

# NIU Journal of Social Sciences



**Nexus International University, Uganda.**

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## Editorial

This edition of *NIU Journal of Social Sciences* focuses on Development Administration and Social Psychology.

The first part of the Journal addresses issues in Development Administration such as Macroeconomic Uncertainty, Sustainable Development, Working Capital Management, Local Authority Development, Environmental Values, Sales Promotion and Pricing Strategy. It is argued in one of the papers that building collapses in Nigeria might be decreased if policymakers and the government focused more on the problem of upholding developmental bylaws, made sure that these laws are updated to reflect the global trend of urbanization, and so forth. It is therefore, suggested amongst others, that Local authorities should also set up guidelines to incentivize new developers to follow building regulations and bylaws, as well as to construct safety precautions to lessen the likelihood of collapses in Nigeria.

Papers in the second part are on Social Psychology. It is revealed in one of the papers in this section that there are a lot of predisposing factors that trigger marital dissolution among couples in the study area, but few of them were identified. It is recommended that couples should regularly attend seminars and workshops on topics related to marital harmony and conflict resolution. It is also suggested that uncensored languages should not be used among couples and the need of premarital counseling among couples is emphasized.

On the whole, this issue of *NIU Journal of Social Sciences* features many interesting research papers. Some of these papers are empirical in nature while others have theoretical base. Each of them focuses on one specific social and management problem or the other; trying to proffer solutions to them. Readers are therefore advised to make proper use of the ideas presented by the various authors.

### **Professor Oyetola O. Oniwide**

Nexus International University,  
P.O. Box 70773,  
Kampala, Uganda.  
editor@niu-journals.ac.ug

September, 2024.



# **Part One**

# **Development Administration**





## Impact of Macroeconomic Uncertainty on Economic Growth in Nigeria: 1985-2018

OLUWATOYOSI DEBORAH ADEKOYA  
Lagos State University of Education, Lagos State, Nigeria

**Abstract.** Macroeconomic uncertainty pertains to the inability to predict the future performance of the overall economy. It can be caused by volatile interest rates, unstable unemployment, and unpredictable interest rates. This situation can destabilize an economy which can lead to recession. The paper analyses the effects of macroeconomic variables on the economic performance in Nigeria. Utilizing the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method for econometric estimation, the paper considered yearly time series data of 5 variables; Unemployment rate, stocks traded, inflation, interest rates, and Gross Domestic Product, and examined their influence on economic growth. The findings revealed that when the four other variables are regressed against GDP, there is a negative correlation thus discouraging investment and making policy implementation difficult. However, there is a positive, though not statistically significant relationship between between GDP and interest rates when regressed solely against interest rates and stocks traded. In conclusion, the study shows that because of unpredictable economic conditions, policymakers may struggle to effectively implement growth-stimulating measures, potentially leading to economic downturns, reduced productivity, and hindered long-term growth prospects. This paper recommends that the importance of implementing strong and consistent economic policies to reduce uncertainty and promote stable and sustainable economic growth.

**Keywords:** Stock market, uncertainty, Inflation, OLS, and Economic Growth

### 1. Introduction

The efficiency of the stock market in carrying out its capital allocation functions determines the overall growth of an economy. Savings are mobilized by the stock market, which also assigns a greater share of them to companies with comparatively better

prospects as shown by their rate of return and degree of risk. This function is crucial because it allows capital resources to be directed by supply and demand pressures toward businesses that have comparatively high and rising productivity, which promotes economic growth and expansion (Beliaeva et al., 2020).

Macroeconomic uncertainty and financial stock market indicators are major determinants for developing and developed economies. Financial aspects are an impression of human conduct, alluded to as normal self-intrigue (Keswani, 2021). To this end, macroeconomics investigates the interrelationships of total monetary factors. Each individual tries to achieve a level of fulfillment by expanding products and enterprises or by apportioning assets or time to accomplish fulfillment yet there are restricted assets. Shortage and accessibility of products and ventures within a nation will mirror the level of monetary development. Therefore, high or low financial development can be measured by figuring the gross domestic product (GDP) of the nation concerned. The total national output that is, gross domestic product is a money-related measure of the market estimation of every single great and administration delivered in a period (quarterly or yearly) of time (Aremu, 2020).

Macroeconomic uncertainty is an economic indicator that determines the trajectory of any economy's stability. These macroeconomic uncertainty indicators include the unemployment rate, inflation rate, and interest rate. Unemployment is the state in which a person who is willing to work and able to work cannot find a job. As such, it surges the strength of economic growth through price stability. And on the preceding, inflation is seen as the continuous increase in the general prices of goods and services in a country over a given period, while the interest rate is regarded as the

proportion of a loan that is charged as interest to the borrower, typically expressed as an annual percentage of the loan outstanding. A share price is the price of a single share of several saleable stocks of a company. Stock prices can be defined as the highest amount an individual, firm, or government is willing to pay for the stock or the lowest amount it can be bought for (Caldara et al. 2016; Plakandaras, Gupta, and Wohar 2019)

The body of research demonstrates unequivocally that industrialized nations have investigated their stock market by mobilizing resources to promote economic development and progress (Demorguc-Kunt & Levine, 1996; Fatai & Bankole, 2013; Kavya & Shijin, 2020; Qamruzzaman & Wei, 2018). This is not the case in the Nigerian economy, where the capital market was given less thought and the money market was prioritized. Imoagwu, & Ezeanyej (2019) and Oboh et al. (2019) examined the impact of global economic policy uncertainties on Nigeria's export earnings and found that such uncertainties negatively affect domestic earnings. This highlights the country's vulnerability to external shocks. Furthermore, it is worthwhile to investigate the connection between stock markets and economic growth given their growing size and liquidity has a connection between uncertainty, macroeconomic variables, and share prices in all economies (Popp & Zhang, 2016). There are two schools of thought: the first maintains that the development of the stock market is crucial for economic progress, while the second does not. Christiano et al. (2014) contend that uncertainty shocks play a crucial role in driving business cycle dynamics. Levine and Zervos (1997) found that the liquidity of the stock market is crucial to economic expansion. However, as noted by Demirguc-Kunt and Levine (1996), higher liquidity can hurt corporate governance as a result of investors' myopia over market liquidity and diminish growth by lowering saving rates due to uncertainty about savings while Chugh (2016) proposed that due to the small and temporary nature of fluctuations in measured volatility, changes in uncertainty have minimal impact. Given these, this study aims to evaluate the evolution of the stock market and economic growth by looking at the long-term link between the variables as the stock market acts as a driving force and catalyst for realizing the vision, thereby aiding in the full diversification of the economy.

### 1.1 Statement of Problem

Studies on the relationship between economic growth and stock market performance have been very limited in emerging countries, especially Nigeria. Foreign

Direct Investment (FDI) is seen as a possible driver for economic growth and development in Nigeria (Ajayi, 2020). The relationship has proved controversial theoretically. For example, prior research has consistently concluded that there is a causal relationship between economic growth and stock market performance. Certain studies argued that the stock market's performance strongly stimulates economic expansion (Alom 2018; Fagbemi, Adeosun & Bello, 2022; Pan & Mishra 2018). Some have argued that the performance of the stock market hinders economic progress (Demirguc-kunt & Levine, 1996; Guru & Yadav, 2019; Nurudeen, 2009). According to Levine (1997), Nigeria's stock market is extremely illiquid and is unable to expand quickly enough to support the country's economic expansion. Nnaakee et al. (2024), claimed that although turnover ratio has an unusually strong positive relationship with economic growth, market value traded ratios and market capitalization have a negative relationship with it. These contradictory findings highlight the need for more analysis of the nature of the relationship between economic growth and stock market success, and this study is one of those studies.

Furthermore, earlier research only looked at a single composite metric, which does not provide a very thorough analysis of the stock market's performance. Because of this, their conclusions' applicability to the implementation of policy is severely empirically constrained. This is because the adoption of many distinct metrics for stock market performance may have provided a more comprehensive and lucid image of the potential relationship between stock market performance and economic expansion. As a result, this study differs from previous research on Nigeria's economy in that it has used proper variables based on financial and economic theories. This is because the adoption of many distinct metrics for stock market performance may have provided a more comprehensive and lucid image of the potential relationship between stock market performance and economic expansion. As a result, this study differs from previous research on Nigeria's economy in that it has used proper variables based on financial and economic theories. The primary aim of this paper is to analyze the relationship between the stock market and the economic performance of Nigeria. Specifically, it seeks to explore the connections between stock trading, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, and economic growth in Nigeria to determine the relationship between turnover ratio, all-share index growth, and economic growth and in the same context investigate how the monetary policy rate affects financial deepening growth and thereby evaluate the



impact of stock market performance indicators on financial deepening growth in Nigeria.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Okun's Law

In its most basic form, Okun's law investigates the statistical relationship between a country's unemployment rate and the growth rate of its economy. The economics research arm of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis explains that Okun's law is intended to tell us how much of a country's gross domestic product (GDP) may be lost when the unemployment rate is above its natural rate (Bartolucci et al., 2018). Studying uncertainty is essential due to its impact on economic activities. Various economic agents respond differently to uncertainty, causing periodic fluctuations in the economy. It goes on to explain that the logic behind Okun's law is simple. Output depends on the amount of labor used in the production process, so there is a positive relationship between output and employment. Total employment equals the labor force minus the unemployed, so there is a negative relationship between output and unemployment (conditional on the labor force).

Wogari (2023) studied the presence of an Okun-type relationship in the Nigerian economy from 1991 to 2018. Their findings revealed a long-term inverse relationship between unemployment and output in Nigeria. The Okun coefficient was found to be 1.75 percent, meaning that a one percent decrease in the unemployment rate corresponds to a 1.75 percent increase in GDP. Mellisa (2017) demonstrated Okun's law for France and the United Kingdom inside a bivariate unobserved component model. The investigation utilized information from OECD for year 1969:1 to 2011:2 for France and from 1971:1 to 2011:2 UK utilizing quarterly information. The after-effects of the study demonstrate a negative relationship between patterns of both series supporting the genuine business cycle hypothesis. A positive correlation between economic growth and FDI was discovered by Emmanuel (2016) when multiple regression estimation methods were used on data from 1981-2015 to analyze the relationship which showed a statistically significant correlation. Ugbaka, Awujola & Bagaiya (2021) studied the relationship between unemployment and inflation in Nigeria using a VAR-Granger causality test and a multivariate regression model with ordinary least squares estimation. The findings from the regression analysis indicated that the unemployment rate had a negative but insignificant effect on the inflation rate.

As opined by Olaniran-Akinyele and Bada, (2020), there exists a rising increment in productivity which affects unemployment emphatically through its commitment to higher yield meaning an expanding interest for demand for labor subsequently diminishing the unemployment rate in light of current circumstances. Samad (2023) assessed Okun's coefficient, and checked the validity of Okun's law in some Asian nations, for this reason, they utilized the time series annual data amid the period 1980-2006. He utilized the Engle-Granger (1987) co-integration method to discover long-run relationships amongst variables and an error correction mechanism (ECM) is utilized for short-run dynamics. After getting observational confirmations, one might say that Okun's law elucidation may not be pertinent and the principle of NAIRU does not hold its validity in some Asian developing nations. Udude and Nnachi (2017) assessed the Okun's coefficient, and checked the legitimacy of Okun's law in Nigeria, using the time series yearly data amid the period 1980-2013. Engle granger co-mix test and Fully Modified OLS were utilized. The experimental confirmations demonstrated that there is a positive coefficient in the Regression, inferring that Okun's law elucidation doesn't apply to Nigeria. It was suggested that administration and policy creators should utilize monetary approaches that are more suited to auxiliary changes and changes in the labor market. At very low inflation rates (less than 2-3 percent) inflation and growth are positively related. Akinsola and Odhiambo (2017) found a negative relationship between economic growth and inflation. Perego and Vermeulen (2016) discovered a negative relationship between inflation and growth in pooled cross-area, time series regression for a huge arrangement of nations. He contended that inflation hinders the efficient allocation of resources by darkening the flagging part of relative price changes, the most critical guide for effective economic decision-making. Inflation has a few indicators such as Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price Index (WPI), and Implicit Price Index (deflator GDP). Most of the modern empirical research on interest rates dates from the surge of rates in the early 1980s. While the initial increases were widely attributed to the adoption of a tight monetary policy in the United States, the effects of that policy were expected to be transitory. Rudd (2022) highlighted the global nature of the interest rate increases, concentrating on six substantial OECD economies. A large portion of their analysis concentrated on short-term rates, considering the absence of measures of expected inflation over extended time skylines required to develop a measure of the long haul genuine security rate. They made a

gauge of the expected inflation rate from the forecast of a simple autoregressive model of actual inflation and examined changes in four essential determinants: the anticipated profitability of investment, saving, monetary policy, and portfolio preferences. They inferred that enhanced benefits and shifts in the mix of fiscal-monetary policy were the essential factors behind the rise in rates. However, Merrill (2020) states that interest rates are charged for various reasons, however, one is to guarantee that the lender brings down his or her presentation to swelling. Inflation causes an ostensible measure of cash in the present to have less acquiring power later on. Expected expansion rates are a vital piece of deciding if a loan fee is sufficiently high for the leaser. The genuine loan cost idea is crucial in the exploration into the common relations of swelling, because expecting that the banks are judicious, expansion and ostensible interest rate impact each other. Lawal and Olusegun (2023) examined how Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) influences economic growth in Nigeria through a dynamic panel data analysis. The researchers evaluated the long-term connection between FDI inflows and economic growth indicators by employing panel data covering various years and regions. The study's findings demonstrated a positive and statistically significant link between FDI and economic growth, highlighting the crucial role of FDI inflows in fostering economic development in Nigeria. Bhuiyan and Chowdhury (2020) investigated the relationship between macroeconomic variables and stock market indices in the US and Canada. Their findings indicate a stable relationship between the macroeconomic variables and the sectoral indices examined. Additionally, they found that the US money supply and interest rate significantly influence the Canadian stock market. Levine and Zervos (1998) exhibited cross-country econometric evidence demonstrating that in a sample of 47 countries, stock exchange liquidity contributed a hugely positive effect on Gross domestic product development between 1976 and 1993. We can say that the Levine-Zervos results are not powerful for elective determinations in light of the deficient way they control for anomalies in their data. We demonstrate that when one appropriately controls for exceptions, stock market liquidity never again applies any measurably recognizable impact on Gross domestic product development.

### **3. Relationship between Macroeconomic Uncertainty and Economic Growth**

Quantifying economic uncertainty is challenging. Consequently, the empirical literature features a variety of uncertainty proxies, and new measures are

continually being developed (Cascaldi-Garcia, 2023). This uncertainty arises from multiple sources, such as volatile inflation rates, unpredictable interest rates, fluctuating GDP growth, unstable fiscal policies, and global economic conditions (Abere and Akinbobola, 2020). Macroeconomic uncertainty can result in various negative impacts on the economy, including financial market volatility, shifts in consumer behavior, policy challenges, and changes in business investment decisions (Dimic 2016; Plakandaras, Gupta, and Wohar, 2019). Adarov (2021) investigates the dynamic interplay among macroeconomic imbalances, the financial cycle, and the business cycle. Using the GMM and panel VAR paradigm, he examined 24 nations, classifying them as either bank- or market-based economies. According to Adarov's research, financial cycles significantly influence macroeconomic imbalances; expansions cause the economy to overheat and put pressure on public debt-to-GDP ratios to decline. In bank-based economies, financial disequilibrium leads to a more profound and rapid response to economic cycles; in market-based economies, it is more chronic but mild, and it has greater significance for the dynamics of the public debt and current account. Ayeni and Faninuyan (2022) investigated the connections between uncertainty, macroeconomic variables, and capital market performance in Nigeria. Their results indicated that uncertainty does not influence Nigeria's macroeconomic performance. However, the price of crude oil significantly and positively affects the country's gross domestic product, all-share index, and money supply.

Macroeconomic uncertainty and natural gas pricing were the main subjects of Shi and Shen's (2021) investigation. The U.S. market for hub pricing, the Japanese market for oil indexation, and the German market for the transition between the two pricing regimes are the three markets he names, together with the three distinct gas pricing methods. The study also looked into the dynamic causal relationship between shocks to macroeconomic uncertainty and how natural gas prices are set. The result demonstrates that macroeconomic uncertainty is a significant factor in influencing changes in natural gas prices, which in turn influences oscillations in the business cycles of the countries under investigation. In addition, a novel demand pattern known as the Asian Premium phenomenon was identified, which contributes to the evidence that the factors influencing gas prices in the countries of natural gas differ (Dokas, Oikonomou, and Panagiotidis, 2023). High public debt nations exhibit far more powerful effects on fiscal stance and output gap trajectories; nevertheless, Ali & Fei's (2016) study was limited to a single nation. The

analysis determined that Malaysia's economy is dependent on banks and concluded that correct stock prices, bank credits, and actual output are positively correlated over the long run. However, both credit and stock prices can remain consistently higher than their basic values if actual output is not adjusted quickly enough to keep up with credit expansion or stock price increases, and if the homogeneity of the latter two variables is poor. As a result of increasing market uncertainty, which has a long-term negative association with output, the situation may be harmful. Dynamics research indicates that actual output, real credit, and real stock prices are likely to decline.

According to Bhuiyan and Chowdhury (2020) stock market indices and macroeconomic variables while the scope is US and Canada. The study's findings show a stable relationship between macroeconomic variables and sectoral indices adopted in the study. In addition, the US money supply and the interest rate were found to form an explanation for the Canadian stock market. In the same vein, Strobel et al. (2020) used a different approach to examine the relationship between market concentration and monetary policy. In the study, market concentration was examined about the uncertainty of the US economy at the point of carrying out the study. The study's findings show that investment and production in the country have an effect on demand shock in the market which was not expected. As such, it was discovered that shocks related to global unpredictability are a significant cause of economic fluctuations. Additionally, the predicted macroeconomic uncertainty harms the financial and stock markets and significantly explains the cyclical downturn in economic growth.

#### **4. Financial Stock Market and Economic Growth in Nigeria**

Numerous studies conducted both inside and outside of Nigeria have largely acknowledged the role of the capital market in the socioeconomic development and expansion of both developed and emerging countries, such as Nigeria (Bertram, 2018). This job is thought to be achievable given the several roles it plays in directing financial resources and encouraging changes to strengthen the financial intermediation sector and link the economy's deficit and surplus sectors. However, the main motivation behind the creation of these markets was the commonly accepted belief that direct credit has not been effective in promoting growth. The purpose of stock markets is to ensure efficiency in business operations, raise funds for investments, and support economic progress. The term capital market refers to a wider range of trading venues for financial items, including the stock market (Véron

& Wolff, 2016). In this sense, it is possible to link the various economic units as mentioned above, since stock markets have been shown to ensure efficient capital allocation and utilization in the domestic economy, particularly in developed economies, and to stimulate economic growth by raising capital for companies' investment needs.

A well-developed financial structure is thought to encourage investments because it can easily identify and finance profitable investments. Additionally, the spreading of risks and enabling the exchange of goods and services are easily attainable in a developed market. Pan and Mishra (2018) think that the development level of a particular country plays a vital part in deciding the significance and the nature of the relationship existing between stock performance and economic growth. It is asserted that this effect is most felt in emerging economies. The emergence and development of stock markets in emerging countries like Nigeria has recently increased in frequency. Despite the Nigerian stock market's limited size and illiquid environment, both its continuous existence and performance may have a substantial impact on economic activity (Joseph & Ezenduka, 2020). For instance, Akenten, Boateng, and Kiros, (2020) contended that capital markets can mobilize local savings even in less developed economies, and they can also distribute the funds raised more effectively and efficiently for productive uses. Therefore, by mobilizing domestic savings and directing such investments toward profitable purposes, stock markets, particularly in less developed economies like Nigeria, play a crucial role in promoting and boosting economic growth (Osakwe & Ananwude, 2017). Undoubtedly, the allocation of cash to various sectors of the economy promotes economic growth and development. Consequently, stock markets are viewed as complex institutions entwined with vital channels via which long-term capital of the major economic sectors – families, companies, and government – are collected, integrated, and made available to the various economic sectors. Stock markets are useful tools for mobilizing savings and distributing them across competing entities, which is important for economic efficiency and growth. As economies grow, additional funding is therefore thought to be required to meet the rapid expansion (David-Wayas, 2014). Moreover, stock markets increase the effectiveness of the monetary system by fostering competition among different types of financial instruments. This lowers the cost of raising money for borrowers and increases the savings return for those who save. The traditional theories hold that, in general, there is no connection between the expansion of the financial market and the expansion of the economy, despite the stock market's

identified potential. Furthermore, Hajilee & Al Nasser, (2017) argued that achieving faster economic growth is probably not dependent on the stock market. These opposing viewpoints make it imperative to investigate whether, in a developing nation such as ours, there is a meaningful empirical relationship between stock market success and economic growth.

**5. Data Section**

The present study considers yearly time series data of five (5) macroeconomic variables; Gross domestic product, unemployment rate, inflation, interest rate, and stocks traded. The yearly time series data has been collected for the period from 1985 to 2018 for the five macroeconomic variables. The sources of data used for this study are secondary data and were sourced from the World Bank Data Bank using the world development indicators for the variables for Nigeria as the country (World Bank, 2019). A regression analysis

was conducted to check the impact of each of the independent variables on the dependent variable. This is just to know which or if any of the independent variables has a direct or inverse relationship with the dependent variables.

Correlation analysis was also done to check the correlation between the variables to know whether they are positively correlated or negatively correlated and how this affects gross domestic product growth. The correlation analysis showed a negative relationship between the explanatory variables. This means that the correlation coefficient between the independent variables is negative and therefore does any have a high impact on the dependent variable, gross domestic product.

Table 1 below shows the correlation analysis among the independent variables.

**Table 1:** Correlation analysis of the independent variables

	unempl~r	inflat~c	real in~r	stocks~t
unemploye~r	1.0000			
inflationc~c	0.1190	1.0000		
realintere~r	-0.2476	0.703	1.0000	
stockstrad~t	-0.2370	-0.5579	-0.2539	1.0000

**Table 2:** Descriptive statistics of gross domestic product, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, and stocks traded

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
gdpgrowtha~g	40	2.7725	2.030345	-2.78	7.26
unemploye~r	40	6.5265	1.56367	3.99	9.69
inflationc~c	40	4.03725	2.861271	-.36	13.51
realintere~r	40	4.3765	2.447692	-1.28	8.72
stockstrad~t	40	112.316	98.61395	7.95	320.99
Time	40	1994.5	11.69045	1975	2014

**6. Methodology**

The data used for this research is time series data as previously stated. The ordinary least square method of the econometric approach was used in estimating. The models of this research work will be specified mathematically and econometrically. The traditional Cobb-Douglas production function was employed. The mathematical model used in this study is specified as;

Eq. 1

$$GDP_x = B_0 + \beta_1(UNP) + \beta_2(INF) + \beta_3(INT) + \beta_4(STCK PXS) + e_x \tag{2}$$

Where

GDP= Gross domestic product, (GDP growth, annual %)

UNEP= Unemployment, total (% of total labor force, national estimate)

INF= Inflation, consumer price index (annual%)

INT= Real interest rate (%)

STCK TRD= Stocks Traded, total value (% of GDP)

Also,

B<sub>0</sub>, β<sub>1</sub>, β<sub>2</sub>, β<sub>3</sub>, β<sub>4</sub> are parameters to be estimated

e is the error term  
 x is the time

Therefore, equation 1, shows the relationship between economic growth, (GDP), unemployment, inflation, interest rate, and stocks traded. The a-priori expectation is that  $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3,$  and  $\beta_4 > 0$ .

### 7. Empirical Results

The regression analysis carried out, showed that unemployment, inflation, interest rate, and stocks traded are negatively related to gross domestic product if regressed together. However, there is a positive relationship between gross domestic and interest rate when gross domestic product is regressed against interest rate and stocks traded but it is not statistically significant. Table 2 depicted above contains the regression analysis result of the model specified above. The result indicates that the null hypothesis is rejected following the rule of thumb when t-calculated is.

The unemployment rate affects the gross domestic product (GDP) growth in a negative way from the results, it can be explained that a 1 percentage (1%) increase in unemployment decreases the growth by .55, which is the highest impact on Gross Domestic Product from the independent variables. The inflation rate is also negatively related to gross domestic product.

The interpretation of the R-square of 0.31 illustrates that a 31% variation in gross domestic product growth is explained by variation in unemployment, variation in inflation, variation in interest rate, and also variation in stocks traded. This shows us that 69% of the variation in gross domestic product is left unexplained and is due to variation in the error term or variation in other variables that implicitly form part of the error term. Also, the adjusted R-square with a value of 0.23 which shows 23% variation in the dependent variable is explained by the independent variable when the degree of freedom is taken care of.

The model,  $GDP = \beta_0 + \beta_1(UNP) + \beta_2(INF) + \beta_3(INT) + \beta_4(STCK\ PXS)$  can be written as:

$$GDP = 8.734674 - .5518546(.1990415) - .2368677(.1207912) - .0228(.1282085) - .0116138(.003777)$$

Where the coefficients are presented with the standard error in parenthesis.

$$GDP = UNP(0.009)** + INF(0.058)*** + INT(0.860)*** + STCKS\ TRD(0.004)**$$

Where the t-statistics are in parenthesis.

The result shows a negative relationship between inflation rate and unemployment which corresponds with Mohseni and Jouzaryan's (2016) findings which demonstrated a negative relationship between unemployment, inflation, and gross domestic product when he conducted his research. Thus, the findings of this study are similar to those of Ademola & Badiru (2016) and Gómez & Irewole (2024) who related inflation and unemployment with growth, as well as unemployment and inflation. Therefore, the findings of this study are consistent with existing literature. Kiley and Robert (2017) also state that interest rates negatively correlated to inflation which was also shown in the research under Table 1. The results on the effect of the inner weight between the interest rate on the Gross Domestic Product produces a path coefficient of -.0228 with t-statistics of -0.12 is less than the value of determination of 0.87. Also, the results of inner weight on the effect of inflation on Gross Domestic Product generate a path coefficient of -.5518 with a t-statistic of 0.009 which is smaller than the value of the constant at 0.005. This indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between inflation on Gross Domestic Product. The results of inner weight on the effect of stocks traded on Gross Domestic Product generate a path coefficient of -0.17 with a t-statistics of 0.004 which is smaller than the value of the constant at 0.005 (5%). This indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between stocks traded and Gross Domestic Product.

**Table 3:** Regression analysis using Stata

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs	=	40
Model	49.6221031	4	12.4055258	F(4, 35)	=	3.91
Residual	111.147646	35	3.17564703	Prob > F	=	0.0100
				R-squared	=	0.3087
				Adj R-squared	=	0.2296
Total	160.769749	39	4.12230126	Root MSE	=	1.782

gdpgrowthan~g	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
unemployment~r	-.5518546	.1990415	-2.77	0.009	-.9559304 - .1477789
inflationco~c	-.2368677	.1207912	-1.96	0.058	-.4820869 .0083515
realinteres~r	-.0228	.1282085	-0.18	0.860	-.2830771 .2374772
stockstrade~t	-.0116138	.003777	-3.07	0.004	-.0192814 -.0039462
_cons	8.734674	1.950753	4.48	0.000	4.774434 12.69491

The results of the analysis presented above show that a 1% increase in the inflation rate will lead to a decrease in gross domestic product growth by .23. Also, interest rate negatively affects gross domestic product growth. The results show that a 1% increase in real interest rate will lead to a decrease in growth by .022. Lastly, stocks traded are also negatively related to gross domestic product because a 1% increase in the value of stocks traded will lead to a decrease in gross domestic growth by .011. The results imply that rising inflation generally hampers economic growth thus diminishing purchasing power and creating uncertainty, which may lead to a decline in consumer spending and investment. Additionally, increased real interest rates tend to dissuade borrowing and investment due to higher borrowing costs, which can further slow economic activity. The observed negative link between stock market activity and GDP growth suggests that a booming stock market does not necessarily equate to stronger economic performance. It may indicate speculative trading or a diversion from productive investments in the real economy, or it could signal economic imbalances or bubbles that could ultimately impede growth. Ongoing observation of inflation, interest rates, and stock market activity is essential. If these factors begin to negatively affect GDP growth, implementing specific economic policies and strategies may be required to address and counteract potential negative impacts.

**8. Conclusion**

The findings revealed that the coefficient of unemployment is negative and statistically significant while inflation is also negative but has no significant effect on gross domestic product. Also, the coefficient

of interest rate is negatively related but has no statistically significant effect on gross domestic product while the stocks traded coefficient is negative and statistically significant to gross domestic product. Thus, unemployment and stocks traded both substantially affect economic growth, while inflation and interest rate both have little substantial effect on it. The twin macroeconomic factors, unemployment and inflation are the real issues going up against the economy which have the penchant to impact other economic and social components. The failure of the government to locate an enduring answer to these issues has influenced the monetary life, economic activities, and political system of the country in general. In this way, this paper examines exactly how unemployment, inflation, interest rate, and stocks traded generously influence gross domestic product.

The flexibility coefficient of GDP to expansion rate is inelastic because of the way that inflation rate, unemployment, interest rate and stocks traded are an essential macroeconomic variable to the progressions of GDP. To policymakers this could infer that regardless of the possibility that different elements impact monetary development, for example, inflows and surge of FDI, human capital, venture, innovative advance, money-related frameworks, topographical position of the nation At long last, future research should concentrate on board information and use of VAR models to think about the long-run dynamic nature of these factors. This study shows that unemployment and stocks traded substantially affect economic growth whereas inflation and interest rate have a little substantial effect on economic growth (i.e. F-stat value 3.91 is closer to 4). This study recommends rebuilding the economy through internal

development and not along remote obtained belief systems and thus proficient adaptation of present-day innovations to make more economical occupations and improve the genuine wage of workers is advised. There is a need for strong institutional collaboration and link among ministries for dealing with all these macroeconomic variables; unemployment, inflation, interest rate, and gross domestic product growth in the country. Consequently, the government should guarantee macroeconomic administration of price stability and thereby enhance the framework of power which may create more businesses and reduce unemployment.

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## Sales Promotion and Pricing Strategy in Nigerian Telecommunications Companies

F.O. ARIBABA

Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

A.O. AHMODU

Wesley University, Ondo, Nigeria.

I.K. EGBEWOLE

Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

P.O. OLAYIWOLA

University of Lagos, Nigeria

J.O. AJAYI

Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

N.A. LAWAL

Osun State University, Nigeria

**Abstract.** The study examines the sales promotion and pricing strategies employed by MTN and Globacom, two prominent telecommunication companies in Nigeria. A quantitative research design was exploited for this study. The research population consists of the estimated 226.84 million subscribers, as reported by the Nigerian Communications Commission in 2023. A sample size of 384 respondents was selected using purposive and quota sampling techniques. The instrument underwent validation, and the reliability test conducted through Cronbach's alpha yielded a coefficient of 0.964, indicating high reliability. Descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized to analyze the data. The descriptive analysis was bar chart while the analysis of variance (ANOVA) was employed to examine the significant association between the dependent variable and the independent variables. The statistical tool employed was SPSS version 20.0. The study's results displayed the relationship between sales promotion and pricing strategies employed by MTN and Globacom telecommunication companies in Nigeria. These findings indicate a notable correlation between these vital components of business activities. Thus, the

study suggests that MTN and Globacom should enrich their sales promotion strategies. It was recommended that regular 19 valuations guarantee the alignment with long-term goals, customer preferences, and current market trends.

**Keywords:** Sales, Promotion, Pricing Strategy and Telecommunication

### 1. Introduction

In recent years, the telecommunications sector in Nigeria has witnessed notable expansion and rivalry. The advent of GSM technology in the early 2000s brought about a revolution in the industry, resulting in heightened market penetration and a surge in the subscriber base. Consequently, companies operating in the Nigerian telecommunications landscape, including MTN and Globacom, have encountered fierce competition in their efforts to attract and retain customers within a densely saturated market. Consequently, sales promotion and pricing strategies have emerged as pivotal tools for these companies to distinguish themselves, bolster market share, and

catalyze demand among subscribers (Ogunnaike & Ogunnaike, 2019).

The pricing strategy encompasses the determination of optimal pricing levels and structures aimed at maximizing profitability while maintaining competitiveness within the market. It represents a fundamental component of marketing, involving the identification of the ideal price point at which a product or service should be offered to customers (Kotler, et al, 2020). This strategy integrates various considerations, including production costs, competition, market demand, and perceived value. A well-crafted pricing strategy is pivotal in achieving business objectives, whether it involves maximizing profits, expanding market share, or positioning the product as high-quality or premium. According to Ogunnaike and Ogunnaike (2019), pricing strategies can vary in form, tailored to specific market characteristics and goals. Investopedia (2021) further elaborates that such strategies entail determining the price based on production and operational costs associated with the product.

Sales promotion involves a variety of marketing tactics aimed at shaping consumer behaviour and driving the purchase of goods or services (Ani & Idris, 2020). In today's economic landscape, sales promotions have gained prominence due to their impact on consumer spending power. In the production context, marketing remains incomplete until products and services reach end consumers. Therefore, integrating effective sales promotion strategies during and after production is vital for ensuring satisfactory customer experiences (Elwalid, 2015). Sales promotions are now omnipresent across diverse media channels, including print media, digital platforms, and outdoor advertising, with a significant presence in urban centres. For this study, sales promotion tools like point-of-purchase displays, buy-one-get-one offers, and sweepstakes will be utilized to assess their impact on the pricing strategies of telecommunications firms in Nigeria.

### 1.1 Research Questions

- What is the extent to which point of purchase promotion influence pricing strategy of telecommunication companies in Nigeria?
- Does buy one get one promotional sales influence the pricing strategy of telecommunication companies in Nigeria?
- Is there any significant impact between sweepstakes promotional sale and pricing strategy of telecommunication companies in Nigeria?

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Point of Purchase Promotion

The term “point of purchase” (POP) refers to the specific area within a retail environment where promotional or marketing materials are strategically positioned. This location represents a critical point of interaction between customers and products, making it an ideal space for the placement of promotional items. By situating these materials near the corresponding products or services, retailers aim to increase the likelihood of customer purchases (Jones & Shephard, 2019). POP holds the potential to exert a significant influence on customer buying behaviour within a store. Its effectiveness lies in the strategic placement by retailers near the merchandise they aim to showcase, thereby enhancing the visibility of these items. Understanding the creation process and benefits of POP displays can enable businesses to capitalize on high-traffic areas within their stores, ultimately leading to increased sales. This article aims to explore the concept of POP displays, highlight their advantages, provide illustrative examples, and offer practical tips for creating compelling displays.

### 2.2 Buy One Get One (BOGO) Promotional Sales

The Buy One Get One (BOGO) concept entails a promotional strategy where customers have the chance to obtain an additional item either at no cost or at a discounted price upon purchasing one item at its regular price. Retailers and marketers frequently deploy BOGO promotions to stimulate sales, entice customers, and facilitate product turnover (Hair, et al., 2014). BOGO campaigns are crafted to establish perceived value and provide incentives for customers. The allure of receiving an extra item for free or at a reduced cost can be compelling, often leading to impulse buys or increased purchases beyond the initial intent. This promotional approach capitalizes on psychological principles like reciprocity and loss aversion to shape consumer behaviour. Reciprocity suggests that customers may feel obliged to reciprocate by making a purchase when they receive an extra item or perceive a benefit. Conversely, loss aversion pertains to individuals' tendency to place greater emphasis on avoiding losses than on acquiring gains. In the context of BOGO promotions, customers perceive the possibility of missing out on a free or discounted item as a loss, thereby heightening their inclination to buy (Kahneman & Tversky, 1979).

### 2.3 Sweepstakes Promotional Sales

The sweepstakes concept encompasses a promotional tactic wherein participants have the chance to win prizes through a random selection or drawing process. Sweepstakes serve as a prevalent marketing tool employed by businesses to foster customer engagement, boost brand recognition, and encourage consumer involvement. Let's delve into the intricacies of sweepstakes while incorporating relevant in-text citations. Sweepstakes typically incorporate three fundamental components: prizes, chance, and consideration (American Marketing Association, 2017). Prizes represent the incentives offered to participants, ranging from monetary rewards and travel experiences to merchandise or unique opportunities. Chance denotes the random selection method employed to determine the winners, ensuring impartiality and equal prospects for all participants. However, consideration stands out as a crucial legal consideration.

### 3. Empirical Review

Okorie et al. (2019) investigated the utilization of monetary sales promotions by telecommunication operators to bolster brand awareness, promote brand trial, and ultimately cultivate brand loyalty, thereby enhancing brand equity. Nevertheless, the efficacy of sales promotions in augmenting brand equity among state civil servants in Lagos and Ogun states has been a topic of scholarly discourse. Employing a survey research design, the study administered a structured questionnaire to 880 respondents selected from a total pool of 17,161 civil servants. The results unveiled that the nature of monetary sales promotion significantly influenced various aspects of telecommunication operators' brand equity, including brand awareness ( $R^2=0.301$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), perceived brand quality ( $R^2=0.155$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), brand association ( $R^2=0.171$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), and brand loyalty ( $R^2=0.058$ ,  $p<0.05$ ). This suggests that monetary sales promotions have substantially contributed to the augmentation of telecommunication operators' brand equity, implying that other brands could contemplate integrating such promotions into their strategies for enhancing brand equity. Notably, the study was confined to subscribers in Lagos and Ogun, thus highlighting a research gap.

Smith et al. (2018) explored the effects of sales promotion on customer loyalty within the telecommunication sector. Utilizing the survey method, the study gathered data from respondents, with a sample size of 310 chosen through simple random sampling. Descriptive and inferential statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS software. Considering that a substantial portion of

marketing communication budgets is allocated to sales promotion activities by companies, this research delves into the impact of sales promotion on customer loyalty specifically within the mobile telecommunication domain. The study's findings reveal a positive correlation between sales promotion efforts and customer loyalty. Additionally, it was noted that disloyal customers exhibit a higher propensity to switch to rival products in response to sales promotions compared to loyal customers. The study underscores the necessity for a more nuanced examination of divergent perspectives on this issue.

Al-Maghrabi and Hussain (2019) investigated the influence of sales promotion initiatives, encompassing price discounts, free samples, purchasing vouchers, and celebrity endorsements, on consumer buying behaviour in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the research aimed to discern any statistical variances in the adoption of sales promotion strategies based on consumer demographics. The study targeted both Saudi and non-Saudi consumers residing in Riyadh, which had a total population of 3.874 million in 2018. The sample comprised individuals from both the public and private sectors in Riyadh, including Saudi and non-Saudi employees, with a calculated sample size of 387 participants. A proportional stratified sampling approach was utilized for participant selection. The study's outcomes revealed a positive and significant impact of sales promotion programs on consumer purchasing behaviour, with price discounts exerting the most considerable influence. Furthermore, statistical variations in the perception of sales promotion strategies were identified based on demographic factors such as age, education, and marital status. The study underscores the need to offer practical insights to enhance marketing communication strategies and provides recommendations for future research. Notably, the study's limitation lies in its focus on a developed economy.

Okafor and Osuoha (2020) conducted an inquiry into the pricing strategies and marketing effectiveness of telecommunication companies in Port Harcourt. Secondary sources, primarily comprising a review of pertinent literature concerning the variables of interest, served as the primary data sources for this investigation. The study outcomes suggest that a meticulously crafted pricing strategy, considering the perceptions and sensitivity of the target clientele alongside organizational objectives, can yield favourable outcomes in terms of marketing effectiveness. Additionally, the research unveils a positive correlation between value-based pricing and marketing performance, as well as a positive

correlation between cost-based pricing and marketing performance. Drawing from these revelations, the study concludes that a favourable relationship exists between pricing strategies and marketing effectiveness. Consequently, the study recommends that telecommunication enterprises in Port Harcourt, aspiring to bolster their marketing effectiveness, meticulously discern and execute suitable pricing strategies, encompassing both value-based and cost-based approaches.

Akingbade (2023) undertook a study aimed at probing the influence of competitive strategies adopted by selected telecommunication firms in Nigeria on their performance. The escalating competition within the industry spurred by globalization has impelled companies to embrace diverse strategies to sustain profitability and competitiveness. However, many enterprises overlook the need to gauge the effects of their strategic innovations on their clientele. The investigation delves into the repercussions of competitive strategies on customer satisfaction, retention, and loyalty. Formulating three null hypotheses, the study sought to scrutinize the correlations between lower pricing and customer satisfaction, uninterrupted trunk services and customer loyalty, and customer complaint handling and retention. The participants consisted of telephone service users selected specifically from Lagos State. The state was segmented into 20 local government council areas, with 125 respondents from each area receiving questionnaires. Questionnaire completion rates ranged from 103 to 110. Employing a survey research design, a structured questionnaire was devised, validated through construct validity, and verified utilizing the KMO measure of sampling adequacy. Cronbach's Alpha was utilized to test the questionnaire's reliability. The study uncovered a significant association between competitive strategies and customer satisfaction, retention, and loyalty. The findings underscored the substantial impact of competitive strategies and their components on the performance of telecommunication enterprises. Consequently, it was recommended that Universal Mobile Telecommunication Services (UMTS) operators embrace a culture of competitive strategies based on these revelations.

Asiagwu et al. (2022) conducted an investigation aimed at examining the factors driving brand-

switching behaviour in the mobile telecommunication sector within Nigeria's South-South zone. The study identified several explanatory variables, including network coverage, sales promotional activities, price, service quality, customer service, and switching costs, with brand-switching behaviour as the dependent variable. Employing a descriptive survey design, the research targeted subscribers of mobile telecommunication services within the South-South zone. The sample size, determined using the Cochran Method, comprised 384 subscribers. Questionnaires were distributed to the sampled subscribers, and data analysis was executed utilizing descriptive statistics and ordinary least square regression techniques with the assistance of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21. The study outcomes unveiled that network coverage, price, service quality, and customer service exerted a significant and positive impact on consumer brand-switching behaviour in the mobile telecommunication sector within the South-South zone of Nigeria. Conversely, switching costs exhibited a notable negative influence on brand-switching behaviour in the region. Intriguingly, the research indicated that sales promotional activities did not yield a significant positive effect on brand-switching behaviour in the telecommunication industry within Nigeria's South-South zone. In light of these findings, the study recommended that mobile telecommunication service providers rigorously monitor and fortify their network services to deter subscriber defection to rival brands.

#### 4. Research Methodology

The research utilized a quantitative research design, targeting a population of 226.84 million subscribers as reported by the NCC in 2023. A sample size of 384 respondents was selected using purposive and quota sampling techniques. The validity of the instrument was confirmed, and reliability testing using Cronbach's alpha coefficient yielded a score of 0.964. Data analysis involved both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive analysis was visualized using bar charts, while inferential statistics, specifically analysis of variance (ANOVA), were utilized to explore the significant associations between the dependent and independent variables. For data analysis, the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.0 was employed as the statistical tool.

5. Results

5.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

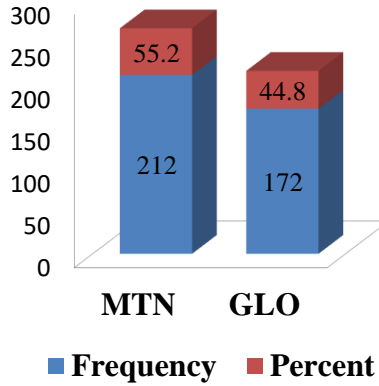


Figure 1: Frequency Distribution of Respondent by Telecommunication Network

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of respondents' characteristics categorized by their affiliation with telecommunication networks. It also presents the frequencies and percentages representing the demographic characteristics of all 384 (100%) participants. The breakdown of telecommunication networks starts with 212 (55.2%) participants affiliated with MTN, while 172 (44.8%) were associated with GLO among the entire respondent pool.

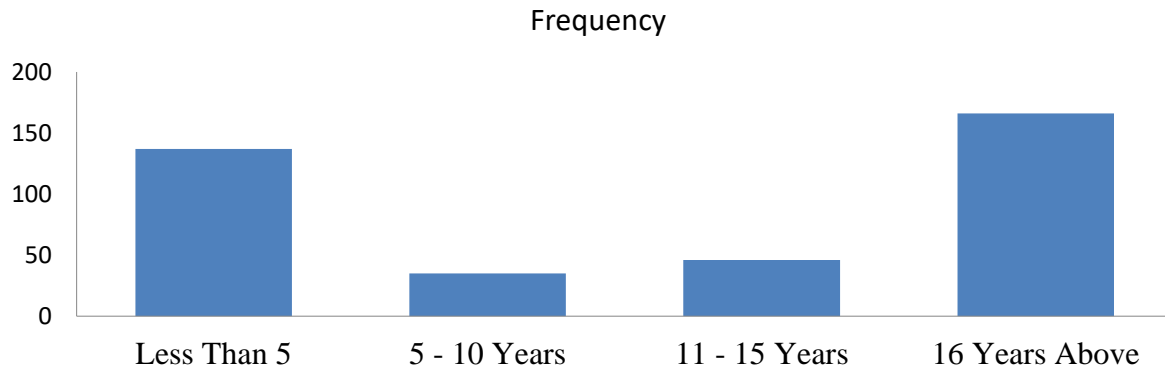


Figure 2: Frequency Distribution of Respondent by the Period of Network Usage

The graph above illustrates the duration for which respondents have been using telecommunication networks. According to the data, 137 (35.7%) respondents reported using telecommunication networks for less than 5 years, 35 (9.1%) respondents for a period between 5 to 10 years, 46 (12.0%) for duration of 11 to 15 years, while the majority, 166 (43.2%) respondents, had been utilizing telecommunication networks for 16 years or more. This observation suggests that, based on the graph, respondents demonstrate an understanding and interpretation of the presented concepts.

