

Insecurity and Migration Pattern in the Contemporary Nigerian Society

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Abstract

One of the most glaring and much talked-about issues in Nigeria today is insecurity. The Nigerian society is greeted with several acts of insecurity almost on a daily basis throughout the country. This ugly trend has led to several crises in Nigeria in recent times, posing some threats to the entire masses. These crises arise as a result of insecurity in various facets, especially of lives, properties, foods, amongst a host of others. These forms of insecurity have endangered the value of lives in Nigeria. The timeline of the deadly attacks of the Boko Haram insurgents, religious, ethnic and political crises in Nigeria and her bordering countries during the last few decades is quite alarming. This paper primarily examined the impact of insecurity on migration pattern in the contemporary Nigerian society from 1994 to 2023. The study adopted quantitative approach. Based on the ex-post facto research design, the study applied some descriptive statistical techniques such as the normality distribution test and ordinary least square estimations. The study discovered some of the causes of insecurity such as unemployment/joblessness, poor leadership, porous nature of the borders, and so on. Some of the effects of insecurity include underdevelopment, poverty, hunger, and so on. The study revealed security threat to be one of the factors leading to the high rate of international migration affecting the country in modern times. This paper recommends amongst others that government should provide a proper security/ surveillance measures especially within the border territories to monitor and combat the menace of irregular migrations and its attendant consequences. Furthermore, for the Nigerian State to be safe, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has to be efficient in her duties in monitoring the pattern of migration, and also needs the cooperation of the sister's organizations, as it relates to socio-economic development and security functions in the country.

Keywords: Insecurity; Security; Uncertainty; Migration; Nigeria

Introduction

Insecurity is becoming synonymous with Nigeria, as daily incidents of insecurity are reported. Even more troubling is the perception that the Nigerian government either lacks the capability to address this issue or is unwilling to do so for unknown reasons (Ozoigbo, 2019). This paper aligns with previous works in urging the country's leadership to fulfill its responsibilities by outlining the causes and effects of insecurity and offering solutions. It emphasizes the importance of technical education programs, which equip young people with skills for self-employment upon graduation. Additionally, the paper calls for the restructuring of the country to ensure harmonious coexistence among all regions, thereby minimizing insecurity.

The influx of migrants into any country is increasingly seen as a foundational threat to internal security, bringing issues such as crime, trafficking, and terrorism (Castle, Dehaas & Miller, 2014). Since the 9/11 attacks in the United States, internal security has garnered significant public attention globally (Kettle, 2004; Gabriel, 2006). Wojteaszeky (2009) described

internal security as a crucial state function aimed at eliminating or reducing threats to the constitutional system, law, and order, while also protecting the public interests of society's members. Insecurity, impacting various aspects of human life, has been interpreted in different ways based on its effects on individuals. Common descriptors of insecurity include a lack of safety, danger, hazard, and uncertainty; lack of confidence, doubt, insufficient protection, and instability. All these terms point to a state of vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property, or livelihood. Beland (2005) defined insecurity as "the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection," signifying a lack of freedom from danger. This definition mirrors the situation of Nigerians dealing with the influx of migrants in their country.

Ojukwu, Nwagbo and Nzube (2020) posited that migration has been an integral part of human history, involving families, villages, and nation-states. It dates back to the earliest existence of humans, particularly during times of famine when people sought food, or when individuals desired independence and

separation from the crowd. Nearly all individuals and nation-states have some history of migration, both internal and international. The unification of Nigeria into one indivisible geographical entity and the Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution allows every citizen, regardless of background, to live anywhere in the country. Migration is influenced by “push” and “pull” factors, which either drive people away from their current residence or attract them to new locations. These factors include better livelihood opportunities, famine, and drought, with pull factors like improved job opportunities and political and religious freedom (Garba & Ishaya, 2023).

The International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2009) defined a migrant as someone who voluntarily moves from their place of origin to a new destination for personal reasons, intending to establish residence without being forced. Stark (2019) further explains migration as a process where one or more family members leave their household for varying periods to contribute to its wellbeing. Migration to southwestern and southeastern Nigeria is often a response to climatic conditions and the availability of better opportunities,

such as abundant rainfall and economic prospects, compared to the northern regions. Conversely, Yoruba and Igbo people also migrate to northern Nigeria to engage in trade and vocational work to improve their livelihoods. However, increased population and ethnocentrism have led to significant harm to migrants, especially within the country. Numerous conflicts in Nigeria have been fueled by migration, such as the Maitatsine riot in Kano in 1980, Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast, and ethnic clashes between Hausa and Yoruba in the Southwest and between Igbo and Hausa traders in the Southeast.

