nigeria, so many Nigerian youths have engaged themselves in illegal means of living which further endanger insecurity cases in the Country. As a result of high rate of unemployment in the country, many youths in particular have engaged themselves in fast means of making ends meet like Yahoo boys, Banditry, Kidnapping, ritual killing, robbery etc. It is thereby deduced that bad leadership and dwindling economy are contributing factors to high rate of insecurity in Nigeria.

Conclusion

High rate of insecurity has become a great threat to every Nigerian today: both poor and rich. Alarming rate of daily crime cases has made the country a dangerous zone for living. From the findings of this study, it was discovered that comparatively, the rate of insecurity and daily crime rate is far greater in the urban centers than the rural. Heterogenic nature of individual involved in the cities, vis-a-vis poor parenting, bad leaders and high rate of unemployment are contributing factors. It was noticed that many homes have forgone their parental responsibilities, leaving the fate of their children for nature to nurture. This has turned many youths to become dangerous vessels in the society. Poor governance to cater for security issues and lack of employment for the youths have licensed many of the youths to release themselves to different criminal practices in the society.

Recommendation

Urbanization is a process and in this era of modernization, every society is clamouring to be modernized or urbanized. It is good to note that urbanization is not synonymous to criminality or insecurity. To guide against this, the following were recommended:

1. Society must give serious attention to the need for each parent to discharge their parental roles in such a way to create conducive atmosphere for the society.
2. There is the need to inculcate the right values in children and ensure they learn many social and interpersonal skills that would make them behave well both at home and in the society;
3. Government is at the helm of general affair of the society, she should take the issue of security as a priority and deal mercilessly with whosoever that is indulging in any practices that can cause insecurity cases in the society.
4. Government needs to take the issue of youth employment very seriously, to guide against our youths becoming dangerous vessels in devil's hands.
5. Government agencies, ministries of education and the media are to rise to the challenge of championing the character re-orientation campaign.

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