Test of Research Questions

**RQ 1:** To what extent does point of purchase promotion influence pricing strategy of telecommunication companies in Nigeria?

Table 1: Analysis of Variance

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	28.060	3	9.353	15.505	0.000
Within Groups	229.229	380	.603		
Total	257.289	383			

Source: SPSS Output (2024)

Analyzing the variance outcome for this variable reveals the mean impact of point-of-purchase promotion on the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom, two prominent telecommunication companies in Nigeria. These findings encompass the mean values and p-values, computed to evaluate the significance of the variables. The ANOVA results present an F-statistic of 15.505, utilized to gauge the variable's significance. The outcomes indicate that the variable holds significance at a 5% level. With a p-value of 0.000, which is less than the 5% significance threshold, there exists a statistically significant positive influence between the point of purchase promotion and the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom telecommunication companies in Nigeria.

**RQ 2:** How does buy one get one promotional sales enhance pricing strategy of telecommunication companies in Nigeria?

**Table 2:** Analysis of Variance

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	4.577	3	1.526	2.294	0.078
Within Groups	252.712	380	.665		
Total	257.289	383			

Source: SPSS Output (2024)

The analysis of variance outcomes concerning the impact of buy-one-get-one promotional sales on the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom telecommunication companies in Nigeria sheds light on the mean influence of such promotions. This evaluation encompasses the ANOVA results, utilizing an F-statistic of 2.294 to assess the significance of the variable. The outcomes reveal that the variable does not achieve significance at a 5% level. With the p-value surpassing the 5% significance threshold, it is concluded that there exists a positive but non-significant impact between buy-one-get-one promotional sales and the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom telecommunication companies in Nigeria.

**RQ 3:** Does sweepstakes promotional sale significantly impact the pricing strategy of telecommunication companies in Nigeria?

**Table 3:** Analysis of Variance

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	4.500	3	1.500	2.255	0.082
Within Groups	252.789	380	.665		
Total	257.289	383			

Source: SPSS Output (2024)

Table 3 presents the results of the analysis of variance conducted for sweepstakes promotional sales and pricing strategy, illustrating the average relationship between sweepstakes promotional sales and the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom telecommunication companies in Nigeria. This representation encapsulates the ANOVA findings, utilizing an F-statistic of 2.255 to evaluate the significance of the variable. The results indicate that the variable does not achieve significance at a 5% level. With the p-value exceeding the 5% threshold for significance, it is concluded that there is no significant impact between sweepstakes promotional sales and the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom telecommunication companies in Nigeria.

The findings of this study underscore the significant role played by sales promotion strategies in enhancing the pricing strategies of MTN and Globacom, two leading telecommunication companies in Nigeria. This value relevance is crucial, considering its substantial impact on the operations of telecommunication firms in the country. In response, MTN and Globacom are positioned to elevate and refine their pricing strategies to remain competitive in the market.

The survey participants acknowledged the advantages offered by telecommunication companies in Nigeria, particularly highlighting the significant influence of point-of-purchase (POP) strategies on the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom. The analysis revealed the influence of point-of-purchase strategies on the pricing strategies of the telecommunication companies. Point-of-purchase strategies effectively influence customer purchase decisions within a store,

**6. Discussion of Findings**



leveraging strategic placement by retailers to enhance the visibility of specific items. The study against the findings of Smith et al. (2018) that non-loyal customers are more likely to switch to competing products as a result of sales promotion compared to loyal customers. However, it is essential to balance promotional tactics to maintain profitability and brand perception over time.

The study assesses the influence of buy-one-get-one promotional sales on the pricing strategies of MTN and Globacom. The findings demonstrated a significant impact of buy-one-get-one promotional sales on the pricing strategies of telecommunication companies. The findings corroborated with the conclusion of Okafor and Osuoha (2020) that effectiveness of monetary sales promotions in enhancing telecommunication operators. The results suggest that such strategies contribute to the advancement of pricing strategies and could foster brand growth across various industries. Personalized sales promotions tailored to individual consumer preferences further increase customer retention and engagement, particularly when integrated with digital channels such as mobile apps and social media.

The implications of sweepstakes findings extend to the potential introduction of novel products or services, stimulating trial participation among individuals. The study revealed a noteworthy relationship between sweepstakes promotional sales and the pricing strategy of MTN and Globacom, albeit without significant association. These findings align with Asiagwu, Mojekeh, and Anyasor (2022) that sales promotional activities may lack a significant positive impact on brand-switching behaviour within the telecommunication industry. Providers of sweepstakes promotional sales should thus ensure the robustness of their network services to discourage subscribers from migrating to alternative networks.

## 7. Conclusion

The study concluded that sales promotion and pricing strategies employed by MTN and Glo telecommunication companies in Nigeria sheds light on the intricate relationship between these two crucial aspects of business operations. This highlights the significance of strategic decision-making in these essential aspects of business operations. It underscores the need for telecommunication firms to meticulously assess the potential impact of various promotional techniques on pricing decisions, considering factors such as customer value and market dynamics. Achieving a delicate balance between short-term promotional benefits and long-term pricing strategy objectives is paramount for sustained success and

competitiveness in the industry. In essence, the study offers valuable insights into the complex interplay between sales promotion and pricing strategies within Nigeria's telecommunications sector. While the impact of point-of-purchase promotions on pricing decisions is evident, the effectiveness of buy-one-get-one and sweepstake promotions warrants more nuanced consideration. Telecommunication companies, including MTN and Glo, can leverage these insights to refine their sales promotion strategies, optimize pricing decisions, and enhance customer satisfaction and brand loyalty. Moreover, the study contributes to a broader understanding of the role of sales promotion in shaping pricing strategies, offering valuable implications for marketing professionals and researchers within the telecommunications industry and beyond.

## 8. Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, several actionable policy recommendations have emerged to guide these companies and other stakeholders within the industry. The following are the recommendations:

- Telecommunication companies should continuously evaluate the effectiveness of their sales promotion and pricing strategies and conduct a comprehensive marketing research to solicit customer feedback is essential for understanding the evolving consumer preferences and market trends.
- Sales promotions could drive short-term sales volume, telecommunication companies should ensure that these promotions align with their long-term pricing strategy objectives and focus on enhancing customer value rather than solely competing on price.
- Telecommunication companies should explore a diverse range of promotional techniques beyond traditional methods like discounts and giveaways and ensure transparency in their pricing strategies and communicate any changes to customers.

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## Working Capital Management and Financial Performance of Listed Deposit Money Banks (DMB) in Nigeria

EVBAZIEGBERE ISIBOR, SABURI GIWA-OSAGIE  
University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

**Abstract.** The study investigated the effect of working capital management on the financial performance of listed Deposit Money Banks (DMB) in Nigeria for the period 2009 to 2023, 15 years. In doing so, cash management and receivable management constituting the independent variables were regressed on DMB's financial performance in Nigeria, as represented by return on asset (ROA). The study adopted firm size and firm listing age as the control variables. Data collected were analysed using the STATA V.14 econometric software package. The panel fixed and random effects were employed and estimated the model of the study using the appropriate techniques. Specifically, the results of the study showed that cash management had a negative and insignificant effect on financial performance while receivable management had a positive and significant effect on financial performance. Based on the findings of the study, it recommended that Management of deposit money banks should introduce for policies that would enhance swift conversion of receivable to cash to improve financial performance. Policies on trade receivable period should be shortened since the shorter the receivable period the higher the financial performance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Cash Management, Deposit Money Banks, Panel Regression, Receivable Days, Return on Asset.

### 1. Introduction

Diverse facts exist about the relationship between working capital and performance of company. On the one hand, investments in working capital are found to improve company profitability since they increase sales growth and earnings development, suggesting that effective working capital management can be a key driver of business success (Baos-Caballero, Garca-Teruel, & Martnez-Solano, 2020; Aktas, Croci,

& Petmezas 2015). Trade credit boosts sales and strengthens client connections, while stockpiling more inventory protects the company from price swings. Furthermore, short-term borrowing used to fund working capital have low interest rates and are not subject to inflationary risk (Mahmood, Han, Ali, Mubeen, & Shahzad, 2019). Overinvestment in working capital, on the other hand, necessitates financing and, as a result, more expenditures, and may also result in negative impacts and financial losses for shareholders (Chang 2018; Aktas, Croci, & Petmezas 2015).

As a result, a sharp decrease in the profitability levels of the company results from higher working capital costs as compared to the advantages of maintaining larger inventory or enabling consumers to use trade credit.

A few publications have recently claimed that there is a non-linear relationship between working capital investment and corporate profitability (Mahmood et al. 2019; Tsuruta 2018; Bot,oc and Anton 2017; Aktas et al. 2015; Mun and Jang 2015; Baos-Caballero et al. 2020). Based on a non-linear relationship, the optimum level of working capital (sometimes referred to as the break-even point) is the point at which working capital investments are assumed to positively affect corporate profitability. If working capital surpasses ideal levels, it could start to negatively impact business performance. An inverted U-shaped connection is a positive and negative combination with a break-even point (Mahmood et al. 2019).

Given that "entrepreneurial success might relate to the sheer fact of continuing to run the business" (Staniewski & Awruk 2019), an important consideration in the context of entrepreneurial success is the trade-off between working capital and business profitability. An increase in working capital may result

in the opportunity cost of cash held in inefficient assets like inventories and accounts receivable (Tauringana & Afrifa, 2013). Because of the lesser risk, this will result in lower profitability (Nwankwo & Osho, 2010). Firms that take an aggressive strategy will benefit from better profitability as a result of more risk and reduced working capital (Nwankwo & Osho, 2010). This strategy would improve the firm's profitability by lowering the proportion of total assets in the form of net current assets (Garcia-Teruel & Martinez-solano, 2007).

In general, working capital has been the subject of numerous empirical studies. However, we observed that only the studies of Napompech (2012) were conducted using deposit money in Asia unlike those of Agha (2014); Safiah and Nizam, (2015); Hoang (2015); Haq, Sohail, Zoman, and Alam (2011); Iqbal, Ahmad, Kanwal, Sonia Anwar, and Hamad (2014); Pouraghajan and Emamgholipourarchi (2012) that used SMEs and Consumer goods firms; (4) Most of the past studies such as Agha (2014); Safiah & Nizam, (2015); Hoang (2015); Haq, Sohail, Zoman, and Alam (2011); Iqbal, Ahmad, Kanwal, Sonia Anwar, and Hamad (2014); Pouraghajan and Emamgholipourarchi (2012); Olaoye, Akintola, and Ogundipe (2019); Dinku, (2013); Oladimeji and Aladejebi (2020); Ailemen, Folashade, Agwu, and Adetula (2014); and Osuma, Ailemen, Osabohien, and Eriki (2014) used mostly OLS regression which does not capture the heterogeneity effect of banks from different years.

Even though research in this field has been conducted in Nigeria, we observed inconsistent findings. For instance, the studies of Olaoye, Akintola, and Ogundipe (2019); Dinku, (2013); Oladimeji and Aladejebi (2020); Ailemen, Folashade, Agwu, and Adetula (2014); reported a significant and positive effect of working capital proxies of inventory days, payable days, receivable days, and current ratio on profitability. However, a significant negative effect was documented by Osuma, Ailemen, Osabohien, and Eriki (2014). The inconclusiveness and empirical discrepancies observed in all of the investigations, especially when viewed through the contexts of developing and emerging economies and Africa, indicate the necessity for additional country-level testing to determine the feasibility and transferability of the influence of working capital management on financial performance in a market that is emerging, specifically in Nigeria.

Succinctly, this study therefore seeks to address these research problems by first employing a panel regression technique that can capture the heterogeneity effect present in the firm, ensure that a

larger firm observation of deposit money banks over 15 years is used unlike previous studies of Agha (2014); Safiah and Nizam, (2015); Hoang (2015); Haq, Sohail, Zoman, and Alam (2011); Iqbal, Ahmad, Kanwal, Sonia Anwar, and Hamad (2014); Pouraghajan and Emamgholipourarchi (2012); Olaoye, Akintola, and Ogundipe (2019); Dinku, (2013); Oladimeji and Aladejebi (2020); Ailemen, Folashade, Agwu, and Adetula (2014); Osuma, Ailemen, Osabohien, and Eriki (2014) that use short periods and small firm observations. Furthermore, to the best of the researchers' knowledge, the study will be the first in Nigeria to examine the impact of working capital management on the financial performance of listed deposit money banks using the most recent data, including the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020.

## 2. Conceptual Clarification and Hypotheses Development

### 2.1 Firm Performance

Firm financial performance is commonly defined as a measure of how well a company uses its assets to generate revenue. It measures a company's overall financial health over a certain time period and can be used to compare the performance of identical organizations in related industries or across industries in general (Atrill, & McLaney, 2009). The financial statement, a product of accounting, is the primary source of data for determining firm financial performance. The financial statements include the cash flow statement, which displays the sources and uses of cash during a given period, the income statement, which details revenues, expenses, and profits, the balance sheet, which displays a company's assets, liabilities, and equity, and the statement of changes in owners' equity, which indicates changes in financial ratios show how the numbers in a financial statement relate to one another, are often used to reflect firm financial performance. Financial ratios can be used to calculate a company's profitability, efficiency, liquidity, gearing, and investment (Atrill, & McLaney, 2009). According to Atrill and McLaney (2009), the ratios that can be used to calculate the firm's profitability include return on assets (ROA), return on equity (ROE), and return on investments (ROI). These ratios show a company's success in creating profits or returns from its resources.

### 2.2 Working Capital Management

Working capital management includes the management of current assets and current obligations,

and good working capital management guarantees that there is always a sufficient level of working capital (Kumari & Anthuvan, 2017). Working capital is the flow of available funds required to run a business. It consists of funds invested in current assets that, in the ordinary course of business, can be converted into cash in a short amount of time without losing value or causing disruption to the firm (Mohanty, 2013). It is a critical component in every organizational context that necessitates careful consideration, proper planning, and management (Owolabi & Alu, 2012). According to Korede (2017), a company's working capital strategies should address the management of inventories, trade receivables, cash, and short-term investments in order to reduce the risk of illiquidity and inefficiency. Additionally, as different firms have different needs for working capital, these regulations should consider the nature of the business. Profitability and a company's ability to use its working capital effectively are directly correlated.

As a result, effective and efficient working capital management is anticipated because it has a substantial impact on business profitability and sustainability (Agha & Mba 2014). The practice of preparing for the acquisition and use of short-term assets is known as working capital management (Ismail, Mohammed & Mohammed, 2015). According to Nwankwo and Osho (2010), effective Working Capital Management (WCM) is an ongoing process that encompasses various daily operations and decisions, impacting the firm's investment levels in different types of current assets and influencing the amount of short-term and long-term debt required to finance these assets.

### 3. Theoretical Review

The cash conversion cycle theory, risk management theory, stewardship theory have been widely adopted in diverse studies by researchers to provide theoretical understanding of the effect of working capital management and firm performance.

#### 3.1 Operating cycle theory

The liquidity concept can be formed by studying a firm's balance sheet and income statement operating activity measurements. A clearer perception of the firm's liquidity in this case can be obtained by incorporating measures related to debtors (Accounts receivable) and stock (Inventory turnover) into the operating cycle concept rather than depending solely on the current and acid test ratios (Indicators of Solvency). This illustrates how production, distribution (sales), and collection are the three fundamental processes for working capital

components. Weston and Eugene, 1979 Accounts receivable turnover measures how frequently investments in receivables are turned into cash. The average amount of outstanding accounts receivable for the company concerning annual sales is directly impacted by modifications in credit management and collection procedures. The kind of terms and policies made available to clients If not adequately assessed, receivables may become less liquid. Lower receivable turnover and a longer collection duration will indicate a decline in liquidity. Higher current and acid-test ratios would inevitably follow from businesses' decisions to hold onto sizable average receivable investments over extended periods. Laughlin and Richards, 1980 The quantity of raw materials, work-in-progress, and finished goods that a business turns into sales is known as inventory turnover. By employing manufacturing, distribution, and buying techniques that need a significant investment in stocks to meet projected sales, a lower turnover rate for inventory can be achieved.

If a company is unable to change its payment methods or have access to short-term financing, their decision may result in a longer and less liquid inventory period, which will be accompanied by higher current costs (Weston & Eugene 1979) The number of days per turnover accumulated for receivables and inventory approximates the firm's operational cycle. Incorporating the two into operational cycle concepts provides a more realistic, albeit incomplete, estimate of the firm's liquidity. Since of its time dimension, the operating cycle idea has limitations as a cash flow metric because it fails to consider the liquidity needs imposed on the firm, on its present liability commitments. Integrating a time pattern of cash outflow requirements on the firm's current liabilities is significant for liquidity measures as it evaluates the time pattern of cash inflows provided by its current asset transformation (Conversion) (Richards & Laughlin 1980).

### 4. Hypotheses Development

#### 3.1 Cash Management and Firm Performance

Working capital and corporate performance were analyzed for 719 Polish-listed companies between 2007 and 2016 by Anton and Nucu (2021). Using panel data approaches (fixed effects, panel-corrected standard errors in models, and ordinary least squares) and a quantitative methodology, the study conducts its research. The empirical results indicate that the level of working capital and business profitability have an inverted U-shaped relationship, meaning that working capital increases firm profitability in Poland up to a

point known as the break-even point. The break-even point is the point at which working capital starts to negatively affect corporate profitability. Both academic and practical advances are made by the research. Presenting fresh data on the nonlinear relationship between working capital management (WCM) and corporate performance in Poland adds to the body of knowledge on the topic.

According to practitioners, the findings emphasize the relevance of WCM for corporate profitability. Working capital (WC) and firm performance are investigated by Yousaf and Bris (2021). They selected a sample of 326 Czech enterprises from the Albertina database, including 20 accredited firms from the EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) Excellence Model. The Czech enterprises were drawn from three industries: manufacturing, automobiles, and construction. To obtain the results, they used a two-step system generalized method of moment (GMM) technique. The study results demonstrated that WC has a detrimental impact on firm performance; additionally, organizations with a quality certificate from the EFQM Excellence Model perform better. Previous research findings, which were held globally, and the present study findings will motivate Czech directors, managers, and leaders to participate in the quality award. Hence, the following hypothesis is stated:

*H0<sub>1</sub>: Cash management has no significant effect on the financial performance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria.*

### 5. Receivable Management and Firm Performance

Olaoye, Adekanbi, and Oluwadare (2019) employed a panel data methodology with various regression estimators to examine the relationship between working capital management and firm profitability: research from Quoted Firms on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The study was based on a balanced panel of ten listed firms from 2008 to 2017. The return on assets was found to be negatively impacted by both the cash collection and payment periods; nevertheless, the impact was only statistically significant for the cash payment period at 0.064 ( $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ ) in contrast to the forecast for the cash collection duration at 0.032 ( $p = 0.077 > 0.05$ ).

However, the impact was only significant for the current ratio, which was calculated at 8.172 ( $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ ), as compared to the estimate for the inventory period at 0.045 ( $p = 0.438 > 0.05$ ). It was also shown that both the current ratio and the inventory period had a favourable impact on the return on assets. Shah and

Khan (2018) investigated the relationship between profitability and working capital management in food and personal care products sector firms listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange. The study's main goal was to discover the empirical relationship between profitability and working capital management in Pakistani enterprises in the Food & Personal Care Product industry. As a sample, eight companies from the Pakistan Stock Exchange are chosen at random. The financial reports of these companies provided secondary data for six years, from 2010 to 2016, which was analyzed in STATA software utilizing regression analysis and Pearson correlation coefficient methods. It is discovered that the variables Return on Assets (ROA), Average Collection Period (ACP), Inventory Turnover in Days (ITID), Average Payment Period (APP), current ratio (CR), and Sales Growth (SG) are positively correlated with each other. Except for ITID and SG, all of the relationships are significant. Hence, the study hypothesizes that:

*H0<sub>2</sub>: Receivable days has no significant effect on the financial performance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria.*

### 6. Methodology

The firm-level strategy will be used in this investigation. Furthermore, the firm-level strategy, which is grounded in the longitudinal study design, was utilized. The selection of this design is based on the fact that it spans fifteen (15) years. This means that deposit money banks registered on the Nigerian Stock Exchange floor will be employed between 2009 and 2023.

The period covered and number of banks is similar to the work of Hasna (2016) who used 12 banks in Tunisia for 10 years but an improvement to the work of Ibrahim (2014) who used 8 sampled Nigeria deposit money listed banks for the period of 2005 to 2012. According to data from the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX), the study's population consists of the nineteen (19) listed deposit money banks. The sampling strategy used is convenience or purposeful. Only the DMBs that were chosen were included in the Nigerian Exchange Group. Throughout the time frame from which the datasets were taken, their yearly financial reports were available. As a result, the sample consisted only of banks that had all the necessary information because of their ongoing operation. We have selected 12 deposit money banks for our final sample size: Access Bank, First Bank, Fidelity Bank, First City Monument Bank, Guarantee Trust Bank, Sterling Bank, Stanbic IBTC, Union Bank, Unity Bank, United Bank for Africa, Wema Bank, and Zenith Bank.

**6.1 Model Specification**

Our approach, which aims to capture the impact of working capital management on the financial performance of Nigerian listed deposit money banks, is detailed in this paper. Thus, the study adapted the model specified by Olaoye, Akintola, & Ogundipe (2019); Dinku, (2013); Oladimeji and Aladejebi (2020); Ailemen, Folashade, Agwu, and Adetula (2014); and Osuma, Ailemen, Osabohien, and Eriki (2014) which was modified for the purpose of establishing the relationship between the dependent variables and the linear combinations of several determining variables captured in the study. The short form of our model’s econometric form is as follows:

$$FP_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 CTAR_{it} + \beta_2 RECD_{it} + \beta_3 FSIZ_{it} + \beta_4 FIRA_{it} + \mu_{it}$$

- Where:
- FP = Financial Performance is Measured in terms of Return on Asset
  - CTAR = Cash Management
  - RECD = Receivable Management
  - FSIZ = Firm Size
  - FIRA = Firm Age
  - $\beta_0$  = Constant

- $\beta_1$ -  $\beta_4$  = Slope Coefficient
- $\mu$  = Stochastic disturbance
- I =  $i^{th}$  banks
- t = time period

**7. Results and Discussion**

Before examining any discrepancies with the fundamental presumptions of OLS regression, panel least square regression was performed in this research. To put it briefly, the tests for heteroscedasticity and multicollinearity are part of this diagnostic suite. Additionally, the researcher runs a normality test, correlation matrix, and descriptive statistics as part of an early pre-regression analysis.

**7.1 Descriptive Analysis**

In this section, for each of the explanatory or independent and dependent variables of interest, the researcher examines the descriptive statistics. The mean, standard deviation, maximum, and minimum are used to analyze each variable. The statistical data that is descriptive for the study are shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 1:** Descriptive Statistics

VARIABLES	MEAN	SD	MIN	MAX	NO OBS
RETA	1.48	2.83	-20.23	9.54	177
CTAR	14.36	10.07	0.58	59.10	177
RECD	1636.30	496.27	38	3145	177
FSIZ	9.02	0.54	7.93	11.70	177
FIRA	23.72	15.67	2	52	177

*Source: Author (2024) From STATA 14*

With a standard deviation of 2.83, the sample deposit money banks' financial performance as measured by return on asset (RETA) had a mean of 1.48. Return on asset, a proxy for financial success, had a high value of 9.54 and a minimum value of -20.23. It was noted that the standard deviation was 10.07 and the mean was 14.36 in the cash ratio (CTAR) instance. The mean of receivable management period (RECD) for the sample deposit money banks was 1636 days approximately, with a standard deviation of 496 days. For the control variables, it is observed that on average firm size (FSIZ) had a mean of 9.02 with a standard deviation of 0.54. It is also observed that firm listing age (FIRA) had a mean of 24years and a standard deviation of 16years.

**Correlation Analysis**

Utilizing the Spearman rank Correlation Coefficient (correlation matrix) to investigate the relationship between the variables, the study's findings are shown in the table below.



**Table 2:** Correlation analysis

VARIABLES	RETA	CTAR	RECD	FSIZ	FIRA
RETA	1.00				
CTAR	0.22	1.00			
RECD	0.06	0.06	1.00		
FSIZ	0.19	0.30	0.24	1.00	
FIRA	-0.21	0.15	-0.12	0.38	1.00

*Source:* Author (2024) From STATA 14

The results mentioned earlier indicate a positive and moderate relationship ( $p = 0.22$ ) between the management of cash and financial performance in the case of the correlation between working capital management proxies and performance. Receivables management and financial performance have a weak but favorable correlation (0.06). The table indicates that the control variable, business size and financial performance have a small but positive correlation (0.19). The financial performance of the corporation and its listing age do, however, appear to be moderately correlated negatively (-0.21). Regression data, however, are required to verify our assumptions because correlation testing is unable to identify cause-and-effect relationships.

### 7.2 Regression Analyses

In particular, because the data had both cross-sectional and time series characteristics (2009 to 2023) (12 listed deposit money banks), a panel regression analysis was used in the study to test the hypotheses and investigate the cause-and-effect relationships between the independent and dependent variables. Below is a presentation and discussion of the panel data regression and an OLS pooled finding.

**Table 4:** Regression Result

	RETA Model (Pooled OLS)	RETA Model (FIXED Effect)	RETA Model (RANDOM Effect)
CONS.	-19.03 {0.000} ***	-6.10 {0.381}	-14.44 {0.014} **
CTAR	0.02 {0.245}	-0.00 {0.854}	0.11 {0.503}
RECD	0.99 {0.018} **	0.90 {0.045} **	0.86 {0.048} **
FSIZ	0.61 {0.085}	-1.39 {0.053} **	0.34 {0.434}
FIRA	-0.02 {0.075}	0.19 {0.007} **	-0.00 {0.860}
F-statistics/Wald Statistics	4.67 (0.01) **	2.33 (0.04) **	10.36 (0.11)
R- Squared	0.15	0.09	0.04
Adj. R-Squared	0.11		
VIF Test	1.12		
Heteroscedasticity Test	33.11 (0.00) ***		
Hausman Test		12.88 (0.0450) **	

**Note:** (1) bracket {} are p-values  
 (2) \*\*, \*\*\*, implies statistical significance at 5% and 1% levels respectively

**Source:** Author (2024) From STATA 14

Table 4 above illustrates the OLS pooled regression results. The R-squared value of 0.15 indicates that the independent and control variables in the model jointly explained approximately 15% of the systematic variations in financial performance, as measured by return on asset in the pooled deposit money banks over the period of interest. The absence of other independent factors that could have an impact on financial performance but were included in the error term is the reason for the portion of financial performance that cannot be explained. The OLS

regression model is valid and suitable for use in statistical inference, as indicated by the F-statistic value of 4.67 and the corresponding P-value of 0.0002, which both indicate that the model is statistically significant overall at the 5% level.

However, to confirm the OLS regression estimates even more, the study runs a few post-regression tests. From the table, it is observed that Cash management (Fixed effect = -0.00 (0.854)) as an independent variable to financial performance of listed deposit



money banks appears to have a negative and insignificant influence on financial performance. A good and considerable impact on the financial performance of listed deposit money institutions appears to be attributed to receivable management (Fixed effect = 0.90 (0.045)) as an independent variable.

## 8. Discussion of Findings

According to the empirical findings, receivable management (Fixed effect = 0.90 (0.045)) appears to have a favorable and significant impact on financial performance when considered as an independent variable of listed deposit money institutions. According to the findings, deposit money banks in Nigeria perform financially better as their receivable days increase. An organization may track client credit, retain customer loyalty, and uncollected revenues by maintaining proper accounts receivable management. Gill (2011) asserts that the main objective of accounts receivable is to reach an optimal balance between cash flow management components. Cash flow management is the process of planning and controlling cash flow both into and out of a business, that is, cash flows within the business and cash balances held by a business at a point in time (Samilogu, 2008). Efficient accounts receivable management affords a firm improve on its profitability by reducing the transaction costs of raising funds in case of liquidity crisis (Ahmet, 2012). This result agrees with prior empirical results which show that receivable management has a significant positive effect on financial performance (Agha, 2014). Most specifically, the results did not tally with previous findings of various researchers that report that receivable management has a significant and negative impact on financial performance (Napompech, 2012). The results did not also tally with previous findings of various researchers that report that receivable management has an insignificant negative impact on financial performance (Olaoye, Akintola, & Ogundipe (2019); Dinku, (2013); Safiah & Nizam, (2015) and Hoang (2015).

The study documents that cash management (Fixed effect = -0.00 (0.854)) as an independent variable to financial performance of listed deposit money banks appears to have a negative and insignificant influence on financial performance. This result agrees with prior empirical results which show that cash management has an insignificant and negative effect on financial performance (Hoang (2015); Dinku, (2013); Anton & Nucu (2021); and Golas (2020). Most specifically, the results did not tally with previous findings of various researchers that report that cash management has a significant and positive impact on firm performance

(Pouraghajan & Emamgholipourarchi (2012); and Haq, Sohail, Zoman, & Alam (2011). The results did not also tally with previous findings of various researchers that report that cash management has an insignificant positive impact on firm performance (Safiah & Nizam, (2015); Haq, Sohail, Zoman, & Alam (2011); Napompech (2012); Oladimeji & Aladejebi (2020); and Korent & Orsag (2018). Specifically, we opined that the ability of a bank to meet customers' withdrawal needs and other cash flows is a result of its cash management, therefore cash management is an essential factor in business operations and consequently, business profitability (Otekinrin et al., 2018). Padachi (2006) suggested that a company is obligatory to uphold equilibrium between cash position and its management with its profitability, since inadequate cash and excess cash have a significant effect on firms' profit. Cash operations in banks cannot be overemphasized.

## 9. Conclusion and Recommendations

A sharp rise in working capital investment costs relative to the advantages of granting consumers trade credit results in a decline in the company's performance. According to the non-linear relationship, working capital investments increase corporate profitability up to a specific amount, known as the break-even point or optimal level of working capital. Working capital might start to negatively impact a company's performance when it exceeds its optimal level. An inverted U-shaped relationship is a positive-negative combination with a break-even point. Taking into account that "entrepreneurial success can refer to the mere fact of continuing to run the business", It can be agreed that, in the context of successful entrepreneurship, the trade-off between working capital and profitability for a company is significant. The possibility of having funds tied up in unproductive assets like inventory and accounts receivable could arise from an increase in working capital. As a result, there will be less risk and so less profits. Aggressive organizations will result in lower working capital and higher profitability due to increased risk. By minimizing the amount of net current assets that make up the company's total assets, this strategy would increase enterprise profitability. There is a clear association between financial performance and working capital management.

According to the study, cash management significantly and negatively affects financial performance, whereas receivable management significantly and positively affects financial performance.

Diverse viewpoints regarding the connections between

working capital management and financial success have been adequately established by this study. The study's conclusions lead the researcher to cautiously advise that, in order to improve financial performance, the management of these deposit money institutions should support laws that would facilitate the quick conversion of accounts receivable into cash. Since the shorter the receivable term, the better the listed deposit money banks in Nigeria perform financially, trade receivable policies should either be shortened or left unchanged.

The study has increased our understanding of working capital management in general as well as the relationship between profitability and working capital management. Furthermore, while firms have been established to improve profitability with a decrease in the working capital management by previous studies, this study shows that this is not always the case. However, our findings prove that banks are, in fact, better at balancing the decision between working capital management and commercial maximization regarding profitability. In particular, the study advances knowledge by using a panel regression technique to provide empirical results on the impact of working capital management on the profitability of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria. This technique can capture the heterogeneity effect present in the banks. Similar to the majority of earlier related studies, this one would not be finished without making a few recommendations for other academics who might want to carry out related study. This work still has to be completed in a few areas, like determining co-integration between other variables during structural breaks or modifications. Additionally, it would be beneficial to conduct comparable research that includes the non-financial sector. In addition, the researcher believes that additional working capital management factors will broaden the scope of the analysis and provide a wider range of potential policy recommendations.

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## Legal Framework and Mechanism for Combating International Crimes: A Comparative Analysis between Nigeria and Uganda

GODSWILL OWOCHE ANTAL, MERCY OKPOKO, OLAWUNMI OPEYEMI OBISESAN  
HASSAN ISMAILA, PAUL ATAGAMEN AIDONOJIE  
Kampala International University, Kampala, Uganda

**Abstract.** This research compares and analyzes the existing legal regimes and institutional mechanisms developed to combat international crimes in both Nigeria and Uganda. It also attempts to examine the adequacy of the responses of the two countries in addressing international crimes. In this respect, a doctrinal research methodology is adopted involving analyzing primary and secondary legal materials including national legislation, international treaties, judicial decisions, and all relevant case studies. Research findings revealed that the two countries did much to ensure the domestic legal framework conforms to international standards. In Nigeria, there is adequate legislation which includes the Terrorism Prevention Act and Geneva Convention Act, Uganda is partially equipped with such laws as the Geneva Conventions Act, the International Criminal Court ICC Act, and the establishment of the International Crimes Division (ICD) of the High Courts. Unfortunately, political interference, corruption, and resource constraints within both countries have undermined the institutions' capacity and ability to prosecute international crimes effectively and pursue justice. This research recommends enhancing institutional capacity and anti-corruption measures, political independence of judicial and law enforcement agencies, and strengthening international cooperation with the ICC amongst others. Implementation of these recommendations shall develop the efficiency of legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms in both countries' jurisdictions, Nigeria and Uganda, toward complementing global efforts against impunity for international crimes.

**Keywords:** International Crimes, Genocide, Legal Framework, Institutional Mechanisms, Political Interference

### 1. Introduction

International crimes, include war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and terrorism, and are definitely among the most serious violations of human rights and world peace (Egielewa & Aidonojie, 2021). From their nature alone, such crimes have repercussions beyond the national dimension, touching the immediate victims and the international community as a whole (Hamm, 2011). War crimes are the most serious violations of the laws and customs of war, particularly such that may be directed against civilians, prisoners of war, or other noncombatants, and they strike at the very essence of humanity (Oladele et al., 2022). Genocide usually regarded as a "crime of crimes" involves acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group (Trahan & Mall, 2004). There is also crimes against humanity, which involve the widespread or systematic attacks against civilians, generally entailing murder, enslavement, torture, and rape (Straus, 2016). Again, in its essence, terrorism differs in its purposes and manifestations. It paralyzes international peace and security with acts intended to provoke fear and bring extensive physical harm to unknowing civilians and state institutions. Such crimes are rampant, with very serious effects, such that strong legal arrangements at the national and international levels are considered appropriate (Adejokun, 2018). The legal frameworks, therefore, include the legislation that defines the crime, sets out the legal standards, prosecutes the crime, and sets out arraignment measures, and goes ahead to secure justice for the victims. Effective legal frameworks include the establishment by national courts and international tribunals of jurisdiction over such crimes, thus helping to guarantee no impunity anywhere in the world (Tallgren, 2002). More importantly, these

frameworks allow sovereign states to act in accordance with commitments made under international law, notably the obligation to prosecute or extradite and the commitment to collaborate with international institutions such as the ICC for persons suspected of committing international crimes (Antai, 2024).

In Africa, countries like Nigeria and Uganda have been in the thick of the fight to curb the rising problems presented by international crimes (Aidonojie et al., 2021). Both these countries have faced quite a good number of these crimes domestically and also put in place legal and institutional mechanisms that are supposed to fight these crimes. However, the extent of effectiveness varies due to the political will, legal capacity, and socio-economic conditions of these countries (Paul, et al, 2024). This comparative analysis seeks to examine the legal frameworks and mechanisms within Nigeria and Uganda can rely on for the prosecution of international crimes. With reference to the strengths and weaknesses of each country's approach, it intends to add some insights into the strengthening of legal systems in Africa so as to abate the complex and dynamic nature of international crimes.

### 1.1 Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

This research's conceptual framework includes legal mechanisms and institutional responses to international crimes in national jurisdictions within Nigeria and Uganda. International crimes, which include, war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and terrorism, are typically defined by a variety of international instruments that include the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC) Act and the Geneva Conventions. These are offences touch on the very essence of human rights and international security, thus requiring a harmonized legal response from both national and international actors (Keith, 1919). Typically, the legal framework elaborated at the national level in the fight against international crimes is represented by criminal laws, statutes, and regulations criminalizing the acts, providing for jurisdiction by national courts, and procedures relating to investigation, prosecution, and punishment. These involve institutions of law enforcers, prosecutorial bodies, and courts of law, important actors in enforcing such laws and in securing accountability (Oaihimore & Aidonojie, 2023). This paper assesses the degree of compliance of country laws with international standards, the capacity built up at domestic levels in the institutions created to prosecute international crimes effectively before them, and the challenges enforcement implies

(Aidonojie et al., 2020). It also considers the broader implications that such national responses have on justice, human rights, and the rule of law within respective countries.

This research shall be based on legal pluralism principles and the theory of complementarity under international criminal law. Legal Pluralism provides for the existence of different legal orders in one country (Akhavan, 2001). As far as this study is concerned, it is a critique of how international criminal law, domestic legislation, customary laws, and even religious laws interact with or influence the prosecution of international crimes in Nigeria and Uganda (Masajuwa & Aidonojie, 2020). This theory is particularly applicable in African contexts, where traditional and informal justice mechanisms usually have a big role to play in complementing legal formal, and official systems. On the other hand, the theory of complementarity postulates that international tribunals like the ICC are formed not to replace national jurisdictions but to complement them stepping in only if such national jurisdictions prove unwilling or unable to prosecute international crimes effectively (Adonojie et al., 2021). What is more, this theory helps to try to understand how Nigeria and Uganda coordinate their national legal frameworks with international commitments and, notably, how they can cooperate with international institutions like the ICC. The following research uses these theoretical perspectives to review legal responses from both countries on international crimes, emphasizing issues of sovereignty and how it is balanced with international cooperation, alternative justice carried out nationally or internationally, and integration of international legal norms into domestic legal systems (Edet, Antai, & Itafu, 2022).

However, the current debate on legal frameworks for the prosecution of international crimes within the African jurisdictions of Nigeria and Uganda is relatively mature and detailed: it is primarily concerned with the various difficulties and partial successes in the process of mainstreaming international criminal law into these national jurisdictions. The Inquisition touches on vital areas ranging from how effectively domestic legal orders can prosecute international crimes, the role of international courts, to political and social dynamics in legal responses to crimes of concern. A number of studies have undertaken reviews of the national legal frameworks of African countries for their compliance with international norms, and their capacity to prosecute international crimes. For instance, Nmehielle (2003) reviews the issues in domesticating international criminal law in the African states,

identifying areas or issues where international legal commitments have no corresponding measures in terms of implementation at the national level. Ssenyonjo (2010), to that effect, reviews the regime of law in Uganda in its response to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) war and enumerates the strengths and weaknesses Uganda's legal and institutional mechanisms possess in relation to war crimes and crimes against humanity. The subject of intensive debate was the theory of complementarity by African states. Akhavan (2001) points out that the role of the ICC is to provide justice where the systems at the national level fail, whereas Mutua (2015) reflects on what he calls overreach by the ICC in Africa; he argues that it requires stronger national systems to prosecute international crimes without interference from without. Mennecke (2017) reflects on the tension between national sovereignty and international justice, especially in the context of Africa, which is often dynamic, political, and complicates legal processes. Other scholars have also focused their attention to the fact that African states encounter many challenges in prosecuting international crimes. Adejokun, (2018) highlight the issues of political interference, corruption, and resource limitation as the major challenging factors in the prosecution of laws against international crimes. Nyeko (2016) provides a comparative analysis of Uganda and Kenya, focusing on the socio-political factors that influence the implementation of international criminal law in post-conflict societies.

Case studies from Nigeria and Uganda give an insight into practical ways in which the countries have reacted to international crimes falling within their jurisdictions. Boehme (2019) focuses on the case of Nigeria with regard to counter-terrorism policy and practice against Boko Haram; it provides a vivid examination of the legal and institutional effectiveness in the response. Branch (2007) provides a very rich description of Uganda's legal response to the LRA and brings out the complexity of prosecuting war crimes in a context of ongoing conflict and peace negotiation. Regional cooperation, and the role of African institutions, including the African Union in supporting national efforts to combat international crimes, has also been canvassed. Viljoen (2007) examines the African Union's efforts to entrench justice and accountability on the continent. Murithi (2015) examines how regional mechanisms relate to the ICC specifically with an interest in African resistance to international intervention.

Although these literatures have made huge contribution to the understanding of legal frameworks and challenges that African states face in prosecuting

international crimes, several gaps still exist. The majority of research focuses either on one country's legal framework or covers the African continent generally without detailed comparative analyses in regard to specific countries. Very little literature is comparative in nature between these countries. Finally, whereas extant scholarship often focuses on the theoretical and legal analyses, it rarely goes beyond a real firm in-depth exploration of examples that palpably demonstrate the practical application and challenges of these frameworks. A more detailed analysis is required to explore the socio-political factors that affect the realization of the laws against international crimes in these countries, which include political will, corruption, and regional dynamics (Muwaffiq et al., 2024; Obisesan et al., 2024). The present research tries to fill these gaps through a focused comparative analysis of the legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms put in place by Nigeria and Uganda in their struggle against international crimes and assesses how effective and adequate these frameworks have been in practice through specific case studies in both countries that illustrate successes and challenges. As such, this paper will serve to intricately provide an understanding of how various African legal regimes react to international crimes and therefore join the wider debate on strengthening national and regional capacities for investigating and prosecuting such crimes (Aidonjio et al., 2024).

## **2. Case Studies Concerning Prosecution of International Crime in Nigeria and Uganda**

In Nigeria, the case of Abubakar Shekau is a glaring case study, the founder of the infamous Boko Haram insurgency, who masterminded several heinous terrorism-related crimes in Nigeria. The Nigerian government has considered numerous legal processes against Boko Haram members under the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011. The provisions of the Act helped the Nigerian government to target all activities of Boko Haram. Even though Shekau himself was killed in 2021, it was during his leadership, the legal framework was used against his organization, which underlined the application of the anti-terrorism laws of Nigeria. There were hurdles in prosecuting Boko Haram members, such as allegations of human rights abuses, delays in trials, and problems in obtaining evidence since the conflict was continuous. These are just some of the challenges (Akpanke, & et al., 2022), pointing out the limitations to effectively apply the Terrorism Prevention Act. Another case is the terrorism-related charges brought against Ahmed Salkida, a journalist who had been accused of having links with Boko

Haram. His case was remarkable in light of the controversy over claims and undertones for press freedom and terrorism prosecution. The Terrorism Prevention Act also came into play by making it possible for the Nigerian government to press charges related to terrorism and financing of terrorism. The extent of the Act was clearly captured, with numerous areas of terrorism compared to media linkages. Salkida's case was mired with allegations of political undertones and abuse of the legal framework, thereby demonstrating the challenges in transparency and abuse of the judicial system (Affoah, 2016).

In Uganda, the case of Thomas Kwoyelo remains one of the prominent case studies. The former LRA commander, Kwoyelo, was prosecuted for international crimes under the Ugandan legal system. The crimes that Kwoyelo was charged with included war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated during the course of the LRA insurgency (Nanyunja & Nortje, 2023). The provisions for prosecuting Kwoyelo were found in the International Criminal Court Act 2010 and the Geneva Conventions Act 2000, outlining serious crimes including abduction, murder, and torture, among others. It paved the way for the application of international standards in his process. The proceedings were slow and continued to raise concerns over the fairness of the process with disputes over competence of legal counsel and how evidence was being handled as some of the challenges raised when trying to apply international legal standards in a domestic setting. Joseph Kony was also a leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, one of the largest targets for international prosecution. For years, Kony evaded the authorities of Uganda to be brought before justice, in spite of international arrest warrants from the ICC for his apprehension.

The legal regime of Uganda supplemented the international efforts for the capture of Kony and trialing before the ICC on charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes (Mukhlis et al., 2023; Aidonjje et al., 2023). The International Criminal Court Act of 2010 helped this cooperation with the ICC and international agencies. The pursuit of Kony was hampered by some formidable practical problems related to political instability, resource constraints, and the complexities of international cooperation. Indeed, the example reveals how difficult it is to actually enforce international legal standards and seek justice in war zones.