Jubrin (2019) stated that migration can be internal or international. Internal migration explains the movement of individuals within same geographical territory which in this case can be from rural to urban or for instance, from Lagos to Abuja, while international or external migration has to do with the crossing of borders or international boundaries such as Cameroon to developed countries (International Organization Migration, 2014:4). About 1billion migrants are around the world presently not residing in their nation state of origin (International Federal Red Cross and Red Crescent, 2012) as

these migrants around the globe can make up a 6th nation state after the order of China, Indian, United States of America (USA), Indonesia and Brazil (Martin & Widgren, 2022:3) as people tend to move from a particular place to another for various reasons best known to them also being an essential part of man's nature (Adeola & Fayomi, 2016:1).

The main focus of this paper is to interrogate how insecurity in Nigeria has resulted in certain migration pattern in the country. The oil boom in Nigeria during the 1970s and 1980s attracted many immigrants from neighboring West African countries (Adeola & Fayomi, 2012:2). Nigeria shares borders with Cameroon to the east, Chad to the north, and Benin Republic to the southwest. These largely unprotected and economically advantageous porous borders pose a challenge to Nigeria, threatening its socio-economic development and security (Abiodun, 2015). While this movement is seen as promoting peace, unity, and trade among West African states, leading to economic growth (Nwagwugwu et al., 2015), it also requires careful management.

The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) plays a crucial role in

managing these migration activities. Due to limited socio-economic development and other factors, emigration has become common among Nigerian graduates, experts, and hustlers seeking better opportunities. Many hustlers leave the country through these porous borders (Akinyemi, 2013). For Nigeria to benefit from international migration like developed countries do, the NIS must effectively manage both emigration and immigration patterns, contributing to the country's socio-economic development and security. Proper management by the NIS can improve the quality of life and enhance security, as it acts as the nation's gatekeeper (Ministry of Interior, 2016; Evans, 2016:12). This study focuses on the role of the Nigerian Immigration Service in relation to Nigeria's socio-economic development and security concerning migration activities.

Theoretical Issues

Theories of insecurity aim to explain the causes, dynamics, and manifestations of insecurity within societies. Each of these theories offers a different lens through which to understand and address insecurity, highlighting the complexity and multifaceted nature of the issue. Here are some prominent theories:

i. **Human Security Theory:**

Human security theory is a conceptual framework that shifts the focus of security from the state to the individual, emphasizing the importance of protecting people from threats such as poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and violence. This theory broadens the concept of security beyond traditional state-centric views, emphasizing the protection of individuals. Recent reports from (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2022, p. X) highlighted the need for comprehensive approaches to mitigate the threats from climate change, health crises, and global inequality, especially COVID-19. The report also emphasized rising insecurity and distrust across nations, underscoring how traditional economic measures of success no longer guarantee people's sense of safety and well-being,

- **Key Elements:** Economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security.
- **Implications:** Policies should focus on protecting individuals from chronic threats like hunger, disease, and repression, as well as sudden disruptions in daily life.

ii. **Social Conflict Theory:**

This focuses on power imbalances, identity, and resources as drivers of societal conflicts. Based on the ideas of Karl Marx, this theory views insecurity as a result of social and economic inequalities and power struggles within society; it suggests that unresolved conflicts in geopolitics and institutional settings can lead to prolonged social struggle, like those seen in recent social justice and climate movements. For instance, social conflicts between religious communities are ongoing cultural and social challenges, as differing beliefs can lead to tensions and divisions within the society. These conflicts not only create friction between individuals but can also fragment communities, often complicating efforts to promote cohesion and understanding among diverse groups. Addressing these issues requires sensitive approaches to foster dialogue, tolerance, and mutual respect across religious and cultural boundaries (Oladiran, 2023).

Key Elements: Class struggles, resource distribution, power dynamics, social injustice.

- **Implications:** Addressing the root causes of social inequality

and injustice is essential to reducing insecurity.

iii. **Strain Theory:**

Developed by Robert K. Merton, this theory suggests that societal pressure on individuals to achieve socially accepted goals (like wealth or success) without providing equal means to achieve them leads to strain, resulting in deviant behavior, including crime. In societies that highly value success, such as wealth or status, individuals who lack access to legitimate means (like education or employment) may turn to alternative, often deviant path to reach these goals. Merton identified five responses to strain: conformity, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, and rebellion, each reflecting different ways people adapt to societal pressure. Levesque (2020) argues that the main focus of General Strain Theory is on one's negative relationships with other individuals. People may be aware of crime in their communities but often lack understanding of its causes, particularly when the offender is a minor. This gap in awareness can lead to confusion and concern, as the motives behind

youth crime may not be immediately clear or relatable.

- **Key Elements:** Societal goals, means of achievement, strain, deviance.
- **Implications:** Creating equal opportunities and reducing societal pressure can mitigate insecurity.

iv. **Routine Activity Theory:**

Proposed by Criminologists Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson, suggests that crime occurs when three elements converge in a specific setting: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and a lack of capable guardianship. This theory asserts that crime occurs when a motivated offender, a suitable target, and a lack of capable guardians converge in space and time. This theory focuses on how everyday patterns and routines can create opportunities for crime by bringing together these elements. Unlike other theories that focus on offenders' motivation, Routine Activity Theory emphasizes the situational factors that can make crime more or less likely in any given environment. Nutter (2021) opined that due to the emergence of the internet, stalking victimization has been rapidly

occurring in the realm of cyberspace, which is a disorganized environment for crime to occur.