### **3. International Legal Framework in Curtailing International Crimes in Nigeria and Uganda**

International Criminal Law provides the legal regime that lies at the junction between national and international legal systems and has the mandate to direct countries in their national and international attempts at prosecuting and trying international crimes. International criminal law also provides the basic principles and definitions that would guide the creation of national legislation in Nigeria and Uganda (Onyeozili et al., 2021). This includes defining international crimes and also establishing standards of prosecution and punishment. These principles are an influence on legislative and institutional frameworks in both countries. For example, the ICC Act of Nigeria and that of Uganda have the ingredients of international criminal law domesticated to bring domestic law along for the purposes of harmony with international standards. International criminal law also gave weight to procedural aspects prosecuting international crimes such as investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of cases. It serves to guide national legal systems by the principles of international justice and fairness. On the other hand, the Rome Statute is the very treaty that created the International Criminal Court. Adopted in 1998 and coming into force in 2002, the Statute sets forth the jurisdiction and functions of the ICC, setting a legal basis for the prosecution of persons accused of the most serious international crimes (Imoisi & Aidonjje, 2023; Edetalehn & Aidonjje, 2023). Viewed against this, the Rome Statute is the basic instrument of law regulating the activities relating to the ICC, including its jurisdiction, procedures, and institutional structure. Being state parties to the Statute of Rome, both Nigeria and Uganda are bound by its provisions and have pledged to cooperate with the ICC and both countries have enacted national legislation like the International Criminal Court Act for Nigeria, and the ICC Act for Uganda, to give effect in their domestic legal orders to the provisions of the Rome Statute (Gunawan et al., 2023; Aidonjje, 2023; Idahosa et al., 2023). These laws make provision for the prosecution of international crimes in national courts and cooperation with the ICC. The Rome Statute further provides for an obligation of state parties to cooperate with the ICC in terms of arrest and surrender of suspects, proof, and assistance with investigations. These are obligations upon which both Nigeria and Uganda are bound, and by doing so, the capacity of both is improved to effectively deal with international crimes. The Rome Statute also enhances accountability by prosecuting international crimes through the setting of standards and offers a mechanism to hold people accountable



where national jurisdictions are unwilling or unable. This helps in ensuring that justice be sought after for the crimes that may otherwise go unaddressed.

The ICC is the first permanent international criminal court that was established to prosecute persons for the gravest violations of international law. This jurisdiction ascribes to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression. On the other hand, the ICC, based on its principle of complementarity, does not substitute but complements national jurisdictions. This means it steps in only when national jurisdictions are unwilling or unable to prosecute (Glasius, 2006). Such is the principle of complementarity that underlies the ICC: the ICC steps in only where national jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to prosecute international crimes. This has created some motivation for countries like Nigeria and Uganda to develop or strengthen their legal infrastructure in preparation for prosecuting international crimes domestically. It relies on state parties' cooperation in arrests, surrender, and provision of evidence, and execution of its orders. Being ICC member states, both Nigeria and Uganda have the obligation to cooperate with the Court in facilitating its ability to prosecute international crimes and enhance justice. The ICC also provides capacity building in member states through training and other forms of supply of resources to enhance their capacity to handle international crimes. Such aid reinforces legal frameworks and institutions nationally in Nigeria and Uganda. Furthermore, it has been involved in investigations and processes relating to international crimes in both Nigeria and Uganda. For instance, on Uganda, the ICC issued arrest warrants against Joseph Kony and other top LRA leaders, an incident many have pointed to show cooperation between Uganda and the ICC on bringing perpetrators of the LRA insurgency to justice. Even in the case of Nigeria, the ICC has been in contact with the Nigerian authorities concerning the prosecution of terrorism and war crimes, thus stressing once again that national-ICC cooperation is very important for the prosecution of serious international offenses.

#### **4. Legal frameworks in dealing with international crime in Nigeria**

Nigeria operates a federal legal system, which reflects being a federation comprising 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja ("Country Reports on Terrorism," 2007). The Nigerian legal system is a complex blend of statutory law, common law, customary law, and Islamic law practiced in its colonies, diverse cultures, and religious practices (Aidonjio et al., 2022; Majekodunmi et al., 2022).

This pluralistic nature creates opportunities as well as challenges, regarding the fight against international crimes, as there are too many legal traditions that have to be molded into one cohesive framework of law (Oko, 1998). The legal system of Nigeria is hierarchically structured, with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended, at the apex. Next in order of priority are the Statutes enacted by the National Assembly and the Houses of Assembly of the states then the statutory laws are the subsidiary legislation, followed by judicial precedents, customary laws, and Islamic law in some areas. This places a very vital role on the judiciary as an independent arm of government in the interpretation and enforcement of these laws, seeing that justice is administered in line with the rule of law. Legal frameworks on several international crimes have been developed in Nigeria, including genocide, war crimes, and terrorism. These crimes are well known to the international law, and the national legislation of Nigeria is seeking to comply with its international obligation under international treaties and conventions by providing for their criminalization under her domestic legal system (Peters, 2018). The pieces of legislation considered very vital for international crimes are the Nigerian Criminal Code, Terrorism (Prevention) Act, Geneva Conventions Act, and the ICC Act. All this will be discussed in details below (Aidonjio & Francis, 2022).

The Constitution is the highest law of Nigeria, hence setting out the framework of governance, creating the rights and duties of citizens, and giving powers and functions to government institutions. It represents first-order legislation for Nigeria, and every other law, including that on international crimes, has to be in tandem with its provisions. Furthermore, the Constitution also deals with the division of powers between the federal and state governments (Anifowose, & et al, 2024), an element that is quite important in ascertaining jurisdictional issues relating to the prosecution in international crimes.

Furthermore, it must be noted that statutory laws are those enacted by the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly in Nigeria. In terms of international crimes, a few principal statutes will be relevant, such as the Criminal Code Act, Cap C38 LFN 2004. It is applicable in Southern Nigeria, and it criminalizes different acts that may constitute or amount to international crimes, like murder, kidnapping, and unlawful assembly. The Penal Code Act, Cap P3 LFN 2004: This is applicable in Northern Nigeria, but it also makes provisions criminalizing acts that would amount to international crimes, including even offenses under Islamic law.

The Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011 (as amended), caters especially to terrorism and provides a legal framework for preventing and combating terrorism, including financing, planning, and execution of terrorist acts. It also provides for the freezing of assets of suspected terrorists, extraditing people for offenses related to terrorism, and cooperating with international bodies on combating terrorism (Antai, 2024). The Geneva Conventions Act is the domestication of the Geneva Conventions in Nigeria, specifically found at Cap G3 LFN 2004. This enactment provides the legal basis for prosecuting such war crimes as grave breaches of the Conventions, including willful killing, torture, and inhumane treatment of protected persons such as civilians and prisoners of war. The Act provides for the incorporation of principles of international humanitarian law into Nigerian law; that whoever commits war crimes in or outside Nigeria is liable to prosecution. Given this, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Act 2001 domesticated the provisions of the Rome Statute establishing the ICC in Nigeria and stated that offences such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are punishable in the courts in Nigeria, consistent with Nigeria's obligations arising from international law.

There is the Nigerian Customary Law, which is a body of law derived from the customary traditions and practices of the various ethnic groups in the country. It has great influence on personal law matters, especially on marriage, inheritance, and land tenure. Although customary law generally does not directly address international crimes, its influence on societal norms and practice can have implications for the enforcement of statutory laws related to international crimes, particularly in the rural areas where the customary law is most prevalent (Kanyinga et al., 1995). There exist Islamic Law (Sharia) also, which is in operation in some northern states of Nigeria, which operates parallel to the statutory law, mainly on matters of personal status, criminal law, and social behavior. The Sharia law is based upon the Quran and Hadith, which come into play in Sharia courts. Therefore, on the subject of international crimes, Sharia law may overlap with statutory law at various junctions especially with respect to terrorism and all such acts of violence which fall within the ambit of international crime. Among the major sources of law, a cardinal principle of the legal system in Nigeria, is that of judicial precedent or *stare decisis* (Weimann, 2010). This was bequeathed to Nigeria from the common law tradition. Decisions of higher courts, especially that of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, bind lower courts; it is the apex court in the country. Decisions of the

appellate courts, are very instrumental in shaping how statutes, including those criminalizing international crimes, are applied and interpreted.

The other major source of law in Nigeria is international law, especially as the country is a party to several international law treaties and conventions relating to international crimes. Some examples of such treaties include the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Geneva Conventions, and United Nations Conventions on Terrorism. All these international instruments form part of the legal framework for combating international crimes in Nigeria upon ratification and domestication by enabling legislation. However, its dualistic nature makes Nigeria's legal system such that international treaties do not become part of the domestic law and require legislative action to be made effective.

#### **4.1 Institutional Mechanisms on Combating International Crimes in Nigeria**

There is a good number of institutional mechanisms set up for combating international crimes in Nigeria, wherein very important roles are played by statutory bodies and agencies, most especially institutions like the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and specialized institutions. Such institutions are integral parts in ensuring that offenders are brought to book proper protection of the victims is accorded; more importantly, that Nigeria is alive to its obligations under international law (O'Connor et al., 2007). One of such institution is the judiciary, which remains the bastion of any institutional response by Nigeria to international crimes. The judiciary is charged with the interpretation and application of the law that shall bring justice to cases of genocide, war crimes, terrorism, and other international offenses. The Nigerian judiciary is hierarchically structured into levels, with the Supreme Court at the top, followed by the Court of Appeal, Federal and State High Courts, and, in addition, some specialized courts like Sharia and Customary Courts (Umoh, 1984). About cases relating to international crimes like terrorism, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, the jurisdiction squarely rests with the Nigerian judiciary, with particular emphasis on the Federal High Court. The Terrorism (Prevention) Act and ICC Act provide for the trial of such crimes in the Federal High Court. State High Courts are also mandated to take up prosecution for crimes that may also share common elements with those crimes under international law, such as murder and grievous harm under the Criminal Code or Penal Code. Agencies that exist in Nigeria for the policing of crimes include law enforcement agencies, which have a significant

role in fighting international crimes in the country. Among them is the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), which is the principal agency for investigating crimes, including those constituting international crimes (Ekpenisi et al., 2024; Safi' et al., 2024; Mukhlis et al., 2024).

The NPF is at the forefront of detection, investigation, and arrest of suspects involved in genocide, war crimes, terrorism, and other related crimes. The Anti-Terrorism Squad and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) are the specialized units within the NPF that deal with counter-terrorism investigations of serious crimes with international elements. Another important agency in the fight against international crimes, especially terrorism, is the Department of State Service (DSS). It is involved in the gathering of information, counter-terrorism, and internal security. This agency greatly coordinates with the Nigeria Police Force and the military on how to forestall or respond to such threats of terrorist attacks (Thurston, 2019). Therefore, the DSS has the role of safeguarding critical national infrastructure and preventing the spread of extremist ideologies. We also have the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), primarily assigned with the task of tending to economic and financial crimes but playing its role in investigating and prosecuting financing of terrorism, thus playing a vital role in the war against international crimes. The activities of the EFCC in the areas of asset tracing and freezing, so far as they relate to terrorist organizations or other international criminals, are highly relevant in disrupting the financial networks facilitating this activity (Katsouris & Sayne, 2015). This is quite significant in fighting international crimes through the Army, Navy, and Air Force of the Nigerian military, particularly at conflict spots where war crimes or crimes against humanity are possible. The military is often called upon to conduct various operations related to peacekeeping, counterinsurgency, and counterterrorism in countries, in particular, the regions affected by groups such as Boko Haram. Military courts have jurisdiction over offenses by military personnel, including those which might constitute an international crime. We also have specialized agencies and bodies like NAPTIP, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, which is charged with fighting human trafficking and other international crimes.

Although a trafficking agency, the mandate of NAPTIP encompasses issues that often overlap with international criminal law, such as sexual exploitation, forced labor, and child soldiering. It

works in concert with international organizations and law enforcement agencies to prosecute traffickers and protect victims (Oshita et al., 2019). The Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) is the chief law officer of Nigeria and plays a very important role in prosecuting international crimes. The AGF office is mandated to prosecute offenses under the enactment on international crimes and provide legal advice to the government, as well as represent the country in international legal matters. Under the ICC Act and other related laws, the AGF has powers to institute and undertake prosecution arising from these crimes. The National Human Right Commission (NHRC) is saddled with the mandate to promote and protect human rights in Nigeria, particularly those violated by international crimes. Investigations of rights violations, support to victims of violations, and ensuring that Nigeria complies with her international human rights obligations, form part of its mandate (Palmer, 2023). The NHRC often cooperates with other agencies, such as the judiciary and law enforcement, to address crimes like genocide and crimes against humanity that involve serious violations of human rights.

### **5. Legal Framework for Combating International Crimes in Uganda**

The legal system of Uganda just like Nigeria combines common law and statutory law. Most of the influences are a result of its colonial history and the varied legal traditions within the country. The basis upon which the Ugandan legal system rests includes the rule of law, separation of powers, and respect for human rights. It is also hierarchical, with the Constitution at the centre, then statutes, then customary laws, and then judicial precedents.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, is the supreme law instrument of the country. It is the foundation for all laws and structures of governance in Uganda and even those touching on international crimes. The Constitution guarantees fundamental human rights and freedoms, gives outlines for powers and functions of the various branches of government, and sets forth the role of the judiciary in interpreting and enforcing the laws (Shyllon, 2018). It also sets out the commitments of Uganda under international law, including the application of international treaties and conventions.

The statutory laws of Uganda are made by Parliament and are of equal status as sources of law. Amongst which include the Penal Code Act, Cap 120, criminalizing a number of offenses which fall under the category of international crimes, such as murder,

assault, and robbery. Even though it does not specifically mention international crimes, provisions for serious offenses provide a ground for prosecuting acts that would otherwise be under the broader category of international crimes. Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002 which criminalizes acts of terrorism through the definition of such acts, criminalizing offenses relating to terrorism, and procedures relating to investigation and prosecution. These include freezing assets and detention provisions and international cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. On the other hand, the International Criminal Court Act of 2010 domesticates the Rome Statute of the ICC in Uganda by providing for the prosecution of persons before Ugandan courts for the offenses of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The said law attempts to harmonize domestic law with international standards on the subject and makes provisions for cooperation with the ICC. It vests the Ugandan courts with jurisdiction over offenses articulated by the Rome Statute: genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This vests the power to prosecute persons who have committed these crimes in Uganda, bringing domestic law in line with the requirements of international law. It further provides for cooperation with the ICC on arrest and surrender of suspects, providing evidence, and execution of requests of ICC (Ambos et al., 2020). This cooperation is vital in enabling Uganda to meaningfully participate in the international regime of justice and take its part in prosecuting international crimes as it continues to adopt more definitions and provisions of the Statute into Ugandan law, thereby providing explicit guidelines on the prosecution and punishment of international crimes and establishing procedures on how to handle a case that falls within the jurisdiction of ICC. The Geneva Conventions Act, 2000, domesticated the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in Ugandan law, providing for the prosecution of war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law. Besides the ICC Act, Uganda has legislated specific laws on cooperation with the ICC known as the International Criminal Court (ICC) Cooperation Act (2010). Such legislation provides procedures and mechanisms necessary to allow Uganda to cooperate with the ICC on the prosecution of international crimes. The Act provides procedures for the extradition and surrender of suspects to the ICC, thus enabling Uganda to fulfill its obligations under the Rome Statute (Antai, & et al, 2024). It also allows assistance from the Ugandan authorities in ICC investigations, from the supply of evidence to the protection of witnesses. ICC Cooperation Act allows for cooperation between Uganda and ICC, thus easing prosecution by providing for the prosecution of international crimes, hence

contributing to the international justice system (Kisubi, & et al., 2024).

Other sources of Law include the customary law in Uganda, which is derived from the traditions and practices of different ethnic groups. It largely caters to personal issues such as marriage, inheritance, and land tenure. Much like the case in Nigeria, the customary law does not seem to have direct relevance to international crimes, though at times it impacts how certain crimes are addressed in practice at the local level. In some cases, the customary practices tend to interact with the statutory laws, especially in the rural areas where the customary law reigns. The principle of judicial precedent is also followed in Uganda such that the decisions of the higher courts bind the lower courts. The Supreme Court of Uganda is the highest court whose decisions set binding precedents for all other lower courts. Judicial precedents in applying statutory laws play a very important role, and so it is in the case of international criminal law. Case law from the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal helps to shape the legal framework and thereby contributes to uniformity in applying the law. That aside, like in the case of Nigeria, Uganda is a signatory to many international treaties and conventions that pertain to international crimes. Among them are the Rome Statute of the ICC, the Geneva Conventions, and other United Nations Conventions covering terrorism and human rights. The International Treaties get into Ugandan law once ratified and are applied by way of national legislation. This belief in international law is further underscored by the constant efforts to benchmark national laws against international requirements (Gathii et al., 2016).

### **5.1 Institutional Mechanisms on Combating International Crimes in Uganda**

Uganda's strategy in dealing with international crimes has been informed by an intricate system of institutional arrangements for implementing the domestic and international law pertaining to genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and terrorism (Mutawalli et al., 2024; Aidonojie et al., 2023). The institutional arrangements established entail courts of law, policing agencies, and special statutory bodies. The Ugandan judiciary takes center stage in the prosecution and adjudication of international crimes. This includes the interpretation and application of the relevant national legislation and international law within the legal framework. The High Court of Uganda has a division called the ICD, which was established with the view to handle cases relating to international crimes (Katonene

Mwesigwa et al., 2018). ICD was established in 2008 to prosecute suspects of the most heinous international crime, including but not limited to genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, among other related offenses under the Penal Code Act. Cases that require special knowledge in International Law, like the current prosecution of former LRA Commanders, are handled here. It also collaborates with other international bodies such as the ICC in handling international crimes (Bekou, 2017) that spill into Uganda's borders. The investigation and prosecution of laws governing international crimes in Uganda is mainly within the hands the Uganda Police Force (UPF). Their duties extend to arresting the suspects, gather evidence, and pursue the legal procedures in the prosecution of international crimes. There exist specialized units for combating international crimes in Uganda, such as the Counter-Terrorism Unit. This is a unit within the UPF that deals with terrorism, which is a serious threat to Uganda, especially with threats from groups like Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). The unit cooperates well with international partners in the prevention and responses to terrorist activities. There is also the Criminals Investigation Directorate (CID), which is entrusted with the investigation of serious crimes, including those qualified as international crimes. The Directorate plays an important role in the gathering and preservation of evidence vital for successful prosecutions.

Other statutory bodies in Uganda have important roles concerning international crimes, often in co-operation with international organizations and foreign governments. One such body is the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), which has the mandate to promote and protect human rights in Uganda. Although it does not prosecute any crime directly, the UHRC monitors human rights violations and can refer cases of international crimes to the appropriate authorities. The Commission conducts investigations upon infringement, provides legal aid to victims, and promotes in the field of human rights, including international crimes-related issues. There is also the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), which prosecutes criminal cases on behalf of the state, and this includes international crimes cases. The Directorate works in close collaboration with the Judiciary and law enforcement agencies to see to it that suspects face justice. The DPP examines police evidence, decides whether or not to prosecute the suspects, and represents the state before the Courts for crimes under the international jurisdiction.

## **6. International Cooperation and Partnerships in Combating International Crimes in Nigeria and Uganda**

These institutional mechanisms in Uganda are further supported by international cooperation, especially with the ICC. This is due to the fact that Uganda has ratified the Rome Statute and enacted the International Criminal Court Act, thereby providing a platform for cooperation with the ICC in prosecuting international crimes. This has been particularly important in cases relating to the LRA, given that the ICC has issued arrest warrants against senior members like Joseph Kony (Tadeo, 2012).

Nigerian efforts toward the fight against international crime have been supported by cooperation with international agencies such as the ICC, UN, and INTERPOL. Indeed, extradition requests, intelligence sharing, and joint operations in the hunt for international criminals are not possible without such partnerships. The membership in ICC also provides the opportunity for Nigeria to prosecute these crimes, which may be beyond the capability of the domestic institutions (Natarajan, 2019). Other major stakeholders in the fight against such crimes in Nigeria are civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations. They are usually involved in publicity, providing legal assistance to the victims, and observing the compliance of the government with international legal standards. The NGOs also raise public awareness about international crimes and the need for accountability.

## **7. Comparative Analysis of the Legal Framework in Combating International Crimes in Nigeria and Uganda**

Both countries have laid down legal frameworks that bring them in line with international standards in the fight against international crimes. Each country has enacted laws meant to give effect to international treaties and conventions, such as the Statute of the ICC and the Geneva Conventions. These laws, however, provide a basis for the domestic prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The two countries have also incorporated cardinal international instruments into national legislation. It is on the strength of Nigeria's ICC Act of 2007 and Uganda's ICC Act of 2010 that prosecution for international crimes can be facilitated in conformity with the Rome Statute (Ekpenisi, & et all, 2024). Equally, both countries have legislations incorporating the Geneva Conventions, thus showing a commitment to international humanitarian law. And both countries also have dedicated legislation on specific kinds of

crimes of international import. Nigeria's Terrorism (Prevention) Act and Uganda's Anti-Terrorism Act detailed a framework on how to fight terrorism. In the same vein, Uganda's Geneva Conventions Act and Nigeria's Geneva Conventions Act deal with war crimes or violations of international humanitarian law.

The two countries also have institutional and mechanism establishments to handle international crimes. These include the judiciary and investigative bodies like police and other investigating agencies (Antai, 2024), some of whose units are specifically mandated to investigate and prosecute international crimes. They also make provision for cooperation with international bodies like the ICC. The legal definitions of the international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in Nigeria and Uganda, tally with those contained in the Rome Statute and Geneva Conventions. This harmonization between the domestic and international legal regime on international crimes makes it easy to cooperate with the international courts. They have therefore legislatively made room for cooperation with international courts. Nigeria's ICC Act and Uganda's ICC Act provide for the ICC Statute in relation to procedures for arrest and surrender of suspects, giving of evidence, and ensuring cooperation with the ICC, among others. The two countries have committed elaborate anti-terrorism legislation that deals comprehensively with offenses relating to terrorism. For example, in Nigeria, there is the Terrorism Prevention Act, while in Uganda, it is criminalized by provisions on financing, recruitment, and planning under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Whereas the countries have made a basis for international crimes, there are differences in the breadth and depth of legislation.

Nigeria's legal framework is constituted by International Criminal Court Act, 2007, and Terrorism Prevention Act, 2011, which are more focused on the integration of international crimes into national law. There exist supplementary specialized legislations under the legal framework of Uganda, such as the Geneva Conventions Act of 2000, which gives detailed provisions on war crimes and humanitarian law. Penalties for international crimes differ in the case of Nigeria and Uganda. The Terrorism Prevention Act in Nigeria has prescribed severe penalties, with life imprisonment and death sentences awarded for the crimes relating to terrorism. Uganda's Anti-Terrorism Act also provides for strict penalties, but they relate to different fields of activities concerning acts of terrorism ("Reducing the application of death penalty in Uganda, 1971). These forms of divergence cumulatively point towards the deterrence of commission of international crimes and their solving.

Another difference relates to the mechanisms of enforcement. In Nigeria, enforcement mechanisms will often be multi-tier and involve federal and state law enforcers, with specific units from the police for terrorism and international crimes. In Uganda, enforcement mechanisms are centralized at the national agencies, which specialize units for the handling of anything that relates to international crime. Moreover, the Ugandan legal system recognizes customary law together with statutory law, and this affects the handling of international crimes, especially in the rural areas (Osse et al., 2011). On the other hand, the Nigerian legal system recognizes customary law but has a stronger reliance upon its statutory and federal law for the prosecution of international crimes. Nigeria has been able to implement most of the legal regime that has been fighting against international crimes. In particular, with regard to counter-terrorism, such laws as the Terrorism Prevention Act facilitate many cases of terrorism prosecution in the country. Uganda's legal regime has been quite effective in handling issues relating to international crimes, especially in regard to war crimes and humanitarian law. The ICC Act and the Geneva Conventions Act have provided a vibrant basis for prosecution. Not without challenges.

#### **8. Challenges of Legal Framework for Combating International Crimes in Nigeria and Uganda**

Notwithstanding, the legal framework and institutional mechanism, to combat international crime in both Nigeria and Uganda, several challenges are constraining their effective implementation. These include political interference, corruption, and resource constraints; each of these challenges greatly affects the capacity of duos to prosecute international crimes like genocide, crimes against humanity, terrorism, and other offenses of concern. Political interference in the above-mentioned countries is rife in the administration of justice on international crimes cases. Indeed, very often, the supposedly independent judiciary is put under duress by the political actors who infiltrate the party. Such interferences may amount to undermining the rule of law and eventually result in biased or compromised judgments. This in turn means that political interference in the determination of such cases will lead to selective prosecution; this is to mean prosecution of persons or groups of people on political grounds and not on matters of fact and the merits of the case. It may lead to a string of cases where one with connections can get away with murder, so to speak, while a person who is an opponent or a member of a marginalized group can be singled out for unfair treatment. The ultimate result of those kinds of

practices is a reduction of public trust in the system, hampering the prosecution of international crimes as perpetrators may never be brought to book. This political interference goes down to the level of law enforcement agencies, in which appointments, promotions, and operational decisions are sometimes driven by political considerations. Such a scenario might result in less effective investigations by the law enforcers and less impartiality of the investigating officers, leading to compromised investigations and a high likelihood of injustice.

Another challenge in the quest to fight international crime is corruption, court officials may be bribed into compromising the proceedings so that the perpetrators of these international crimes get off scot-free. It thus appears that corruption wears away at this legal system baseline. It is also present in law enforcement agencies, through which officials accept bribes for changing or suppressing evidence, releasing some suspects, or refusing to follow up on investigations diligently (The Concept of an International Anti-corruption Court, 2024).

Other constraining factors to this fight against international crimes relate to inadequate funding. Poor funding lets down institutions in fully investigating and prosecuting international crimes. Besides, the bulk of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges lack special training in dealing with such kinds of crimes. International crimes are normally so complex that they require specialists in international law. Without regular training and capacity-building programs, many officials are still ill equipped to deal with such cases, hence making inefficiencies and errors occur while processing prosecution. Quite often, this country lacks the very infrastructure that forms the backbone of prosecuting international crimes forensic laboratories, secure courtrooms, and detention facilities. This hinders the legal system in a manner that evidence cannot be gathered and analyzed, witnesses cannot be protected, and suspects are not safely detained. Inadequate infrastructure contributes to delaying trials, mismanaging exhibits, and failure to secure convictions. The dual judicial system is saddled with a heavy accumulation of cases, partly unrelated to the international crimes. This congestion in courts prolongs delays in trying an international crime, during which time evidence may be lost, witnesses unavailable, or public interest wanes. Justice delayed eventually kills the deterrent for people who want to commit crimes since they believe that trolley justice speed may cause cases to collapse.

## 9. Conclusion

The comparative review that was done regarding the legal regimes on international crimes oriented a convergence and divergence approach in Nigeria and Uganda. Both states were found to have made serious efforts at bringing their national laws up to the required standard of international law, observable by the adoption of most of the pertinent international instruments, particularly the Statute of Rome and obligation to the ICC. The effectiveness of such frameworks is really tagged to the challenges of political interferences, corruption, and resource constraints. Nigeria has a very elaborate legal framework with laws such as the Terrorism Prevention Act and International Criminal Court Act targeting terrorism and other international crimes. With respect to war crimes and crimes against humanity, Uganda has equally put in place the legal regime through legislations like the Geneva Conventions Act and the ICC Act. Despite these efforts put in by the government in making such laws, issues relating to political interferences, corruption, and resource limitations have rendered the same ineffective in implementation and enforcement. The roles of international criminal law, the Rome Statute, and the ICC in shaping and guiding the legal frameworks for both countries cannot be ignored. These are international instruments that set forth the standards and mechanisms to tackle serious international offenses, ensuring accountability. However, their effectiveness in being fully implemented and enforced remains at doubt in both Nigeria and Uganda, unless internal challenges can be overcome.

The investment that the duo nations need to do is in the capacity building in the institutions of judiciary and law enforcement to handle international crimes, specialized training of personnel and increasing the human resources pool, enhancement in infrastructure. Stringent implementation of anti-corruption measures in addressing corruption in both the judiciary and law enforcement agencies. This shall ensure transparency and accountability of practice in handling the cases of international crimes. Both countries should also ensure that the judiciary and law enforcement agencies are independent from political interference. It shall institute mechanisms to give guarantees for the impartiality of legal processes while ensuring the integrity of investigations and prosecution. Cooperation with ICC and other international bodies should be improved in order to be effective in prosecution for international crimes. The duo should also ensure compliance with the international obligations concerning the arrest and

surrender of suspects, provision of evidence, and other forms of cooperation. Ensure adequate resources are also provided for the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of international crimes. These gaps in funding, training, and infrastructure must be filled if the legal and institutional mechanisms, incorporating relevant international practices, are to remain effective. Moreover, the fight against international crimes needs support from public through awareness. Engage civil society organizations, the media, and the public to work actively on combating impunity and seeking justice for victims. Recommendations such as these, if addressed, will greatly help in shaping legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms for Nigeria and Uganda and strengthen responses towards international crimes.

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## Assessment of Out-Of-Pocket Expenditure on Malaria Treatment in Adamawa State Specialist Hospital Yola

FADIMATU JALAL-EDDEEN  
Adamawa State Polytechnic, Yola, Nigeria.

AHMED TUKUR UMAR  
Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This study investigates the impact of malaria on household out-of-pocket expenditure at Specialist Hospital Yola in Nigeria. A cross-sectional study was conducted with a population of 1,500 and a random sample of 316. The study employed ANOVA and Multiple regression analysis to assess the relationship between various variables. The findings revealed that there exists a significant relationship between out-of-pocket spending and strained household finances, while regression analysis showed that malaria significantly affects household out-of-pocket expenditure. This study recommends prioritising policies to increase income levels, exploring avenues for government support, promoting financial literacy among affected households, and implementing targeted interventions to improve income and financial protection for vulnerable households. Addressing these issues is essential to alleviate the financial burden of healthcare expenses on households in Nigeria.

### 1. Introduction

The progress towards achieving universal health care (UHC) in Nigeria has been slow because a significant number of the populace are bearing the high out-of-pocket (OOP) health expenditures, mainly due to the insufficient government expenditure on the healthcare sector (WHO, 2021; Onoka, Hanson, & Hanefeld, 2014; Onoka et al., 2013). Similarly, attaining universal health coverage (UHC) is increasingly becoming difficult because of the increasing poverty level of the citizenry, primarily because of the system-wide inequities that result from the lack of financial

protection for the health care needs of most Nigerians (WHO, 2021; Okpani & Abimbola, 2015).

Although over the year's government has made concerted efforts to provide healthcare services by maintaining the infrastructure, providing basic medical support improving staff salaries, etc. However, on different occasions, households have to shoulder 'out-of-pocket expenditure' (OOP) for some of the services provided. The OOP expenses cut across medical and non-medical expenditures. The medical costs may include consultation fees, investigations, drugs, and surgical procedures, to mention but a few. Similarly, the non-medical expenses include hospital bed charges, feeding, and ambulance services, etc. The OOP expenditure is considered the spending directly borne by an individual or household for the cost of accessing and utilizing healthcare services without a third party (insurer of state). It is regarded as one of the most inequitable forms of health financing because it acts as a barrier for the vulnerable to access quality healthcare services, and thus a precursor to poverty and resulting in health inequity among the populace (WHO, 2021; Onah & Govender, 2014; Okpani & Abimbola, 2015).

It suffices to say that, OOP on healthcare services is a significant barrier to individuals' and families' health-seeking behavior. It can be said that, due to adequate precautionary saving by households due to often lack financial protection to access quality healthcare services. Sometimes, a household borrows or sells assets to meet the expenditure. In extreme cases, individual and family spending exceeds the proportion of household income or ability to pay with resultant



catastrophes setting in (WHO, 2021; Onah & Govender, 2014; Okpani & Abimbola, 2015). See Figure 1, which shows growing out-of-pocket expenses over a while in Nigeria.

This has led to a number of households experiencing difficulties in accessing Medicare which may not be unconnected to the high cost of OOP expenses which necessitated this study with a view to finding the relationship between malaria treatment and out-of-pocket expenses.

## 2. Literature

### 2.1 The Economic Cost of Malaria

Liu (2018) examined the health and financial benefits for households from averting malaria with the application of extended cost-effectiveness analysis methods. The result of the study shows that Rolling out the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine in Zambia within one birth cohort would avert an estimated 670 deaths for children under five years of age, and prevent approximately US\$1.0 million of OOP expenditure, both largely concentrated among the poorer households. Vaccination also was expected to prevent about 4,400 associated cases of catastrophic expenditure among households in all income quintiles, excluding the highest. The estimated cost of the program would be US\$9 million per birth cohort. Equally, Adjagba et al (2019) examined the Economic cost of malaria in four countries in sub-Saharan Africa: A comparative analysis with the use of community-based and healthcare facility-based studies. The findings of the study revealed that total household costs were highest in Ghana and lowest in Uganda. Health systems costs are significantly higher in Nigeria. As opposed to the three other countries, indirect costs in Ghana are lower than direct costs. It was found that in general richer households tended to spend more on treating OPD and IPD cases in the four countries and a majority of Ghana respondents were insured (67%) while in the three other countries, out-of-pocket spending was high (from different sources), followed by subsidies from social institutions.

On the other hand, Mikkelsen-Lopez et al (2013) analyze the implications of health provider compliance on out-of-pocket expenditure during care-seeking for fever in South East Tanzania. The study employed ACT stock data for the period 2009-2011. The findings of the study revealed that Irrespective of ACT stock-outs, more than half (58%) of respondents sought initial care in the public sector, the remainder seeking care in the private sector where expenditure was higher by 19%. Over half (54%) of respondents

who went to the public sector reported incidences of non-compliant behavior by the attending health worker (e.g. charging those who were eligible for free service or referring patients to the private sector despite ACT stock), which increased household expenditure per fever episode from USD0.14 to USD1.76. ACT stock-outs were considered to be the result of non-compliant behavior of others in the health system and increased household expenditure by 21%; however, we lacked sufficient statistical power to confirm this finding.

In addition, Chuma, Thiede, and Molyneux (2006) determine the rethinking the economic costs of malaria at the household level: Evidence from applying a new analytical framework in rural Kenya with the applications of Cross-sectional surveys in a wet and dry season provides data on treatment-seeking, cost-burdens and coping strategies. The findings of the study show that Mean direct cost burdens were 7.1% and 5.9% of total household expenditure in the wet and dry seasons respectively. Case study data revealed no clear relationship between cost burdens and vulnerability status at the end of the year. Most important was the household vulnerability status at the outset. Households reporting major malaria episodes and other shocks before the study descended further into poverty over the year. Wealthier households were better able to cope

Sicuri et al (2013) investigated the economic costs of malaria in children in three sub-Saharan countries: Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya, with the use of health systems and household costs previously estimated, were integrated with costs associated with comorbidities, complications and productivity losses due to death. The result of the study shows that Household and health system costs per malaria episode ranged from approximately US\$ 5 for noncomplicated malaria in Tanzania to US\$ 288 for cerebral malaria with neurological sequelae in Kenya. On average, up to 55% of these costs in Ghana and Tanzania and 70% in Kenya were assumed by the household, and of these costs, 46% in Ghana and 85% in Tanzania and Kenya were indirect costs. Expected values of potential future earnings (in thousands) lost due to premature death of children aged 0–1 and 1–4 years were US\$ 11.8 and US\$ 13.8 in Ghana, US\$ 6.9 and US\$ 8.1 in Tanzania, and US\$ 7.6 and US\$ 8.9 in Kenya, respectively. The expected treatment costs per episode per child ranged from a minimum of US\$ 1.29 for children aged 2–11 months in Tanzania to a maximum of US\$ 22.9 for children aged 0–24 months in Kenya. The total annual costs (in millions) were estimated at US\$ 37.8, US\$ 131.9 and US\$ 109.0 nationwide in Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya and included average treatment costs per

case of US\$ 11.99, US\$ 6.79 and US\$ 20.54, respectively.

Onoka, et al (2013) examined The Economic Burden of Malaria on Households and the Health System in Enugu State Southeast Nigeria, with the application of the cross-sectional method. The findings of the study indicate that over half of the households (57.6%) had an episode of malaria within one month of the date of the interview. The average household expenditure per case was 12.57US\$ and 23.20US\$ for OPD and IPD respectively. Indirect consumer costs of treatment were higher than direct consumer medical costs. From a health system perspective, the recurrent provider costs per case were 30.42 US\$ and 48.02 US\$ for OPD and IPD while non-recurrent provider costs were 133.07US\$ and 1857.15US\$ for OPD and IPD. The mode of payment was mainly through out-of-pocket spending (OOPS).

Furthermore, Jimoh, Sofola, Petu and Okorosobo (2007) examined the economic burden of malaria in Nigeria using the willingness to pay approach in which the Willingness To Pay (WTP) approach was used in the study. The result of the study shows that households would be prepared to pay an average of about Naira 1,112 (USD 9.3) per month for the treatment of malaria. This is about Naira 427 (USD 3.6) in excess of the average expenditure they currently make on malaria treatment per month. Similarly, households are willing to pay on average a sum of Naira 7,324 (USD 61) per month for the control of malaria. Again, this is an excess of about Naira 2,715 (USD 22.6) over the cost they currently bear (protection, treatment and indirect costs), and it represents households' average valuation of their intangible costs of malaria illness. This amount represents about Naira 611.7 (USD 5.1) per head per month and Naira 7,340 (USD 61.2) per year. For a country with a population of about 120 million, this translates to about Naira 880,801 million per annum representing about 12.0 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. Hence, the malaria burden in Nigeria is enormous and has a devastating impact on economic growth.

On the other hand, a study by Akazili, Aikins, and Binka (2007) examined the Malaria treatment in Northern Ghana and found that, indirect cost accounts for 71 per cent of the total cost of a malaria episode. While the cost of malaria care is estimated at 1 per cent of the income of the rich, it is 34 per cent of the poor households' income, suggesting that the burden of malaria is higher for poorer households. To reduce the cost of malaria to households, it is assumed that these variables directly or indirectly influence the attitude,

subjective norm, perceived behavioral control, and behavioral intention of individuals about seeking quality healthcare services when they get sick. Although the environment has a significant role in shaping the lives of the populace, it is a fact that people from different countries have different social backgrounds, cultures, beliefs, and attitudes. Thus, the attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral controls of these people on whether to get quality health care services and get well will also differ. It is believed that the educational status of caregivers is a strong factor towards the utilization of health care services and getting well. The educated people in society understand the benefits of health care better than those who are not educated. However, irrespective of the level of education of individuals or households, OOP sometimes deter them from seeking quality healthcare services from health facilities. Similarly, the understanding of the younger population of health-seeking is positive when compared with the older ones. However, in the case of OOP, it is assumed that age has little or no role to play, considering the impact that comes with it (NDHS, 2018). Again, the income status of the family, which is often linked up with the educational background and employment status, has positive effects on the household's attitude, subjective norm, perceived behavioral control, and intent to health-seeking behavior (NDHS, 2018). Similarly, high-income households have a better chance of accessing better-quality services (Awusi, Anyanwu, & Okeleke, 2009; Onah, Ikeako, & Iloabachie, 2006). However, the stressors that come with OOP expenditure often put pressure on working-class families, irrespective of their income level.

### 3. Methodology

The study was carried out using primary data with a sample size of 316. The study used analysis of variance (ANOVA) in hypothesis testing. The statistical analysis is used in epidemiologic studies examining whether the two sample means sufficiently differ. The ANOVA compares more than two sample means; however, when it is used to compare only two sample means, it is similar to running a t-test (NB: the t-test, under the null hypothesis, compares two means of independent samples whether they significantly differ). ANOVA is considered a parametric test because it assumes that the populations involved in a study have a normal distribution (Armitage and Berry, 1994). As ANOVA compares the variance (or variation) between the data samples, if the variations are much larger, the means of the different samples will not be the same.

Equally, multiple regression was the statistical technique used to analyze the relationship

between a single dependent and several independent variables. The regression formula is given as  $Y = B_0 + B_1X_1 + B_2X_2 + B_3X_3 + \dots + B_nX_n$ .

Where Y is the dependent variable and  $X_1 \dots X_n$  are the independent variables and  $B_0$  is the slope parameter.

**4. Results and Discussions**

The ANOVA result, as shown in Table 1, is for a regression analysis with the dependent variable "direct outpatient malaria medical cost" and three predictor variables: "health insurance," "health status," and "family size." The ANOVA results show the sum of

squares (Regression) of 0.237, representing the variation in the dependent variable explained by the predictor variables, degrees of freedom (df) 3, and F-statistic 3.332 with a low p-value 0.020 less than the common significance level of 0.05 (alpha = 0.05); this indicates that the regression model is statistically significant. It suggests that the model is significant, and there is a significant relationship between the predictor variables (health insurance, health status, family size) and the dependent variable "direct outpatient malaria medical cost." The analysis examines the relationship between predictor variables and healthcare costs (Cohen, Cohen, West, and Aiken, 2013).

**Table 1:** ANOVA Analysis.

Model Summary									
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
	.174a	0.03	0.021	0.154	0.03	3.332	3	319	0.02

a Predictors: (Constant), healthinsurance, healthstatus, familysize

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected because of a significant relationship between the specified predictor variables and the dependent variable. This relationship aligns with the principles of TPB, HBM, and TRA, illustrating how these predictor variables collectively influence attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control related to healthcare costs for outpatient malaria treatment (Glanz, Rimer, & Viswanath, 2008; Rosenstock, 1966; Ajzen & Fishbein, 1980; Janz & Becker, 1984).

The above results in Table 1 show a significant relationship between household insurance; household income and family. These results are also in line with the findings (The World Bank Nigeria, 2021). Therefore, one can argue that an increase in government health insurance provision, and expenditure will go a long way in reducing household's expenditure on health (The World Bank in Nigeria, 2020).

Between 2004 and 2018, the expenditure on health for Nigeria recorded an average annual growth rate of 8.21%; there was a substantial increase in the expenditure from 6,040 million US dollars to 16,405 million US dollars in 2018. One of the factors resulting in the increase of OOP expenditure among the citizenry is the lack of effective government policy on social health insurance. While the social health insurance scheme in Nigeria has seen improvements over time, the figures paint a sobering picture. As of 2018, social health insurance accounted for a mere 0.8% of the current health expenditure (The World Bank in Nigeria, 2021).

However, it has been identified that a reduction in health insurance coverage will have a negative impact on health provision and expenditure on households. This is seen between 2004 and 2018, this figure declined from 2.3% to 0.4%. It is lamentable that despite the devaluation of Nigeria's currency, the Naira, from N174/Dollar in 2016 to N380/Dollar in 2018, government expenditure on health per capita remained stagnant at 12 US dollars from 2004 to 2018. Similarly, Nigeria's government expenditure on health per capita based on PPP was 35 US dollars in 2018. Further look at Nigeria's private expenditure on health as a share of total health expenditure dropped from 77.9% in 2017 to 77.3 % in 2018 (The World Bank in Nigeria, 2021).

**4.1 Regression Analysis**

Table 9 shows the coefficients from a multiple regression analysis with the dependent variable "gender" and three predictor variables: "healthinsurance," "govtsupport," and "supportextent." The regression analysis results indicate that the predictors "healthinsurance," "govtsupport," and "supportextent" have statistically significant effects on the dependent variable "gender." The standardized coefficients allow you to compare the relative importance of the



predictors in predicting “gender,” with “healthinsurance” having the most significant impact (negative), followed by “supporttext” (positive) and “govtsupport” (positive) having smaller impacts.

**Table 2:** Regression Analysis. Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	95.0% Confidence Interval for B	
	B	SE	Beta			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
(Constant)	1.563	0.258		6.046	0	1.054	2.071
1 Malaria	0.548	0.054	0.441	-4.229	0	-0.333	-0.122

a Dependent Variable: household out-of-pocket expenditure

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

The multiple regression analysis results from Table 2 have the dependent variable "household out-of-pocket expenditure" and three independent variables: "malaria." The model summary starts with "Coefficients," which means that it presents the coefficients of the regression model the coefficient for "malaria" is -0.548. The standardized coefficient (Beta) is -0.441. The t-statistic for "healthinsurance" is -4.229. The p-value associated with "healthinsurance" is 0, which means it is statistically significant. The 95% confidence interval for the "healthinsurance" coefficient ranges from -0.333 to -0.122.

The findings from the regression analysis can be related to theoretical assumptions from the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB), Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), and Health Belief Model (HBM) by considering how these theories relate to attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural control, and how these factors might influence both households out of pocket expenditure and malaria (Glanz, Rimer, & Viswanath, 2008; Rosenstock, 1966; Ajzen & Fishbein, 1980).

Thus, TPB posits that an individual's intention to perform a behavior is influenced by three main factors: attitudes toward the behavior, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. In the analysis, "healthinsurance" could be seen as a variable related to perceived behavioral control. The significant negative effect of "healthinsurance" on "gender" might indicate that individuals with health insurance are more likely to seek healthcare due to their perceived control over accessing medical services.

Similarly, TRA, a precursor to TPB, focuses on the influence of attitudes and subjective norms on an individual's intention to perform a behavior. In this context, the negative effect of "healthinsurance" on "gender" might suggest that individuals with health insurance may have more positive attitudes toward healthcare-seeking behavior.

Equally, the HBM focuses on perceived threats to health, perceived benefits, and perceived barriers to engaging in health-related behavior. The presence of "healthinsurance" can be seen as a perceived benefit that may positively influence healthcare-seeking behaviour. This aligns with the finding of a significant negative effect of "healthinsurance" on "gender," it suggests that those with health insurance may be more likely to overcome perceived barriers to seeking healthcare.