Key Elements: Motivated offenders, suitable targets, lack of guardianship.

- **Implications:** Enhancing guardianship (e.g., through law enforcement or community watch programs) can reduce crime and insecurity.

v. **Environmental Security Theory:**

Security issues and the place of environmental agenda in it are still among the most controversial. The concept of “environmental security” has passed through several stages of development and formation due to the circumstances in the international arena (Markushina, Sboychakova & Tikhonova, 2024). A new wave of interest in environmental issues leads to a rethinking of environmental security in the world policy, the development of programs and the institutionalization of “green” movements.

Emerging from the work of multiple scholars and institutions, the environmental security theory

focuses on the relationship between environmental challenges (such as resource scarcity, climate change, and ecological degradation) and national and global security. It emphasizes the need for sustainable resource management and international cooperation to mitigate the risks posed by environmental changes, linking ecological stability with social and political peace. The theory examines the impact of environmental changes and resource scarcity on security. Major contributors to the theory include Richard Falk and Thomas Homer-Dixon.

- **Key Elements:** Environmental degradation, resource scarcity, climate change, migration.
- **Implications:** Addressing environmental issues and managing resources sustainably are crucial for maintaining security.

vi. **Psychological Theories:**

These theories focus on the individual and collective psychological factors that contribute to insecurity. It emphasizes on the internal mental and emotional states that contribute to feelings of insecurity. The theories focus on how individuals’

perceptions of threat, fear of failure, low self-esteem, and social comparison contribute to a sense of vulnerability. Key concepts include 'Maslow's hierarchy of needs' where unmet basic needs can lead to insecurity, and 'attachment theory', which links early relationships and feelings of safety or fear to later security concerns. Psychological theories of insecurity also examine how trauma, anxiety, and perception of control influence an individual's sense of security. Major contributors to the theories include Abraham Maslow (proposed that unmet basic needs like safety, love, esteem, etc, contribute to insecurity), John Bowlby (links early experiences of security or insecurity with later emotional stability) and Erik Erikson (also emphasized how unresolved conflicts at different life stages can contribute to feelings of insecurity). These theorists helped shape the understanding that psychological insecurity stems from both early development and ongoing social and emotional experiences. It is in this light that Forgas (2023) stated that insecurity is an inevitable part of being human. Although life is insecure for every organism, humans alone

are burdened by knowing that this is so.

- **Key Elements:** Fear, trauma, identity, group dynamics, aggression.
- **Implications:** Psychological support and community-building initiatives can help alleviate feelings of insecurity.

vii. **Political Economy of Insecurity:**

The political economy of insecurity examines how economic structures, policies, and power dynamics contribute to individuals' or communities' perceptions and experience of insecurity. It explores how inequality, poverty, and state practices, alongside global economic forces, generate and exacerbate insecurity. This theory links insecurity to the political and economic structures and policies that create and perpetuate inequality and marginalization. Karl Marx and Michel Foucault have influenced this area by analyzing how capitalists systems and state power shape social vulnerabilities, often leading to unrest, and systematic inequality. The theory states that insecurity is not just psychological, but deeply embedded in political and economic systems. In view of

this, Olawumi (2023) argued that there is an existential threats to most societies through natural competition between groups over limited resources. The political process in Nigeria exemplifies the absence of requisite national spirit, give oddity to human values and these idiosyncrasies inflame insecurity, violence, underdevelopment, corruption, and poverty in the nation.

- **Key Elements:** Economic policies, governance, corruption, neoliberalism.
- **Implications:** Reforming economic and political systems to be more inclusive and equitable can reduce insecurity.

viii. **Constructivist Theories:**

These theories focus on how societal norms, identities, and discourses shape perceptions of security and insecurity. It argues that security threats are not inherent but are constructed through discourse and social processes. According to this view, what is considered a threat depends on how states and individuals define and interpret situations. Alexander Wendt and other constructivist theorists emphasize that insecurity arises from the way actors perceive each other, often

influenced by historical, cultural, and social contexts rather than purely material factors. Iwuoha and Mbaegbu (2021) observed that neither ECOWAS Common approach nor do unilateral actions by individual countries provide stable and reliable frameworks for managing migration in West Africa. Both approaches are rooted in neo-realist and neo-liberal theories, leading to fragmented and contradictory migration systems that hinder effective transborder mobility, governance, and security.

- **Key Elements:** Social constructs, identity politics, discourse analysis.
- **Implications:** Changing the narratives and discourses around security can influence how security is perceived and addressed.

Review of Literature

Concept of Security and Insecurity

Security is defined as a state of peace, freedom, and a highly safe environment (Nwagwu *et al.*, 2015). According to Okechukwu, *et al.* (2017), security implies safety and denotes a place of safety. It represents the condition of being free from any form of danger or crisis. Security is characterized by the absence of violence and other terrorist activities within a specific geographical area.