The result from the above table is in line with a number of empirical studies, Jimoh, Sofola, Petu and Okorosobo (2007) examined the economic burden of malaria in Nigeria using the willingness to pay approach in which willingness to pay (WTP) approach. The result of the study shows that households are willing to pay an average of about Naira 1,112 (USD 9.3) per month for the treatment of malaria. This is about N427 (USD 3.6) in excess of the average expenditure they currently make on malaria treatment per month. Similarly, households are willing to pay on average a sum of Naira 7,324 (USD 61) per month for the control of malaria. For a country with a population of about 120 million, this translates to about N880,801 million per annum representing about 12.0 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. Hence, the malaria burden in Nigeria is enormous and has a devastating impact on economic growth.

Furthermore, a study by Akazili, Aikins and Binka (2007) examined the Malaria treatment in Northern Ghana shows that, indirect cost accounts for 71 per cent of the total cost of a malaria episode. While the cost of malaria care is estimated at 1 per cent of the income of the rich, it is 34 per cent of the poor households' income, suggesting that the burden of malaria is higher for poorer households. To reduce the cost of malaria to households. Therefore, based on the empirical results it can be argued that there is a significant relationship between malaria treatment and out-of-pocket expenditure.

**5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

The results of the ANOVA analysis demonstrated a significant relationship between predictor variables (health insurance, health status, and family size) and out-of-pocket healthcare spending, providing insights into the financial challenges faced by households seeking outpatient malaria treatment. Finally, the multiple regression analysis highlighted the significance of health insurance as a predictor for gender, emphasizing the need to expand health insurance coverage and reduce gender-based disparities in accessing healthcare support. This study provides critical insights into the financial challenges associated with outpatient malaria treatment. It suggests avenues for improving access to healthcare, reducing the economic burden on households, and promoting health equity. The recommendations and findings from this research will likely inform policy decisions and initiatives aimed at mitigating the financial strain on households and improving healthcare access for all.

Based on the research findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

**Government Support Expansion:** Given the significant impact of direct government support on health insurance coverage, there is a need to expand government initiatives to provide health insurance to a wider population. This could include targeting vulnerable groups, low-income households, and women, who often face disparities in accessing healthcare support.

**Policy Interventions:** Policymakers should consider implementing policies that protect households from excessive financial strain due to healthcare expenses. These policies may include capping out-of-pocket spending, subsidizing healthcare costs, or creating financial safety nets for vulnerable households.

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## **An Assessment of the Efficacy of Local Authorities' Developmental Bye-Laws as Instrument to mitigate Building Collapse in Southwest, Nigeria**

FIDELIS OLUKAYODE FAYOMI, OLUWOLE ADELAJA OTUFOWORA  
NWORA VALENTINE NGWOKE  
Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria

JOY OLUWASEUN ADIE  
Federal Polytechnic, Ede, Nigeria

**Abstract.** One persistent problem in the nation is the terrible tendency of building collapses. This has hampered the advancement of infrastructure and resulted to fatalities, property destruction, and financial losses for Nigeria. The purpose of this study was to assess how local governments' building codes and development bylaws affected the number of building collapses in Nigeria. The pertinent literature on the subject was examined. To improve the research's findings, the Ogun State Urban Regional Planning Law of 2008 and the 2010 Lagos State Urban and Regional Planning and Development Law, which is used in conjunction with the National URP law, were also examined. As a research tool, structured questionnaires were used; 48 were distributed, and 41 (85.4%) were returned.

The gathered data were shown and explained. According to the research project, building collapses in Nigeria might be decreased if policymakers and the government focused more on the problem of upholding developmental bylaws, made sure that these laws are updated to reflect the global trend of urbanization, and so forth. According to the survey, project managers should get familiar with the prerequisites for obtaining permissions and approvals. Developers should be made aware of the significance of local development bylaws, building regulations, and the code by the local authorities. Local authorities should also set up guidelines to incentivize new developers to follow building regulations and bylaws, as well as to construct safety precautions to lessen the likelihood of collapses in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Building collapse, Developmental bye-laws, Local authorities, Setback, URP law.

### **1. Introduction**

Even while building collapses occur frequently worldwide, they are more frequent and catastrophic in developing nations. In the course of this country's development, the frequency of building failures and collapses as well as the extent of the losses in terms of lives lost and property destroyed are growing increasingly concerning (Fayomi et al., 2022). Indeed, in Nigeria, even the average citizen is increasingly accustomed to seeing buildings collapse (Ibrahim, 2013).

Building collapse is a result of residents' desperate attempts to escape horrible landlords who treat them like second-class citizens. Developers, both reputable and not, are also motivated to make quick profits on their investments, which can lead to situations where rules are willfully or carelessly broken, compromising standards and endangering lives.

Regretfully, it is assumed that lawlessness flourishes in Nigeria. Because of this, people construct buildings without the required authorizations—such as a building permit, authorized design, survey, required soil test, and so forth—and estates appear without approved layout plans or emergency plans. More than 60% of structures in the nation are thought to fit into these categories (Ibrahim, 2013). In addition to the previously mentioned reasons for building collapse, the Nigerian element emerges as a significant concern.

Corruption, lawlessness, and our belief that any engineer or expert in the built environment may take on any kind of responsibility in a building process without having the fundamental knowledge needed for it are just a few of the ways that Nigerian influence the building business. Greed and the propensity to cheat in almost every area, from the quantity we take on to the subpar materials and job quality, are manifestations of corruption. Given the prevalence of civil law disobedience in Nigeria, the situation in the construction sector is undoubtedly the same. Because of this, lawlessness thrives on our disregard for building standards and hurried development.

There are a number of issues to deal with in the building sector, including the usage of unskilled labor, inexperienced professionals, professionals who cross-carpet to lucrative specialist roles where they lack the necessary abilities, ignorance, and an abundance of quacks (Ede, 2010).

One possible reason for building failures could be: The development control authority's inadequate funds. Insufficient funding causes physical planning programs to face significant setbacks in comparison to other economic sectors. The government at the three tiers misinterprets the development control authorities and agencies as revenue-generating entities in their context, rather than viewing urban and regional planning activities and programs as social services.

The public is "illiterate" about physical planning programs due to the Federal Housing Authority's lack of public education campaigns on these topics. This causes them to create unlawful arrangements in order to further their own interests without taking into account the consequences of their actions. A development cannot be successful and effective without the support of the public. This is due to the fact that people are always willing to support any activity as long as they are informed and have advance awareness about it (Ogundele et al., 2011).

### 1.1 Statement of Problems

In certain states in Southwest Nigeria, the efficacy and efficiency of local authorities' construction restrictions and developmental byelaws as a measure to lessen the threat of building collapse is still unknown. Even with these laws and regulations in place, there are still many instances of buildings collapsing, which raises questions about how well these rules and regulations are understood, applied, and enforced. In Southwest Nigeria, the study is to determine whether Local Authorities' developmental byelaws are effective in curbing the threat of building

collapse and to pinpoint any shortcomings or difficulties that may be preventing the byelaws from being successfully implemented in the region.

### 1.2 Aim and Objectives

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of development byelaws and regulations issued by local authorities in a few chosen states in Southwest Nigeria as a tool to prevent building collapse.

The specific objectives were:

- To assess the current regulations and byelaws for development that local authorities in Southwest Nigeria have put in place.
- To evaluate how well local government enforcement of these byelaws and regulations is going.
- To determine the obstacles local government faces when putting development byelaws and regulations into effect and keeping them up to date.
- To propose recommendations for improving the effectiveness of local authorities' developmental byelaws and regulations in mitigating building collapse in Southwest Nigeria.

### 1.3 Justification of the Problem

In Nigeria, building collapse is a serious problem that results in the loss of human life, property, and financial resources. In order to protect public safety and welfare, it is imperative that the causes of building collapse are looked into and addressed. This research study seeks to provide insights and recommendations for minimizing building collapse and improving building construction and building delivery standards in Nigeria by evaluating the efficacy of the local byelaws. The implementation and enforcement of development-related byelaws and regulations pertaining to building production are primarily the responsibility of the local authorities.

In order to help policymakers and regulatory bodies develop and amend regulations to improve building safety standards, it will be helpful to understand the effectiveness of these byelaws and regulations as well as the mechanisms by which they are enforced. This will aid in the creation of evidence-based policies and regulations that will prevent building collapse in Nigeria.

The protection of Nigerians' lives and welfare is the main driving force behind this research project. When

innocent lives are lost in building collapses, families and communities can experience great sorrow and suffering. In order to promote safety, lessen human suffering, and prevent the destruction of expensive property, investments, and infrastructure—all of which can have detrimental long-term effects on the local economy—a review of the effectiveness of the developmental byelaws enacted by the local authorities is intended. In order to support Nigeria's economic growth and development, the evaluation of regional developmental byelaws and regulations intends to make the built environment more resilient and sustainable.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The following factors led the researcher to choose Lagos State and Ogun State in Southwest Nigeria as the study areas:

##### **High Incidence of Building Collapse:**

Because of their political and economic importance, the states of Lagos and Ogun may have an impact on national policy decisions. These states have a high population density and are known for their quick urbanization and building. By concentrating on these states, the study can offer insights into the particular difficulties local governments in these locations confront and suggest focused strategies to reduce the risk of building collapse.

#### **1.5 Availability of Data and Resources**

When compared to other Nigerian states, Lagos and Ogun States have comparatively greater data and resource availability. Developmental byelaws are put into effect and enforced by well-established municipal administrations in these states. These states' data, records, and experience will make it easier to evaluate the efficacy of developmental byelaws thoroughly and give a more realistic picture of Nigeria's overall position.

#### **1.6 Representation of Urban Centres:**

Lagos and Ogun States, two of Nigeria's most important metropolitan centers, serve as a good example of the difficulties and complications associated with urban development. Building collapse-related challenges in other urban areas of the nation can be addressed by extrapolating and applying the findings from these states. Better knowledge of the larger context of preventing building collapse in Nigeria would be made possible by this study.

#### **1.7 Potentials for Policy Impact:**

Due to their importance in both politics and the economy, the states of Lagos and Ogun may have an impact on national policy decisions. The conclusions and suggestions drawn from the research study carried out in these states have the potential to be significant and have an impact on the creation and execution of national policies, resulting in more thorough and efficient steps to prevent building collapse and uphold development control in Nigeria.

## **2. Literature Review**

The Impacts of Local Authorities Developmental Byelaws in reducing Building Collapse in Nigeria  
Construction regulation authorities, also known as local authorities, are generally established in every nation to regulate and enforce the mechanisms on the application of the Building Code in the construction industry, curb uncontrolled and unchecked physical planning of buildings and construction, and harmonize construction laws found in statutes that may contradict each other (Ikejide, 2011).

Ikejide (2011) asserted the above goals of local authorities and then provided evidence to support his claim by outlining the effects of their developmental bye-laws when they are used effectively in construction projects. Reducing building collapse in Nigeria is one instance where these influences or effects of developmental bye-laws and regulations issued by local authorities may have been predicted. Among the possible effects are the following:

- Preventing unqualified contractors from entering the building industry easily and from spreading throughout it.
- Cases of corruption in the building sector being eliminated.

Enhancement of the formalities and protocols involved in the building plan approval process.

- Promotion of requiring the participation of licensed professionals in the construction process, including both architects and builders.

### **2.1 How Local Authorities Developmental Bye-laws and regulations can help reduce Building collapse in Nigeria**

The best defense for any development proposal continued to be the upholding of local and regional planning laws. It is also intended to act as a yardstick for all citizens to make sure that their neighborhood develops in a way that prevents slum development, guarantees their personal safety, and sustains the city

for both present and future uses. Governments and legislators must make sure that the nation's laws are updated to support the present global trend of urbanization and devote greater attention to the issue of enforcing the nation's physical planning rules and regulations (Enisan & Ogundiran, 2014).

The following are some ways that Local Authorities Development Bye-laws can lessen building collapse in Nigeria, per Nathaniel (2016):

A national standard for planning must be established. We may never reach the "promised land" in terms of the environment unless we adapt our native norms, which are flexible and adaptable to the realities of shifting societal preferences, technological advancements, economic conditions, and tastes. A committee may be established by the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners to research and develop a set of national standards.

By offering thorough development guidelines, the standards ought to be implemented from the very beginning of the design process. Our comprehensive designs ought to provide site-specific information like building lines, setbacks, percentage coverage, the range of building heights that is allowed, the kind and regularity of decorating, etc.

Planning standards should receive a lot of media attention in order to sensitize the public in a reasonable and sufficient manner and reduce conflicts when negative and final enforcements are implemented.

To ensure that planners have sufficient knowledge of design details, departments of urban and regional planning must teach urban design intensively.

While new developments may be subject to the strict application of planning standards, structures constructed without approval that can be corrected or modified to comply with standards may be given a reasonable amount of leeway.

Law court judges ought to receive sufficient training to reduce the amount of pointless injunctions they issue. However, in accordance with the provisions of the Nigerian Urban and Regional Planning Law, it is advised that the Urban and Regional Planning Tribunal be established in each of the Federation's States.

Human rights advocates and non-governmental organizations, particularly those that employ planners, ought to be adequately apprised of the significance of upholding planning law in order to reduce their

inclination toward confrontation and malice when uneven developments are approved.

It has been observed that the laws and ordinances required to establish the desired environment cannot be enforced by planning authorities on their own. Therefore, in order to improve capacity building and functionality, it is crucial that planning authorities seek out teamwork and collaboration with other relevant fields (Aluko, 2011).

The work is almost burdensome or done haphazardly since planners and planning agencies frequently dabble and double up into filling the void left by other professions like transportation and landscape design. Considering this, planning authorities ought to consult with and hire additional experts in the field of land.

Members of the Executive branch of government should also be employed by planning authorities in monitoring capacities. These units include sanitary inspectors and Special Forces, which are used to combat indiscipline and quickly arrest violators of environmental laws.

Planning agencies ought to be duty-bound and refrain from accepting bribes in any form (Aluko, 2011).

The local authorities' development bye-laws listed below are recommended by Omole & Akinbamijo (2012) and may lessen the frequency of building collapses in Nigeria.

Both the land and planning laws should be incorporated and integrated so that they could adequately supplement one another for the benefits of the society.

Along this line, people should be more educated and enlightened on the use of laws in regulating, guiding and directing their landed properties for the benefits of all and sundry.

Government should have complete authority over land use regulations in nations like Nigeria, where human demands—such as the need to use land—continually exceed the amount of land that is available. For the time being, this appears to be one of the best opportunities available.

### **3. Research Methodology**

Measures of the variable mentioned in the research problem are gathered and analyzed using a set of techniques and procedures known as research design.



Research data (primary data) were obtained from building production professionals who are directly involved in the creation, production, and enforcement of building bylaws at local governments in Lagos and Ogun states in order to obtain pertinent and trustworthy information. Because other government buildings lack the necessary number of building professionals, only local government headquarters were chosen for this study. Four different local government headquarters were selected at random and consulted in each state. The purpose of this is to ensure that all local governments in both states are fairly represented. In each local government, six different professionals were then consulted as responders. This was done in order to obtain trustworthy findings from the study project.

**3.1 Sample Size**

For the study, a sample size of forty-eight (48) respondents—builders, town planners, architects, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers—was utilized. Each of the six respondents mentioned above was chosen at random from four separate local governments in Ogun and Lagos states in that order.

**3.2 Sampling Techniques**

In order to gather data for this study, a mixed-methods strategy incorporating qualitative and quantitative techniques will be used. To choose the respondents, the stratified random sampling approach was applied. Stratified random sampling involves the division of the population into smaller groupings known as strata. To obtain the necessary samples from each stratum, basic random sampling is then used. Simple random sampling is a quantitative research strategy that operates on the tenet that members of a target population are selected so that each has an equal probability of being chosen and that each decision is made independently of the other.

**3.3 Research Instrument**

Questionnaires were administered as the instrument used to collect data for this study. For the sake of clarity, the questions were posed in straightforward language. Additionally, they were made in a closed-ended format, requiring respondents to check the blanks as they were completed. Additional data for this study was acquired from textbooks and journals.

**4. Data Collection, Presentation and Interpretation of Results**

**4.1 Data Collection**

Surveys with closed-ended questions that were structured provided the data used in this study. 41 questionnaires, or 85% of the sample, were retrieved and used for the study. The questionnaires were given to 48 building professionals working in local governments in the states of Ogun (Abeokuta South, Abeokuta North, Ado-odo otta, and Obafemi Owode) and Lagos (Shomolu, Agege, Ijaiye Ojokoro, and Alimosho LGAs). Builders, architects, town planners, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers are among the experts.

**4.2 Data Presentation**

The presentation and analysis of study data for potential conclusions takes place here. The presentation of data must be done so impartially while awaiting editorial interpretations or comments. (Onyemaechi, 2015) Proper numbering, titles, and citations should accompany the analytical tables.

The information gathered for this study was shown in tables. While some tables display the entries as a percentage, others provide the analytical data and ranking of specific items. All are intended to provide a detailed display of the gathered data.

**Table 4.1:** Results of response to questionnaires administered

Questionnaire	Number	Percentage (%)
Administered	48	100
Returned	41	85
Used for the study	41	85
Not used for the study	07	15

*Source: Researcher, 2023.*

**Interpretation:** The questionnaire response rate is displayed in Table 4.1. A tool of 48 structured questionnaires was administered. 41 questionnaires, or 85% of the 48 that were given to different professionals in the built environment, were retrieved and used for analysis.

**Table 4.2:** Personal information of respondents.

Demographic information	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	38	93
Female	3	7
Total	41	100
<b>Profession of respondents</b>		
Architect	7	17
Builder	5	12
Mechanical Engineer	8	19
Structural Engineer	6	15
Town Planner	9	22
Electrical Engineer	6	15
Total	41	100
<b>Educational qualification of respondents</b>		
ND	1	2
HND	29	71
B.sc	11	27
M.sc and Above	-	0.0
Total	41	100

*Source: Researcher, 2023.*

**Interpretation:** Table 4.2 above shows data on personal information of respondents. The variables under consideration are the respondents' gender, occupation, and level of education.

According to the table, 3 numbers have 7% of respondents who are female, and 38 numbers have 93% of respondents who are male. Architects make up seven figures in the table, representing 17% of the total respondents; builders, five figures, representing 12%; mechanical engineers, eight figures, representing 19%; structural engineers, six figures, representing 15%; town planners, nine figures, representing 22%; and electrical engineers, six figures, representing 15% of the total respondents. In conclusion, the table displays the professional's educational background: 1 number, or 2% of all respondents, has an ND, 29 numbers, or 71% of all respondents, have an HND, and 11 numbers, or 27% of all respondents, have a B.Sc.

**Table 4.3:** Local Governments Name, Number and Location.

State	LGAs Used for Study	Selected LGAs	Percentage of LGAs Selected
Lagos	Alimosho	4	50%
	Ijaiye Ojokoro		
	Agege		
	Shomolu		
Ogun	Ado Odo Ota	4	50%
	Abeokuta North		
	Abeokuta South		
	Obafemi Owode		

*Source: Researcher, 2023.*

**Interpretation:** Four local government areas in Ogun state and four local government areas in Lagos state were consulted, as shown in Table 4.3 above. When combined, both equal eight (8) local government districts at 100%. It also demonstrates that 50% of the eight local government areas chosen in both the states of Lagos and Ogun are reflected in the four (4) local governments in each state that were consulted.

**Table 4.4:** Importance of Local Authorities Developmental Bye-laws and Regulations.

S/N		5	4	3	2	1	R.I	RANK
1	Empowering planner to reasonably strike balances between the built and natural habitat to enhance health and safety of a city.	25	16	0	0	0	0.92	1
2	Maintaining livable environment.	23	18	0	0	0	0.91	2
3	Facilitating harmonious development by protecting a healthy economy and a sustainable environment.	22	19	0	0	0	0.91	2
4	Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters.	22	18	1	0	0	0.90	3
5	Ensuring adequate space, strength and stability of buildings, light, privacy, fire safety etc.	21	19	1	0	0	0.90	3
6	Determination of the size and locational	20	19	2	0	0	0.89	6

distribution of facilities in settlements.

7	Preservation of historic sites and open spaces.	18	23	0	0	0	0.89	6
8	Ensuring consistency and compatibility through zoning controls, negative externality and separation of incompatible land uses.	16	24	1	0	0	0.87	8

*Source: Researcher, 2023.*

**Interpretation:** Table 4.4 above demonstrates the critical role that development bye-laws play in enabling planners to improve a city's health and safety, preserving a livable environment, safeguarding a robust economy and sustainable environment, controlling the risks of extreme events and disasters, and guaranteeing that buildings have enough space. The minor significance of development bye-laws includes the location of facilities within settlements, the preservation of historic sites and open spaces, and the maintenance of consistency through zoning regulations.

**Table 4.5:** The Impact of Local Authorities Developmental Bye-laws and Regulations in Reducing Building Collapse in Nigeria.

S/N		5	4	3	2	1	M.S	RANK
1	Prevention of easy entry and penetration of unqualified contractors into the building Industry	35	6	0	0	0	4.85	1
2	Mandatory involvement of qualified professionals; building and design professionals for building works.	32	8	1	0	0	4.75	2
3	Improvement on the bureaucratic (administrative) requirements and procedures in approval of building plans.	19	21	1	0	0	4.43	3
4	Elimination of corruption cases in the building industry.	16	23	2	0	0	4.34	4

*Source: Researcher, 2023.*

**Interpretation:** Table 4.5 above demonstrates that one of the main effects of local authorities' development bye-laws in lowering building collapse in Nigeria is the prevention of unqualified contractors from entering the building industry and the requirement that qualified professionals be involved for building works. The local authorities' developmental bye-laws and regulations have a minor impact on the reduction of building collapse in Nigeria. These include the improvement of building plan approval procedures and the removal of corruption cases.

**Table 4.6:** Reducing Building Collapse in Nigeria using Local Authorities. Developmental Bye-laws and Regulations.

S/N		5	4	3	2	1	M.S	RANK
1	Government and policy makers should pay more attention to the issue of enforcement of developmental bye-laws in the country.	26	15	0	0	0	4.63	1

2	Local Authorities developmental bye-laws need to be harmonized across the country.	27	12	1	1	0	4.58	2
3	Government should ensure that developmental bye-laws in the country are updated to serve the current trend of urbanization in the world.	22	19	0	0	0	4.53	3
4	Local planning authorities should be loyal to duty avoiding bribe whatever form it may appear.	23	17	0	1	0	4.51	4
5	Local Authorities' developmental bye-laws should be applied from the design stage of building production in order to give designers information about building lines, set-backs, percentage coverage etc.	21	19	0	1	0	4.46	5
6	Wide publicity should be given to local authorities developmental bye-laws to reasonably and sufficiently sensitize the public on its importance.	19	22	0	0	0	4.46	5
7	Buildings built without local authorities approval should be inspect by the authorities in charge and also subjecting them (those buildings) to corrections and modifications to meet with the requirements in the developmental bye-laws.	22	17	1	1	0	4.46	5
8	Local planning authorities should seek for team work and collaboration with other relevant fields in order to enhance the functionality of buildings.	22	16	2	1	0	4.43	8

9	People should be more educated and enlightened  on the use of laws in regulating, guiding and  directing their landed properties for the benefits  of all and sundry.	18	22	0	1	0	4.39	9
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*Source: Researcher, 2023.*

**Interpretation:** As Table 4.6 above illustrates, a significant contribution to the decrease in building collapse in Nigeria comes from government attention to the enforcement of developmental bye-laws and regulations. The government's efforts to ensure that developmental bye-laws are updated, the harmonisation of bye-laws and regulations throughout the nation, and the commitment of planning authorities to their jobs have a moderate impact on the decline in building collapse in Nigeria. Building collapse in Nigeria can be reduced by applying developmental bye-laws from the design stage, widely publicizing them, correcting buildings that violate them, collaborating with local authorities and other relevant fields, and educating the public about their application. However, there is very little impact of educating the public on the application of developmental bye-laws.

### 5. Conclusion

The study evaluated how local authorities' developmental bye-laws—which prohibit unqualified contractors from entering the building industry easily, require the involvement of qualified professionals in building work, streamline the bureaucratic processes involved in approving building plans, and eradicate corruption cases in the building sector—affect the reduction of building collapse. These results are consistent with what (Ikejide, 2011) asserts.

This study looked into how the following local government development bye-laws could be used to lessen building collapse: The nation's policy makers ought to prioritize the enforcement of its developmental laws and regulations, encourage local authorities to harmonize their bylaws, ensure that the laws are updated to accommodate the current global trend of urbanization, and hold local planning authorities accountable for their actions by forgoing any kind of bribery. Furthermore, developmental laws and regulations ought to be implemented from the building production process's design stage, with extensive publicity provided to local authorities to raise awareness. the public about its significance, local planning authorities should work with relevant fields to collaborate on improving building functionality, and people should be more aware of how

laws are used to regulate and guide landed properties for the benefit of all. Buildings constructed without the approval of local authorities should be subject to alteration or adaptation, as the case may be. The findings are in agreement with the recommendations of Nathaniel (2016) and Aluko (2011).

### 6. Recommendations

The following actions are advised in order to decrease building collapses in Nigeria:

- Local authorities ought to inform newly hired professionals and clients about the significance of their development bylaws;
- Local authorities should also set up guidelines that could motivate professionals and new development clients to apply laws and regulations to the designs and developments they are proposing;
- Local Authorities should make sure that designs submitted for approval are thoroughly examined to make sure they comply with the current development bye-laws and regulations of the local authorities;
- Local authorities should make sure that all construction-related buildings, including those undergoing maintenance and demolition, are completed in accordance with the applicable local authority development bylaws and regulations;
- To continuously address new and increasingly difficult issues with the nation's settlement setup, the government should make sure that developmental bye-laws are kept up to date;
- Professional associations in the built environment ought to impose legal obligations on their members, requiring them to carry out their varied projects in accordance with the development bylaws and regulations that local authorities have in place.
- In Nigeria, it is hoped that justice will be served and the threat of building collapse will be eradicated if the aforementioned

recommendations are appropriately implemented nationwide.

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## Environmental Principles and Values in Africa: The Christian Response

CLIFFORD MEESUA SIBANI, C. IZEOMA CHINDA  
Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This research is focused on Environmental principles and values in Africa: The Christian response. The environment is the habitation of man and all living and non-living things alike. It is being given to man by God to tend and control, however, human activities has greatly impacted it positively and negatively. It is clearer that we live in extraordinary times where human impacts on our environment has been so intensive or so far-reaching negatively. The future of the Earth's system and our society depend more critically than ever on the way we interact with the natural systems around us. Fundamental conditions in nutrient cycling, biodiversity, atmospheric composition and climate are changing rapidly in Africa. Understanding the African environment illuminate not only human-induced problem but tremendous opportunities we have before us for effecting positive change. This discipline draws upon the methods and findings of numerous established academic disciplines, from ecology to geology to chemistry to economics to political science to ethics and religion. This interdisciplinary pursuit stands at the vanguard of the current need to synthesize our increasingly narrow academic disciplines and to incorporate their contributions into a big picture of understanding the African world and our place within it. In the light of this paper, various authors have put forth definitions on environment, environmental justice and principles of environmental, environmental values in Africa via Christian response, African environment and sustainable development principle, the church response on environmental values in Africa. This research made use of analytical method as well as the utilisation of books, journals, internet sources etc., and recommends among others that humans should care for the earth with tenderness for its benevolence and to avert disaster.

**Keywords:** Africa, Christian, Environment, Justice, Principles, Values

### 1. Introduction

In general terms, the cosmic environment has suffered so much as humans try to explore and exploit it. Sometimes, humans do not think of possible ways in proffering solution to the damages and degradations they have caused. Christian cannot shy away from responding to this global problem that that has bedeviled the habitation of living things. We have in so many ways enslaved ourselves due to greed and selfishness. It is important to note that we are in a serious environmental warfare and the remedy is in our hands.

In defining the environment, Scott (2005) states that the environment includes the continents, clouds, ice cap, animals, plants, forest and farms that comprises the landscape around us. According to Imerbore (2008), "Environment is where we live, the ecological system subdivided into natural system, modified systems, degraded systems, cultivated system and built systems" (p. 3). Edame (2006) defined the environment as "the conditional circumstances and influences under which an organization or system exists, which may be described in terms of physical, chemical and biological features" (p. 369). For Okene (2009) "the environment consists of physical and non-physical features that can be found, observed and felt as land, sea and air, and every living and non-living organisms" (p. 78). Anubha and Kaushik (2008) defined environment as "the sum total of water, air and land and the inter-relationships that exist among them and with the human beings, other living organisms and materials" (p. 1). Ibeh (2003) defined environment as: The term generally refers to the earth system which surrounds man, wider than the term ecology, it is the complex of physical, chemical, and biotic factors that acts upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determines its form and survival. (p. 8).

Bonn (1999) defined environment as “the sum total of all processes and domains in which the interaction between nature and human civilization takes place, it encompasses all natural factors that influence or are influenced by human beings” (p. 9). Oyeshola (1995) defined environment as “the unit from which resources needed for human sustenance and development are obtained and into which human development is directed” (p. 3). From the above definitions, it is obvious that environment has to do with the climatic and physiological structures of a land-area, the living pattern of people and animals that dwell therein.

## 2. Environmental justice

Nature has given the earth to man to manage, sustain and use for his own good. But man has to use these nature’s gifts, including his environment within certain ethical specification, and thus preserve life, especially human life. On the contrary, some persons and agencies out of inordinate desire to make profit, even at the expense of the needs of humanity, have destroyed and shattered this environmental ethical order. Udechukwu (2007) saw environmental justice as “rendering to each man or human community their own due by natural right, and environmental regulatory provision” (p. 10). Environmental justice obliges those who use any productive process to compensate the owners of the land with remuneration and other valuables. It also demands that people’s environment be made habitable and free from pollution. It is term in social sciences used in describing in justice in the way natural resources are distributed. Taking cognizance of the violations and exploitations prevalent in our environments, it poses a great need to check and control wanton destruction of nature and the way natural resources are used.

However, it is a holistic effort to analyze and overcome the power structures that have traditionally thwarted environmental reforms. Central Eastern European Workshop (1991) on environmental justice asserts:

A condition of which exists when environmental risks, hazards, investments and benefits are equally distributed, without direct or indirect discrimination at all jurisdictional levels, and when access to information, participation in decision making in environmental related matters are enjoyed by all. (p. 42).

When the above is not the case, it becomes a violation of environmental justice. A glaring example of the violation of environmental justice is the case of Niger Delta. This is the continuation of the fight for liberation of environment and socio-ecological

transformation. According to Nnimmo (2023), “we do not see the earth and her bountiful resources/gifts as items that must be exploited, transformed, consumed or wasted” (p. 1). The understanding of the earth as a living entity and not a dead thing warns that rapacious exploitation that disrupts her regenerative powers are act of cruelty and ecocide.

### 17.1 Principles of Environmental Justice

Udechukwu (2007) vividly viewed several principles of environmental justice thus:

1. Environmental justice affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
2. Environmental justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
3. Environmental justice mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
4. Environmental justice calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
5. Environmental justice affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
6. Environmental justice demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
7. Environmental justice demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
8. Environmental justice affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment, without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
9. Environmental justice protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
10. Environmental justice considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.

11. Environmental justice must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination

12. Environmental justice affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and providing fair access for all to the full range of resources

13. Environmental justice calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.

14. Environmental justice opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.

15. Environmental justice opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.

16. Environmental justice calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.

17. Environmental justice requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible, and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to insure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

### **3. African Environment and Sustainable Development Principle**

This principle protects the planet from environmental degradation, preservation of biological, cultural and ethnic diversity and empowerment of citizens to have an influential voice in decisions affecting the quality of their environment. The common good principle applies where the State through subventions and other financial incentive intervenes in environmental protection efforts. This is particularly the case where it is difficult to identify particular perpetrators in certain cases. Ibeh (2003) says that "the aim of this principle is to mobilize and sharpen environmental consciousness and know-how of private and societal actors towards acceptance and implementation of set environmental protection measures" (p. 105).

The sustainability of African environment requires the preventive and precautionary laws to be put in action to stop further pollution or damage to the environment. Oyeshola (2008) says that international obligation

should not allow activities which cause damage to territories of other states and areas beyond national jurisdiction. This principle stresses that environmental pollution or damage should be completely or as much as possible be avoided. Ibeh (2003) stresses that it is a future –oriented measure of ensuring that the environmental protection is internalized in all the phases of production and distribution, so that present and future generations as well as the entire ecosystem are in no way adversely affected.

The principle of polluter must pay provides that the costs of environmental pollution should be borne by those whose activities were responsible for causing the pollution. Oyeshola (2008) states that at the specific level, it has been held that identified polluters should be required to pay the full costs of the rectification of any environmental degradation that has occurred as a result of their activities.

Ibeh (2003) opines that the aim of this principle is the avoidance or minimizing of environmental damage. Therefore, no one is immune from his moral and economic obligation to protect the environment. In this respect, policies promoting or perpetuating apartheid, racial segregation, discrimination, colonial and other forms of oppression and foreign domination stand condemned and must be eliminated in African environment.

### **4. The Place of Humans in Fostering Environmental Values in Africa**

Africans have high value for the environment. This is manifest in shifting cultivations, allowing the farmland to go fallow for nutrients, keeping of certain bush as sacred as abode of the gods, etc. In Africa, it is a taboo for anyone to have sex in the bush as it is a desecration of the land which requires cleansings. However, the following are environmental values in Africa via Christian response

#### **The Earth as God's Gift to Man:**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994) article 2402 teaches that:

In the beginning, God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labor, and enjoy their fruits. The goods of creation are destined for the whole human race. However, the earth is divided up among men to assure the security of their lives, endangered by poverty and threatened by violence. The appropriation of property is legitimate for guaranteeing the freedom and dignity of persons and for helping each of them to meet his needs and the

needs of those in his change. It should allow for a natural solidarity to develop between men. (p. 650).

Ikeke (2008) opines that God the Creator gave the goods of nature for the common good of all peoples. Onaiyekan (2008) cried out that much of the crisis in the Niger Delta is as a result of a callous and careless exploitation of oil without due regard for the environment today and the consequences for the years to come. According to Ikeke (2008) we take from nature and that makes animals and birds to be homeless, we should create places for them to dwell. On this issue, the Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas Commission (2006) enumerate:

The environment is our responsibility to care for. As good stewards we must use the resources of nature carefully for the benefit of all both now and for the future. The teaching of the Catholic Church on the integrity of creation emphasizes that what happens to the environment is our responsibility. It is our duty to protect the environment. (p. 103).

The earth is not to be dominated and conquered. Still on this the article 2415 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994) enumerates:

The seventh commandment enjoins respect for the integrity of creation. Animals, like plants and inanimate beings, are by nature destined for the common good of past, present and future humanity. Use of the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe cannot be divorced from respect for moral imperatives. Man's dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of his neighbor, including generations to come; it requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation. (p. 689).

#### **Man as Overseer of the Environment:**

The Catholic teaching affirms that it is unjust and immoral to allow animals to suffer needlessly. The act of stewardship is very essential. To care for the earth is a reflection which authorizes an eco-theological reversal of Jesus' expression in Matt. 16:26: what then will a man gain if he wins heaven and losses the world? It then means that the journey towards heaven rightly understood as salvation involves taking care of the earth and environment. Nwachukwu (2010) says "if you do not love trees, you cannot love God" (p. 26). Definitely, we are going to be judged on the tenderness and respect we manifest towards nature as expression of the glory of God. The care for the earth has to be done through urgent practical and concrete actions. Ukwuije (2010) articulated the impact of religion on the environment thus:

To make the earth habitable beyond the present generation and to guarantee sustainable and responsible cares of the earth, we call upon the particular churches to: promote environmental education and awareness; persuade their local and national governments to adapt policies and binding legal regulations for the protection of the environment and promote alternative and renewable sources of energy; and encourage all to plant trees and threat nature and its resources; respecting the common good and the integrity of nature, with transparency and respect for human dignity. (pp. 26-27).

Gbenda (2010) states that religious scholars and theologians are taking up the common theme that environmental crisis are merely a symptom of a deeper spiritual crisis. The implication in the words of Fohz (2003) is that "whatever may occur within the realms of technology and politics, the environmental crisis cannot and will not be resolved unless its spiritual dimensions are addressed" (p. 9).

#### **Man to Relate with the Environment:**

Paul II (cited by Igbo, 2010) said that "humans are empowered that they should communicate with nature as guardians and stewards and not as heedless exploits and destroyers" (p. 50). Nwachukwu (2010) said that the created world exists as a network of lives woven from threads of dependence and interdependence. In their governance of created nature, human beings need wisdom to understand the interconnections that make up the integrity of the ecosystem and which enhances its generative potentials. Therefore, an attitude of domination and triumphalism over nature and nature's exploitation for humanity's immediate need is an environmental injustice against God's 'Shalom', against nature and against future generations. The consequence of this act of injustice is environmental disaster. The Justice, Development, Peace/Caritas Commission (2006) on this principle declared thus:

The goods of the natural order are collective good which God has created for us for our good. We have the spiritual responsibility to conserve non-replaceable resources of the environment such as oil and gas. In the same, we have the moral obligations to replenish the renewable resources of the environment such as trees and animal. We also have the responsibility to maintain a health surrounding through cleaning dustbins and waste heaps that can generate diseases. We must support and work with organizations that seek to improve and protect the environment because the environment is our collective good. (p. 104).

The above principles are not the only ones in existence that can help guide the management of environmental resources. But most of them can be subsumed under

the above. It behooves religious leaders to promote these values in their various local congregations and communities.

### 5. The Church Response on Environmental Values in Africa

#### **Humans and Exploitation of the Earth:**

Nwachukwu (2010) observed that the church has contributed immensely to the ongoing discussions and search for understanding, interpretation and provision of solution to the environmental crisis. Being a matter of great importance to the Christian faith, the Church Magisterium; through her social teachings, has given several teachings that articulate valid Christian response and contribution to the environmental discourse. Paul II (cited in Nwachukwu, 2010) avers that human exploitation of the earth brings about the negative effects of scientific discoveries in the areas of industry, agriculture and medicine. They highlight- especially the painful fact that where nature is violated, environmental crisis is sure to erupt. In describing environmental crisis, The Second Synod for Africa (cited in Ukwuije, 2010) states thus:

We observe that many human beings, at all levels, have continued to abuse nature and destroy God's beautiful world by exploitation of natural resources beyond what is sustainable and useful. There is an irresponsible degradation and senseless destruction of the earth, which is 'our mother'. In complicity with those who exercise political and economic leadership in Africa, some businesses, governments and multinational and transnational companies engage in business that pollute the environment, destroy flora and fauna, thus causing unprecedented erosion and desertification of large areas of arable land. All these threaten the survival of mankind and the entire eco-system. (p. 18).

#### **Global Warming and Climate Change Occasioned by Human Activities:**

Today the world is suffering from global warming and greenhouse which are also responsible for the ozone layer depletion. Benedict XVI (2009) called for a global solidarity in tackling the problem of climate change, desertification, deforestation, environmental degradation and pollution and the loss of biodiversity. Paul II (1990) in a "World Day of Peace" said that the ecological crisis in the Niger Delta is a moral crisis for all humanity, and the environment is ethnically significant in its own right. Nature has intrinsic value as God's creation. Today, the ecological problem (crisis) has assumed such proportion as to be the responsibility of everyone.

Gbenda, 2010) stated that the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs and Christian Association of Nigeria should put in place organizations of climate change action, in which every Muslim and Christian should be a member. In this way, the campaign for care and protection of the earth plane will reach the grass roots levels.

#### **Humans must Respect the Environment:**

Hart (2004) said that Pope Benedict XVI maintained that the respect for creation is of great importance because creature is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works. Its preservation is essential for pacific co-existence of mankind. Gbenda (2010) declared that the church is concern as an expert in humanity to call attention to the relationship between the creator, humans and the created order. He asked a vital question – can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change? Hessel (2009) states the four basic norms of eco-justice ethics to include:

Solidarity with other people and creatures – companies, allies, victims in the earth community, reflecting a deep respect for creation; ecological sustainability– environmentally filling habits of living and working that enable life to flourish and utilizes ecologically and socially appropriate technology; sufficiency as a standard of organized sharing; requiring basic floors and definite ceiling for equitable or fair consumption and socially just participation in decisions about how to obtain sustenance and to manage community life for the good of the commons. (pp. 1-3).

#### **Humans must not Use the Earth Wastefully:**

Dorr (1990) said that when we use the resources of the earth wastefully, we are stealing from future generations and it is done at the expense of the poor. For the main breakthrough to come on the ground, the Christian communities and individual Christian must develop a spirituality which combines belief in God's providence and human salvation in Christ with a deeper sensitivity to the beauty, the energy, and the fragility of our world. In this way, we can play our part in saving the world.

Sibani (2022) posits that wastefulness of the resources of our environment are seen in the political actors in our African society. The manifestation of wastefulness is found in several abandonment of governmental projects such as abandoned roads, infrastructures like houses, schools, ministries, etc. There is always no continuity in completion of projects worth millions and billions of naira by succeeding administrations in Nigeria and most African countries. It is painful how politicians waste the resources of their States by spending millions of naira on one small bottle of drink

which if properly channeled could pay the school fees of the poor and educationally disadvantaged ones in the society.

Also, Sibani (2022) avers that the act of investing in an unrealistic project by humans are very common and counter-productive in any given society. We need to change our attitude towards humans and the environment as our actions are directly and negatively impacting on our environment and generations yet unborn. Some humans are very unfriendly and always throw away unused clothes, left-over food and valuables which can be beneficial to the less-privileged amongst them. We need to do away with wastefulness and care for the poor and hungry in the society.

### **Humans must Live Peaceably with the Environment:**

The Christian religion says: “blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God” (Matt. 5:9). Environmental resources cannot be well managed in an atmosphere of hostility, conflicts, insecurity and so on. It is against this background that World Council of Churches (cited by Gbenda, 2010) states:

It is also the debt owed by economically and politically powerful national elites to marginalized citizens, the debt owed by current generations of humanity to future generations; and so on a more cosmic scale, the debt owed by human kind to other life forms and the planet. It includes social damages, such as disintegration of indigenous and other communities. (p. 170).

Sean (1986), Borry (1988) and Dorr (1991) agreed in one view that the church can make a major contribution on the issue of ecological crisis, degradation and pollution by developing, preaching and practicing a holistic spirituality which promotes partnership with nature rather than exploitation of its resources. This involves a notable change of perspective in Christian teaching. It means abandoning the other-worldly, escapist spirituality which was common until fairly recently.

### **6. Conclusion**

Christianity has been influencing and is still influencing the environment. God gave man the environment to tend and care for and as well make it conducive for his habitation. No doubt, man in the spirit of exploiting the earth and as well as subduing it, has made the environment to react against humanity hence, the flood, air pollution, acid rain, environmental degradation, desertification, erosion,

deforestation and all forms of ills. Modern technology has led to the above. Christianity is a force that has been preaching and is still preaching against man’s selfish attitude to the environment. The Christian religion sees man at the center of the problems in the world today and calls for a right attitude as stewards of God to care, promote, love, keep and preserve the environment. Hence, the cry for afforestation and tending it will in no small measure give us the desired result and life will become an easy ride on earth.

### **7. Recommendations**

- This calls for require remediation, restoration of all the degraded territories and pay reparation to the direct victims or their heirs
- End destructive extraction no matter the appeal of capital
- Recognize the right of Mother Earth and codify ecocide as rime akin to genocide, war crime and other unusual crimes.
- The church should urgently preach on environmental values in Africa and promote afforestation and discourage deforestation.

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**Part Two**  
**Social Psychology**





## **An Evaluation of Marital Conflict Resolution in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria**

OSAGIE JOSEPH EGHAREVBA, JOY IZIEGBUWA OMOSUVBE  
University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria

**Abstract.** Marriage is a life-long commitment where the couple endures a variety of challenging circumstances, including illness, financial hardship, crises, and so forth. As an age-old institution, marriage is supposed to be an exciting and beautiful adventure, and the relationship between husband and wife is intended to get better with every passing day or year, but in reality, many challenges can mar the relationship. The study therefore examines an evaluation of marital conflict resolution in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. The descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The study adopted a triangulation of both the quantitative and qualitative method of data collection. The area of study was Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. The population of study consisted of both Literate and non-literate males and females from 18years and above in the study area. The sample size was 396 respondents. Each variable was analyzed descriptively using number and percentages for each of the independent variables. The variables were cross tabulated between major and sub cartegories and tested with appropriate standardized statistical tools. The findings revealed that there are a lot of predisposing factors that trigger marital dissolution among couples in the study area, but few of them were identified. It was also recommended that premarital counseling is necessary for prospective couples to better understand one another before marriage. Couples should regularly attend seminars and workshops on topics related to marital harmony and conflict resolution. The study recommended that the use of uncensored languages should not be used among couples. The study also recommended that there should be the need of premarital counseling among couples

**Keywords:** Conflict, Divorce, Family, Mariage, Resolutions.

### **1. Introduction**

Marriage is a basic institution in every society all over the world, and most societies are governed by customs, values and law, and marriage exists as cultural heritage and a legal undertaking and not merely a private romantic declaration or religious rite (David & Marzio, 2001). According to Nukunya (1992), marriage is a social union or legal contract between consenting people that creates kinship and bond between members of the union. It is the accepted social institution for forming and preserving humanity and kindred ties in addition to building and upholding families. Gbenda & Akume (2002) posited that marriage is a divine obligation and contract which should be a special relationship for life and which harmoniously integrate the husband and wife into becoming one 'flesh'. Benard, 2012 (1990) in Yahaya, Esere, Ogusanmi and Oniye (2008), argued that, marriage is a partnership contract without escape clause. The inference is that marriage is a lifetime commitment in which the pair must endure a variety of challenging circumstances, including illness, financial hardship and crises amongst others.