Security is the absence of insecurity and refers to the condition or state of being protected from all forms of threats, which may manifest emotionally, psychologically, and physically. Literature suggests that security is one of the main challenges facing Nigeria (Otto and Ukpete, 2014). According to Ozoigbo (2019), a nation-state with security challenges is at significant risk and can be exposed to danger at any time. Security is crucial for a nation-state's socio-economic development and economic growth. Regarding this study on security and migration patterns, the security provided by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) is an essential "pull" factor for Nigeria to effectively benefit from international migration. This leads to the issue of Nigeria's porous borders.

The Cambridge English Dictionary (2022) defined insecurity as a feeling of not being safe, indicating that someone feels their living environment is unprotected. The Webster English Dictionary describes insecurity as the state or quality of being insecure. Meanwhile, the Collins English Dictionary defines it as a lack of confidence or assurance. Collectively, these definitions suggest that insecurity occurs when citizens feel unprotected by their government. Protecting lives and properties is the primary duty of any government, and failure to provide these services indicates a weak and irresponsible government.

Insecurity Threats in Nigeria

Security challenges have become a daily nightmare on every citizen of the country. This is majorly as a result of failure of the government in implementing severally stated insecurity curbing measures, and partly, the faults of the citizens in regard to agitations, conflicts, ethnicity and political preferences demonstrated by some individuals in the Nigerian contemporary society (Amadi, Enweruzor & Nlem, 2019). In Nigeria, some of the threats of insecurity include the following:

- **Boko Haram**, formally known as Jama'atul Ahlul Sunnah Li Da'awa Wal Jihad, was founded by Abubakar Yusuf in 2009 with the aim of establishing Islamic law in Nigeria. The organization's activities became particularly deadly under its military commander, Abubakar Shekau, who led numerous attacks on military, police, and other security agencies, as well as innocent civilians. Shekau's terrorist group caused significant loss of life and property worth millions of Naira in northeastern Nigeria. Currently, the military continues to combat Shekau's loyalists and members of the Islamic State of West African

Province in the Sambisa Forest in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

- **IPOB**, which stands for the Indigenous People of Biafra, is a terrorist organization led by Nnamdi Kanu. Since 2002, the group's activities have become increasingly violent, resulting in the deaths of many security personnel and civilians. Currently, the military is actively engaged in combat with this organization. The goal of IPOB is to liberate all Igbo lands and establish an independent republic. Their dreams failed as their members were equally killed by the security operatives in South Eastern Nigeria.
- **IMN**: The full meaning of this organization is the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, headed by Sheik Ibrahim Elzakzaky from Zaria. This group has engaged with military on several occasions into fighting that led to the death of thousands of innocent citizens. Sheik Ibrahim Elzakzaky has followers across Northern states of Nigeria. The aim of this organization is to Islamize the country by the backing of the Iranian's government. The

organization has lost some of its members during encounters with the Nigerian military in states such as Zaria (Kaduna), Abuja, and Potiskum in Yobe State, Nigeria.

- **Banditry and Kidnapping**: These are some of the recent security challenges facing Nigeria. Bandits are individuals who raid rural areas, steal valuables such as livestock, and sell them for money. Kidnapping involves abducting people, taking them to remote or unknown locations, and demanding ransom for their release. Initially, this activity was predominantly carried out by Fulanis living in rural areas, but it has now spread to every tribe and has become a lucrative business in many parts of the country.
- **Cybercrime**: Cybercrime is another significant security challenge in Nigeria, predominantly perpetrated by young individuals in urban areas known as "Yahoo Boys." These criminals use computers and the internet to steal money from people's bank accounts. Today, their activities have spread across all geo-political

zones of Nigeria, affecting everyone to some degree.

- **MOSSOB:** An abbreviation for the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta Region. This organization is headed by Mujahid Dokubu Asari. Their enraged activities are marked by launching many attacks on military bases, bunkering of petroleum pipelines, kidnapping of foreigners working with Oil Companies like Shell, Chevron, Mobil, Agip, Texaco etc. amongst others.

Challenges Facing Nigerian Borders

According to Ojukwu *et al.* (2020) the Nigerian immigration service was curved out of Nigeria police force with the aim of controlling illegal immigrants and emigrants flowing in and outside the country. Despite the numerous successes recorded in their field, there are some challenges facing their services and these include:

- a. **Large Size of the country and overpopulation:** Nigeria, as an independent nation, consists of about 37 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), with 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs). The country's large size, combined with its high population, makes it difficult for immigration officers and other security agencies to manage effectively. The rapidly growing population further exacerbates this issue, as the current number of security personnel patrolling the borders is insufficient to control the flow of migrants into the country.
- b. **Porous Border:** The country's borders are porous, allowing people to enter and leave at will. Both major and minor border points are poorly managed. Immigration officers cannot effectively control the flow of migrants, both legal and illegal, which enables undesirable individuals to move in and out of the country without proper monitoring. This porous nature of Nigeria's borders may have facilitated the infiltration of terrorist organizations such as ISWAP, Al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram.
- c. **Shortage of Manpower (Staff):** The number of staff to manage our borders is few, and this makes it difficult to have effective coverage of national borders.
- d. **Modern Equipment** such as CCTV Cameras, and other items that help security

personnel to discharge their duties effectively like communication gadgets are not adequate in most border areas of Nigeria.