Marriage as an institution according to Tolorunleke (2014), is supposed to be an exciting and beautiful adventure and the relationship between husband and wife or wives is intended to get better with every passing day or year but in reality, many form of challenges can mar the relationship. These challenges in marriage relationship may emanate from different sources and may include poverty, sexual incompatibility between couples, infertility, infidelity, unnecessary interference of in-laws, opposing religious interests and procreation of one sex in the family, amongst others (Agboeze, 2004). Hence, if these challenges are not properly handled by the

couples, it may cause frictions and eventual separation of the married partners (Okafor, 2002).

In Nigeria, the rate at which married couples experience divorce and re-marriage is quite alarming as many families have been and some are still seriously at war with themselves simply because of their failure to, manage or resolve conflicting issues between couples or families (Dada & Idowu, 2006). Studies established that many families in Nigeria, for example, face untold stress and suffering due to marital instability. The marital instability and conflicts between couples may not be unconnected with the harsh economic and social realities of the modern Nigerian society coupled with other factors. In Edo State, a preliminary investigation by the Social Welfare Department in Egor Local Government Area shows that many marriages are under pressure from a variety of factors, which can occasionally result in an increase in divorce and marital discord within the local government area due to evidence of reported cases. According to the social welfare official, the cases of marital discord they have handled thus far have been marked by a significant amount of hatred and animosity, uncertainty and hostility, bitterness and animosity and vilification, atrocity and lack of trust, lack of respect and haughtiness, among other things. This study therefore aims to examine social work intervention strategies in marital conflict resolution in Egor local government area, Edo State, Nigeria.

### 1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

The dissolution of marriage has become an international problem that affects both the wealthy and the poor, from the royal families of princes and princesses all the way down to the down trodden in cities and peasants in the countryside. These show that marital instability knows no boundaries irrespective of the socio-economic and political status of couples in contemporary society (Banifo, 2013). Marriage is a crucial component of human cultures since it gives couples' and their kids' identities and roots. It is thought to be done for the sake of procreation, love, friendship, security, status that has been ascribed and attained, religious responsibilities, economic reasons, and societal norms compliance. For a marriage to be successful according to Osaigbovo & Ehigie (2015), one needs to be biologically, economically, emotionally and socially matured to handle the rigours of marriage responsibilities. One of the topics that is talked the most these days is marriage and family because human society is essentially developed and dependent on family especially the family that enjoy a blissful marital relationship.

Marital relationships are said to have become generally strained in recent past, especially among literate couples, as indicated by scholars like Obe, (1997) and Carew, (1997). Although academics, churches, professionals, and NGOs are working tirelessly to stop this threat, the incidences of marital disagreements and discord appears to be ubiquitous as the stabilization of personality roles in marriage and the family deteriorates at frightening rates. In their attempts to propose remedies, academics, educators, churches, and other stakeholders are, in part, at a loss as to the possibilities available for recognizing the reasons of marital crises situations Otuji, (2000) and Odeh, (2001), opined that marriages, especially among the literate class, have been under serious threat of disintegration. This is allegedly a result of extended family influence, advanced age at marriage, and childlessness or barrenness. The stability of the family is seriously impacted by this circumstance, which also affects the personality, development, and adjustment of the children. Problems that could have been handled succinctly and co-operatively by couples are often allowed to degenerate to crisis levels, which, in turn, result in emotional dislocation that often leads to marital instability and this situation generates fear and impedes proper adjustments among couples (Philips, 1971 and Undie 1997).

### 1.2 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

- What are the underlying causes of marital discord among couples in Egor Local Government Area?
- What are the possible conflict resolution methods used in settling marital conflict among couples in Egor Local Government Area?

### 2. Literature Review

Marital conflict is a phenomenon that upsets the couple's happiness and is primarily experienced by women. It is also a profound social problem, sapping women's energy, compromising their physical health, and eroding their self-esteem (Rodgers & Pryor, 1998). Information on the prevalence of family conflict reveals that it is a common occurrence all around the world. According to Animasahun (2011), conflict in marital union could be said to be an extreme example of the failure of supportiveness found in every kind of family as it can reach extreme levels. Garnezy, Rutter, Izard, & Read, 1986 on the other hand, opined that the most frequent cause of non-fatal

injuries and one of the top causes of death among women, according to research, is marital dispute.

The literature on family and conflict resolution contains many definitions. Most of these definitions treat conflict as a negative pathological condition characterized by lack of co-operation, hostility, struggle, breakdown and destruction (Agboeze, 2004). According to Nwankwo (2007), the entire family set up today seems to be very complex. This is practically true especially when the sweet and harmonious relationship that once existed no sooner than later paves way to strain and stress in the family. Whether the reason behind it is convincing or not, the story is that all these revolve on the orbit of social, economic, traditional, cultural and psychological realms for a proper understanding of it all. A cross examination or look at of family lives under different cultural backgrounds from typical Western societies to African traditional milieu points to the aforesaid. Akumuo (2003) is of the opinion that conflict is an inevitable circumstance that happens in all spheres of life. It cannot be totally eliminated from life activities but it can be controlled.

Marriages can inevitably lead to conflicts, which can happen when miscommunication between the partners is the norm. Some families, particularly those who are illiterate or impoverished, view marriages as the means of having children and then as necessary conditions for a happy home. Families without children may experience marital problems. Marital conflicts are challenging relationships that a husband and wife go through in their marriage. Nwoye (2001) stated that a conflict in a marriage refers to dissensions between marital partners over values, beliefs, mores and behaviours that make up the structure of the nuclear unit. In other words, marital conflict is a negative interaction between a husband and a wife in a marriage that can be vocal, non-verbal, or both, with the intention of neutralizing, harming, and defaming the other.

The inability of the husband and wife to fulfill their roles as spouses results in marital instability or conflict. Disorganization and an insecure marriage are two ways to define instability. According to Lock and Thomas (2011), studies in marital conflict demonstrated that much overt conflict is a symbol of some underlying tension in an area of behaviour than the one in which the overt is manifested. In the same line, Saxton (2002) stated that there are two categories of marital conflict which are either internal or external. For him, a conflict is internal when only one person can feel the two competing wants that caused it, yet it still has an impact on a couple's relationship, while it

is external when one person wants something that the other person does not. Nwoye (2001) opined that conflict may be centered on any or all conceivable areas of interaction in marriage relationship such as economic, leisure, child rearing, decision making, role demand, religion, social activities, sex relation, lack of communication, extra-marital affairs among others. Failure in a marriage is a sign that there are issues within the marriage. The importance of family where there is no disharmony but stability in promoting sustainable family growth and development has been established (George, 2002).

Bacchiocchi (2002) asserted the following strategies for resolving marriage crisis:

**Commitment to preserve marriage convenience:** Having a loving and unbreakable commitment is the only way to properly resolve marital disputes. Those who are committed to upholding the marriages that God has established (Matt. 19:6) may take a chance by being upfront and honest about their disagreements.

**Be honest and open in discussing conflict:** Finding fault or assigning blame should not be the goal of a conflict; instead, issues should be resolved. Marriage is a cooperative endeavour rather than a competing activity. When an issue arises, the objective should be to find a workable solution rather than deciding who is right and who is wrong.

**Keep your anger under control:** This means that truthful persons will not allow their anger to become undisciplined and uncontrolled. If a disagreement in a marriage spirals out of control, the only way to calm the storm is for the more spiritually developed spouse to stop the vicious cycle of victimizing the other by refusing to take revenge. The only way to end a marital argument is to do this. Nzeilo (1994) is of the views that love sharing and understanding, if upheld, brings anger under control in times of crises.

**Choose an appropriate time to discuss a problem:** The wisest man in the Bible, Solomon, noted that "there is a time for everything under the earth, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak... a time for war, and a time for peace" (Eccl. 3:7-8). Disputes within marriages most surely reflect this. Marriage counsellors as Prudence (1997), Ume (2000) and Undiyaundeye (2001) agree that timing is critical to constructive resolutions of conflicts. The best time to discuss sensitive issues or serious difference is when both husband and wife are well rested, wide awake and feeling at ease. At such a favourable time one can be more rational, considerate and accommodating.

Listen carefully and speak tactfully: Conflicts in marriage should serve to improve communication by helping partners know better how each feels and thinks about an issue (Sotunade, 1999).

Learning to listen carefully to the words of a mate: Yet, this rule of effective listening is the most difficult to implement because in a conflict situation when a person is talking, the other is not listening but thinking about how to respond. The louder our voices and uglier our words, the less our spouses will listen and the poorer will be our communication. It is always important to listen carefully to understand what the real issue is. True courtesy and tactfulness in speech are not learned merely by practising a few rules of etiquette but through renewal of the heart. It is only when the heart has been touched by the love of Christ and other guiding rules of God that people will feel motivated to listen carefully and speak tactfully to all, especially to their marital partners (Stanford 2002).

Be willing to forgive and to forget: Ideally, marital disputes should always be resolved amicably and logically, resulting in improved communication between partners. Realistically, however, in every marriage there are times when conflict becomes uncontrolled and irrational. There are situations when, because of fatigue, pride, selfishness, anxiety, ugly side of our nature breaks out in angry outburst, cutting remarks, abusive language and irrational accusations. Such behaviour awakens the equally negative side in our spouses who may retaliate similarly with angry and abusive language. The only way to bring conflict, which has gotten out of control to a satisfactory end, is for one partner to break the retaliation cycle by forgiving the other partner for the hurt received.

Owan (2000) is of the view that if we have been wounded by the words or actions of our mates, we should refuse to retaliate by returning words or action in kindness. Such a mindset can ease tensions and foster a pleasant environment that is conducive to a reasoned discussion of the issue. The tip of the iceberg is that married people must embrace change, shape their lives to have a healthy self-concept, and adopt the appropriate behavioral orientation in order to live by the motto of promoting peace and harmony.

### 3. Theoretical Framework: Eclectic Theory

According to Frederick Thorne (1950), humans are social, psychological, and biological entities. These interrelated characteristics are a byproduct of the distresses they go through. The counselor's or therapist's job is to support the person who wants to use intervention to lessen his or her misery. Prior to

any intervention, the issue is evaluated in some way. He applied this approach to help couples who were on the verge of a divorce and had emotional issues with animosity toward one another.

For Thorne (1952) therefore, eclectic theory of counselling is designed to preserve the client's mental health by assisting him to prevent or modify causal factors that produced maladjustment or marital disorder in the client. This is essential in managing a scenario including marital strife. Here, the client's problem is diagnosed according to its causes and symptoms, and a client-centered approach is frequently used to assist the client with non-directive problem-solving. Thorne (1950) went on to suggest five techniques that can be used in solving problems. determining the root of a client's personality maladjustment; planning to change or prevent the incidental causes of the client's issue; ensuring the right conditions and environment for the client to learn effectively; enhancing the client's intellectual capacity to practice the newly learned technique of adjustment; giving the client instructions on how to appropriately address adjustment-related issues.

### 4. Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The essence of the survey method is informed by the fact that sample was drawn from the target population after which, inference is made. Survey as a research design is therefore more suitable for the study compared to other designs. The study's participants comprised literates, non-literate males and females from age 18 years and above that currently reside and have been living in the study area. This age range is informed by the fact that 18 years is the legally approved marriageable age in Nigeria and as such, anchoring on 18 years as a bench mark, places the study in a better pedestal. The Egor Local Government has an area of 92km<sup>2</sup> and a population of approximately 340,287 as at the 2006 population census and a projected population of 470,800 for the year 2016. Based on this population estimate, there are 43,311 people who are 18 years and above. Therefore, the population of this study was 43,311, persons who are 18 years and above and have been residing in the area for at least six months.

The study's sample size is 396 respondents, who were chosen from an area with an estimated population of 43,311 using the systematic random selection method. This was utilized to ensure that every component of the population had an equal and random probability of being chosen for the sample. One hundred and thirty-two respondents were selected from each of the

selected three wards in the Local government. From each of the chosen three (3) wards of the Local Government Area, six streets were chosen at random. The researchers trained three research assistants for each of the selected Ward. Using the home numbers and household identification codes assigned to each family in the chosen street, twenty-two couples were randomly selected from each street. The sample size for this study was gotten by using Taro Yamane’s mathematical model. The sample size is presented, thus:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where; n = sample size; N = total population  
e= Level of Significant (0.05)2

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{43311}{1 + 43311(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{43311}{1 + 43311(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{43311}{109.28}$$

$$396.34$$

$$\cong 396$$

Socio-demographic profile of respondents. The first section covers questions that common to the respondents. These include age, sex, level of educational qualification, occupation, among others. The data are presented as follows:

**Table1:** Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percent
18- 27years	181	47.0
28-37YEARS	76	19.7
38-47YEARS	28	7.3
48-57years	48	12.5
58years and above	52	13.5
Total	385	100.0
Sex	Frequency	Percent
Male	109	28.3
Female	276	71.7
Total	385	100.0
Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
SINGLE	109	28.3
MARRIED	235	61.0
DIVORCED	24	6.2
SEPARATED	17	4.4
WIDOW	Nil	Nil
Total	385	100.0
Educational Status	Frequency	Percent
No formal education	19	4.9
Primary School	104	27
Secondary School	123	31.9
Tertiary	94	24.4
Others	45	11.7
Total	385	100.0
Sex Distribution of Children	Frequency	Percent
Girls & Boys	301	78.2
All girls	45	11.7
All boys	15	3.9
None	24	6.2
Total	385	100.0
Religious Affiliation	Frequency	Percent
CHRISTIANITY	331	86.0
ISLAM	32	8.3
ATR	12	3.1
OTHERS	10	2.6
Total	385	100.0
Occupation	Frequency	Percent
TRADING/BUSINESS	22	5.7

TRADING AND BUSINESS	161	41.8
TEACHING	64	16.6
FARMING	22	5.7
HOUSE WIFE	18	4.7
RETIREE	4	1.0
Others	94	24.4
Total	385	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Data in Table.1 established that the age distribution of respondents in the study. Among the total respondents, majority were between 18-27years. That is, a larger proportion of the respondents were between the age intervals 18-27years old in the study representing 47% of the total participants while the least represented in the study according to their age distribution are those within the age interval 38years and 47years representing 7.3% of the total respondents. The table further revealed that 76 representing 19.7% of the respondents were within the age interval 28years and 37years. 48 representing 12.5% of the respondents were within the interval of 48years and 57years old.

Among the sex distribution of the respondents, it was discovered that majority were females. For instance, 276 representing 71.7% are females while 109 representing 28.3% are males. This implies majority of the respondents are females. The marital status of revealed that majority were married representing 61% of the total participants. For example, 235 representing 61% of the total respondents are married, 109 representing 28.3% are single, 24 representing 6.2% of the respondents are divorced while 17 representing 4.4% are separated from marital union or relation.

The data show that 19 representing 4.9% of the total respondents had no formal education, 104 representing 27% of the respondents had primary school education, 31.9% had secondary school education, 31.9% of the respondents had diploma and other OND related qualification while 11.7 had B.sc and equivalent degrees. This implies that respondents' who had diploma/OND and equivalent qualifications were more. Data in the study established that among the respondents 301 representing 78.2% of the respondents averred that they have both mixed sex of children, 45 representing 11.7% of the respondents all girls and 15 represents 3.9% of the respondents had a sex distribution of all boys. However, 24 representing 6.2% of the respondents had no children hence there was no sex distribution.

On religious affiliation the total respondent, 86% representing 331 of the total participants were Christians, 32 representing 8.3% of the total respondent practiced ATR while 2.6% of the respondents are engaged in different religious practices other than Christianity and Islam practice. This implies that a higher percentage of the participants practice Christianity. Among the total number of respondents, 22 representing 5.7% are into trading and business, 64 representing 16.6% of the respondents are teachers, 22 representing 16.6% of the participants are farmers, and 18 representing 4.7% of the participants are house wives while 94 representing 24.4% of the respondents are into other profession. This implies that majority of the participants are into trading/business. This is perhaps due to the fact that it involves women and in most cases in the study area, women are often engaging in petty trading.

**Research Question One:** What are the underlying causes of marital conflicts among couples in Egor Local Government Area?

**Table 2:** Man's inability to meet the financial and moral needs of the family

	Frequency	Percent
YES	271	70.4
NO	56	14.5
CANNOT TELL	58	15.1
Total	385	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2022

Data in Table 2 above shows the respondents view on the causes of marital conflicts among couples in Egor LGA. It was discovered that majority of the respondents representing 271(70.4%) of the total respondents agreed that the remote cause of marital instability is the inability to meet the financial and moral needs of the family. 56 representing 14.5% of the respondents however held that marital conflict is not caused by man's inability to meet financial and moral need while 58 representing 15.1% of the participants were undecided. This implies that man's inability to meet family or household financial and other moral demands are possible cause of marital conflicts in the study area. This was substantiated by the in-depth interview conducted that also revealed that marital instability or conflict is caused



by numerous factors and this ranges from inability to meet financial needs, high expectation from spouse, extreme nagging, communication break down and infidelity among others. When it come to the issue of financial, it is very crucial. At least, a man of the house should be able to meet the financial need when this is not done, crisis become inevitable in the home.

**Table 3:** Insult/Assault and Infidelity

	Frequency	Percent
YES	369	95.8
NO	10	2.6
CANNOT TELL	6	1.6
Total	385	100.0

*Source: Fieldwork, 2022*

The data in Table 3 further established that the perceived risk factors of marital conflicts among the respondents in the study area. From the data, it was discovered that a larger proportion of the respondents representing 369 (95.8%) agreed that insults/assaults and infidelity are the leading causes of marital conflict in families. 10 representing 2.6% of the respondents do not agree that insults/assaults and infidelity are risk factors of conflict in marriages while 6 representing 1.6% respondents were undecided. This implies that majority of the participants believe that conflict in marriages or families is as a result of the constant insults/assaults and infidelity from either of the partners. This abusive behaviour, if sustained over time, could lead to crisis in marriage or marital dissolution. According to the in-depth interview conducted, it was established that there are many reasons families experience crisis in conjugal relationship. Some of among these reasons are the issues of insult, abusive languages and infidelity on the part of either of the partners. According to her:

Insults/assaults in marriages could destroy the marriage if not properly handled. Insulting your partners is like making your partner look inferior. It becomes more serious when the partner is assaulted alongside with the insult. When this happens, the marriage could slide into crisis that is uncontrollable. This can even lead to the dissolution of the union. The worst of it is when a partner is not faithful to the other. That is, the issue of infidelity has destroyed many homes (IDI-Female, Civil servant at Egor secretariat, 48years).

According to another participants in the in-depth interview,

‘Marriage is a good thing but it is sweeter when both parties are satisfied in the union. One of the things that bring satisfaction in marriage is the arrival of the birth of a child or children (especially a male child). Any delay after wedding to have a child might result to frequent issue or misunderstanding on the part of the partners. Although children are not man-made and cannot be decided by anyone, but it is a general expectation that children herald the consummation of a union. Expectation of the nature has resulted in crisis in many marital unions. Childlessness is a serious issue in marriages that most persons do not talk about. This is because many marriages have crumbled due to this issue of childlessness. In most cases, the sex of a child especially a male child has a way of causing crisis in family when the woman is unable to have a male child’ (IDI-Female, civil servant, 27years).

**Research question two:** What are the possible resolution strategies adopted in resolving marital conflict among couples in Egor Local Government Area?

**Table 4:** Revisiting the past

	Frequency	Percent
YES	320	83.1
NO	48	12.5
CANNOT TELL	17	4.5

*Source: Fieldwork, 2022*

Table 4 above also showed that among the respondents, 320 representing 83.1% agreed that revisiting of clients’ past experiences is one of the strategies or technique that can be used for people who are abused in their marital union. 48 representing 12.5% of the respondents however do not believe that could be a good method when attending to people who are challenged martially or who are having conflicts in their union while 17 representing 4.5% were undecided as to whether reviewing or revisit of past experiences could be a good technique or strategies that can be adopted in resolving marital conflict among couples in the study area.

**Table 5:** Regular Couple Check-Ups

	Frequency	Percent
YES	248	64.4
NO	81	21.0
CANNOT TELL	56	14.5
Total	385	100.0

*Source: Fieldwork, 2022*

The table also established that among the respondents, majority agreed that regular check-up of counselor on families with marital issues are good strategies for resolution of family dispute. For example, 248 representing 64.4% of the participants agreed that regular couple check-up is a good strategy for resolving marital dissolution, 81 representing 21% disagreed while 56 14.5% were undecided. This implies that a larger proportion of the respondents agreed that regular check-up is a good intervention strategy for could having conflicts in their marital relationship. It was in confirmed in the in-depth interview where one of the participants said; there are different intervention mechanism designed for prevention from marital crisis. Among these measures or intervention mechanism is regular checkup or visitation of welfare officers to family where there are crisis. Regular checkup actually help welfare officers to know the extent of damage or how tough the crisis or conflict assumes.

Regular checkup is synonymous with home visitation programmes that help bring community resources to families in homes. During the home visit, information, support and other social services to improve the functioning of the family are offered. For example, finding of several studies revealed that women who were visited at home by welfare officers during pregnancy were less likely to be identified as perpetrator of abuse. Through visitation, welfare officers are able to identify, treat or refer families who are in crisis situation.

**5. Discussion of Findings**

It was discovered in the study that majority of the respondents were married and have children. The findings also show that a large proportion of the respondents were into businesses and majorly practice Christianity. Findings further showed that different predisposing factors account for marital dissolution among couples in the study area, however some of them were identified. These include but not limited to infidelity, preference for a particular sex of children, respect for spouse, insults and assaults amongst others were identified. For instance, majority of the respondents believed that the remote cause of marital instability is the inability to meet the financial and moral needs of the family. When the head of

household or the husband is not living to expectations especially by providing for daily upkeep of children, crisis always ensued. There are different roles and responsibilities assigned to family members in marital union and meeting financial needs of the family is specifically assigned to husband. However, when this role is not well articulated or played, it could result in marital conflicts and in some cases degenerate to marital dissolution particularly when not properly handled.

Financial matters are potent force when addressing issue of marital satisfaction, this is in tandem with Zeynep and Isil (2014), who posited that finance or money has the potential to influence so many aspects of everyday life, continued research in understanding the processes involved in this fundamental area of family studies is vital. Marital satisfaction and, more broadly, life satisfaction can both be improved by feeling satisfied with one's financial situation. This also in agreement with Berry & Williams (1987); Mugenda, Hira, & Fanslow, (1990); Parrotta & Johnson (1998); Hibbert and Beutler (2001), who argued that financial satisfaction is status driven. That is, financial problems or being unhappy with one's financial situation can cause marital discord and possibly divorce.

The findings further established that insult/assaults and marital infidelity are leading predisposing factors of marital conflicts in families. More than 87 percent of the respondents linked infidelity in marriage to marital dissolution in the study area. The abusive behaviour and immoral act of infidelity if sustained over time will results in marital crisis that could degenerate to dissolution. The finding also agree with Okafor (2002) and Tolorunleke (2014), who opined that marriage should be an exciting and beautiful adventure and the relationship between husband and wife. However, little things can slip into the relationship and when these little things are not properly handled, they can cause friction and eventual separation between the marriage partners that may widen over the years (Okafor, 2002).

Conflict resolution's primary goal is to ensure that its occurrence does not jeopardize the foundation of human life, not to prevent conflicts from occurring in the first place. The finding revealed that different strategies are engaged when resolving issues with

marital resolution. For example, it was discovered that regular marriage counseling is one of the possible resolution strategies in resolving marital conflicts among couples in Egor LGA. For instance, 76.9% of the total responded agreed to it. Other intervention mechanism or strategies such as attending seminars, conferences and workshops on healthy marital living were key strategies in marital resolution, defining the place of in-law in the family among others were the possible strategies adopted in reposition of marital dispute.

The findings also show that among the total participants, majority agreed that launching and landing rituals were established. For example, 326% of the participants representing 84.7% of the participants agreed that the technique of launching and landing rituals is one of the strategies for marital restoration among marriage couple. The findings also reveal that listening with purpose is among the resolution strategies adopted in resolving marital conflict among couples in the study area. The analysis of data also showed that among the total participant's majority agreed that regular check-up among counselors on families with marital issues is a good strategy for the resolution of family disputes. For example, 248 representing 64.4% of the participants agreed that regular couple check-up is a good strategy for resolving marital dissolution.

## 6. Conclusion

The study examined an Evaluation of Marital Conflict Resolution in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. Marital dissolution occurs as a result of uncontrolled factors. However, they may be controlled when they happen or avoided altogether to prevent homes from collapsing completely or partially. This mostly depend on how the couple handles disagreements together. Therefore, a couple should learn to be fair, objective, and realistic in order to sustain marital stability and satisfaction. These factors are however mitigated by the help of social work intervention strategies that operate in specific modus and processes. The factors that cause marital dissolution if not properly managed through the help of trained social workers can restore and reunites broken homes among others.

## 7. Recommendations

Based on the findings the following recommendations were made:

- Pre-marital counselling is necessary for prospective couples to better understand one

another before marriage. They ought to be made aware of some of the issues that could spark disputes and how to handle them.

- Through marital and sex guidance, there must be sufficient provision for counselling treatments that are preventive, remedial, and rehabilitative.
- Couples should regularly attend seminars and workshops on topics related to marital harmony and conflict resolution.

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## Gender-Based Analysis of Social Networking: The Influence Thereof on Academic Performance of Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies Students.

IRIALUOSE AGATHA OSHIOGWEMO  
Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria.

**Abstract.** This study looked at gender disparities in the influence of social networking on Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies students' academic performance. It used a single study question and one hypothesis to drive the use of a descriptive survey research methodology. Using stratified random sampling, 975 Basic 9 students; 481 males and 494 females were chosen for the sample. A questionnaire and Social Studies performance scores were used to gather data. The reliability of the questionnaire items was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha at a significance threshold of  $P < 0.5$ . Pearson's coefficient of determination was used to answer the research question, and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation was used to test the null hypothesis at the 0.05 significance level. The finding showed a strong correlation, with gender playing a major role between Upper Basic Social Studies students' academic performance and their use of social networks. The result led to the recommendation that social networking be promoted to male and female students in Delta State Upper Basic schools in order to assist learning and improve academic achievement.

**Keywords:** Academic Performance, Gender, Social Networking, Social Studies.

### 1. Introduction

The primary goal of social studies is to prepare students to become responsible and perceptive citizens who actively participate in national affairs. Understanding how people interact with one another in society is a key component, as is promoting human development, solid interpersonal bonds, good citizenship, unity, and general social progression, which includes advances in science and technology (Osakwe, 2010). Students who study social studies develop virtues like harmony, cooperation, and

teamwork, all of which support efforts to strengthen the nation.

The characteristics that set men and women apart, such as the differences in their physical, emotional, and intellectual maturation, are referred to as gender (Adigun et al., 2015). Historically, gender differences have affected many aspects of life, including schooling. Many governments throughout the world have responded to this by passing laws that support fair participation and equality in sectors like education (Rudhumbu, 2022). Biases in the past frequently hindered girls' ability to succeed academically, particularly in subjects like science, giving men an advantage.

Social networking is the process of fostering and reflecting relationships between people and organizations based on common interests and activities via the use of platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter (Adegbite-Badmus & Joda, 2019). It makes communication between individuals, groups, and organizations more dynamic by facilitating engagement through online and mobile-based technology (Wikipedia, 2010). Technology has become an indispensable instrument for obtaining and examining a vast array of knowledge due to its rapid progress. These days, social networking affects many facets of students' everyday life. Students are heavily involved with these platforms, whether it's for learning, enjoyment, keeping up with news, interacting with friends and family, or even just listening to music or watching movies (Abikwi & Okafor, 2022).

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

Creating relationships on social media sites like Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, and

Twitter is the main goal of social networking. Users from different countries, cultures, religions, sectors, and professions may interact thanks to these platforms. By using these social networking sites, students have used technology to become more aware, knowledgeable, and up to date with the world that is always changing (Khalid, 2017). Nevertheless, research has not properly explored the gender-based variations in how social networking influence academic performance, despite the fact that students utilize these platforms extensively. There is a lack of knowledge on the role that gender plays in the relationship between academic accomplishment and social networking, particularly for upper basic Social Studies students at Delta State. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to investigate how gender affects the relationship between social networking use and academic achievement in this particular student population.

### 1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to find out the relationship between the usage of social networks and academic performance of Upper Basic Social Studies students in Delta State as it relates to gender.

### 1.3 Research Question

What is the relationship between the usage of social networks and academic performance of Upper Basic Social Studies students in Delta State as it relates to gender?

### 1.4 Hypothesis

**Ho1:** There is no significant relationship between the usage of social networks and academic performance of Upper Basic Social Studies students in Delta State as it relates to gender.

## 2. Social Networking and Academic Performance of Students as it Relates to Gender

Nowadays, almost all students actively use social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, and Twitter. Social networking has become a crucial component of modern communication (Prodhan et al., 2020). Plunkett's (2018) study, which included 293 female and 313 male students, showed that social networking is used for academic reasons by students of all genders, and that this has a favourable impact on their academic performance. Nonetheless, there are discernible variations between the ways that male and female

students use these sites. For instance, Krasnova et al. (2017), discovered that although female students prioritize conversation and information collection, male students often use social media primarily for enjoyment.

According to a study conducted in North America by Efosa et al. (2017), male students utilize social networking sites more often than female students and are more satisfied with these platforms. Similar findings were found in a study conducted in Europe by Alfari et al. (2018) with 400 medical students. While both genders had high percentages of social network account ownership, there were minor differences in their preferences and usage patterns. YouTube was more frequently used by men, whereas WhatsApp was more popular with women.

Seon (2019), investigated how gender affected the link between social networking and micro-entrepreneurs' company performance in the United States. The results demonstrated that while social networks provided the same knowledge to both sexes, men were more adept at putting it to use. Similar gender disparities in student use were noted by Ali et al. (2021), with men using social networking mostly for communication and contact and females using it more for education, both of which had a favourable impact on academic performance.

When Olayinka et al. (2021), investigated social media use at Taraba State University in Nigeria, they discovered that students' use of social networking sites was highly influenced by their gender. In contrast, males preferred Facebook, while females preferred YouTube, according to study by Sajjat and Tabiur (2020) on university students in Bangladesh. There were also clear variations in the amount of time the participants spent online and the motivations for their use of social media. According to both research, using social media excessively may have a detrimental effect on academic achievement.

Diverse conclusions about the connection between gender, social networking, and academic performance have been found in the body of current research. While Plunkett (2018), revealed that gender had no connection between social networking and academic performance, studies by Alfari et al. (2018), Ali et al. (2021), Olayinka et al. (2021), and Sajjat and Tabiur (2020), suggest that gender does play a role, but in different ways. Efosa et al. (2017), and Seon (2019) suggested that male students tend to benefit more academically from social networking. With an emphasis on gender disparities among Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies students, this study aims to

further investigate the link between social networking and academic performance in light of these conflicting results.

**3. Methodology**

To gather and examine data, this study used a descriptive survey research design. It concentrated on all 43,022 Basic 9 students from 468 Delta State public Upper Basic schools. A total of 975 students; 481 males and 494 females were chosen from Delta State's three senatorial districts using a stratified random sampling technique. The Delta State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education validated teacher-created tests and a questionnaire titled "Gender-Based Analysis of Social Networking and Academic Performance of Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies Students" were used to collect data. Responses were gathered using a four-point Likert scale, where the alternatives ranged from "strongly disagree" (SD = 1 point) to "strongly agree" (SA = 4 points). In order to make sure the instrument correctly measured the

desired ideas, face and content validity were used to establish the instrument's validity.

The "Gender-Based Social Networking and Academic Performance Scale" was tested for internal consistency using Cronbach's alpha to determine the questionnaire's reliability. One hundred Basic 9 students who weren't in the main study but had comparable traits to the main sample were used for this reliability test. Strong consistency in assessing gender-based social network utilization was indicated by the reliability coefficient of  $r=0.75$ ,  $p<0.05$ , obtained from the analysis assessed at a significance level of  $P<0.05$ . The Pearson Coefficient of Determination was utilized to address the research issues, and the null hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of significance using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. For this investigation, the Pearson statistical approach was used because to its ability to accurately ascertain the direction and magnitude of the association between the variables.

**4. Results**

What is the relationship between the usage of social networks and academic performance of Upper Basic Social Studies students in Delta State as it relates to gender?

**Table 1:** Mean Scores and Standard Deviation Analysis on social networks usage and academic performance as it relates to gender.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r	r <sup>2</sup>	r <sup>2</sup> %	Remark
Social networks	975	3.13	.97	.198	0.039	3.9%	Positive relationship
Academic performance as it relates to gender		3.23	.95				

Source: SPSS Output, 2024

Table 1 displays the gender-related mean scores and standard deviation analysis of Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies students' social network usage and academic achievement. The results indicate a positive correlation between the academic performance and gender of Upper Basic Social Studies students in Delta State and their use of social networks, as indicated by mean scores of 3.13 and 3.23 above the benchmark mean value and standard deviation scores of .97 and .95.

**Ho1:** There is no significant relationship between the use of social networks and academic performance of Upper Basic Social Studies students in Delta State as it relates to gender.

**Table 2:** Correlation result for the significant relationship between the usage of social networks and academic performance of Upper Basic Social Studies students in Delta State as it relates to gender.

		Social networks	Academic performance as it relates to gender
Social networks.	Pearson Correlation	1	.198**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	975	975
Academic performance as it relates to gender	Pearson Correlation	.198**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	975	975

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

According to Table 2, social networks and academic performance as it pertains to gender shows a positive link, with a Pearson's r correlation value of .198. Additionally, a statistically significant link is evident under the two-tailed test and at the 0.05 level of significance, as indicated by the P-value score of .000. In other words, the null hypothesis is disproved. In conclusion, there is a strong correlation between gender-specific academic performance of Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies students and their usage of social networks.

### 5. Discussion of Finding

According to the study's findings, gender influences social network use and academic performance among Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies students in a beneficial way. Gender disparities can influence how and why students use social media, as evidenced by the observation that female students are more likely than their male counterparts to utilize social networking sites for academic objectives.

This result is in line with earlier research by Krasnova et al. (2017); Sajjat and Tabiur (2020), which shown that female students prioritize communication and information collecting on social networking sites, whereas male students often use them for enjoyment. Similarly, gender influences how students use social networking, according to Olayinka et al. (2021). Seon (2019), however, discovered that male students were more adept than female students in using social media for educational objectives. Nevertheless, Plunkett (2018) discovered no discernible variation between the methods in which male and female students utilized social media for educational reasons, with both sexes gaining advantages from these platforms that enhanced their academic achievement.

### 6. Conclusion

The study found that among Delta State Upper Basic Social Studies students, gender had a major influence on the association between social network use and academic performance. Additionally, it was noted that female students are more likely than male students to utilize social networking sites for academic objectives, which benefits their academic performance.

### 7. Recommendation

In Delta State Upper Basic schools, encouraging male and female students to use social networking as a learning tool should be given top priority. Schools should make sure that students have access to the tools they need, such as computers and dependable internet

connectivity, to assist this, this will enable students of both genders to use social networking for academic objectives, ultimately improving their academic performance.

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## The Influence of Organizational Culture on Employees' Performance of Plan International (INGO) in Delivering Services in South Sudan

LEEK EDWARD CHUOL

Nexus International University, Kampala, Uganda

**Abstract.** For several years, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have aimed to create corporate cultures that align with their core values and beliefs to guide their operations. This study focused on the impact of organizational culture on employee performance at Plan International South Sudan, an international NGO. The study utilized Hofstede's (1980) 6-D model to identify the effects of organizational culture on employee performance, as few studies have used a simplified cultural model to assess the impact of organizational culture on performance in a multinational NGO with diverse cultures in a developing African economy. The study examined the influence of organizational structure, risk-taking, teamwork, competitiveness, strategic goal orientation, and spending culture on employee performance, using an online structured Likert scale questionnaire to survey 153 mid-level to senior staff. Employing a quantitative approach, the study used multiple regression analysis to test six hypotheses drawn from the literature review. The analysis indicated that organizational structure, risk-taking, competitiveness, and spending culture did not significantly affect employee performance. However, teamwork and strategic goal orientation had a significant impact on employee performance. The study also found that teamwork can thrive among employees in a high-power distance multinational organization setting, contrary to the Hofstede (1980) Power Distance Index dimension's principles. Additionally, strategic goal orientation was linked to employees' intrinsic need for job security, which is crucial to their performance. The study provided practical recommendations, outlining the steps organizations can take to improve these aspects of their culture and the costs and implications of implementing them.

**Keywords:** Influence, organisation, Culture, Employee Performance, South Sudan

### 1. Background to the Study

This project aims to fill the gap in understanding organizational workplace culture performance, specifically in South Sudan. Organizational development involves several factors contributing to sustainable effectiveness, such as establishing norms, values, and objectives and improving productivity to cultivate employee commitment. The success of an organisation largely depends on its culture. Understanding cultural attributes aids in identifying and establishing cognitive differences among members. Effective culture management involves creating a normative glue that holds overall management effectiveness, thus improving business decisions. This project presents a unique opportunity to shed light on a crucial but understudied aspect of workplace cultural performance in South Sudan, which can contribute to a safer and more secure work environment for employees.

This project, the first of its kind, aims to fill a significant gap in the current understanding of organizational workplace culture performance. While previous research has predominantly focused on high-risk jobs such as policing, there is a dearth of knowledge about the opinions of employees in performance organisations regarding cultural issues in South Sudan. Workplace cultures, in general, have not been given attention, and cultural performance environments have been largely overlooked. Plan International focuses on workplace Culture in the humanitarian sector and social assistance jobs, but all industries are at risk. This project, therefore, presents a unique and intriguing opportunity to shed light on a

crucial but understudied aspect of workplace cultural performance in South Sudan.

Organizational development involves several factors that contribute to sustainable effectiveness. Improving productivity cultivates employee commitment, and establishing norms, values, and objectives can enhance an organization's culture. A strong learning environment is crucial for a successful organizational system. By establishing a robust cultural foundation, employee performance can improve significantly. Employee performance is integral to an organization's development, and their loyalty is contingent on their knowledge and awareness of the culture. Management identification of values and norms can help improve employee performance, and an emphasis on quality can contribute to the overall development of both the organization and its employees. Administrative Science Quarterly first identified the importance of organizational culture in 1979 (Pettigrew, 1979).

Not long ago, it was unimaginable that staff could be influenced by culture in the workplace. Similarly, people perceive cultures and organizational culture performance as safe havens. However, the outcomes of this project could provide a distinctive viewpoint on workers' cultural perceptions in such cultural performance environments. This understanding is pivotal for organizational leaders as it directly influences employees' professional and personal needs and can steer the development of appropriate cultural measures.

According to Jain et al. (2012), stress, violence, and bullying are significant areas of concern in the workplace. Work stress can lead to a hostile work environment and impact product and service quality and the organization's image. Exposure to stress at work can also negatively affect mental and physical health and overall productivity and effectiveness.

The data collected through this project could bring awareness to worker concerns in cultural performance environments and offer organisations, including yours, a unique opportunity to create or improve prevention plans and training regarding workplace cultural performance. By doing so, cultural performance environments can avoid becoming higher risk, as has happened previously with humanitarianism. Additionally, the project results may provide your organization with valuable information to address the cultural performance needs of employees in low-risk environments, potentially improving employee satisfaction and productivity. This understanding may aid in developing or enhancing workplace cultural prevention and preparedness training, which can

contribute to a safer and more secure work environment for your employees.

## **2. Organizational Culture**

Culture plays a critical role in differentiating one organization from another. It encompasses a set of beliefs, values, norms, and attitudes that guide behaviour and decision-making. The success of an organization largely depends on its culture. Understanding cultural attributes aids in identifying and establishing cognitive differences among members. Effective culture management involves creating a normative glue that holds overall management effectiveness, thus improving business decisions. An organization's culture is shaped by attitudes, norms, and beliefs, which leads to strong communication between employees. The similarity of values and beliefs in an organization's culture leads to a perfect association between them. Consequently, it's crucial to maintain a stable structure and integrate a superior standard of organisational culture for effective culture management. Managing cultural differences at different levels is essential to improve performance and sustainability. The norms of employees impact sustainable performance and the management of organisational culture, leading to the attainment of profitability. Therefore, creating an effective organizational culture is critical for success in today's business world.

### **2.1 Counter Culture**

Teams. Countercultures arise when certain values and beliefs within an organization clash with the dominant culture. Such opposing cultures can hinder rather than help the organization's performance. On the other hand, a strong and cohesive organizational culture can greatly contribute to the success of management teams and the overall performance of the organization. (Kerr, J., & Slocum, J. W., Jr. 2005).

### **2.2 Sub Culture**

According to Schein's definition in 1995, subcultures can be identified as segments within an organization that have distinct norms, values, and beliefs based on factors such as geographical location, job requirements, and departmental goals. Employee commitment to the organization is influenced by their perception of the culture, as noted by Lok, Westwood, and Crawford in 2005. Additionally, social interactions in the workplace can be important for certain subgroups.

### 2.3 Strong Culture

It is crucial for an employee's cultural values and beliefs to align with those of their organization. In fact, when an employee embraces a significant portion of an organization's culture, it is a strong indicator of the strength of its values and beliefs (Deal and Kennedy, 1982). Managers have successfully worked to reduce any gaps in employee relationships thus far. It is important that employees consider the rules of the organization to be of utmost importance. Top managers' policies, procedures, and objectives should influence employee behavior to gain a competitive advantage.

### 2.4 Weak Culture

The loosely connected cultures within an organization can foster innovation by shaping the thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs of individuals. This asset is key to managing and meeting the growing demands of cultural management. When based on shared values and beliefs, these loosely connected cultures can form ideal relationships, as suggested by Deal and Kennedy in 1982. The challenge lies in creatively managing the differences between personal objectives and organizational goals to establish a seamless connection between them.

### 3. Purpose Statement

This qualitative exploratory case study investigates how employees perceive the likelihood of cultural performance in the workplace in generally considered safe organisations. The study will consist of an online survey distributed to all 400 Plan International employees in South Sudan. The survey will be followed by personal phone interviews with interested participants, where we will delve deeper into their perspectives and concerns. The Plan International is in various parts of the ten states in the country, representing diverse demographics. The study's results may apply to other low-risk cultural performance organisations throughout South Sudan. The data collected may help Plan International recognize, understand, and address their employees' cultural performance concerns in the workplace. This understanding may aid in developing or improving cultural performance in the workplace to reduce violence prevention and preparedness training. Additionally, the findings may raise awareness of the possibility of workplace cultural performance sensitivity in organisations where it is not typically considered, leading to better prevention and incident readiness through creating or improving policies, procedures, and training.

### 4. Importance of the Project

It is specific to organisational culture performance within the humanitarian sector in South Sudan. Therefore, it is crucial to gather more recent and comprehensive data on the experiences and perspectives of workers in assumed low-risk environments to understand workplace culture issues better. This will aid in developing effective preventive measures, policies, and support systems for employees. This initiative can potentially increase cultural performance awareness and its importance in the workplace and set clear standards of cultural performance.

### 5. Proposed Project Approach

This project will focus on workers' cultural performance concerns and perceptions in seemingly low-risk environments. The project will be conducted in three parts. Part one will include writing an Introduction to explain the project, a Literature Review to synthesise relevant research, and a Project Plan/Methodology outlining how the project will be conducted.

Part two will focus on data collection, where personal responses from around 400 Workers throughout South Sudan will be solicited through an anonymous online survey. As this project uses a qualitative method, a field test will be conducted for face validation before distributing the survey to participants. The field test will be conducted with workers not connected to the project. Moreover, the plan international Executive Director will also review the survey questions for face validation before the survey is conducted. Participants who would like to share information beyond the survey will be allowed to speak with the researcher in a personal follow-up phone interview. This will be a semi-structured interview, allowing the researcher to ask additional questions to gain clarification or further information from participants' answers. Data analysis will also be conducted during this part of the project.

Part three of the project will be the final write-up of the results and researcher recommendations based on the collected data, overall project research, and the researcher's academic program. The results and recommendations developed through the project can be used by organisations to improve or create policies, procedures, and training regarding workplace cultural performance, and to address the cultural effect needs associated with employees' performance concerns. Scholars and practitioners can also use the results as foundational data regarding workers in seemingly cultural performance environments.

## 6. Over-arching Study Question(s)/Statement of Project Intent

The following four over-arching questions will be addressed through this project.

## 7. Findings and Conclusion

As data analysed and explored by SPSS shows the correlation between cultural environment and job performance satisfaction, any organisation has positive and significant relationships. Also, the organisation's productivity depends on the work environment; if the organization's environment is satisfactory and comfortable, the organization's productivity increases. If is not, the organization's management in the organization should pay more attention to the work environment to make it satisfactory and comfortable for the employees.

Teamwork is highly valued and encouraged at Plan International, leading to positive employee performance outcomes. Interestingly, this culture persists even in a bureaucratic structure.

While Plan International is a highly competitive organization, this doesn't necessarily translate to improved employee performance. To see better results, the competition culture among employees needs to shift.

Strategic goal orientation plays a significant role in employee performance at Plan International. When employees are confident in the organization's long-term goals, they feel more secure and motivated, resulting in better job quality.

Plan International's spending priorities heavily focus on project and humanitarian services delivery rather than human resources. As a result, the organization's spending culture has little impact on employee performance.

## 8. Recommendations

- Management should try to build a work environment that attracts, retains, and motivates its employees, helping them work comfortably and increasing the organisation's productivity.
- Management holds periodic meetings for employees to air grievances as a motivation factor and should counsel them on their relationships with subordinates.

- In the future, more significant random sampling research should be conducted.
- It is recommended that it be a policy in the organisation, and Management should consider it an important factor.

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## **Navigating Identity and Language: A Feminist Perspective on the Social Acceptance of Baby Mamas in Nigeria**

MABEL ORIAKPONO

Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun state, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This paper explores the growing social acceptance and glamorization of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon in Nigeria from a feminist perspective. The aim of this research is to analyse the underlying social, cultural, and linguistic factors contributing to the increasing visibility and perceived normalization of unmarried women who bear children outside of traditional marital structures. By interrogating the narratives surrounding "Baby Mamas," the objective is to uncover the ways in which this phenomenon is being portrayed as virtuous or desirable, despite its deviation from conservative norms that traditionally valorise marriage and family cohesion. The methodology employed involves a critical feminist analysis of media portrayals, societal discourse, and cultural representations of "Baby Mamas," examining how language and identity are leveraged to challenge or reinforce existing power dynamics. This approach allows for a nuanced examination of how conservative values are being both contested and co-opted in the portrayal of unmarried motherhood. The findings suggest that the "Baby Mama" phenomenon is symptomatic of broader societal shifts where traditional values are increasingly negotiated within the public sphere. However, the research also highlights the complexities and contradictions inherent in the glamorization of this phenomenon, questioning whether such representations truly empower women or merely reflect a commodification of non-traditional identities. The conclusions drawn from this study suggest that the growing acceptance of "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria signals both a challenge to and a reconfiguration of conservative social norms. In illuminating these dynamics, the paper contributes to broader discussions on gender, identity, and social change within Nigerian society.

**Keywords:** Baby Mama, Social Acceptance, Feminist Analysis, Conservative Values, Social Norms.

### **1. Introduction**

The phenomenon of "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria has garnered significant attention in recent years, reflecting broader societal shifts in attitudes toward marriage, motherhood, and gender roles. Traditionally, Nigerian society has been deeply rooted in conservative values that emphasize marriage as the primary and socially acceptable context for childbearing and family formation. However, the increasing visibility and social acceptance of unmarried women who bear children—popularly referred to as "Baby Mamas"—suggests a shift in these long-held norms.

This research seeks to explore the growing acceptance and glamorization of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon within Nigerian society, particularly from a feminist perspective. The central aim is to interrogate how this phenomenon challenges traditional conservative values while simultaneously being co-opted into mainstream cultural narratives that may portray it as a virtuous or desirable identity. By doing so, this study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how gender, identity, and social norms are being renegotiated in contemporary Nigeria.

Recent studies have shown that the concept of the "Baby Mama" has become increasingly normalized in various parts of Africa, including Nigeria, as it intersects with issues of modernity, globalization, and changing gender dynamics (Olawale & Adebisi, 2019; Adeyemi, 2020). Scholars have noted that the rise of this phenomenon can be linked to several factors, including the influence of popular culture, economic independence among women, and the increasing delay in marriage (Akinwunmi, 2021; Okonkwo, 2020). However, this normalization does not come without its contradictions and complexities, particularly within a society that remains largely conservative in its values.

From a feminist perspective, the "Baby Mama" phenomenon can be viewed as both a challenge to and a reflection of the patriarchal structures that continue to shape Nigerian society. On one hand, the increasing acceptance of unmarried motherhood can be seen as a form of resistance against the traditional expectations placed on women, offering a form of autonomy and self-determination. On the other hand, the glamorization of this phenomenon in popular media raises questions about whether it truly represents an empowering shift or merely reinforces existing gender inequalities by commodifying non-traditional identities (Nwafor, 2022; Eze, 2021).

The objective of this research therefore, is to critically examine these dynamics by analysing the language, media portrayals, and societal discourse surrounding the "Baby Mama" phenomenon in Nigeria. Through this analysis, the study aims to reveal the ways in which conservative values are being both contested and reconfigured in the portrayal of unmarried motherhood, and to what extent this phenomenon reflects broader changes in the social fabric of Nigerian society.

This research is significant because it addresses a gap in the existing literature on gender, identity, and social change in Nigeria. While there has been considerable focus on the roles of marriage and motherhood within Nigerian society, less attention has been paid to the ways in which non-traditional forms of family and motherhood are being negotiated and accepted within the public sphere. By focusing on the "Baby Mama" phenomenon, this study will provide new insights into how gender roles are evolving in Nigeria and contribute to ongoing debates about the intersection of culture, identity, and social norms.

## 2. Literature Review

The "Baby Mama" phenomenon in Nigeria is situated at the intersection of evolving gender roles, shifting social norms, and the influence of global cultural trends. To fully understand the growing acceptance and glamorization of unmarried motherhood in Nigerian society, it is essential to examine the historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts that inform this phenomenon. This literature review provides an overview of key themes, including the historical context of motherhood and marital structures in Nigeria, feminist perspectives on motherhood and identity, the role of conservative values in shaping social norms, and the impact of media portrayals and cultural representations on the perception of "Baby Mamas."

### 2.1 Historical Context of Motherhood and Marital Structures in Nigeria

Historically, Nigerian society has placed a strong emphasis on marriage as the primary institution for family formation and childbearing. In many Nigerian cultures, marriage is not only a personal commitment but also a social contract that solidifies a woman's status and legitimacy within the community (Afolabi, 2018). Traditional views on marriage and motherhood are deeply rooted in patriarchal structures, where a woman's identity and worth are often linked to her role as a wife and mother within a marital union (Ekechi, 2017). However, colonialism and the subsequent modernization of Nigerian society have brought about significant changes in family structures and gender roles, leading to a gradual shift in the way motherhood is perceived and practiced (Oyewumi, 2016).

The emergence of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon can be seen as part of this broader historical trajectory, where the traditional norms surrounding marriage and motherhood are increasingly being questioned and renegotiated. Scholars have noted that the rise of unmarried motherhood in Nigeria is influenced by various factors, including urbanization, increased access to education for women, and changing economic conditions that allow women greater financial independence (Okeke, 2019; Nwankwo, 2020). These changes have contributed to a redefinition of what it means to be a mother in contemporary Nigerian society, where the nuclear family model is no longer the sole or dominant paradigm.

### 2.2 Feminist Perspectives on Motherhood and Identity

Feminist scholars have long critiqued the traditional association between womanhood and motherhood, arguing that such associations reinforce patriarchal control over women's bodies and identities (Rich, 1976; Chodorow, 1978). In the Nigerian context, feminist theorists have explored how motherhood is both a site of empowerment and oppression, where women navigate the expectations of society while seeking autonomy and self-determination (Nnaemeka, 2004). The "Baby Mama" phenomenon, from a feminist perspective, represents a complex negotiation of these dynamics, where unmarried women assert their right to motherhood outside the confines of marriage, challenging traditional gender roles (Amadiume, 2015).

The increasing acceptance of "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria can be interpreted as part of a broader feminist struggle for gender equality and the right to define



one's identity on one's own terms (Ogundipe-Leslie, 1994). However, some feminist scholars caution that the glamorization of this phenomenon may not necessarily lead to greater empowerment for women, but rather perpetuate existing gender inequalities in new forms. For example, the media's portrayal of "Baby Mamas" as fashionable and desirable may reinforce the commodification of women's identities and bodies, rather than truly challenging patriarchal norms (Oyewumi, 2018; Eze, 2021).

### 2.3 Conservative Values and Social Norms

Conservative values continue to play a significant role in shaping social norms around marriage, motherhood, and family in Nigeria. These values are often rooted in religious beliefs and cultural traditions that emphasize the importance of marriage as a sacred institution and the ideal context for raising children (Adeboye, 2016). The persistence of these values means that unmarried mothers, despite their growing visibility and acceptance, often face stigma and social disapproval (Okonkwo, 2020).

Scholars have examined how conservative discourses on family and gender are being renegotiated in the face of changing social realities (Balogun, 2019; Ogundeji, 2021). The "Baby Mama" phenomenon represents a site of tension where traditional values are contested and redefined. While some segments of Nigerian society may embrace unmarried motherhood as part of a more modern and inclusive understanding of family, others view it as a threat to the social fabric and moral order. This tension reflects broader debates about the role of tradition and modernity in shaping Nigerian society (Adegbite, 2020).

### 2.4 Media Portrayals and Cultural Representations

The role of media in shaping public perceptions of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon cannot be overstated. In recent years, Nigerian media, particularly entertainment and social media, have played a crucial role in normalizing and glamorizing the image of unmarried mothers (Eze, 2021). Celebrities and influencers who proudly identify as "Baby Mamas" have contributed to the visibility of this phenomenon, often portraying it as a fashionable and empowering lifestyle choice (Okonkwo, 2020).

Scholars have explored how media representations contribute to the construction of social identities and the normalization of certain behaviors (Alabi, 2018; Nwafor, 2022). The portrayal of "Baby Mamas" in Nigerian media often reflects broader global trends, where non-traditional forms of motherhood are

increasingly being celebrated. However, these representations also raise questions about the commodification of women's identities and the potential for such portrayals to reinforce, rather than subvert, patriarchal norms (Olawale, 2019).

## 3. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework outlined in this research provides the foundation for analyzing the "Baby Mama" phenomenon in Nigeria. Through the integration of feminist theory, the analysis of conservative ideologies, and intersectionality, this research will critically examine how unmarried motherhood is represented, negotiated, and perceived within Nigerian society.

### 3.1 Feminist Theory and Motherhood

Feminist theory offers critical insights into the ways motherhood is socially constructed and experienced, particularly within patriarchal societies. Central to feminist critiques is the argument that traditional notions of motherhood often serve to limit women's autonomy, confining them to roles defined by their reproductive capabilities and societal expectations (Rich, 1976; Chodorow, 1978). In the Nigerian context, these expectations are amplified by cultural and religious norms that emphasize marriage as the ideal framework for motherhood, thereby marginalizing women who choose—or are forced into—motherhood outside of this institution (Nnaemeka, 2004; Amadiume, 2015).

Feminist scholars argue that the "Baby Mama" phenomenon can be seen as a form of resistance against these restrictive norms, offering women a degree of autonomy in defining their identities and family structures. However, this autonomy is not without its contradictions. The glamorization of unmarried motherhood in media and popular culture may reinforce existing gender inequalities by commodifying women's bodies and identities, rather than genuinely challenging patriarchal power dynamics (Oyewumi, 2018; Eze, 2021).

### 3.2 Conservative Ideologies and Social Norms

Conservative ideologies play a crucial role in shaping social norms around gender, family, and morality in Nigeria. These ideologies are often rooted in religious and cultural traditions that uphold marriage as a sacred institution and the ideal context for childbearing and family life (Adeboye, 2016). Unmarried motherhood, therefore, is frequently viewed as a deviation from these norms, attracting social stigma and disapproval.

However, as Nigerian society undergoes rapid social and economic changes, these conservative ideologies are being challenged and reinterpreted. Scholars have noted that the rise of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon reflects broader shifts in societal values, where traditional norms are increasingly contested by new cultural and economic realities (Adegbite, 2020; Balogun, 2019). This tension between conservative ideologies and evolving social norms will be a key focus of this study, as it seeks to understand how unmarried motherhood is being negotiated within the public sphere.

### 3.3 Intersectionality and Identity

Intersectionality, a concept developed by Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989), provides a critical lens for understanding how multiple forms of identity—such as gender, class, race, and socioeconomic status—intersect to shape individual experiences and social dynamics. In the context of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon, intersectionality is particularly useful for examining how different social identities influence the experiences of unmarried mothers in Nigeria.

Unmarried motherhood in Nigeria is not a monolithic experience; it varies significantly depending on factors such as economic status, education, cultural background, and geographic location (Akinwunmi, 2021; Nwankwo, 2020). For instance, the experiences of a middle-class "Baby Mama" in an urban area may differ greatly from those of a working-class woman in a rural community. Intersectionality allows for a more nuanced understanding of these diverse experiences, highlighting the ways in which social identities intersect to produce unique challenges and opportunities for unmarried mothers.

This research will apply intersectional analysis to explore how different social identities shape the representation and perception of "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria. By doing so, it will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon, revealing the complex interplay of gender, class, and other social factors in the negotiation of identity and motherhood outside traditional marital structures.

### 4. Methodology

This research employs a qualitative approach, focusing on narrative analysis to explore the "Baby Mama" phenomenon in Nigeria. The study involves a close examination of media reports, social media posts, and other public narratives, aiming to identify dominant themes, language, and representations of unmarried mothers within Nigerian society. Sources for this analysis include Nigerian newspapers, online platforms, blogs, and social media, providing a diverse range of perspectives and insights. By critically analyzing these narratives, the research seeks to uncover the ways in which unmarried motherhood is framed, discussed, and perceived, offering a detailed understanding of the social dynamics at play.

### 5. Analysis

The phenomenon of "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria, particularly in the context of the research topic, "Navigating Identity and Language: Feminist Perspectives on the Social Acceptance of Baby Mamas in Nigeria," is deeply intertwined with themes of identity, societal expectations, and the power dynamics embedded in language. The following analysis incorporates excerpts from the provided text, integrating the theoretical framework of feminist narrative analysis, and aligns with the methodology of examining media and social narratives.

### Glamorization and Societal Perception



Fig.1: PM News Nigeria captures the case of Kemi Ayorinde <https://pmnewsnigeria.com/>

Fig.1 from PM News Nigeria captures the case of Kemi Ayorinde, who publicly criticized her baby’s father, singer Lyta, on social media for failing to provide financial support. This scenario exemplifies the glamorization of "Baby Mama" culture in Nigerian media, where the private lives of individuals are broadcast and consumed publicly. The report illustrates how being a "Baby Mama" to a celebrity is often seen as a status symbol, yet it simultaneously reveals the struggles that come with this identity.

The narrative showcases how identity is navigated in the public sphere, particularly through the lens of social media. While this glamorization and subsequent public critique could be seen as reflecting the complexities of women's autonomy and agency in a patriarchal society. The identity of a "Baby Mama" is both celebrated and stigmatized, leading to a contradictory social acceptance that is dependent on factors such as the father's status and financial capability.

**Financial and Emotional Struggles**

Kemi’s stated in the report:

“My father was useless too but not to this level and my son will never be,”


This is a poignant reflection of the emotional and financial struggles that many "Baby Mamas" endure. Her narrative reveals deep-seated frustrations with systemic neglect and the lack of male responsibility, a theme that resonates with many women in similar situations. This narrative accentuates how language and identity are shaped by experiences of economic hardship and emotional turmoil. The analysis helps to unpack these experiences, revealing how societal acceptance of "Baby Mamas" is often conditional and tied to patriarchal norms that dictate financial dependency and emotional resilience.

**Critique of Celebrity Influence**

tekedial.com/the-societal-pressure-to-become-a-baby-mama-in-nigeria-the-pros-and-cons/


### The Societal Pressure To Become A Baby Mama In Nigeria: The Pros And Cons

June 30, 2023 | by Stanley Aliike | 1 ⬇



This recent trend in Nigeria of becoming a baby mama to a celebrity is a wild one. I understand that it is even a bragging right to some ladies, i.e. being a baby mama to a popular person.

We need to start having this difficult but true conversation that becoming or being a baby mama is not a flex neither is it an achievement despite whomever you got pregnant for. It is just an open display of how much you lack self-discipline and respect for your body.



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**Fig.2:** The societal pressure to become a "Baby Mama" <https://www.tekedia.com/>

Fig.2 from Tekedia, which discusses the societal pressure to become a "Baby Mama," further highlights the influence of celebrities in normalizing this phenomenon. The excerpt mentions how being a "Baby Mama" to a popular figure is often seen as a "bragging right," reflecting a shift in societal values where association with fame can override traditional expectations of marriage before childbirth. This critique stresses the power dynamics at play in the construction of identity. The glorification of "Baby Mama" status, especially when linked to celebrities, often masks the underlying issues of exploitation and lack of support. The subtle headlines that bother more on the entertainment value on navigating identity and language is crucial here, as it demonstrates how societal acceptance is manipulated through media portrayals that prioritize fame and visibility over genuine empowerment and autonomy.

### Moral and Social Commentary

The excerpt from Tekedia in Fig.2 presents a strong moral commentary, critiquing the "Baby Mama" phenomenon as a sign of societal decay. The text states,

"It is just an open display of how much you lack self-discipline and respect for your body."

This harsh critique reflects a patriarchal perspective that blames women for their circumstances while absolving men of responsibility. The narrative paints "Baby Mamas" as lacking in self-discipline, thus reinforcing the stigmatization and moral judgment that pervades societal attitudes towards unmarried mothers. This moral commentary is crucial for understanding how language is used as a tool of power and control. In deconstructing this language, we reveal how it perpetuates a masculinity that is self-absorbed of responsibility and reinforces gendered stereotypes.

### Media and Public Narratives

The media's role in this evolving discourse is critical, as it helps shape public perceptions of unmarried motherhood, potentially contributing to broader societal shifts in gender roles and family structures.

#### Media Framing and Language



Fig. 3: Portable, babymama welcome second baby <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/>

The headline, "Portable, babymama welcome second baby," immediately positions the relationship between Portable and his baby mama in a normalized and celebratory light. The tone is neutral to positive, focusing on the birth of the child rather than the unconventional nature of their relationship. This framing is crucial as it subtly endorses the legitimacy of the "Baby Mama" role without overtly challenging traditional norms.

The language used in the article avoids any negative connotations or judgment, emphasizing Portable's fatherhood ("Portable is now a father of three boys") rather than the non-marital status of the relationship. This choice of words helps in shifting the focus from the potential social stigma associated with unmarried motherhood to a celebration of fatherhood and family expansion. By doing so, the article contributes to the social acceptance and glamorization of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon.



The accompanying image of Portable, his baby mama, and the child visually reinforces the narrative of family unity and happiness. The affectionate portrayal of Portable holding the newborn close to his chest symbolizes a caring father figure, further normalizing the "Baby Mama" dynamic as part of a legitimate family structure.

From a feminist perspective, the portrayal of Omobewaji Feranmi as a "baby mama" challenges traditional patriarchal norms that confine women to the role of wife and mother within the bounds of marriage. The image and the article suggest that motherhood, even outside of marriage, can be socially accepted and even celebrated, particularly when tied to a successful and influential male figure.

However, feminist critique opines that the glamorization of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon, especially in celebrity, could lead to the commodification of women's roles. While Omobewaji Feranmi may appear to gain visibility and social acceptance, this visibility might be contingent upon her relationship with a male celebrity, thereby reinforcing rather than dismantling gendered power structures. The media portrayal could be seen as commodifying her identity as a "baby mama" rather than acknowledging her autonomy outside of her relationship with Portable.

The article exemplifies the tension between traditional Nigerian values and the evolving social acceptance of non-traditional family structures. By portraying the "Baby Mama" relationship in a positive light, the article subtly challenges conservative ideologies that place marriage at the center of acceptable motherhood. The media's role in this negotiation is critical, as it reflects and shapes public perceptions of what constitutes a legitimate family structure. The positive portrayal of this family dynamic suggests a cultural shift where traditional norms are being reinterpreted to accommodate changing realities. The narrative moves away from stigmatization towards normalization, indicating a broader societal acceptance of diverse family models.

The analysis must consider the role of socioeconomic status and celebrity influence in shaping the experiences and perceptions of "Baby Mamas." Portable's status as a popular artist and the media's focus on his expanding family suggest that fame can mitigate the potential social stigma associated with unmarried motherhood. This intersects with class, as less privileged women without such status may not receive the same positive media portrayal. The image represents a specific narrative that may not be universally applicable to all "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria. It highlights how media portrayals can differ significantly based on socioeconomic status, fame, and public visibility, raising questions about the inclusivity of such narratives in reflecting the diverse experiences of unmarried mothers across different strata of society.

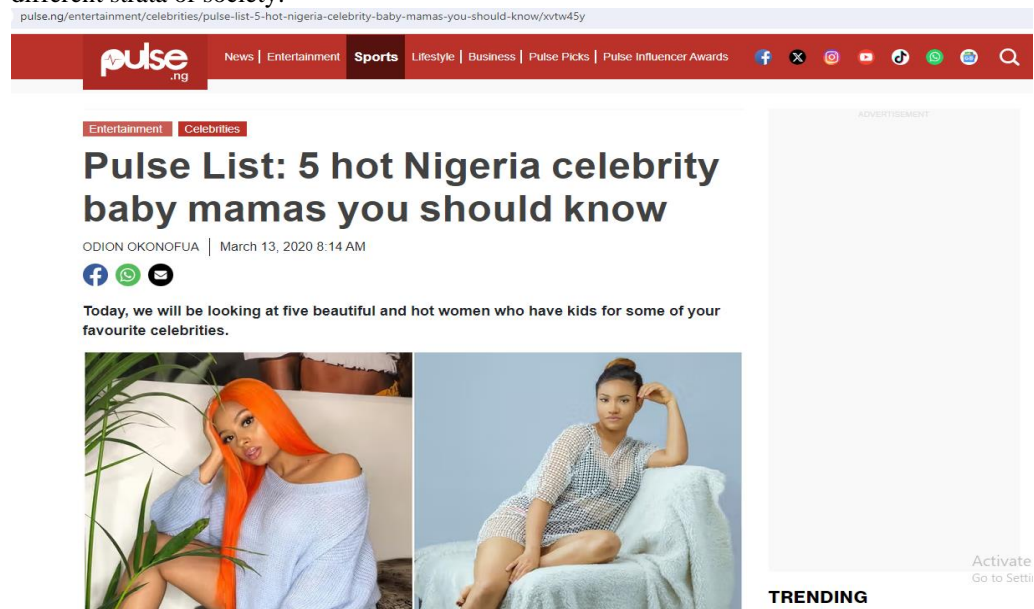


Fig. 4: Pulse.ng Lists 5 "hot" Nigerian celebrity Baby Mamas <https://www.pulse.ng/>

Fig. 4 provides context to explain that the article focuses on celebrities with busy lifestyles who engage in romantic relationships that sometimes result in children outside of marriage. The language used, such as "really beautiful women," "drop-dead beautiful," and the casual mention of "baby mamas," offers a complex mix of normalizing, glamorizing, and trivializing unmarried motherhood in popular culture.

The text reinforces the glamorization of the "Baby Mama" phenomenon by emphasizing the physical attractiveness of the women involved and framing them as successful and desirable. The language downplays the societal complexities of unmarried motherhood by focusing on the superficial aspects—such as beauty and desirability—thereby contributing to the commodification of women's identities. Our argument here is that such media representations can reduce women to their physical attributes, overshadowing their autonomy, achievements, and the challenges they face.

The text perpetuates traditional gender roles by suggesting that the women's primary value lies in their physical attractiveness and their association with male celebrities. Phrases like:

"...you'd wonder how they didn't end up with the gold rock in their fingers"

...imply that marriage remains the ultimate goal or validation for women, which reflects deeply entrenched patriarchal norms. The narrative subtly reinforces the idea that these women, despite their beauty and success, are somehow incomplete or lacking without marriage.

The text mentions that these women are not "your everyday women" but rather "successful and drop-dead beautiful," hinting at a certain level of socioeconomic privilege. This suggests that the media portrayal of "Baby Mamas" is selective, focusing on those who are already within the public eye and who enjoy a degree of fame and wealth. The narrative ignores the experiences of women from less privileged backgrounds, where unmarried motherhood might still be stigmatized and associated with economic and social difficulties.

The casual use of the term "baby mamas" reflects a shift in societal perception, where such a status is no longer viewed as negative but is instead framed as a fashionable and desirable identity. However, the use of the term in this context is also reductive, reducing these women's identities to their relationships with male celebrities and their roles as mothers, while ignoring other aspects of their lives and achievements.

## 6. Discussion of Findings

The study, "Navigating Identity and Language: Feminist Perspectives on the Social Acceptance of Baby Mamas in Nigeria," uncovers significant insights into the socio-cultural dynamics surrounding the "Baby Mama" phenomenon. By employing narrative analysis of media reports and public discourse, the following key findings were identified:

The social acceptance of "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria is fraught with contradictions. On the one hand, being a "Baby Mama" to a celebrity is often glamorized, with some women viewing it as a status symbol. This is particularly evident in cases where the father is a prominent figure, as seen in the media portrayal of celebrities like Lyta and their relationships with their children's mothers. The association with fame can elevate the social standing of a "Baby Mama," making it a desirable identity for some. However, this acceptance is conditional and superficial, reflecting broader societal tensions between modernity and traditional values. These findings align with existing research that highlights the duality in societal perceptions of unmarried mothers. For instance, Zwang and Garenne (2008) note that while modern African societies may exhibit more lenient attitudes towards non-traditional family structures, these views often coexist with deeply rooted traditional values that continue to stigmatize unmarried mothers. This duality is further complicated by the celebrity factor, where the status and wealth associated with celebrity can temporarily override the stigmatization but does not fundamentally alter the underlying societal biases (George, 2014).

A pervasive theme in the narratives surrounding "Baby Mamas" is the reinforcement of patriarchal values that stigmatize unmarried mothers. Media reports and social commentary frequently focus on the perceived moral failings of these women, framing them as lacking discipline or respect for societal norms. This narrative reflects deep-seated gender biases that hold women to stricter standards of behavior than men, a trend documented in studies such as those by Ogunyemi (2004), who argues that African societies often view women's sexuality through a moralistic lens, leading to harsher judgment of those who do not conform to traditional roles. Moreover, the stigmatization of "Baby Mamas" is not just a reflection of societal norms but also a tool of control, reinforcing traditional gender roles that prioritize marriage and male authority as the proper context for childbearing. This observation resonates with findings by Adichie (2014), who asserts that societal expectations around marriage and motherhood continue to limit women's autonomy in Nigeria. The economic vulnerabilities that many "Baby Mamas" face, often exacerbated by the lack of support from their children's fathers, further entrench their marginalization, as noted by Smith (2010) in his analysis of the economic challenges faced by single mothers in African urban centers.

The study highlights the significant economic and emotional vulnerabilities experienced by "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria. The narrative analysis reveals that many women in these situations struggle with financial instability, particularly when the father of the child is unwilling or unable to provide adequate support. This finding is consistent with studies by Isiugo-Abanihe (1994), who observed that single motherhood in Nigeria often correlates with increased economic hardship, as women are left to bear the financial burden of raising children alone. These vulnerabilities are not only financial but also emotional. The narratives analyzed reveal deep-seated frustrations and emotional distress, often stemming from broken promises, neglect, and the societal pressure to conform to traditional family structures. The case of Kemi Ayorinde, for example, illustrates the emotional toll that these experiences can take, as she navigates the challenges of raising a child alone while publicly challenging the father's lack of involvement. This emotional struggle is echoed in the work of Ajayi (2019), who documents the psychological impact of societal stigma on single mothers in Nigeria, noting the pervasive sense of isolation and shame that often accompanies their experiences.

Social media emerges as a crucial platform for "Baby Mamas" to construct and assert their identities. The findings suggest that platforms like Instagram and Twitter are not just spaces for airing grievances but are also used strategically to challenge societal norms and demand accountability from absentee fathers. By publicly sharing their stories, these women navigate their identities in ways that assert their autonomy and challenge the stigma attached to their status. However, the public nature of these platforms also exposes "Baby Mamas" to additional scrutiny and judgment, complicating their social acceptance. This dual role of social media highlights the complex dynamics of identity construction in the digital age, where public validation and personal empowerment are constantly negotiated. These findings are in line with research by Daniels (2009), who notes that social media can serve as a double-edged sword for marginalized groups, providing a platform for self-expression while simultaneously exposing them to increased public scrutiny and cyberbullying.

The study also emphasizes the significant influence of celebrity culture in shaping narratives around "Baby Mamas" in Nigeria. Celebrities, particularly male entertainers, often have multiple "Baby Mamas," and their public personas influence societal perceptions of this phenomenon. The glamorization of these relationships in media coverage contributes to the

normalization of the "Baby Mama" status, making it an aspirational identity for some women. However, this influence is a double-edged sword. While celebrity culture may normalize and even glamorize the "Baby Mama" phenomenon, it also perpetuates the patriarchal values that underpin it. The focus on the celebrity father often overshadows the struggles and agency of the women involved, reducing them to mere accessories in the narratives of powerful men. This dynamic reinforces traditional gender roles and limits the potential for a more empowering discourse around unmarried mothers in Nigeria. These observations are supported by studies like those of Idemudia (2011), who discusses the intersection of celebrity culture and gender norms in Nigerian society, noting how media representations often perpetuate existing power dynamics rather than challenging them.

## 7. Conclusion

The analysis of the provided media excerpts reveals a complex interplay between identity, societal expectations, and the power dynamics embedded in language. Through the lens of feminist narrative analysis, it becomes evident that the "Baby Mama" phenomenon in Nigeria is both a product of and a response to patriarchal structures that dictate the terms of social acceptance. The research topic, "Navigating Identity and Language: Feminist Perspectives on the Social Acceptance of Baby Mamas in Nigeria," is thus situated within a broader discourse on gender, power, and resistance, where the narratives of "Baby Mamas" serve as both a reflection of and a challenge to the status quo.

The findings of this study explain the complex relationship of identity, language, and social acceptance in the growing situation of the "Baby Mama" in Nigeria. Through the lens of feminist narrative analysis, it becomes clear that the social acceptance of "Baby Mamas" is deeply influenced by patriarchal values, economic vulnerabilities, and the pervasive influence of celebrity culture. The contradictory narratives that simultaneously glamorize and stigmatize these women reflect broader societal tensions between modernity and tradition, highlighting the need for a more nuanced and empathetic understanding of their experiences.

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## Impact of single parenting on the development of the girl-child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria

SUMAINA YESUFU,                      MARIAN WEYINMI BOYI  
University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

**Abstract.** Prior to this time, single parents in Nigeria were either unheard of or were treated as exceptional occurrences. Currently, single parenting is gradually becoming a norm. The proportion of children in single-parent families, especially girls, is on the increase. The rise in single parent families, particularly those with mothers and young children, may be related to a social value shift away from stable marriages toward divorce and spousal death. The objective of this study was to examine the impact of single parenting on the development of the girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. The study adopted the survey design using quantitative procedure to gather responses from 400 research participants. The data was analyzed with the aid of simple percentage and chi-square. The results show that single parenting has significant effect on the emotional development of the girl child. The result further revealed that there is significant relationship between single parenting and girl-child academic performance. It is recommended that single mothers should encourage their girl-child to be serious with their academic activities in school.

**Key Words:** Academic performance, emotional development, single parenting, marriage, separation, the girl-child

### 1. Introduction

Prior to this time, single parents in Nigeria were either unheard of or were treated as exceptional occurrences. Currently, single parenting is gradually becoming a norm (Chukwuemeka, 2018; Yusuf et al., 2020). Therefore, when both parents share in the caring duties, the child is morally upright and emotionally secure. The family establishes the foundation of education before the child enters school, and the personality that the child brings to school is determined by the family

because the family is the first agent where the child first comes into relationship and has a great influence on the child's physical, mental, and moral development (Ihedioha, 2021).

The proportion of children in single-parent families, especially girls, is on the increase. The rise in single parent families, particularly those with mothers and young children, may be related to a social value shift away from stable marriages toward divorce and spousal death (Aramide & Akinade, 2020). Children who grow up in single-parent households are more likely to perform poorly academically, drop out of school, stop participating in the labor force, and become teen parents, repercussions that go beyond economic deprivation (Adegboyega, 2019; Aramide & Akinade, 2020).

Despite the fact that many children from single-parent households succeed, some will have a difficult time making the transition to adulthood (Chukwuka, 2018). Children in single-parent families, with relatively low income families face the greatest obstacles to overcoming their developmental, emotional, and economic difficulties.

There are several reasons for parent separation, which might leave a single parent with all of the obligations. Divorce is a common cause of single parenting in Nigeria. Every day in Nigeria's family courts and child welfare, an estimated 10 cases of marital issues and divorce are reported. Teenage or unexpected pregnancy and its consequences are two most significant factors that contribute to single parenthood (Aramide & Akinade, 2020).

Evidence shows that girls growing up with a single mother are more often described by teachers as exhibiting externalizing or acting out behaviour; girls

from single mothers are more likely to have disassociation from their classmates than those of married parents (Edin & Shaefer, 2015). Girls also tend to internalize their struggles with father-absence and the effects are more often relational (Hymowitz, 2020).

The child's emotional development is traced to his or her home environment. A child's emotional development is affected by two kinds of relationships—the parent child relationship and the child-parent relationship (Mairo, 2017). The single parent is mostly responsible for raising the child or children. The herculean task of child rearing cannot be done by a single individual (Hymowitz, 2020; Lange et al., 2014).

Nowadays, single-parent families have become even more common than the so-called “nuclear family”, consisting of a mother or father and the children (Abudu & Fuseini, 2013; Edin & Shaefer, 2015). Daughters of divorced mothers may seem to be more likely to seek the attention of the male chaperones, more likely to initiate contact with boys and more likely to spend time in the boys' areas of the recreation centre. Some effects of divorce are linked directly to the father's absence.

When a father is absent, girls have fewer opportunities to learn how to interact with males (Amien, 2022; Ekpenyong & Udisi, 2016). The effects of growing up in a single parent households have been shown to go beyond economic deprivation, increasing the risk of girl child having poor academic performances, dropping out of school, disconnecting from the labour force, and becoming teen parents. Although many girls growing up in single-parent families succeed, others may face significant challenges in making the transition to adulthood (Chukwuka, 2018).

Daughters from lower-income, single parent families face the most significant barriers to success in school and the work force. Families play a crucial role in any community. In industrialized nations, the majority of children grow up in families, even though the structure of that family may alter over the course of a person's lifetime (Chukwuka, 2018).

In general, a family gives a child the chance to grow up into a stable adult by, for instance, allowing the youngster to go to school (Marloes et al., 2014). Thus, the family that children grow up in has a significant impact on their future success. A child, however, is not in a position to select their own family and must accept if they are unable to provide them with the finest prospects (Edin & Shaefer, 2015).

Numerous factors, including institutional factors, social economic factors, motivational factors, and the family, which is regarded as the primary agent in terms of socialization, can predict the development of the girl child at various levels of social wellbeing, education, and in particular at the basic level (Onuora-Oguno & Olayinka, 2015). According to Horton and Hunt (2004), socialization is a process of lifelong learning in which individuals or groups of persons interact, pick up social norms, and form human traits. Among other things, the family, school, friends, and media are socialization agents.

A child's socialization is greatly influenced by the family because survival depends entirely on other people, especially family members. In most cases, having a single parent is seen as a risk factor for girls more often than for boys (Olayinka, 2009), but in recent years, single parenting has persisted in becoming more prevalent, making it the subject of research in regards to its influence, specifically the detrimental effects of single parenting on the girl child's development process.

The biological, psychological, and emotional changes that take place in people between birth and the end of adolescence as they move from dependence to greater autonomy are referred to as child development (Fadeiye, 2005). Child socialization and child development were used interchangeably in this study. Children of single parents may not receive adequate care, care that would prevent them from being well-cared for and from engaging in socialization, which is crucial to a child's development. This is due to the fact that the child's socialization or developing process depends on both parents playing complementary roles in their upbringing (Kapuwa, 2015). A parent who does not live with a spouse or partner is referred to as a single parent and is responsible for the most of the day-to-day aspects of raising the child or children.

Typically, a single parent is regarded as the primary caregiver, which means the children spend most of their time with the single parent of their sex (Hymowitz, 2020; Lange et al., 2014). Children reside with their non-custodial parent if their parents are divorced or separated. Single parenting used to mostly arise from the loss of a partner, but more recently, it has also been linked to broken homes and divorce (Kapuwa, 2015). Cohabitation and extramarital affairs can also result in single parenting.

Many people who live together mistakenly think that having children strengthen a marriage and increases marital happiness. On the contrary, having children while a couple is not legally married can lead to single

parenting in the future if one of them is not happy with the personality and qualities of the other (Malima & Akech, 2016). Couples who are unhappy in their relationship frequently become less so when babies arrive, and with stressors in their life, they may start to get easily disgusted, edgy, and picky on each other. This is because having children increases the strains on a couple's time, energy, money, and other resources (Marloes et al., 2014). Because it is believed in Africa that girls are more vulnerable than boys to being exposed to societal risk and negative behavior, mothers frequently have custody of the children or children of the same sex as them (girl child) when the family is separated.

This is especially true when the father also wants custody of the children (Kapuwa, 2015). Children suffer negative effects when families are split up and single parents are in charge. Some of these parents are unable to handle the demands of parenting as a result of divorce and separation, and instead rely on the children to help them deal with their own issues (Marloes et al., 2014; Olaleye et al., 2017). The result of children helping their parents cope is an "overburdened child" who must not only handle the normal stresses of childhood but also help a parent avoid depression (Marloes et al., 2014).

Most Single parents get into depression as a result of the responsibility overload, making of decisions and providing for all the needs of their families; task overload- working, housekeeping, and parenting take up so much time that there is none left to meet up unexpected demands and when these parents are stressed, overworked and drained, the sufferers are the children and this can make or mar their developmental process.

Children raised in single parent's homes who have influence from both parents show fewer behavioral problems than children raised in single parent's homes with no influence from the non- custodial parent (Jackson et al, 2010). Having paternal and maternal influence is assumed to reduce negative behavior in children (Blackwell, 2009; Jackson et al., 2010). Other consequences of single parenting that can pose as a threat to the developmental process of the girl child is the emotional and psychological stability of the parent and children.

Parents are responsible to teach children about the norms and values of society and accountable for developing psychological and emotional well-being. In our society, single parenting is not much acceptable. Societies stigmatize single parents and their off spring ((Marloes et al., 2014; Olaleye et al., 2017). When single parents are being stigmatized and criticized in

the society, it affects their thinking and psychological functioning and can result in developing negative and reckless behaviors like flirting, excessive drinking and smoking and becoming aggressive. It is against these risk factors of single parenting, that this study examined the impact of single parenting on the development of the girl-child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

### 1.1 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to:

- Ascertain the effect of single parenting on the emotional development of the girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria; and
- Evaluate the significant difference in the development of the girl child compared to the boy child from single parents' Homes in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

### 1.2 Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated in line with the objectives of the study:

- There is no significant difference between the development of girl child and the boy child from single parents in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria; and
- There is no significant relationship between single parents and the development the girl child compared to the boy child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

## 2. Methodology

This study adopted descriptive research survey design. the quantitative method was utilized for the data collection. The study population covers all population of Delta State, particularly adults in the Warri South West Local Government Area (56,682) in Delta State (National Population Commission (NPC, 2012). The total population of children selected from Warri South West Local Government Area was (56,682) Using Taro Yamane (1967) to derive sample size, the study adopted the simple random techniques.

Given the population of children in Warri South West local government areas to be 56782, a sample of 400 was selected from the population. This technique was adopted in order to effectively source data from the targeted respondents. As a result, four hundred copies

of questionnaires was administered across schools in the communities using simple random technique with emphasis on the impact of single parenting on the development of the girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area.

Consequently, the sample population in Warri South West local government areas will well accessed the survey of 40 respondents from Ogbe-Ijoh, 40 respondents from Aja-Udaibo, 40 respondents from Akpikpa, 40 respondents from Gbaramatu, 40 respondents from Isaba, Madangho, 40 respondents from Ogbe-Ijoh, 40 respondents from Ogidigben, 40 respondents from Oporoza and 40 respondents from Ugborodo districts, which makes total of 400 respondents.

The major research instrument for this study was design questionnaire. Three experts from the Department of Social Work content validated the draft questionnaire based on their comments and suggestions, amendments will be made before the questionnaire will finally be administered. The study was analyzed by simple percentage, and displayed in frequency tables.

**3. Results**

**Table 1**

Data derived from research participants

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	259	65.24
Female	138	34.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note. Data computed by Authors, 2024

The table Shows that 65.24%, which translated to 259 respondents', are male, while 34.76%, which translated to 138 respondents were female. This indicates that the male was more represented than females.

**Table 2**

Data derived from research participants

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Under 30 years	167	42.06
31-35 years	109	27.45
36-40 years	67	16.88
41-45 years	29	7.31
Others	25	6.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100</b>

Note. Data computed by Authors, 2024

The table above shows that 167 respondents representing 42.06% were under 30 years, 109 respondents representing 27.45% were 31-35 years, 67 respondents representing 16.88% were 36-40 years, while 29 respondents representing 7.31% were 41-45 years, while 25 respondents representing 6.30% were older than 45 years. This implies that majority of the respondents in the study areas fall within the age of less than 30 years, 31-35 years, and 36-40 years respectively.

**Table 3**

Prepared by Authors (Hypothesis One Testing)

Option/Questions	1	2	3	Total
SA	195	168	195	558
A	132	129	109	370
UN	20	18	33	71
SD	35	60	21	116

<b>D</b>	15	22	39	76
Total	<b>397</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>397</b>	1191

Note. Data computed by Authors, 2024

Expected frequency = (Column total) Row Total  
Grand total

$$R1C1 = \frac{397 \times 558}{1191} = 186.00$$

$$R1C2 = \frac{397 \times 370}{1191} = 123.33$$

$$R1C3 = \frac{397 \times 71}{1191} = 23.67$$

$$R1C4 = \frac{397 \times 116}{1191} = 38.67$$

$$R1C5 = \frac{397 \times 76}{1191} = 25.33$$

Single parenting has no significant effect on the emotional development of the girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

**Table 4**  
Prepared by Authors (Contingency Table on Hypothesis one Testing)

O	E	(o-e)	(o-e) <sup>2</sup>	(o-e) <sup>2</sup> /e
195	186.00	9.00	81.00	0.435
132	123.33	8.87	78.67	0.608
20	23.67	-3.67	13.469	0.569
35	28.67	6.33	40.069	1.398
15	25.33	-10.33	106.709	4.213
168	186.00	-18.00	324.000	1.742
129	123.33	5.67	32.149	0.261
18	23.67	-5.67	32.149	1.358
60	28.67	31.33	981.569	34.234
22	25.33	-3.33	11.089	0.438
195	186.00	9.00	81.000	0.436
109	123.33	-14.33	205.349	1.665
33	23.67	9.67	93.509	3.961
21	28.67	-7.67	58.829	2.052
39	25.33	13.67	186.869	7.377
<b>X<sup>2</sup></b>				<b>60.747</b>

Note. Data computed by Authors, 2024

$$\text{Calculated } X^2 = 60.747$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom} = (r-1) (c-1)$$

$$= (5-1)(3-1)$$

$$= (4)(2)$$

$$= 8$$

& at 0.05 level = 15.507

$$60.747 > 15.507$$

**Decision:** Calculated  $X^2$  is greater than critical  $X^2$ , therefore reject non positive relationship which states that the single parenting has no significant effect on the emotional development of the girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area. Therefore, it can be concluded that single parenting has significant effect on the emotional development of the girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

**Table 5**

Prepared by Authors (Hypothesis Two Testing)

Option/Questions	6	7	8	Total
SA	279	205	185	669
A	70	131	129	330
UN	15	19	13	47
SD	14	32	30	76
D	19	10	40	69
Total	397	397	397	1191

Note. Data computed by Authors, 2024

Expected frequency = (Column total) Row Total  
Grand total

$$R1C1 = \frac{397 \times 669}{1191} = 223.00$$

$$R1C2 = \frac{397 \times 330}{1191} = 110.00$$

$$R1C3 = \frac{397 \times 47}{1191} = 15.67$$

$$R1C4 = \frac{397 \times 76}{1191} = 25.33$$

$$R1C5 = \frac{397 \times 69}{1191} = 23.00$$

There is no significant difference in the development of girl child to the boy child from single parent homes in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

**Table 6**

Prepared by Authors (Contingency Table on Hypothesis Two Testing)

O	E	(o-e)	(o-e) <sup>2</sup>	(o-e) <sup>2/e</sup>
279	223.00	56.00	3136.00	1.406
70	110.00	-40.00	1600.00	14.545
15	15.67	-0.67	0.449	0.029
14	25.33	-11.33	128.369	5.068
19	23.00	-4.00	16.00	0.695
205	223.00	-18.00	323.00	1.453
131	110.00	21.00	441.00	4.009
19	15.67	3.33	11.09	0.708
32	25.33	6.67	44.489	1.756
10	23.00	-13.00	390.625	16.984
185	223.00	-38.00	1444.00	6.475
129	110.00	19.00	361.00	3.282
13	15.67	-2.67	7.129	0.455
30	25.33	4.67	21.809	0.861
40	23.00	17.00	289.00	12.565
X <sup>2</sup>				<b>70.291</b>

Note. Data computed by Authors, 2024  
 Calculated X<sup>2</sup> = 70.291

Degree of freedom = (r-1) (c-1)  
 = (5-1) (3-1)  
 = (4) (2)  
 = 8

& at 0.05 level = 15.507

70.291 > 15.507

**Decision:** Calculated X<sup>2</sup> is greater than critical X<sup>2</sup>, therefore reject null hypothesis two which state that there is no significant difference in the development of girl child to the boy child from single parent homes in Warri South West Local Government Area. this implies that there is significant difference in the development of girl child to the boy child from single parent homes in WarriSouth West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.