e. Biased in Recruitment:

Majority of recruitments in the Nigeria Immigration Service are not based on merit, those that have zeal and willing to work are not recruited but only those from upper social classes are considered for recruitment and in turn this bring bad impression in the service.

f. Bribery and Corruption:

There is a serious scandal in recruitment, promotion and posting of staff, this situation has downgraded the status of immigration services.

Concept of Migration

Migration refers to the movement of individuals or groups from one country, locality, or place of residence to settle in another area. This concept encompasses the movement of people within a country (internal migration) or between countries (international migration). According to this definition, migration can be classified into two types: internal migration, which occurs within a country or state, and international migration, which involves movement between countries. A person engaged in either type of migration is known as a migrant.

Human migration, as defined by Wikipedia, is the movement of people from one place to another with the intention of settling permanently or temporarily at a new destination. Similarly, Lucky (2022) defined migration as the permanent or temporary movement of individuals or groups from one place to another, either within or outside a country.

Immigration and Emigration

Immigration refers to the process by which people move to a country where they are not native or where they do not possess citizenship in order to settle there, often for reasons such as better economic opportunities, political stability, or family reunification. Immigration has significant impacts on the sending and receiving countries, influencing demographics, economics, culture, and politics. On the other hand, in line with Forgas (2023), emigration referred to the act of leaving one's country or region to settle in another. This process is often driven by various factors, including economic opportunities, political stability, family reunification, or escaping adverse conditions. Emigration has significant impacts on both the country of origin (sending country) and the destination country (receiving country). Understanding emigration is crucial for developing policies that address the needs and challenges of both sending and receiving countries, fostering sustainable development and social cohesion.

Migration Pattern

Migration patterns refer to the movement of people, animals, or other organisms from one place to another, often on a regular basis. These patterns can be driven by various factors, including environmental conditions, economic opportunities, social factors, or biological needs. Some examples of migration pattern include human migration and animal migration. Nevertheless, this paper focuses on human migration pattern. Understanding immigration is crucial for developing policies that balance the benefits and challenges associated with the movement of people.

Human Migration Patterns

- i. **Economic Migration:**
Movement of people from areas with fewer job opportunities to regions with better economic prospects. This can be internal (within a country) or international.
- ii. **Seasonal Migration:**
Temporary movement often related to agriculture, where workers move to areas where labor is needed for planting or harvest.
- iii. **Forced Migration:**
Displacement due to conflict, natural disasters, or persecution, such as refugees and internally displaced persons.
- iv. **Urbanization:** Migration from rural areas to cities in search of

better living standards and opportunities.

Types of Insecurity

Insecurity can manifest in various forms, each with distinct characteristics and impacts. Understanding these various types of insecurity helps in developing targeted strategies to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of individuals, communities, and nations. Based on the insecurity theories stated above, below are some common types of insecurity:

a. Personal/Human Insecurity: It involves feelings of vulnerability, uncertainty, or anxiety about one's well-being, identity and lack of safety on an individual level. It's the mother of other types of insecurities such as existential insecurity (fear of death, uncertainty, and meaninglessness), economic insecurity (financial instability, unemployment), physical insecurity (health threats, violence, and crime), psychological insecurity (anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem), and emotional insecurity (fear of abandonment, loss, or rejection). Human insecurity is often caused by trauma or past experience, socio-economic factors, political instability, health issues or disability, uncertainty or unpredictability.

b. Economic Insecurity: This refers to the uncertainty and instability of an individual's or community's economic situation. It is exemplified in income insecurity (unstable or low income), employment insecurity (job loss, unemployment, precarious work), debt insecurity (overwhelming debt), financial insecurity (insufficient savings, assets, lack of access to financial resources, economic inequality), housing insecurity (unaffordable or unstable housing), food insecurity (difficulty assessing nutritious food). It is caused by unemployment or underemployment, rising cost of living, debt, government policies, etc.

c. Food Insecurity: This means the uncertainty or inability to consistently access sufficient, nutritious, and culturally acceptable food for an active and healthy life. Some examples include chronic food insecurity, transitory food insecurity, seasonal food insecurity and hidden hunger. It is often caused by poverty, unemployment, conflict and displacement, economic instability and inflation, etc.

d. Health Insecurity: This is the lack of access to adequate healthcare and protection from health threats. It also refers to the uncertainty or fear of

losing health or access to quality healthcare, affecting an individual's physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Examples include the spread of diseases, lack of medical facilities, inadequate health services, and pandemics.