**4. Discussion of Findings**

The test of research hypothesis one revealed that the calculated X<sup>2</sup> value of 60.747 is greater than critical X<sup>2</sup> value of 15.507, therefore the Authors rejected null hypothesis one which states that the single parenting has no significant effect on the emotional development of the girl child inWarri South West Local Government Area. Therefore, it can be concluded that single parenting has significant effect on the emotional development of

the girl child in Warri South West LocalGovernment Area.

The analysis of research hypothesis two shows that the calculated X<sup>2</sup> value 70.291 is greater than critical X<sup>2</sup> value of 15.507, therefore the Authors rejected null hypothesis two which state that there is no significant difference in the development of girl child to the boy child from single parent homes in Warri South West Local Government Area. This implies that there is significant difference in the development of girl child compared to the boy child from single parents in Warri South West Local Government Area.

**5. Conclusion**

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions were made:

- Single parenting has significant effect on the emotional development of the girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.
- There is significant difference in the development of girl child compare to the boy child from singleparents in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria.
- Single parenting has negative influence on the girl child behaviour in Warri South West LocalGovernment Area.
- There is significant relationship between single parenting and girl child academic performance in Warri South West Local Government Area.



## 6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

- Single parents should try to encourage their children as they grow up as not influence their emotional development negatively, especially girl child in Warri South West Local Government Area.
- Those families where there is separation, the parental figure should make sure that the development of both sexes are checkmated as they grow so as to avoid some negative significant difference in children's development in Warri South West Local Government Area.
- Single parents should be careful of what they do in the present of their kinds because they learn fast, especially when it comes to sexual and emotional issues, if not checked can mare the girl child behaviour in Warri South West Local Government Area.
- Women who become single mothers should try as much as possible to encourage their children or get involved their academic activities as to help them cope with areas of constrains, most especially the girl child academic performance in Warri South West Local Government Area.

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## Traditional Symbols of Yoruba Pattern Designs As Insignia of Cultural Identity On Indigenous Clothing

OLADOYIN JAMIU LABODE, OLUFUNMILAYO OLASUNMBO BRAIDE,  
BUKOLA OLAMIDUN SOWEMIMO, OLADIPUPO ADEBOYE,  
Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria

KEHINDE ADEPEGBA, O. NATHANIEL OGUNYALE,  
OLUSEGUN GABRIEL SAVAGE  
Lagos State University of Technology, Ikorodu, Lagos State.

**Abstract.** This article looks into the tradition symbols of Yoruba designs and the suggested intent of anonymous indigenous draught man, whose crafts works are represented on the surface design such as textile products with the aim to the promote the Yoruba identity. Apart from textile surface, there are also other objects from the cultural angle are referred symbolic objects such as woods, metals that keep memoire of signs, symbols and sketches functional. These perhaps reflect in the contemporary designs' crafts present on the surface textile design, which makes a synergy between Yoruba art and culture possible. The study was conducted to determine the traditional symbols on textile (batik) as insignia of cultural identity among the Yoruba people.

### 1. Introduction

Design in Yoruba culture of southwest, Nigeria is purely an indigenous aspect of spontaneous signs or visual symbols. In the essence, it is not new practice but, its' reflection on the fabrics were recent than inception. The definition and concept resulted from a guide divination between crafts men and the intend owners of the designs. Indigenous designs in textile are the concept that identified the features that contained cultural creativity for the surface design of several products in textile. The Yoruba traditional textile production tends towards the essences of creativities in order to sustain a robust societal acceptability of motif patterns in the culture. Culture refers to the totality of man's way of existence, which exhibits the way an individual eats, live, dress and converse, the honor given to the elderly and the way young and old people behave in accordance to belief system and norms of the society. The Yoruba traditional society have functional cultural arts and crafts practices that earns her respect and admiration

from other races all over the world, Nathaniel (2007). The stories (folklore or oral generational), have become a ritual that is used to give meaning and substance to personal and communal events that control the Yoruba way of life. Traditional illustrations are the essential components of the imaginative reconstruction of textile designs and that have become primary sources of cultural understanding that connote the real image of the Yoruba tradition.

The Yoruba traditional illustrated images are believed to be governed by spirits, this informed ideas of religious belief in the traditional textile art design that has gained international recognition. Such recognitions are synonymous with the Yoruba traditional textile art and designs in Osogbo, Ibadan and Abeokuta township, where the re-direction of the traditional textile art were interpreted to numerous cultural potency beliefs. It is also believed that all motifs, such as plants and animals and the semblance of them in the traditional Yoruba motifs patterns are totemic representations of gods and goddesses, Aremu (1982). This is evident from the Yoruba literature, where some design patterns are mainly produced to serve the needy the requests by appeasing these images that are believe to have represent several Yoruba gods and goddesses. A lots of traditional Yoruba textile illustrations in indigenous designs production are solely in human distorted forms, using neo-traditional ideas, that is, modern Yoruba forms that are executed in the traditional idiom. However, with the rate of textile production practices, several traditional illustrations and designs, textile can be developed to the standard of a world attraction that can draw tourists from far and near to Yoruba culture.

The study dug into the core traditional design as related cultural memoir and symbols based on the Yoruba oral tradition, the transferred of customs or beliefs from generation to generation. The facts of being passed on in a way that cannot be eradicated or different designs spontaneously created in line with traditional continuum been associated with specific symbolic designs that are produced majorly for several cultural purposes. The study presents a reflection on the relationship between traits of these drawings and Yoruba social and cultural criticism present on the textile designer's surface design, which makes a conversation between art and cultural design.

Cultural symbols and designs do not exist in a vacuum but in a specific tradition or socio-cultural environment. Symbolic designs are cultural concepts rooted in traditional fabric production, shrines decorations and visual practices, which explains the key terms of the social co-existence and belief in Yoruba social norms. Obisesan (2001), writes that, culture is the shared norms and values of a social system that are a most important aspect of Yoruba society. It is generally accepted within the Yoruba culture that a great number of ritual messages social and religious significance are communicated in textile designs apart from wood that were produced as replicated objects. Traditional textile producers express their perceptions and experience of cultural views through the textile medium, which is one of dominant medium. Traditional textile designs like those of other societies in many cultures were motifs meant for aesthetics, but were used to express cultural beliefs, according to Aremu, 1982. Thus, traditional textile designs in most Yoruba societies are believe to pass different categories of messages, ranging from protection, propitiation to mention a few. Traditional textile design are believed to be the main abode of these communicative patterns. However, a great number of religious design patterns with oral generational tradition and socio-cultural significance have been produced in textile. But in most cases, tradition textile religious designs patterns used could add to the aesthetics of the textile materials. Aremu, (2005) has written that the taken as a whole of the process of scheduling norms ethics of a particular society and distinguishes the members of group or category from some other indigenous household.

The study forms an idea of culture with a link of value, style, attitudes, norms, using up a general world view of Yoruba cultural visuals and pattern; the traditional expression, perception, and stages of functional designs, appropriately by the people that identify and distinguish them from other cultural people indigenous designs. Cultural designs

therefore can be defined as a broad and multidimensional concept that cannot be easily comprehended. This is because culture hope to deal with in its entirety in a mono-conceptual aspects of Yoruba traditional symbols. There are two major aspects Yoruba cultural traits, according to Isah, (2009), these include both material and non-material cultures. Material culture is overt and explicit, such as products of small scale craft industries, costume ornamentation, shrines drawing and painting, all the images and sketches that are visible. These include objects or individual physical collections within or outside the culture, such as statuettes, staffs, molded metal or wood, utensils, cooking utensils, traditional crafts. The discernible nature of these object make them to be observable as the cultural antiques in the society.

The non-material aspects of culture consist of the acquisition of skills through perceived morals, character, languages, motivation, values, and norms shared and transmitted in a society. The non-material includes work values, ethos, ideology and other cultural traits exhibited at work. Obisesan,(2001), opines that, these aspects of culture are sometimes referred to as the covert or implicit aspects of culture that are acquired by members of a society. They are not visible or tangible but they are manifested through the mental and emotional states and cultural trait of a people. These are necessary knowledge for better results when it comes to creation and visual effects.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Sample Size and Sample Technique

Multi stage sampling technique was used to select the targeted respondents. A total of 150 respondents (individual within the age range of age 25 and above in selected communities in Odo-Oyo, Asero and Oke-Ijeun, Abeokuta) were purposively selected. Simple random sample technique was used for the selection of the three (3) settlements and two (2) dye workshops from each street chosen. While 25 singles elites were purposively selected among the socialites in each communities selected which include 10 male and 15 female individuals respectively.

### 2.2 Method of Data Collection

Both primary and secondary data were used to collect the data. Secondary data were collected from literatures in textbooks, journals, dictionary, newspaper and the internet While Primary data collected through the use of a well-constructed questionnaire. The study involves two:



Practical illustration procedures followed in the course of the study

The practical illustration aspect of this study involves the production of drawing designs using batik resist technique on cotton fabric.



Picture

Plate 1: Batik material after the first colour waxing: Source: Study Work, 2022

Plate 2: Batik fabrics in cultural form, ready for the first dyeing: Source: Study Work, 2022

### 3. Results

Table 1.1 Frequency Table

COMMUNITY	Frequency	Percent
OKE-IJEUN	50	33.3
ODO-OYO	50	33.3
ASERO	50	33.3
Total	150	100.0

Source: Study Work, 2022



The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by Communities, it is observed that each colleges have 50 (33.3%) of the respondents.

**Table 2:** Distribution of respondents by Settlements

Settlement	Frequency	Percent
AGO-OBA	25	16.7
OJAGBO	25	16.7
AGO-OWU	25	16.7
ASERO	25	16.7
ALADESANMI	25	16.7
IJEUN	25	16.7
Total	150	100.0

Source: Study Work, 2022

The table above shows the distribution of the respondents by Settlements, each settlement have 25 (16.7%) of the respondents.



Plate 3: Batik fabrics in one of the Yoruba Motifs, titled ‘Menumo’ : Source: Study Work, 2022

**Table 3:** Distribution of respondents by Dye Workshop

Workshop	Frequency	Percent
OKE-IJEUN	100	66.7
ASERO	50	33.3
Total	150	100.0

Source: Study Work, 2022

The table above shows the distribution of respondents by Workshop, it is observed that 100(66.7%) of the respondents were in Oke-Ijeun and 50(33.3%) of the respondents were in Asero workshop.

**Table 4:** Distribution of respondents by AGE

Age	Frequency	Percent
18-21	30	20.0
22-35	98	65.3
36-59	22	14.7
Total	150	100.0

Source: Study Work, 2022

From the table above showing the distribution of respondents by age, it is observed that 30 (20.0%) respondents were between the age of 18- 21years old, 98 (65.3) of the respondents are within the age of 22-35 years old, 22 (14.7%) of the respondents were between the age of 36-59 years. This shows that majority of the respondent are within the age of 21 – 36 years old and 3(2.0%) of the respondents were 50years above.

#### 4. Surface Designs

The term surface design is a recent concept In Yoruba cultural art used by indigenous cultural textile art producers and designers. According to Areo and Kalilu (2013), the Adire freehand starch patterned type has also further evolved into the contemporary blocked, stamped and free-form designs, which now come not only in indigo but also in a kaleidoscope of synthetic dye of various tints and hues. Cultural surface design in Yoruba cosmology symbolized the form of traditional autonomous knowledge of historical investigation that created the awareness of the concept. The term surface design is known beyond the traditional antecedent of Adire clothes, according to Areo, (2013). With the introduction of imported English cotton products, calico and shirting by British trading firms between 1880 and 1925, Adire artists started using calico for their products instead of the hand-woven materials hitherto used (Oyelola 1992: 62)

The Yoruba surface design discovered its themes in the traditional norms and spread those images in time and space of the most concrete references to their cultural/religious beliefs, Makinde, (2003). This made the adire and textile artist of traditional background to improve on the art of appreciation, knowledge and understanding of textile images in Yoruba art and design. The Yoruba surface design has as characteristics the raw coloration, structures and patterns, depending on the fibers and fabrics available. A lot of processes are involved, such as dyeing, printing, paste painting, embroidery, beautification, quilting, weaving, and wall painting for ritual performance.

#### 5. Conclusion

From the view of the research, one can conclude that there are different types of cultural illustration on Yoruba traditional fabrics. However, some qualities such as uniqueness, symbolic visuals, cultural values and so on serve as the basis of their Yoruba visual appreciations. Also, there is high possibility that the use of traditional drawing for social cultural engagement backdrop might likely increase as time goes on as it is noticed in the finding that a high percentage of the respondent agreed to the option.

Market, which is what is available for people to buy, it observed during the course of this study that if the illustration on cultural clothes such as tie-dye, batik and African prints can be produced in contemporary readymade wears, people will appreciate and patronize more, as this will also promote the usage of Yoruba traditional batik among Nigerians both at home and in diaspora.

#### 6. Recommendations

- Individuals should encourage the use of indigenous fabrics with cultural illustrations for engagement traditional attire social function as this will help to create more awareness.
- Craftsmen and clothing and textile artists should embark on practical researches other contemporary illustrations on fabric for batik and adire (tie-dye) production.
- More craftsmen should undergo traditional training on how to improve both contemporary and indigenous illustrative designs, even at the graduate level to become experts in special and cultural designs and pattern of cloth production.
- Fashion designers should have exhibition of models wearing Yoruba batik outfits in other to encourage African illustrations.

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## Conceptualizing Gender and Sexuality Education Outcomes: Developing a Theoretical Framework for Measurement and Evaluation

JULIET NKONYEASUA OSSAI  
University of Delta, Agbor, Delta State, Nigeria

**Abstract.** A theoretical framework for quantifying and assessing gender and sexuality education outcomes is presented in this research article. The goal of the study is to improve our understanding of the effects of gender and sexuality education programmes by addressing the dearth of thorough measurement techniques in this subject. Based on a critical analysis of the body of literature, the theoretical framework is built, referencing feminist, queer, and social learning theories. Knowledge acquisition, attitude and behaviour modification, and empowerment are among the critical dimensions for assessment that are recognised, along with the connections among these constructs. The framework's implications and applications are examined, emphasising how they might direct educational practice, assist professional development for educators, and inform the creation of policies and programmes. Future research and practice recommendations are given, with a focus on the necessity of intersectionality integration, thorough measurement and evaluation systems, and continued stakeholder collaboration and knowledge exchange. The research's conclusions and suggestions support evidence-based methods, more inclusive and successful educational opportunities, and the advancement of the area of gender and sexuality education.

**Keywords:** Gender and Sexuality Education, Measurement and Evaluation, Theoretical Framework, Knowledge Acquisition, Attitude and Behaviour Change, Empowerment, Intersectionality

### 1. Introduction

By addressing concerns with gender identity, sexual orientation, and relationships, gender and sexuality

education is essential to fostering inclusive and egalitarian societies. It covers a broad range of subjects, such as gender equality, consent, and reproductive health (Kågesten, 2021). The world today is facing an unspeakable level of sexual crises which is traceable to the negative influences from modernization and social change. Ossai and Iwegbu (2012). The advancement of science and technology has come with so many evils today. The advent of the internet, facebook, films and motion pictures and even music have treated the issue of sex and sexual organs with so much levity. Adopting successful programmes for gender and sexuality education can lead to favourable results including people becoming more knowledgeable, changing their attitudes, and feeling more empowered (Grose, Grabe, and Kohfeldt 2014). Gender and sexuality education is important, but there are not enough assessment and evaluation frameworks in place to fully gauge the impact and efficacy of these initiatives (Peter, Tasker, and Hom 2015).

Current methods frequently concentrate on simple measures, like knowledge acquisition, failing to fully capture the intricate and varied results connected to gender and sexuality education (Kemigisha, Bruce, Ivanova, Leye, and Coene 2019). As a result, a theoretical framework for measuring and assessing the results of gender and sexuality education programmes must be created.

Creating a thorough theoretical framework that takes into account the many effects of gender and sexuality education is the main goal of this study. This approach will explore topics like attitude and behaviour modification, empowerment, and agency in addition to standard measurements of knowledge acquisition. This will give rise to a more sophisticated

comprehension of the effects of programmes educating people about gender and sexuality. Apart from formulating the theoretical framework, the objective of this study is to augment the comprehensive comprehension of the ways in which gender and sexuality education initiatives impact both individuals and communities. Through a theoretical lens, we may analyse the programme outcomes and obtain insights into the intricate relationships between knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and social-cultural factors. This enhanced comprehension will aid in the creation of more efficacious and empirically grounded gender and sexuality education programmes.

By accomplishing these goals, this study will close the current gap in the assessment and measurement of educational outcomes related to gender and sexuality. This project aims to promote gender and sexuality education practices, policy creation, and educational approaches by creating a theoretical framework and improving our understanding of programme impact. In the end, it seeks to promote thorough and successful gender and sexuality education programmes in order to promote more inclusive and equal societies.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Definition and Scope of Gender and Sexuality Education

Promoting critical thinking, knowledge, and comprehension of gender identity, sexual orientation, relationships, and related subjects is the aim of gender and sexuality education. It addresses many different topics. It aims to dispel preconceptions, stereotypes, and social conventions in addition to merely disseminating knowledge. Gender and sexuality education promotes the growth of good attitudes, empathy, and respect for diversity by including students in conversations and activities (Haberland, 2015).

Diverse viewpoints have been expressed by academics and educators regarding the definition and application of gender and sexuality education. Some, for example, concentrate on the educational component, highlighting the function of formal curricula and schools in providing thorough sexual health education and advancing gender equality. Some have a more comprehensive approach that encompasses youth programmes, non-formal education environments, and community-based projects (Cunha-Oliveira, 2021).

The range of cultural, social, and legal situations in which gender and sexuality education is provided varies. In certain areas, the main focus can be on

sexually transmitted infections, contraception, and reproductive health. However, in more progressive settings, it might also cover subjects like gender norms, consent, and fighting homophobia and transphobia (Breuner et al., 2016).

In addition, multidisciplinary perspectives on gender and sexuality education can be applied, incorporating elements from public health, psychology, sociology, and gender studies. The comprehension of the complexities of gender and sexuality issues is enhanced by the integration of several theoretical frameworks and perspectives (Cunha-Oliveira, 2021).

### 2.2 Existing measurement and evaluation approaches for gender and sexuality education

The literature search indicates that, particularly in low- and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs), quantitative (quasi-experimental designs) and public health outcomes seem to predominate in evaluations of sexuality education (SE) initiatives. While these evaluations can provide valuable information about the effectiveness of SE activities, they may not fully capture the nuances and complexity of these interventions (Ivanova, Rai, Michielsen and Dias 2020).

It is advised to evaluate the effectiveness of programme creation, execution, and impact using the evaluation frameworks and techniques currently in use for SE initiatives. Nonetheless, the research indicates that not much is known about how these frameworks and techniques can be applied in many contexts. Moreover, there is a dearth of thorough research on "non-health" outcomes, which are crucial components of SE therapies and include gender norms and decision-making abilities (Haberland, 2015).

The review also draws attention to problems with how intervention contents are reported in published studies, indicating that overall intervention descriptions are noticeably inadequate. It seems that different research have different definitions and components of sexuality education, which makes it challenging to compare results and draw inferences (Miskinzod, 2022).

Due to a number of shortcomings, the measurement and assessment frameworks currently in use for the outcomes of gender and sexuality education have come under fire.

A prevalent criticism of contemporary frameworks is their emphasis on knowledge acquisition as the principal outcome metric. Although knowledge is clearly vital, it falls short of capturing the larger

objectives of gender and sexuality education, which include empowerment, behaviour modification, and attitude change. These frameworks fall short of capturing the transformative potential of gender and sexuality education programmes since they only use knowledge-based assessments (Kemigisha, Bruce, Ivanova, Leye, and Coene 2019).

The absence of thorough and consistent metrics to gauge the intricate and varied results of gender and sexuality education is another drawback. The absence of specificity in many frameworks makes it difficult to collect and compare data across various programmes and circumstances. The lack of consistent markers impedes the creation of evidence-based procedures and makes it more difficult to evaluate the efficacy of therapies (Gee, Campbell, Sarrafzadegan, Jafar, and Khalsa 2014).

Furthermore, social and cultural factors that affect gender and sexuality education outcomes are frequently ignored by current frameworks. They frequently overlook the ways that social norms, hierarchies of power, and disparities influence people's experiences with and reactions to educational initiatives. This omission restricts our comprehension of the ways in which gender and sexuality education can undermine and modify established societal frameworks (Malhotra, Amin and Nanda 2019).

Apart from scrutinising existing frameworks, there are other deficiencies and constraints in the assessment and quantification of gender and sexuality education results that require attention (Berglas, Constantine and Ozer 2014).

First of all, there are few long-term studies looking at how gender and sexuality education affects people over time. Many programme evaluations focus only on the programmes' immediate outcomes, neglecting to include the educational programmes' durability and long-term effects. Longitudinal studies are crucial to ascertain whether the changes in participants' attitudes and behaviours are persistent and have a lasting impact (Strathearn et al., 2020).

Another flaw in the assessment process is how little intersectional perspectives of marginalised groups were taken into account. The unique needs and experiences of persons from a variety of backgrounds, including but not limited to socioeconomic position, race, ethnicity, and disability, should be taken into consideration in education about gender and sexuality. The assessment frameworks now in use often fail to adequately reflect the intersectionality of identities and the particular challenges faced by marginalised communities (Potter, Lam, Cinciripina and Wetter 2021).

Furthermore, it is critical to explore new qualitative research methods that offer a deeper understanding of the subjective experiences of those involved in projects aimed at educating people about gender and sexuality. Qualitative techniques such as in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observations can provide profound insights into the perspectives, real-world experiences, and outcomes of educational initiatives. A more thorough evaluation of the outcomes and the filling of knowledge gaps can be achieved by integrating qualitative approaches into assessment frameworks (Alordiah et al., 2023; Rosenthal, 2016).

It is necessary to address these shortcomings and limitations in the current measurement and assessment approaches in order to provide a comprehensive and trustworthy theoretical framework for measuring and assessing gender and sexuality education results. By addressing these shortcomings, we can ensure that the framework accurately captures the depth, diversity, and transformative potential of gender and sexuality education.

### **3. Theoretical Foundations for Measurement and Evaluation of Gender and Sexuality Education Outcomes**

#### **3.1 Social Learning Theory**

A theoretical framework for understanding how people pick up information, attitudes, and behaviours by seeing and imitating others is provided by Albert Bandura's social learning theory. According to this idea, learning occurs as a result of modelling and reinforcement, whereby individuals see the actions of others and record the outcomes (Ata, 2018).

In the context of gender and sexuality education, social learning theory can be used to describe how people acquire new knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours surrounding gender identity, sexual orientation, and relationships. It suggests that exposure to positive role models and inclusive environments can aid in the learning and adoption of new attitudes and behaviours. By incorporating social learning theory into the framework for evaluation and measurement, we can look into how gender and sexuality education affects people's beliefs and actions (Grose et al., 2014).

#### **3.2 Feminist Theory**

Feminist theory offers a critical lens through which to view power dynamics, cultural norms, and disadvantages relating to gender and sexuality. It

emphasises how important it is to fight patriarchal structures and advance gender equality and social justice. Feminist philosophy places a strong emphasis on recognising and opposing injustice and discrimination based on gender in the educational system (Velaskar, 2016).

The framework for assessing and evaluating gender and sexuality education can be informed by feminist theory, which emphasises the importance of intersectionality and the inclusion of various points of view. It encourages a comprehensive approach that considers the political, social, and cultural contexts in which gender and sexuality education is delivered. In order to assess the extent to which education efforts challenge gender stereotypes, promote equality, and offer individuals greater power, feminist theory can be integrated into the evaluation framework (Breull-Arancibia, 2023).

### 3.3 Queer Theory

Traditional ideas of gender and sexuality are contested by queer theory, which promotes the dismantling of binary classifications and celebrates the fluidity and diversity of identities. It calls into question conventional wisdom and hierarchies while highlighting how gender and sexuality are socially constructed (Johnston, 2016).

Queer theory can expand the framework by acknowledging the range of identities and experiences that go beyond the binary understanding of gender and sexuality in the setting of measurement and evaluation in gender and sexuality education. It promotes a more accepting and affirming strategy that recognises the variety of ways people choose to identify and express their gender and sexuality. The assessment methodology can be integrated with queer theory to evaluate the degree to which educational initiatives establish secure and welcoming environments for people of diverse gender and sexual identities (Neto, 2018).

We can create a more thorough and nuanced framework that captures the intricate dynamics and effects of gender and sexuality education by including social learning theory, feminist theory, and queer theory into the theoretical framework for measurement and evaluation in education. These theoretical vantage points improve our comprehension of the results and efficacy of gender and sexuality education programmes by offering insightful perspectives on learning, power dynamics, and societal change.

## 4. Developing a Theoretical Framework

### 4.1 Key Dimensions and Constructs for Measurement

#### 4.1.1 Knowledge Acquisition and Retention

Knowledge acquisition and retention are important factors to consider when assessing the results of gender and sexuality education. The assessment of people's knowledge on gender identity, sexual orientation, relationships, consent, reproductive health, and other pertinent subjects is the main objective of this construct. Pre- and post-tests to gauge the increase in knowledge levels and follow-up evaluations to ascertain the degree of information retention over time can be used for measurement in this domain (Chinelli et al., 2022).

#### 4.1.2 Attitude and Behavior Change

Attitude and behaviour modification are a crucial additional component for assessment. This construct investigates how attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours concerning gender equality, consent, and healthy relationships are influenced by gender and sexuality education. It looks at whether educational initiatives are effective in questioning and changing preexisting beliefs and prejudices, as well as whether people behave in a more polite and inclusive manner. Surveys, self-report questionnaires, and behavioural observations can all be used as tools for measuring this field in order to track changes in attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours (Mennicke et al., 2021).

#### 4.1.3 Empowerment and Agency

A key component of the theoretical framework for quantifying and assessing the results of gender and sexuality education is empowerment and agency. This concept is concerned with evaluating how much education programmes support people's feeling of agency, self-efficacy, and empowerment in negotiating their own gender identity, sexuality, and relationships. It looks at whether educational programmes give people the information, abilities, and tools they need to stand up for their rights, question social norms and injustices, and make educated decisions. To measure people's perceptions of agency and empowerment, self-assessment measures, qualitative interviews, and observations can be used (Grose et al., 2014).

We are able to test and assess the results of gender and sexuality education programmes in a comprehensive manner by integrating these essential dimensions and constructs into the theoretical framework. This approach acknowledges that gaining knowledge is not

the only measure of success and that participants should also be empowered and given agency, along with changing their attitudes and behaviours. By taking into account these factors, we can build more effective and revolutionary programmes and obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the effects of gender and sexuality education.

## 4.2 Relationship between Gender and Sexuality Education Outcomes

### 4.2.1 Interactions between Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors

In order to comprehend the results of gender and sexuality education, it is essential to take into account the relationship that exists between knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours. It is common knowledge that changing one's attitude and behaviour does not always result from knowledge alone. Consequently, the intricate relationships between these dimensions should be taken into consideration by the theoretical framework (Ismail et al., 2015).

Developing well-informed attitudes and behaviours concerning gender and sexuality begins with gaining thorough and accurate knowledge about these topics. Education initiatives that dispel myths and give people accurate information can help people adopt more positive attitudes. But it's crucial to recognise that a variety of social, cultural, and contextual factors can have an impact on attitudes and behaviours (Wong, 2013).

Changing one's attitude can also affect how people behave by affecting how they make decisions and direct their actions.

### 4.2.2 Role of Social and Cultural Factors

Comprehending the significance of social and cultural elements is important for appreciating the results of gender and sexuality education. People's views and actions regarding gender and sexuality are greatly influenced by social conventions, power dynamics, and cultural beliefs. The acceptance of new information and attitudes may be aided or hindered by several variables (Browes, 2015).

The manner in which social and cultural settings influence people's experiences with and reactions to gender and sexuality education should be taken into consideration in theoretical frameworks. It is crucial to understand that people may experience various forms of societal pressure, discrimination, and obstacles depending on their colour, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other intersecting identities. These elements may affect how people assimilate and

utilise the skills and perspectives they acquire from educational initiatives (Clauss-Ehlers, 2019).

Additionally, the accessibility and availability of gender and sexuality education are influenced by social and cultural variables. (Malhotra et al., 2019) The framework ought to take into account how the execution and efficacy of educational initiatives are impacted by institutional support, policy, community acceptability, and cultural norms.

A more thorough understanding of the results of gender and sexuality education can be obtained from the theoretical framework by acknowledging the interplay between knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours as well as the significance of social and cultural factors. This knowledge will help with the creation of efficient treatments that deal with the intricate interactions between specific elements and larger societal circumstances.

## 4.3 Explanation of the Interrelationships between Constructs

The interrelationships between the constructs in the theoretical framework can be explained as follows:

**Knowledge Acquisition and Retention:** The other constructs are built upon this construct. People's views and behaviours can be influenced by their knowledge about gender and sexuality.

**Attitude and Behaviour Change:** Learning typically results in changes to attitudes and beliefs. People's attitudes and behaviours around gender and sexuality may alter as they gain greater knowledge and comprehension of these topics.

**Empowerment and Agency:** Changes in attitude and behaviour as well as the acquisition of new knowledge have an impact on empowerment and agency. People who are well-informed and have a good outlook on gender and sexuality may feel more capable of acting and making decisions.

**Social and Cultural Factors:** Social and cultural factors, such as social norms, power structures, and cultural values, can influence all the constructs. They can shape individuals' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to gender and sexuality. (Alordiah et al., 2022; Kågesten et al., 2016).

**Intersectionality:** All of the dimensions can be impacted by intersectionality, which takes into account how different identities—such as race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status—interact with gender and sexuality. It acknowledges that the junction of various identities shapes people's experiences and reactions to educational programmes. Arrows linking each concept to intersectionality demonstrate its impact (Lawrence, 2020).

**Theoretical Framework: Holistic Approach to Measuring Gender and Sexuality Education Outcomes**

Concept/Dimension	Description	Actions	Indicator
Gender Norms and Roles	Understanding societal constructs of gender	Implementing interventions to challenge traditional gender norms	Changes in attitudes and behaviours towards gender roles
Sexual Identity and Orientation	Exploring fluidity and diversity of sexual identities	Creating inclusive environments	Increased acceptance and support for diverse sexual orientations
Reproductive Health and Rights	Recognizing reproductive autonomy and rights	Advocating for reproductive justice	Improved access to reproductive health services and policies
Sexual Behaviour and Practices	Analysing influences on sexual behaviours	Implementing comprehensive sex education programs	Reduction in risky sexual behaviours and increased contraceptive use
Gender-Based Violence	Understanding intersecting forms of oppression	Implementing prevention and intervention strategies	Decrease in rates of gender-based violence and increased reporting
Comprehensive Sexuality Education	Providing accurate and comprehensive information	Promoting healthy behaviors	Increased knowledge and adoption of safe sexual practices
Access to Resources and Services	Assessing availability and accessibility of resources	Advocating for improved access	Decreased disparities in access to healthcare and support services
Agency and Empowerment	Enhancing individuals' capabilities and agency	Promoting self-determination	Increased confidence and decision-making abilities
Stigma and Discrimination	Understanding sources and impacts of stigma	Implementing anti-stigma campaigns	Reduction in stigma-related barriers to care and support
Sociocultural Context	Examining power dynamics and social structures	Advocating for social change	Increased awareness and activism for gender and sexual justice
a. Knowledge Acquisition and Retention	Assessing effectiveness of educational interventions	Adjusting curriculum and teaching methods	Improvement in knowledge scores over time
	Monitoring long-term retention of knowledge	Providing additional reinforcement and support	Maintenance of knowledge levels over time
b. Attitude and Behaviour Change	Capturing shifts in attitudes and beliefs	Targeting attitudes for intervention	Positive changes in attitudes towards gender and sexuality
	Documenting observable changes in behaviour	Implementing behaviour modification strategies	Adoption of healthier and more inclusive behaviours
c. Empowerment and Agency	Understanding individuals' sense of empowerment	Supporting empowerment initiatives	Increased feelings of agency and self-efficacy
	Evaluating individuals' confidence and decision-making abilities	Providing targeted support and skill-building	Improvement in self-efficacy and decision-making skills
Interactions between Dimensions	Explanation	Information	Action
Recognizing the interplay between knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours	Knowledge serves as a foundation for attitude change, which influences behaviour	Understanding the interconnectedness of dimensions	Implementing integrated interventions
	Considers potential reciprocal influence between behaviour, attitudes, and knowledge	Recognizing bidirectional effects between dimensions	Promoting holistic approaches to education
Role of Social and Cultural Factors	Considerations	Information	Action
Impact of social and cultural factors on education outcomes	Acknowledges influence of social norms, power structures, and cultural values	Recognizing contextual influences on outcomes	Advocating for culturally competent interventions
	Considers how social and cultural context affects availability, accessibility, and effectiveness	Addressing barriers and disparities	Promoting equity and inclusivity
Intersectionality	Approach	Information	Action
Unique experiences and challenges faced by individuals with multiple marginalized identities	Considers how intersecting identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status) affect outcomes	Recognizing complexity of individuals' experiences	Tailoring interventions to diverse needs
Longitudinal Perspective	Methodological Approach	Information	Action
Assessing long-term impact of education programs	Includes longitudinal studies to assess sustainability and lasting effects of programs	Monitoring outcomes over extended periods	Evaluating program effectiveness over time

This table presents a comprehensive framework for measuring gender and sexuality education outcomes, organized into distinct concepts or dimensions.

#### **4.4 Gender Norms and Roles**

This dimension looks at the expectations and cultural constructs around gender roles as well as the roles, behaviours, and customs that are connected to different genders in a given society. Understanding how these norms influence people's attitudes and behaviours is necessary. Action in this area involves putting various interventions into practice with the aim of challenging and reshaping traditional gender norms and roles. This could entail legislative actions, public awareness campaigns, and educational initiatives designed to promote more equal and inclusive views and practices around gender roles. Indicators of progress in this area include discernible shifts in societal attitudes, practices, and policies towards greater gender equality and acceptance of different gender expressions.

#### **4.5 Sexual Identity and Orientation**

The vast spectrum of sexual identities and orientations that transcend the binary divisions of straight and gay are explored in this feature. It means acknowledging and honouring the variety of experiences individuals have with identification, attraction, and desire. The main focus of this dimension's efforts is creating environments that accept and validate a variety of sexual identities and orientations. This could mean providing LGBTQ+ individuals with support and resources as well as instituting practices and guidelines that respect and honour people's self-identified gender and sexual orientation. Development can be seen in the increasing visibility, acceptance, and support for individuals with different gender identities and sexual orientations as well as in the development of an accepting and helpful society culture.

#### **4.6 Reproductive Health and Rights**

At the core of this dimension is the right of individuals to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and well-being, including having access to all available reproductive alternatives, contraception, and healthcare services. It comprises respecting and recognising each person's agency and autonomy with regard to their reproductive life. Promoting reproductive justice entails ensuring that everyone has equitable access to reproductive healthcare services and legislation that upholds individuals' autonomy and rights. This could entail advocating for legislation that upholds health equity and reproductive rights,

eliminating barriers to access, and advancing reproductive awareness and education. Progress can be seen in increased public awareness of reproductive rights, improved access to reproductive healthcare services, and a closing of the gaps in reproductive health outcomes between different groups.

#### **4.7 Sexual Behavior and Practices**

Promoting safer and healthier sexual habits as well as comprehending the variables influencing people's sexual practices and behaviours are the focus of this area. It involves comprehending the complex interplay of biological, psychological, social, and cultural factors that affect individuals' sexual preferences and activities. Among the activities that fall under this category are the implementation of comprehensive sex education programmes that provide accurate information, promote healthy sexual attitudes and behaviours, and equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their sexual health. Examples of this include consent education, the use of contraception, STI prevention, and the promotion of healthy relationships. Success can be measured by fewer people engaging in hazardous sexual behaviour, more people adopting safer sexual behaviours, and improved outcomes for people's and communities' sexual health.

#### **4.8 Gender-Based Violence**

This section addresses the pervasive issue of gender-based violence, which encompasses financial, emotional, sexual, and physical abuse inflicted upon victims due to their gender identity or expression. It involves understanding the dynamics and underlying causes of gender-based violence as well as implementing preventative and response programmes. This component includes activities such as putting preventative programmes into place, offering survivors' support, spreading awareness, and lobbying for laws and procedures that advance gender equality and stop violence. This could entail bystander intervention training, legislation reforms, community mobilisation campaigns, and relationship education. Success can be measured by a decrease in the frequency of gender-based violence, an increase in the reporting of these cases and the help offered to survivors, as well as changes in cultural norms and views on gender equality and violence.

#### **4.9 Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

This dimension emphasises how important it is to teach comprehensive and developmentally appropriate information about human sexuality, relationships, and

sexual health. It means empowering individuals with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health throughout their life. One option to address this component is to implement comprehensive sexuality education courses covering topics such as anatomy, puberty, contraception, consent, STI prevention, and healthy relationships. Examples of this include developing curricula, preparing teachers, including the community and parents, and providing youth-friendly healthcare services. Success can be measured by changes in the knowledge, attitudes, and actions of the public about sexual health as well as by reductions in the incidence of STIs, unintended pregnancies, and hazardous sexual behaviour.

#### **4.10 Access to Resources and Services**

This component examines the tools and networks of support that individuals require in order to make informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health, in addition to the availability, affordability, and accessibility of these services. It comprises locating and eliminating barriers to access, such as those brought on by financial, social, cultural, and physical limitations, which may keep people from receiving the resources and assistance they need. This component of action includes advocating for policies and programmes that improve healthcare service accessibility, modernise infrastructure, and address socioeconomic determinants of health. This could entail attempting to reduce discrimination and stigma, expanding insurance options, improving transit options, and increasing funding for healthcare related to sexual and reproductive health. Success can be measured by better access to healthcare services, a decrease in healthcare disparities, and an increase in marginalised communities' usage of preventative services.

#### **4.11 Agency and Empowerment**

The primary objective of this dimension is to improve people's abilities, autonomy, and agency in making decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives. It means recognising and protecting people's right to make choices about their bodies, relationships, and futures free from coercion, bigotry, or violence. The activities of this dimension include promoting self-determination, making resources and information more accessible, and creating friendly conditions that let people stand up for their rights and make decisions based on their values and preferences. This could entail teaching rights and obligations, practicing advocacy, developing one's skills, and promoting self-

efficacy and positive self-esteem. Progress is shown by improvements in people's ability to access and utilise sexual and reproductive health resources and services, as well as improvements in their self-efficacy, confidence, and ability to make decisions.

#### **4.12 Stigma and Discrimination**

This aspect concerns the discrimination, stigma, and exclusion that individuals endure as a result of their gender identity, sexual orientation, or reproductive choices. It comprises recognising and opposing the detrimental beliefs, behaviours, and attitudes that legitimise exclusion and discrimination in addition to promoting respect, inclusion, and acceptance of all individuals. This dimension's activities include spreading knowledge, busting stereotypes, advocating for legislative changes, and providing support and services to those who are affected by stigma and discrimination. This could include sensitivity training, legal advocacy, the creation of safe spaces and support networks, and anti-stigma campaigns. Success can be measured by lowering stigma-related barriers to care and support, increasing public acceptance and support for disadvantaged groups, and improving the mental health and general wellbeing of those affected by prejudice and stigma.

#### **4.13 Sociocultural Context**

This component examines the ways in which more general social, cultural, and structural factors influence individuals' experiences of gender and sexuality and the ways in which those elements impact opportunities, outcomes, and resources. It comprises locating and eliminating the institutional inequalities, cultural norms, and power structures that enable discrimination, oppression, and marginalisation. Advocating for social change, raising awareness of and fostering knowledge of intersecting identities and experiences, and developing inclusive practices and policies that cater to the interests and rights of various communities are all included in the actions that fall under this category. This could entail initiatives to combat damaging conventions and stereotypes, advance diversity and representation, and encourage cooperation and unity among various social groupings. Increases in knowledge and comprehension of the social and cultural contexts that influence gender and sexuality outcomes, together with advancements in practices, policies, and programmes that support fairness, inclusivity, and justice for all people and communities, are signs of success. A decrease in inequality and prejudice, modifications to attitudes and behaviours, and enhancements to marginalised groups' access to opportunities and resources are all



possible signs of development. Interventions can aim to create environments that support everyone's health, well-being, and dignity, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, or other identities, by addressing the sociocultural backdrop.

The table offers a thorough framework for creating, carrying out, and assessing programmes that educate people on gender and sexuality. In order to generate significant and long-lasting results, it highlights the necessity of a multidimensional strategy that takes into account a variety of dimensions, assessment techniques, and contextual elements.

## 5. Implications and Applications

### 5.1 Policy and Program Development

The theoretical framework has significant consequences for how gender and sexuality education curricula are developed, which should be considered by policymakers and programme developers. Policymakers can get a thorough grasp of the essential components of empowerment, attitude and behaviour modification, and knowledge acquisition by applying the framework. This knowledge can help create evidence-based, all-inclusive, and comprehensive curricula that cater to the varied needs and experiences of pupils. Policymakers can use the framework to help them identify key subjects, learning goals, and teaching techniques that support successful learning outcomes. Policymakers may guarantee that educational programmes are based on theory and research by coordinating curriculum design with the framework. Students will benefit from more meaningful and rewarding educational experiences as a result of this.

The framework can also be applied to enhance programme evaluation methods in gender and sexuality education courses. Evaluation frameworks that capture the efficacy and impact of these programmes can be created by programme evaluators by incorporating the variables listed in the framework. This entails creating outcome variables and measuring tools that are compatible with the framework's defined constructs. Through the implementation of a thorough assessment methodology, decision-makers can obtain solid proof regarding the program's results, advantages, and shortcomings. Policymakers may make well-informed decisions on the continuation, modification, or termination of programmes thanks to this data-driven approach, which guarantees efficient resource allocation and ongoing programme evolution to satisfy student needs.

### 5.2 Educational Practice

When it comes to educating students about gender and sexuality, educators are essential. The theoretical framework offers educators direction in creating efficient methods for teaching and learning in this area. Through an understanding of the interdependencies across constructs and the impact of social and cultural elements, educators can create instructional strategies that promote empowerment, attitude and behaviour modification, and knowledge acquisition. The framework offers a theoretical foundation for choosing instructional strategies, materials, and exercises that engage and assist students as they learn. The framework can be used by teachers to establish inclusive classrooms that value variety, encourage candid discussion, and develop critical thinking abilities. Teachers can increase the efficacy and impact of their instructional practices and, in turn, improve student outcomes by aligning their methods with the framework.

In the area of gender and sexuality education, the theoretical framework also provides a basis for the professional growth of educators. The framework can be employed by professional development programmes to enhance educators' comprehension of the essential elements and ideas associated with successful instruction in this field. Through the integration of the framework into professional development initiatives, educators can augment their expertise and proficiencies in executing empirically-supported tactics, establishing inclusive educational settings, and tackling the distinct requirements and obstacles linked to gender and sexuality education. Opportunities for professional development may centre on assisting teachers in leading thought-provoking conversations, handling delicate subjects, and fostering inclusive and respectful learning environments. Policymakers can guarantee that educators have the knowledge and abilities needed to provide their pupils with high-quality instruction and support by making investments in their professional development.

## 6. Conclusion

The purpose of this research article was to create a theoretical framework for assessing the gender and sexuality education. The study noted the dearth of thorough measuring and assessment frameworks in this area as well as the significance of gender and sexuality education. In creating a theoretical framework that improves our comprehension of the effects of gender and sexuality education programmes, the research objectives were successfully met.

In defining the scope of gender and sexuality education and critically analysing current measuring and evaluation techniques, the literature review laid the groundwork for this investigation. It brought attention to the shortcomings and restrictions in the existing frameworks and emphasised the necessity of a thorough theoretical foundation. The framework was developed with theoretical underpinnings from feminist, queer, and social learning theories, guaranteeing a multifaceted and inclusive approach.