e. Environmental Insecurity: It refers to the vulnerability of individuals, communities, or ecosystems to environmental degradation, climate change, or natural disasters, threatening their well-being. Environmental insecurity arises from environmental threats that impact living conditions and safety. Examples are climate insecurity, natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes), climate change, pollution, resource depletion, deforestation and land degradation, biodiversity loss, and water insecurity. Some indicators of environmental security include greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation rates, water quality indices, air pollution levels, biodiversity loss metrics, natural disaster frequency and severity, and climate change vulnerability indices.

f. Political Insecurity: It involves the uncertainty or fear of instability, conflict, or repression within a political system, threatening individuals' or groups' safety, rights, and well-being. Examples are political/electoral violence, regime

instability, human rights abuses or lack of political rights/freedom, terrorism, conflicts (inter-state or intra-state), authoritarianism, corruption, government instability, social unrest (protests, demonstrations). It is usually occasioned by weak institutions, power struggles, ideological extremism, social exclusion, economic inequality, historical grievances among other factors.

g. Cyber Insecurity: This refers to the vulnerability of individuals, organizations, and nations to cyber threats, compromising the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of digital information and systems. It involves threats and vulnerabilities in digital environments. Some examples include cyber-attacks, data breaches, online fraud, cloud security risks, identity theft, etc.

h. Psychological Insecurity: It involves mental and emotional instability. Examples are anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and fear of failure or rejection.

i. Social Insecurity: Social insecurity is a common phenomenon where individuals feel uncertain or anxious about how others perceive them, leading to difficulties in social interactions. This feeling can be overwhelming and may stem from various sources, including past experiences, social conditioning, or

even biological factors. Examples include discrimination, social exclusion, fear of rejection/embarrassment/being judged, lack of social support systems, homelessness, etc.

j. Cultural Insecurity: This means the perceived or actual threats to cultural identity and heritage. It is exemplified in cultural erosion, cultural identity crisis, acculturation stress, social exclusion or marginalization, cultural appropriation, globalization and cultural homogenization, loss of language and traditions, imposition of foreign cultures etc.

Push and Pull Factors of Migration

Push and pull factors are forces that can either motivate people to move to a new location or compel them to leave their current residence. They are those factors that either forcefully drive people to migrate or attract them to a new location. These factors can be economic, political, cultural, or environmental (Enyi & Oluleye, 2020). A push factor is a forceful condition related to the country from which a person migrates, often due to some problem that makes people want to leave. Push factors are conditions that drive people to leave their homes, often due to negative circumstances in their country of origin. Push factors can include various issues such as economic hardship, political instability, or environmental

challenges that compel individuals to move away from their current location. Further examples of push factors include insufficient job opportunities, limited prospects, primitive living conditions, desertification, famine or drought, political persecution or fear, inadequate medical care, loss of wealth, and natural disasters.

In contrast, a pull factor is related to the destination country and typically represents a benefit that attracts people to that place, such as better job opportunities, political stability, or a higher quality of life. Pull factors attract people to a new location. Examples of pull include job opportunities, better living conditions, political or religious freedom, enjoyment, educational opportunities, superior medical care, and security. When people decide to migrate, they are drawn to places that offer these attractive pull factors. Push and pull factors are often likened to the north and south poles of a magnet, representing opposing forces that influence migration decisions.

Empirical Literature

Amadi, Enweruzor and Nlem (2019) analyzed the impact of irregular migration and insecurity on the development of rural communities. The study suggests that Nigerian governments at all levels should bolster the economy to support small and medium-sized entrepreneurs and create job opportunities to reduce the desire for unauthorized migration. Additionally, countries should tighten

their migration laws to impose stricter and more severe penalties on those who facilitate or engage in irregular migration. Enhanced security and surveillance measures, especially along border areas, are also recommended to monitor and address the issue of irregular migration and its associated consequences.

Kanu, (2019) examined the relationship between the rising conflicts in Africa and the issue of migration, using the historical and hermeneutic methods of investigation. The study found that besides hunger, poverty, disease, and floods affecting many Africans and driving them to migrate within and outside the continent, insecurity plays a significant role in prompting Africans to leave their homelands. Also, the study found out that migration, in Nigeria especially, as in many parts of Africa, is strongly connected to religious and political violence.

Jibrin (2019), in studying international migration and the phenomenon of insecurity in Nigeria, adopted the ex-post facto research design taking the shape of a qualitative and quantitative research method in questionnaires form. The technique applied were administered the spearman's rank correlation and the chi-square and Crobach statistics. The results revealed that the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has some challenges and these challenges hinder the success of this agency in bringing socio-economic development into the Nigerian State However, for Nigeria to

benefit profitably from international migration, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has to be efficient in her duties and also needs the cooperation of the sister's organization, as it relates to socio-economic development and security functions.

Ozoigbo (2019) investigated security issue in Nigeria, analyzing its genesis, consequences, and panacea. The study found that addressing insecurity effectively requires sincerity of purpose and unwavering commitment from the country's leadership. Additionally, security should be a collective concern, involving both leaders and citizens, with everyone contributing to its maintenance. The government needs reliable and genuine information from the public, and it must ensure the safety of informants. Furthermore, the government should urgently listen to the people and promptly address all contentious issues contributing to insecurity, as responsible leadership fosters responsible followership.

Ojukwu et.al (2020) assessed ECOWAS treaty on migration, and challenges of internal security in Nigeria. The finding reveals that the internal insecurity challenges in Nigeria persist majorly because of the impacts of geopolitics that is an inseparable link to increasing migration/immigration inflow to Nigeria vis-a-vis the ECOWAS treaty on free movement. The study recommends the need for governments in the ECOWAS region to revisit the

free movement protocol to incorporate national interests.

Enyi & Oluleye (2020) evaluated migration and human security using a qualitative approach, with the primary objective of analyzing the impact of migration on human security with focus on pull and push factors of migration, economic effect of migration and the human security. One of the findings of the study is that maximizing migration benefits and sensibly sharing them require proper regulation as no sizeable country has developed without a large shift of population from farms to cities. But migration can bring numerous offsetting social ills and insecurity, if it is not properly managed with barriers or neglect. Based on the findings, it was recommended the government should include sensitization of citizens against illegal migration; government integration of immigrants to the host communities; Institutionalization of good governance. The conclusion and recommendation is that international migration, when regulatory frameworks are inadequate, can be the setting for large black markets that undermine labour standards, strained social services, and national security threats. But safe, orderly, and regular migration is an engine of global economic development.

Garba and Ishaya (2023) reviewed migration and insecurity in Nigeria. The study found out that porosity of Nigerian borders, bribery and corruption on the sides of officers

of immigration services are the root cause of such acts. Furthermore, the paper recommended the use of modern technology such as CCTV Cameras and recruitment of more personals in curbing insecurity and illegal migrations in Nigeria.

Gaps in Literature

Several studies have been conducted in the past and present on the phenomenon of migration and insecurity in Nigeria but all the scholars direct their discussion on the importance of internal migration to the economic development of Nigeria. But none of them paid attention or focused on the implication of phenomenon of insecurity situation on the migration pattern in the country. Secondly, none of the previous or most recent studies generated data up to 2023. However, the data used in this study dates up to the year, 2023. Thirdly, all the previous researches on the topic were analyzed based on primary data source, or a combination of both, but for more precise analysis, this paper is specifically based on secondary data source from the United Nations Global Migration Database and National Population Commissions. Therefore, this research attempts to bridge the gap in knowledge by relating insecurity trends to migration cycle in Nigeria, where migration is the dependent variable, and insecurity the

explanatory variable. The variation in the estimation techniques and procedure will go a long way in helping policy makers and those in government toward formulating policies that would aim at maintenance of adequate security within the borders of the country, and reduction of migration rate (particularly, emigration trends) resulting from security threats.

Methodology

The *ex-post facto* design was adopted for this research. The choice of this design was informed by the nature of the problem under study and the fact that the design seeks to find out the relationship between insecurity and migration pattern in the country. The adopted design agrees with other published works as reference points (Ugwuanyi, Okeke & Okeke, 2022). However, the descriptive-analytic and regression techniques were employed for the data analysis as the data were obtained from secondary sources. This research paper investigates into the correlation between insecurity and migration pattern in Nigeria from 1994 to 2023, using two variables namely Nigeria Terrorism Index (NTI) as a proxy for insecurity, while Net Emigration Rate (EMR) is used as a proxy for migration pattern.

Theoretical Frame Work of the Study

Based on the nature of this research for the Nigerian contemporary society, this study is anchored on John Burton

Theory. It is also known as Human Needs theory. John Burton's human needs theory is a foundational concept in conflict resolution and peace studies, emphasizing that certain basic human needs must be met for individuals and communities to achieve peace and security. The theory suggests that insecurity arises when fundamental human needs (such as security, identity, and recognition) are unmet. Conflicts and insecurity persist until these needs are adequately addressed. Some of the key aspects of Burton's Human Needs Theory include: Fundamental Human Needs, Understanding, Conflict and Unmet Needs, Human Needs vs. Interests, Conflict Resolution Approach, and Application in Policy and Practice.

Model Specification

The study adopts a single linear regression model for the analysis. Therefore, the statistical model is thus:

$$Y = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \mu \quad (3.2.1)$$

Where, Y represents the response variable (migration pattern), α_0 is the intercept, β_1 is the coefficient of the predictor variable (insecurity), μ is the error term.

Setting the model more appropriately, gives

$$EMR = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 NTI + \mu \quad (3.2.2)$$

Where NTI is the national terrorism index, and EMR is the net emigration rate.

Findings/Results

Table 4.1: Descriptive Statistic

Date: 07/04/24
Time: 22:19
Sample: 1994 2023

	EMR	NTI
Mean	5.813333	15.12667
Median	5.350000	15.40000
Maximum	10.40000	19.10000
Minimum	2.300000	10.10000
Std. Dev.	2.441697	2.635557
Skewness	0.313559	-0.176359
Kurtosis	1.885190	1.781199
Jarque-Bera Probability	2.045098	2.012356
Sum	174.4000	453.8000
Sum Sq. Dev.	172.8947	201.4387
Observations	30	30

Source: Author's compilation using E-views 10

The common sample method was used for the data set because both variables have similar number of observation. From the result presented in Table 4.1, the estimated skewness of net emigration which is 0.3135 and -0.1763 for national terrorism index both tend towards 0 which suggest that the distribution is normal, whereas, the variables' kurtosis shows that they are flat relative to the normal distribution. In a normal distribution, the mean, median, and mode are equal. Hence, looking at the values of the mean and

median in the above table also reveals normality in the distribution. For both variables, the p-values are greater than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis of normal distribution is accepted. The

Jarque-Bera is a parametric test of goodness-of-fit in a model. It tests for normality in the given series, and tending towards 2 further confirms the assertion.

Table 4.2: OLS Estimation of Migration Pattern

Dependent Variable: EMR

Method: Least Squares

Date: 07/04/24 Time: 23:08

Sample: 1994 2023

Included observations: 30

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
NTI	0.855791	0.067061	12.76134	0.0000
C	-7.131927	1.029188	-6.929662	0.0000
R-squared	0.853289	Mean dependent var	5.813333	
Adjusted R-squared	0.848050	S.D. dependent var	2.441697	
S.E. of regression	0.951793	Akaike info criterion	2.803402	
Sum squared resid	25.36548	Schwarz criterion	2.896815	
Log likelihood	-40.05103	Hannan-Quinn criter.	2.833286	
F-statistic	162.8519	Durbin-Watson stat	0.767986	
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Source: Author's compilation using E-views 10

From the table, both the intercept and the predictor variable are significant at 5% significance level. Also, assessing by their t-values, which are greater than 2 in absolute term shows their significant status. Thus, revealing that national terrorism index does impact on net emigration rate. Furthermore, the coefficients of determination, R-squared value of 0.8532 and the adjusted R-squared value of 0.8480 both reveal strong explanatory power of national terrorism index on the regressand. It proves that about 85% of the variations that occur in net

emigration is being explained by national terrorism index in the country.

Conclusion and Policy

Recommendations

Nigeria's terrorism index shows that terrorist activities have a significant effect on migration pattern in the Nigerian society with a t-value of 12.76134 and a p-value of 0.0000. This can be resolved if the government can provide a proper security/surveillance measures, especially within the border territories to monitor and combat the menace of

irregular migrations and its attendant consequences.

Today, Nigeria has one of the largest economies in Africa, but its economic growth has slowed due to low oil prices and reduced exports. Additionally, Nigeria has faced significant security issues in recent years, prompting the government to allocate substantial resources to address these challenges. Many of these problems stem from social issues like unemployment, poverty, porous borders, ethnic conflicts, and terrorism.

Every Nigerian citizen has a role in enhancing the effectiveness of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) for the socio-economic development of the country. Citizens should be vigilant and report any suspicious foreign individuals to the authorities. Hosting irregular migrants should be discouraged as it violates immigration laws. Additionally, Nigerians should educate their families and friends, especially emigrants, on the importance of investing in Nigeria, particularly those who are highly skilled. This would help to reduce the pull factor of migration.

The high levels of unemployment and poverty among Nigerian citizens have resulted in a rise in crime. Unfortunately, the previous administration was unable to address the economic challenges, leading to a significant wealth disparity and increased insecurity. While the government cannot create all the necessary jobs, it can develop essential

infrastructure, such as good road networks and reliable power generation and distribution, to help individuals create employment opportunities.

Porous borders contribute to increasing insecurity in Nigeria by allowing untracked individual movements and the easy smuggling of weapons. These weapons, coming from other countries, enable criminals, militants, and terrorist groups to arm themselves, destabilizing national security. Strengthening and closely monitoring border security would reduce the smuggling of weapons and illegal products, thereby decreasing the access of these groups to the firepower they need for their activities.

Ethnic conflicts have intensified in Nigeria due to tribal distrust, significantly contributing to national insecurity. Tensions are heightened by the southern region's calls for secession and northern herdsmen's movements, straining national unity. The government can leverage media and social networks to promote ethnic unity and mitigate these tensions.

Corruption and mismanagement among government officials have undermined democratic accountability and provoked citizen frustration due to the government's failure to provide good public services and basic amenities. This has led to widespread dissatisfaction and potential for violent activities. Despite Nigeria's rich resources, pervasive corruption prevents effective management and provision of infrastructure, resulting in

unfairness and inequalities. Mismanagement of public funds and national assets has hindered the country's growth and development. Addressing these issues through policy reforms is essential.

Finally, for Nigeria to be secure, the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) must effectively monitor migration patterns and collaborate with related organizations to support socio-economic development and security functions in the country.

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