The research's theoretical framework established important dimensions and measuring constructs, such as empowerment and agency, attitude and behaviour modification, and knowledge acquisition and retention. It also emphasised the connections between these concepts and the influence of social and cultural elements on the results of education related to gender and sexuality. The conceptual model gave a clear comprehension of the relationships between the constructs by visually representing the framework.

This research has important applications and ramifications. The suggested theoretical framework can help curriculum design and implementation strategies by providing information for policy and programme development. Policymakers and programme designers can guarantee the efficacy and inclusivity of gender and sexuality education initiatives by utilising the framework. Furthermore, by providing guidance for teaching and learning strategies, the framework can also direct educational practice by enabling teachers to design inclusive and effective learning environments.

This research study makes more contributions than only theoretical developments. In the realm of gender and sexuality education, this study closes a significant gap by creating a thorough theoretical framework. It offers a starting point for further investigation and assessment, supporting the application of evidence-based procedures and ongoing enhancement of programmes educating people about gender and sexuality.

Future research should concentrate on quantitative studies to supplement the qualitative findings of this study in order to further progress the subject. In addition to taking into account the varying effects on different demographic groups, longitudinal studies can investigate the long-term effects of gender and sexuality education programmes. It is also advised to conduct ongoing study and assessment of programme implementation techniques in order to pinpoint best practices and remove obstacles.

This study has effectively created a theoretical framework for assessing the results of gender and sexuality education. The framework offers a thorough grasp of these programmes' effects and has useful ramifications for policy, programme design, and instructional methodology. Stakeholders may guarantee the efficacy and inclusiveness of gender and sexuality education by adopting this paradigm, which will ultimately promote a society that is more just and empowered.

## 7. Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of this research, the following recommendations are put forth to further enhance the field of gender and sexuality education:

- To determine the efficacy of gender and sexuality education initiatives, legislators and educational institutions should implement thorough measuring and assessment methods. It is imperative that these systems incorporate both qualitative and quantitative metrics in order to facilitate a comprehensive comprehension of programme results. It is important to monitor students' empowerment, attitude and behaviour changes, and knowledge gain through regular examinations.
- Given the significance of intersectionality, it is advised that courses on gender and sexuality include an intersectional perspective. This means taking into account the ways in which gender and sexuality interact with a variety of identities, including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability. Programmes can become more inclusive and relevant by addressing the distinct experiences and difficulties that people from different backgrounds confront.
- Opportunities for continuous professional development should be provided to educators in order to guarantee the successful implementation of gender and sexuality education programmes. Workshops and training sessions can help them better grasp the theoretical foundation, provide them with effective teaching techniques, and develop their capacity to establish welcoming and secure learning environments. It is important to give instructors ongoing support and resources so they can handle challenging subjects and meet the varied requirements of their pupils.
- In order to achieve a thorough comprehension of the enduring effects of

gender and sexuality education, longitudinal studies should be the primary focus of future study. These studies would monitor participants for a long time, recording information retention, persistent changes in attitude and behaviour, and the long-term advantages of empowerment. Studies that follow participants over time can offer important insights into the long-term impacts of gender and sexuality education on people's lives.

- To advance the area of gender and sexuality education, academics, legislators, and educators must collaborate and share knowledge. Frequent forums, symposiums, and conferences should be held to encourage the sharing of concepts, best practices, and difficulties encountered when putting these initiatives into action. Working together can result in the creation of interventions that are supported by evidence and the spread of effective practices throughout educational environments.
- Governments and educational authorities ought to acknowledge the value of educating people about gender and sexuality and provide sufficient funds and resources to make this happen. It is important to create explicit regulations and standards to guarantee the inclusion of these programmes in school curriculum and to support their efficacy. Initiatives in the fields of research, programme development, and educator training ought to receive funding.
- Programmes for teaching on gender and sexuality should be continuously improved and adjusted in response to new research, input from stakeholders, educators, and students, as well as shifts in cultural norms and attitudes. It is important to carry out routine evaluations and assessments to pinpoint problem areas and make sure that these initiatives continue to be applicable, inclusive, and successful.

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## HIV/AIDS Information Sources and Safe-Sex Practices among Artisans in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

ABUBAKAR SIDIQ SULEMAN  
Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

JIDE PETER JIMOH  
Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This study investigated HIV/AIDS information sources and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin metropolis. Two research questions guided the study. Information Processing Theory was used to underpin the study. A descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The study found among others that, artisans have a high level of awareness about HIV/AIDS and safe sex. The study, therefore recommended among others, that, to achieve the vision 2030 (Goal 3, target 3.2) of the Sustainable Development Goal on ending HIV/AIDS as projected by WHO, the Federal and State Ministries of health and other stakeholders in HIV/AIDS containment should intensify health awareness campaigns' efforts with special interest on HIV/AIDS containment and safe-sex practices through the use of appropriate information sources of the target audience.

**Keywords:** Health communication, HIV/AIDS, Information sources, Safe-sex practices, Artisans

### 1. Introduction

The search for the right source of information to address HIV/AIDS vulnerable population has been a serious concern to the critical stakeholders in public health related sector as HIV/AIDS is regarded to be the world's most serious health and development challenges (International AIDS Society, 2021). Since Human Immunodeficiency Virus and An acquired Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS) was identified and reported in Nigeria in 1981, the disease has been spreading like a wildfire and it has assumed an alarming rate too. Due to the widespread, several efforts have been made to contain the disease through

advertisements placed on radio, television and other media. Some of the most often and theatrical HIV/AIDS mass media campaigns according to Utulu (2011) are: *AIDS no dey show for face, Zip up, Use Condom, AIDS is real and Imagine a world without HIV/AIDS*. However, despite these efforts, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Nigeria is still very high.

Previous studies have focused more attention on HIV/AIDS awareness, knowledge, and sexual behaviour. Little attention seems to have been paid to how HIV/AIDS information sources influence safe-sex practices among the most vulnerable population particularly artisans (fashion designers, salon operators, motor mechanics, and furniture makers) in the informal sector. It is believed that these groups are susceptible to HIV/AIDS perhaps not only because they lack adequate information or are poorly informed about the implications of unsafe sex practices but perhaps because the socio-economic conditions of living of these groups of people make them to be more prone to contracting diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Apart from the fact that some of them could be economically disadvantaged to purchase condoms, they also show poor attitudes towards condom usage. Moreover, the nomadic nature of work of the selected artisans (fashion designers, salon operators, motor mechanics, and furniture makers) in this study, apart from their poverty level, also makes them vulnerable to unsafe sex which could make them easily contract HIV/AIDS.

Therefore, to reduce the high rate of HIV/AIDS among artisans, research ought to be carried out to identify their preferred information sources as they influence

their sexual practices, thereby sensitising the critical stakeholders in HIV/AIDS containment on the right communication intervention approach to address this menace among this vulnerable population. Thus, investigating HIV/AIDS information sources and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin metropolis would help every stakeholder in HIV/AIDS in designing appropriate communication intervention strategies.

It is unthinkable that containing and preventing HIV/AIDS disease will be difficult as the country is witnessing an increasing rate of HIV/AIDS-related death. In fact, Nigeria was ranked the fourth country where HIV/AIDS is mostly prevalent in the world (World Population Review, 2023). For about four (4) decades, it has been difficult for government and non-governmental organisations to achieve desirable results of combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS disease. International Organisations such as the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), World Health Organisation (WHO), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and local agencies such as National Agencies for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), and Society for Health Management and Sciences, as part of their primary responsibilities, have made decisive efforts to prevent the spread of the deadly but managed virus, yet HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Nigeria is high. They have made efforts to combat the deadly disease through different media of communication such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, social media, conferences, mass media, and so on without concomitant results.

The high rate of HIV/AIDS, despite a series of mass media campaigns, is a pointer that efforts at combating the dreaded disease should not only be left to the mass media. To achieve Vision 2030 which projects to end HIV/AIDS in the world (WHO, 2020), the artisans in the country must be sensitised on the need to engage in preventive behaviour such as safe-sex. This practice will reduce the chance at which artisans contract HIV/AIDS through heterogeneous sexual relationships. Meanwhile, the nomadic nature of work, socio-economic conditions of life and the poverty level of artisans make them vulnerable to heterogeneous sex which is the major mode of transmission of HIV infection in Nigeria (Imoh, 2008, WHO, 2014 & Avert, 2019).

HIV/AIDS prevalence rate has also risen globally as it has claimed about 40.1 million lives worldwide since its inception (UNAIDS, 2022). This figure is nine million higher than the 32 million lives which were earlier reported by WHO in the year 2018. Moreover,

considering the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Nigeria, it seems the successive government has not been supportive enough in encouraging the critical stakeholders in containing HIV/AIDS and other related diseases across the country. If there are aggressive sensitisations on the deadly but managed viral infection, the 51,000 HIV/AIDS-related death toll recorded among Nigerians in the first two quarters of the year 2020 alone (NACA, 2020) and another 51,000 in 2021 (WHO, 2022) would have been perhaps averted. Subsequently, the ranking which put Nigeria as the fourth country with the largest prevalence rate of HIV pandemic in the world (World population review, 2023) and one of the countries with the highest rates of new infection in Sub-Saharan Africa would also not have been the case. Therefore, the high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria is a reminder to the critical stakeholders and researchers that the country is still faced with the challenge of HIV/AIDS. Consequent upon this, following the available data to this researcher, there is a dearth of research on HIV/AIDS information sources and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin metropolis. Hence, to reduce the dreaded HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Nigeria, there is a need to intensify communication intervention programmes through the use of appropriate information sources, for the socio-economically disadvantaged population such as fashion designers, salon operators, motor mechanics, and furniture makers. Thus, the current study filled part of the gap discovered in the reviewed literature.

### 1.1 Research Questions

- What are the preferred information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin metropolis?
- To what extent does exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices influence the sexual practices of artisans in Ilorin metropolis?

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 HIV/AIDS Information Sources and Safe-Sex Practices

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that gradually attacks the immune system, the human body's natural defence against illness (CDC, 2021). If a person becomes infected with HIV, he would find it hard to fight off infections and diseases (NACA, 2019). If left untreated, it takes between 10 and 15 years for HIV to develop to an Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Thereafter, HIV would have severely damaged the immune system of an



infected person. According to CDC (2021), there is no effective cure for HIV. Once an individual is infected with HIV, he/she has it for life. HIV attacks the immune system of an infected person, specifically the white blood cells called CD4 cells (WHO, 2022). Marshall (1999) describes HIV as an ineffective agent that attacks the central control mechanisms of the immune response, yielding a condition that results in opportunistic infections, malignancies, generalised lymphadenopathy (swelling of lymph nodes), and death. He (Marshall) adds that opportunistic infections like cold, fever, cough, body pain, and so on, which are signs of common illness may become severe in HIV-infected persons because of the breakdown of the infected person's immune system.

According to the Kwara State AIDS Control Agency (KWASACA, 2019), upon infection, HIV stays in the body of an infected person and slowly destroys the body's defence against the disease. If HIV is not treated, the infected person becomes sick and it leads to AIDS (CDC, 2021). Before it resorts to AIDS, HIV destroys CD4 cells, weakening a person's immunity against opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis and fungal infections, severe bacterial infections, and some cancers (WHO, 2022). CD4 is the white blood cell that plays an important role in the immune system of an individual (Pebody, 2021). CD4 cell indicates the health of someone's immune system. It is an individual's natural defense system against pathogens, infections, and illnesses. CD4 cells are sometimes called T-cells, T-lymphocytes, or helper cells.

AIDS is a chronic life-threatening disease caused by HIV. Generally, AIDS carriers experience symptoms such as tuberculosis, prolonged diarrhea, or skin infection (KWASACA, 2019). The impact of AIDS is more felt in a country where there is poverty, social inequality and gender inequality (like Nigeria). However, some individuals might become more vulnerable than others.

The term information source means different things to different people. Librarians use it to signify the bridges that lead scholars to the sources of the primary and secondary materials they need for research. Historians sometimes use the term in the same sense but also use it to mean primary and secondary materials. That is, the raw material of their research. However, for this study, information source is anything that might inform a person about something (HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices) or provide knowledge to somebody (Library and information science community, 2018). Information source also refers to a person, thing, or place from which information comes, arises, or is obtained (Information Source, 2022). Information sources could be primary or secondary. Information

sources, according to (IGI Global, 2022) include documents, key people, and books that can provide useful information about an issue (HIV/AIDS safe sex practice) being studied.

The University of Minnesota Crookston (2022) classifies information sources into primary, secondary, and tertiary. The primary source refers to records of events or evidence as they are first described or happened without any interpretation or commentary. These include symposia, conference proceedings, government reports, original artwork, poems, photographs, speeches, letters, memos, personal narratives, diaries, interviews, autobiographies, and correspondence. The University of Minnesota Crookston (2022) submits that the primary source of information is information sought for the first time or original materials on which another research is based. Primary sources display original thinking, report on discoveries, or share fresh information.

The secondary sources of information, on the other hand, offer an analysis or restatement of primary sources as they describe or explain primary sources (the University of Minnesota Crookston, 2022). The secondary sources of information summarise, interpret, reorganise the primary sources by adding value to the primary sources of information. The secondary sources of information include textbooks, edited works, articles that interpret or review research works, histories, biographies, literary criticisms, and interpretation, reviews of law and legislation, political analyses, and commentaries.

The tertiary sources of information are regarded as the sources that index, abstract, organise, compile or digest other sources. According to the University of Minnesota Crookston (2022), some reference materials and textbooks are considered tertiary sources when their primary purpose is to list, summarise or simplify repackage ideas or other information. Examples are directories, guidebooks, manuals, and handbooks.

HIV/AIDS information sources are numerous and different authors have come up with peculiarities in favour of the use of one or combination of some sources to achieve their purpose of disseminating HIV/AIDS and safe-sex information. Therefore, communication intervention planners should understand when and how to explore a particular information source about HIV/AIDS and safe sex practices. Moreover, knowledge of HIV/AIDS information sources of artisans will be a good guide for the communication intervention planners to direct communication to the group. Gombachika et al.

(2013) identify radio, peers, and kin as sources of information about HIV/AIDS.

Meanwhile, Nubed and Akoachere (2016) classified HIV/AIDS information sources into formal and informal. Formal information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices include health centers, pharmacies, outreach clinics, vending machines, and settings where condoms could be purchased or obtained free of charge. Informal sources include friends, family members, classmates, parents, and teachers. Oluyemi et al. (2019) mention radio, television, newspaper, magazine, the internet, health talks, school, hospital, parents, friends, and family members as HIV/AIDS information sources. Yazdi et al. (2016) identifies television, teachers, friends, educational booklets, newspapers and magazines, healthcare professionals, parents, siblings, and school books as information sources about HIV/AIDS.

An examination of HIV/AIDS prevalence rate shows that about 40.1 million people worldwide are living with HIV and tens of millions of people have died of AIDS-related diseases since the beginning of the epidemic in 1981 (World Population Review, 2023). Statistics show that, out of the 40.1 million people living with HIV, 1.9 million are Nigerians (Avert, 2021). Out of the 1.9 million estimates, the North-Central zone where Kwara State belongs has the highest concentration of HIV prevalence rate of 7.5% while the North-Western zone has the lowest prevalence of 2.1%. Among the states in the North-Central, Kwara State has a prevalence rate of 2.2% (Ahmed et al., 2021). Nevertheless, Ilorin metropolis, which is the focus of this study, has the largest concentration of artisans in Kwara State. More so, Nigeria is the third country with the highest HIV/AIDS burden in the world, next only to India and South Africa (Ahmed et al. 2021). Subsequently, since HIV was identified and reported in the country in 1986, the disease has assumed an alarming rate.

Therefore, the high rate of HIV/AIDS in the country informed the decision of this study to investigate HIV/AIDS information sources and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin metropolis. According to the United Nations Children's Education Funds (UNICEF, 2019), HIV/AIDS was reported to be the biggest public health issue in Africa (where Nigeria belongs) as it is the major cause of death among African youth. Meanwhile, artisans such as fashion designers, salon operators, motor mechanics, and furniture makers majorly comprise youth. So, an investigation on HIV/AIDS information sources and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin would not only guide the critical stakeholders in taking the right decision in the

right direction but also help to eradicate HIV/AIDS from Nigeria.

The current HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Nigeria is also alarming as 51,000 Nigerians died of HIV/AIDS-related disease within the first two quarters of 2020 (NACA, 2020). The disease, according to Oppong-Asante and Oti-Boadi (2013), which is said to be prevalent among young people globally including Nigeria, should inform urgent studies to enlighten vulnerable Nigerians on safe-sex practices through the target population's most preferred information sources.

Moreover, HIV/AIDS prevalence is globally considered a great setback to the advancement of human development as it remains a major concern for researchers, stakeholders, and policymakers (Odugbesan & Rjoub, 2019). While referring to the report of UNAIDS, Odugbesan, and Rjoub (2019) state that, at the end of 2016, 34.5 million adults globally have been infected with the HIV/AIDS virus while about one million died from AIDS-related diseases. They submit that, in the same year, about 25.73 million people were HIV/AIDS carriers living in Africa out of which 741,000 died as a result of AIDS-related illnesses. To corroborate Odugbesan and Rjoub (2019), Ajijola (2016) earlier submits that HIV is one of the most complex, controversial, and deadly diseases in terms of its origin, mode of transmission, and socioeconomic implications.

### 3. Theoretical Framework

#### 3.1 Information Processing Theory (IPT)

According to IPT, attitude change involves six steps with each step being a necessary condition for the next. The six steps were revised to eight in 1976 and four steps were also added to the eight revised steps by McGuire. Attitude change according to McGuire, (1968) include: (i) exposure to communication (ii) attending to it, (iii) liking or becoming interested in it, (iv) comprehending it (learning what), (v) skill acquisition (learning how), (vi) yielding to it (attitude change), (vii) information search and retrieval, (ix) deciding based on retrieval, (x) behaving in accordance with the decision, (xi) reinforcement of desired act, and (xii) post-behavioural consolidating. IPT primarily focuses on how audience process information contained in the media before they could make informed decisions. Taking inference from the theory, it can be deduced that no matter the fund expended on HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices campaigns using any or combination of information sources, the campaigns will not achieve their aim unless the message is designed in such a way to be

understood by the target group. The content of the message should be strengthened, improved upon, accurate, and easy to understand by the vulnerable groups for which it is designed. More so, the HIV/AIDS message planners should also consider the accessibility of the target groups to the information sources before the HIV/AIDS safe-sex practices message is dished out to them. Moreover, the HIV/AIDS campaign planners and other critical stakeholders in the HIV/AIDS campaigns should understand the need to keep the message simple for easy comprehension and practice by the target groups in society. The message should be designed with simple statements such as *AIDS is real, Rape is illegal, Stop illicit sex, Use a condom, Practice safe sex, unsafe sex is dangerous*. These catchphrases will resonate in the memory of artisans more. In addition, for the effectiveness of the message, the information source of artisans should be considered by the HIV/AIDS message designers for the message to achieve its goal of influencing the target audience. That is, the intervention message should be disseminated through the media of communication that can be easily accessed by artisans.

#### 4. Methodology

This study employed a descriptive research design. The study mixed both in-depth interview and survey research methods to ensure discourse and empiricism. It is important to note that the research questions 1-3 were answered through the two research approaches. The in-depth interview method was adopted to elicit the views of 12 executive members of associations of fashion designers, motor mechanics, salon operators, and furniture makers in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State, while 360 copies of questionnaire were administered to artisans under the scope of this study in Ilorin metropolis. The in-depth interview (guide) instrument was administered first to elicit responses from the executive members among the selected artisans in Ilorin metropolis. This method afforded the interviewees (fashion designers, motor mechanics, salon operators, and furniture makers) a great opportunity to freely express their inner minds on HIV/AIDS information sources and safe-sex practices. More so, the responses from the in-depth interview assisted the researcher to complement data gathered

through the survey instrument (questionnaire). The in-depth interview appointments were booked on days when the artisan groups were having association meetings. From the interview, the information was analysed to create a story or narrative that conveyed an understanding of the topic. Four hundred artisans were also surveyed through accidental sampling.

The population of Ilorin metropolis was used as a yardstick for this study because it is difficult to access the actual population of artisans in Ilorin. Ilorin metropolis has a total population of 777, 667 (2006 Census). The sample size for this study was determined using the 2006 Research Advisor's model. From the Research Advisor's model (as shown in Table 3 below), the sample size obtained was n=384. The sample size was picked at 95 percent confidence level and 5% margin of error. Although the sample size was 384, the researcher increased the calculated sample size from 384 to 400 to cater to research mortality. Therefore, the total sample size was four hundred. Copies of the questionnaires were administered to the artisans by the researcher and his research assistants using available sampling Technique. Through the aid of the Google Street Map of Kwara State, the researcher selected major streets in the identified local government areas of the study. Of the four hundred copies administered, 360 (representing 90%) were duly filled and returned. The researcher observed that out of the remaining 40 questionnaire copies, 23 were not returned, 6 were not adequately filled, and 11 were smeared with oil by the respondents. Therefore, 40 copies of the questionnaire were rendered void. The researcher personally interviewed twelve (12) purposively selected executive members of the associations of the selected artisans made up of: fashion designers (2 Males and 2 females); motor mechanics (2), salon operators (2 Males and 2 females); and furniture makers (2) through a face-to-face in-depth interview approach. Data generated through the questionnaire and in-depth interview sessions held with subjects were utilised to provide answers to the research questions. While data gathered from the questionnaire were used to provide quantitative analysis of the study, data obtained from the in-depth interview sessions were used to supplement the quantitative data and to provide a narrative explanation.

#### 5. Results

**Research Question One:** What are the preferred information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin metropolis?

**Table 1:** Preferred information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices

Pick at least, two of the respondents' preferred information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices			
		Frequency	Percentage (%)
A	Television	151	41.9
B	Radio	165	45.8
C	Newspaper	63	17.5
D	Billboard	46	12.8
E	Friends and family	54	15
F	Community health workers	72	20.1
G	Internet /social media	136	37.8
H	Pamphlets and posters	12	3.3
I	Religious leader	25	6.9
J	Government website	6	1.7
How often do you receive information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices through your major sources of information identified in the question above			
		Frequency	Percentage (%)
A	Very often	48	13.3
B	Sometimes	134	37.2
C	Most of the time	82	22.8
D	Often	26	7.2
E	Rarely	70	19.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>360</b>	<b>100</b>

Source (Field Work, 2023)

Table 1 reveals that the frequency count for television was 151 (41.9%). This was followed by radio 165 (45.8%), newspaper 63 (17.5%), billboard 46 (12.8%), friends and family 54 (15.1%), community health workers 72 (20.1%), internet/social media 136 (37.8%), pamphlets and posters 12 (3.3%), religious leader 25 (6.9%) and government websites 6 (1.7%). It can be deduced from the above that radio has the highest frequency of preference by the respondents. This was followed by television and social media.

Similarly, social media and radio were the predominant media preferred by the majority of the interviewees. However, in addition to the majority of the interviewees who preferred social media and radio to other information sources, male salon operators (1), female salon operators (2) and female fashion designer (2) also identified television. The study further inquired about the frequency at which the respondents receive information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices. The result is shown in the analysis below. According to female fashion designer (2):

*“There is no secret anywhere in the world; the white people have made things easy. There is nothing you want that you cannot see on android (smart) phones. Although radio is good, you read everything on the internet yourself. Immediately you goggle it, the result will come.”*

The table also reveals that 48 (13.3%) of the respondents received information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices very often from their chosen information sources, 134 (37.2%) sometimes receive it, 82 (22.8%) received it most of the time, 26 (7.2%) often received it, while 70 (19.5%) of the respondents rarely received information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices through their most preferred information sources. This was followed by those that receive information from their most preferred information sources most of the time.

It can be concluded from the result of the research question one above that the preferred information sources of artisans in Ilorin metropolis about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices were radio, television, and social media, respectively. It can be inferred from this result that efforts ought to be intensified by the critical stakeholders in HIV/AIDS and health-related campaigns to always reach out to artisans through the identified information sources.

The study further proceeded to investigate the extent to which exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices influence sexual practices of the respondents.

**Research Question Two:** To what extent does exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices influence the sexual practices of artisans in Ilorin metropolis?

STATEMENT	SD		D		A		SA	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to use condom during sexual relationship outside marriage.	16	4.4	43	11.9	210	58.3	91	25.3
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to avoid sex outside marriage.	20	5.6	26	7.2	202	56.1	112	31.1
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to acquire adequate information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices.	14	3.9	24	6.7	206	57.2	116	32.2
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to avoid premarital sex.	14	3.9	30	8.3	192	53.3	124	34.4
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to avoid accepting blood that is not screened.	11	3.5	19	5.3	191	53.1	139	38.6
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to avoid sharing blade and syringe with other persons.	12	3.3	21	5.8	181	50.3	146	40.6
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to voluntarily test my HIV/AIDS status.	17	4.7	19	5.3	214	59.4	110	30.6
Exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has helped me to be faithful to my marriage partner.	16	3.1	20	5.5	201	55.8	123	35.5

Source (Field Work, 2023)

Table 2 indicates that 301 (83.6%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices had helped them to use condoms during sexual relationships outside marriage. 314 (87.2%) of the respondents agreed that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices had helped them to avoid sex outside wedlock. Exposure to information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices helped 322 (89.4%) of the respondents to acquire adequate information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices. 316 (87.7%) of the respondents agreed with the claim that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices had helped them to avoid premarital sex. 330 (91.7%) claimed that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices had helped them to avoid accepting blood that was not screened. 327 (90.9%) agreed that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices had helped them to avoid sharing blades and syringes with other persons. 324 (90%) submitted that exposure to information

about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices helped them to voluntarily test their HIV/AIDS status. 329 (91.4%) stated that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices helped them to be faithful to their marital partner.

Similarly, most of the interviewees stated that exposure to HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices make them avoid illicit sex and be faithful to a single-sex partner. Some interviewees also claimed that it makes them avoid the blood of a wounded person as well as sharp objects such as knives and blades. However, furniture makers (1) stated that exposure to HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices even made him to be careful of eating domestic animals. According to furniture makers (1):

*“Knowledge of HIV/AIDS also makes me to be careful about illicit sex and even domestic what you call it (sic), (domestic objects) things. Using a blade and so on. I am not sure if HIV is transmitted through spoon*

*sharing with an infected person.” Even before I marry, I fear having many girl friends.”*

It can be concluded from the result of research question two that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices has a positive influence on artisans’ sexual behaviour in Ilorin metropolis.

## 6. Discussion of findings

### 6.1 Discussion of Results in Relation to Research Objectives

To provide answers to the research questions, data collected through questionnaire distributed were computer-analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (IBMSPPSS) software version 23. The data were presented using simple frequency tables and percentages while data gathered through in-depth interview sessions were presented in prose and used to complement findings from the quantitative data.

Four hundred copies of questionnaire were distributed among artisans in Ilorin metropolis. However, out of the four hundred copies of the questionnaire, 360 (representing 90 %) were duly filled and returned. The researcher observed that out of the remaining 40 questionnaire copies, 23 were not returned, 6 were not filled and 11 were smeared with oil by the respondents. Therefore, 40 copies of the questionnaire were rendered void. Data generated are presented below:

For the interview, the researcher purposively selected twelve (12) artisans for the study. Those selected for in-depth interviews were executive members of the associations of fashion designers (2 male and 2 females), motor mechanics (2), salon operators (2 males and 2 females), and furniture makers (2). The interviews were conducted on the days each of the subjects was having lesser engagement. It is important to note that the interviewees were excluded from participating in the survey part of the study.

### 6.2 Most Preferred Information Sources of Artisans in Ilorin Metropolis about HIV/AIDS and Safe-Sex Practices

**Research Question One:** What are the most preferred information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices among artisans in Ilorin metropolis?

The finding to research question one showed that the preferred information sources of artisans in Ilorin metropolis were radio 165 (45.8%), television 151 (41.9%) and social media 136 (37.8%), respectively. Therefore, it was established from this finding that

radio, television and social media are the most preferred information sources of the respondents. The ubiquitous nature of radio could be attributed as the reason for choosing radio by majority of the respondents. Meanwhile, most of the respondents were also observed to have telephones that were connected to FM radio stations and with internet facility. This could also be attributed to why social media is also more preferred by the respondents. Relating to HIV/AIDS, the use of television to educate the respondents about HIV/AIDS could be of interest because it provides unique opportunity to experience AIDS/AIDS and safe-sex practices comprehensively through audio-visual elements of the medium and in a relaxed manner.

Similar result was observed from the interviewees as majority of the interviewees also mentioned internet/social media as their most preferred information source about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices. This was followed by the interviewee who mentioned radio and television as their most preferred information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe sex.

The selection of radio and television as the most preferred information sources of the respondents about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices is a confirmation of earlier study on the knowledge of young people about HIV/AIDS. One of such studies was carried out by Agyemang et al. (2012) who examined the extent of knowledge about HIV/AIDS among young people in the Ejura-Sekyedumase district of Ghana. According to the study, radio and television were the most preferred sources of information for young people on HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, to confirm the impact of internet and television as a vibrant and effective means of information dissemination, electronic media was also the major source of adolescent information about HIV/AIDS as found in Okunta and Oseji’s (2006) study. Okunta and Oseji examined the relationship between knowledge of HIV/AIDS and sexual behaviour among in-school adolescents in Delta State, Nigeria.

However, this finding is contrary to the finding of Oluyemi et al. (2019). Oluyemi et al. (2019) assessed knowledge, beliefs and sources of information of HIV among students of tertiary institutions in Nigeria and it was found that health talk by professionals is the highest source of information to students of tertiary institutions about HIV. Perhaps the students of tertiary institutions who preferred health talk by professionals are at solution stage as posited in AIDS Risk Reduction Model. According to Catania et al. (1990), the highest stage of seeking help towards reducing AIDS risk is to seek and enact solutions at reducing

high-risk activities. Drawing from the finding of Oluyemi et al. (2019), the students who preferred health talk by professionals might be eager to seek solutions through the information sources they would be free to probe for further information about HIV/AIDS. In that case, after the health talk by the professionals, the student would be free to ask questions for further clarifications about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices.

**Research Question Two:** To what extent does exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices influence sexual practices of artisans in Ilorin metropolis?

Finding to research question two revealed that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex had a positive influence on artisans' sexual practices. This is because it could be established from the study that respondents use contraceptive (condom), avoid sex outside wedlock, avoid premarital sex, and continue to acquire adequate information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex, avoid sharing blades and syringes with others and continuously testing their HIV/AIDS status. This amounts to safe-sex practices among the artisans. The implication here is that the high level of awareness of artisans in Ilorin metropolis about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex had positively influenced their sexual practices.

To confirm the nature of the influence, it was discovered that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices enables majority of the respondents to use condom during sexual relationship outside wedlock and that they also shun illicit sexual behaviour. In fact, most of the respondents and the interviewees also claimed that exposure to HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices made them to be faithful to their partners by avoiding premarital sex. This finding is in tandem with the finding of Faimau (2016) that majority of the students supported preventive attitudes and control over sexual behaviour in order to protect them from the risk of being infected by HIV. Therefore, self-control was an important factor that could determine the positive influence of the information sources about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices in the lives of artisans. To this end, the theory of Planned Behaviour (Ajzen, 1985) which was propounded as modification to the Theory of Reasoned Action gives credence to the role of behavioural control in determining the actual behaviour.

It can be interpreted that, even though, it was discovered from research question two that the respondents' level of awareness about HIV/AIDS and

safe-sex was high, and that exposure to information about HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices influenced sexual practices of artisans in Ilorin metropolis, behavioural control also played an important role in the manner at which the message influenced the artisans. Furthermore, to ensure positive influence of any communication intervention effort, the information should be accurately dished out to the target audience.

The role of other agencies, apart from mass media, in ensuring positive influence of the information should also be emphasized. This was shown in one of the reviewed studies by Ezeoke and Ezeaka (2020) which found that lack of accurate information on safe-sex practices and parents' reluctance to discuss sexual matters with their children over the years have led to prevalence of reckless sexual behaviours like premarital sex, unprotected sex, unwanted pregnancy, abortion and school dropout as well as their contracting sexually transmitted infections like HIV/AIDS. Moreover, parents, schools, peers and religious institutions should also serve as agents of promoting safe-sex practices among the populace in order to get rid of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.

## 7. Recommendations

### Recommendations for specific stakeholders

Based on the conclusion of this study, it was, therefore, recommended that:

In spite of the positive influence of HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices on the sexual practices of artisans, the Federal and State Ministries of health, UNAIDS, WHO, ILO and local agencies such as NACA, NCDC, Society for Health Management and Sciences, as part of their primary responsibilities, ought to intensify efforts in their activities towards obligating HIV/AIDS from the African most populous country in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 3 which projects to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by the year 2030 (WHO, 2020).

There is the need for critical stakeholders in HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices and other health campaign planners to understand the benefits derived from the use of radio, television and social media to reach out to artisans while disseminating HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices related messages.

Radio, television and social media platforms should be used by the stakeholders in HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices for communication intervention campaigns targeted at artisans.

Communication intervention programmers/planners should always establish the main source of information of their target population in order to design better HIV/AIDS intervention campaigns in their future health communication campaigns.

To encourage and ensure better influence of HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices among artisans, campaign messages meant for artisans should be disseminated in local dialects of artisans.

Media organizations should produce more health programmes to enlighten members of the public about their health, and more emphasis should be placed on use of radio, television and social media.

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## The Influence of the School towards Students' Indiscipline

CHUKWUMEKA NWOKOJI  
Rivers State University, Nigeria

**Abstract.** The purpose of this study was to find out the how School management factors influence indiscipline in some selected secondary schools in Rivers State. Applying survey method through questionnaires, it used samples from secondary schools' students in Rivers State. This study, as much as possible has revealed that such factors as parent', lapse in their responsibilities towards their children, inadequate amenities in school, lack of teachers' sincerity and devotion to duty and students' indifference to study, all contribute to indiscipline and poor performance in schools. The theory of classroom discipline and reinforcement by Skinner was adopted in this work. The instrument used was questionnaire constructed by the investigator. Items on the questionnaire were designed to elicit information on the likely determinants of cases of students' indiscipline. The results were calculated in percentages. The findings indicated that certain Government factors influence students' indiscipline. It was discovered that these have adverse social and psychological effect on academic growth. Based on the findings, suggestions are made to the appropriate agencies dealing with students' discipline and academic growth. It is hoped that these suggestions will check the existence of indiscipline in schools which may be on step to enhancing good academic performance by students.

**Keywords:** Reinforcement, Indiscipline, Government, Discipline, Skinner, Academic Performance, Respondents, Truancy, Students.

### 1. Introduction

Indiscipline has however continued to be a problem in our schools for the past ten (10) to fifteen (15) years according to Gbuhe, I. (1984). But the Federal Government has not lost sight of this fact. This is evident in the present policy in which indiscipline has

been viewed from a totally new dimension. This time, not schools but the whole system has been their focus. This led to the launching of "War Against Indiscipline" (WAI), on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1984. This has given the schools an added responsibility of not only seeing that children imbibe the principles of the ethics of society but "to be an agent of socialization to the society at large", Asuka, T.T. (1999 – P 74).

In recent times, indiscipline among Post-Primary School students has provoked comments and concern in educational institutions in the wider society. The issue of indiscipline is becoming an increasingly frequent topic of discussion in an educational system, as well as social circles. There seems to be a growing body of opinion in favour of devoting more time and effort in the nation schools to help students to achieve greater understanding and awareness of the moral values of our society. Hence, when people talk of lack of discipline in our schools, they immediately attribute it to the declining standard of social norms among school students

Right from the inception of formal education, many people have expressed their concern over the alarming rate of students in-discipline in our secondary school system and its consequences to their academic performance. Teachers and parents have expressed their concern over the growing rate of indiscipline in secondary school students, at home and in social functions.

The various act of indiscipline perpetrated by students are *'going to school at will and home when they desire, damaging school properties, talk to their teachers without due respect or regards, take to drugs abuse, cheat in test and examinations, drinking alcohol and smoking at school.*

Based on this apparent nature of students' attitudes in schools, it would be pertinent to find out the types and causes of indiscipline among students in ONELGA,

Rivers State. Hence, this study will examine the types and causes of indiscipline in ONELGA, Rivers State. Thus, the following research questions will guide this study.

This study finds out the basic cause of students' indiscipline and its influence on the academic performance of secondary school students in Rivers State and how it could be minimized. It is hoped that this study will expose ways of remedy to indiscipline and it will also assist in contributing to the educational advancement of the students in the state. It shall also serve as a base for further research work in a related problem.

More significantly, it is hoped that this study will be of good use to parents, teachers, school authorities, as well as students who naturally have a stake in educational enterprise.

This study is limited to types and causes of indiscipline among secondary schools students in ONELGA, Rivers State.

Three hundred and seventy copies of questionnaire will be distributed, sixty-two to each school. The number of teachers that will be used in each school are fourteen (14) while students will be twenty five (25). The researcher will use six schools from the L.G.A. Also, teachers in the schools used for the research are randomly selected to respond to the questions.

## **2. The INFLUENCE of the School towards Student Indiscipline**

The school is another major socialization agent for the child. It represents to the child new social problems, taboos and new models of social identification. Through the school, the child learns more about customs, values, belief, skill, reactions and other characteristics of the social environment.

Therefore, the school has a lot of influence on the behaviour of students in Nigeria today. The population of children seeking secondary education and the limited resources available to the government has made it almost impossible to build good schools but rather every available building space has been turned into school without due regards for a conducive environment.

Okpala (1981: 42) supported this claim when he stated that our schools are operating under difficult conditions. It is disheartening to notice that our school today where students should be playing with teaching aids, you find nothing but dilapidating materials.

So, the setting of the school system today has been identified to be a factor to students' undesirable behaviour, because students learn best in comfortable

and conducive atmosphere. Giving credence to this Koko (1991) state that "an atmosphere that will encourage the learner to willingly, happily, intelligently and rapidly participate in class should be created". Therefore, if the reverse is the case, the student whose efforts at learning effectively and displaying his hidden talents will be thwarted because of lack of necessary teaching aids and other equipment which will result to that student behaving abnormally in attempt to protest his resentment of learning situation and this affects his academic performance.

Nwokofo et al (1981: 32) cited in [putlearningfirst.com](http://putlearningfirst.com) also traced the school as a factor that causes students undesirable behaviour, when he included bad authoritarian methods of administration, ineffective teaching staff, harsh school rules, poor communication between the school administration, staff and students.

Nwokocho (1990: 59), supported the above when he claimed that the organizational climate of the school can promote or inhibit discipline. He further said "the ideal climate should reflect democratic way of Life". This he said, is a system where there is effective communication between the school administration and the subject such as the teachers, students and parent.

## **3. The school as an artificial setting or environment**

One of the reasons that leads to disorder in the school is because it is a very artificial kind of place children from various backgrounds are brought together and encouraged to learn specific subject within a single room. In such an un-natural circumstance, a notice by Farrant (1994: 247), "everything can go wrong" he went further to suggest other possible school such as "noise, outside attraction, boring lessons due to bad methodology, lateness to school, absenteeism, sex harassment etc.

Peace and mutual co-existence in the school depends to a large extent on the keeping of rules and good relationship among students and between teacher-students. A breakdown of this type of relationship may lead to misbehavior by the students and will also affect their academic performance.

## **4. Types of Indiscipline as Manifested by Students**

Be it primary, post-primary and tertiary institutions it is of importance for a society to be disciplined. In fact the effect of students' indiscipline on academic performance is the hindrance to the progress of any society. It is in this vain that many research has been

made on this topic as to highlight the problems of indiscipline among students in secondary schools. But the question is what indiscipline is?

Benjamin (1981: 45) stated, that “indiscipline can be viewed as none conformity to the school norms of group society”. He also stated that “indiscipline is the act of wrong doing from the social norms of the society in economic and code of conduct.

These undesirable behaviours which students exhibit in the cause of the learning process both in and outside the school system include: - rudeness, dishonesty, stealing, laziness, drug and alcohol intake, truancy, delinquency, lateness, making noise, fighting and lack of attention etc. it could also mean lack of control exercised over people especially children, violent and disruptive behaviour among students.

According to Mills (1976: 37), he identified five most frequent and seriously disruptive behaviour among students which constitute indiscipline as:

- Deliberate rejection of school standards of dress (i.e. wearing wrong uniform to school and improper dressing hair do etc)
- Persistent truancy
- Boy-cutting lessons
- Refusal to work and cooperate in lessons
- Individual misbehavior intended to destroy lessons

Tattum (1982: 97) on his part also provided a list of violent and disruptive behaviour among students as reported by teachers:

- Physical attack on other students, bullying of junior students and fighting.
- Disruptive or unruly behaviour, noise making
- Truancy, late coming, dogging lessons, loitering around and refusal to come to class
- Insult on teacher (verbal/abuse) by students
- Vandalism – willful destruction of school property
- Extortion
- Gang violence – mass misbehavior
- Assault on teachers (physical attacks) by students

Nwana (1971: 63), Wzewu (1982/83: 45), Rafe (1986: 30) and Okujagu (1987: 42) identified other dimension as:

- Disobedient – flouting specific instructions
- Dishonesty – telling lies, impersonation, examination malpractice, falsifying records sets.
- Stealing – of pens, text books and science equipment, misappropriation of school fees and other charges

- Demonstration and fighting
- Sexual harassment (special in school)

The above citations show that gross undisciplined behaviour is predominant in schools and it is obvious that the absence of discipline among children is one of the serious problems plunging our society. Our regional leaders have not helped the educational system as expected due to the country’s pluralistic or diverse nature and religious irrevocable controversies.

Consequently, it is evident that the problem of indiscipline starts from home. This is because every student is traceable to a home and in most cases, even if the parents do not belong to any religious sect. i.e. neutralist, they still send their children to school.

### 5. The basic cause of indiscipline among secondary school students

The phenomenon of students’ indiscipline on the academic performance of secondary school can be caused by a lot of other factors to include the psychological aspect of the life of secondary school students and other external factors.

According to Amirinze (1995: 45) “Factors that cause students to exhibit undesirable behaviours lie around maladjustment i.e. mental, emotional, social and other forms of disorganization of child’s normal life and development which arise from the following factors:-

Peer Group/Neighbourhood Factor:

Apart from the home and school, much of what the child learns and becomes is as a result of the interaction he has with member of his age grade.

The attitude he puts up, the style of dressing he takes to and other aspect of his/her life especially as students, are shaped by peer influence

Sutherland and Gressway (1990: 108) found out that “individual learn bad behaviour from other within intimate peers based on sub-culture to which they are exposed to”. A child’s behaviour or motives is based not just on his own basic need and drives as Maslo (1954: 30) would want us to believe but also on the stimulation provided by his peer in the classroom. Thus, in First Corinthians (15:33) the Bible, *evil communications corrupt good manner*”. In other words, if a reserved and disciplined child follows a child that is unreserved and undisciplined, he will become unreserved and undisciplined before he knows it. According to Matza (1960: 79), “these children conform to group norms in order to retain their identity and status i.e. to feel among.

## 6. Teacher's Behaviour as a factor

According to Ukeje (1960: 97) "The teacher occupies a very important position in the educational system. For this reason, his utterances, actions, leadership style, knowledge of the subject he teaches and share in teaching are considered as important factors having implication for student learning. Studies shown that teacher's personality and expectations of a student can promote or inhibit his learning behaviours. According to Wrightsons (1987: 114), "a teacher's personality influences the emotional and social climate in the classroom", there are many teachers in some schools who are poorly trained or incompetent and psychological ill-suited to working with young people, or who are overtly concerned with personal and professional self-interest. Bassert (1979: 76) says that "effective classroom management depends on the teacher's personality. "He believe that "positive personality trait will lead to effectiveness in controlling the class. Personality does not mean the physical look or build of the teacher but rather his projection of his social self.

Sheffield (1984: 13) pointed out that most of the teachers liked by students were largely student oriented i.e. those who respect, care for and consider students as being important. Hanson (1994: 52) found that the teacher's behaviour and attitude towards students and teaching are sometimes considered to be more important than methods and techniques. Blount and Klausmier (1988: 78) confirms that a teacher who is a dictator creates an interesting classroom climate which is characterized by absence of students' initiative participation and consequent failure to be maximally productive. On the other hand, the democratic teacher induces a sense of involvement and psychological ownership in students and is the best tool in maintenance of good classroom discipline.

## 7. The Social – Economic and other factors

The socio-economic status of parent has been found to have profound influence on the behaviour and education of their children. A child from low socio-economic status homes tends to be adversely affected in their education pursuits. They may not go to school always due to financial limitations and in this way, they lose interest in their studies and more other things while others are in school.

According to Green (1986: 24) "The socio-economic factor includes increasing disorganization of social and family integration and cohesiveness arising from economic downturn, inflection, unemployment, child labour and the dehumanization of the dignity of human

life", Lippitt and White (1993: 39) further reiterated that these, i.e the above factors make the role of the parents as the standard. If setting a behaviour and controlling authority in the home diminish, the child goes his/her way to look for a way of survival either by stealing or prostituting. And those from rich and enlightened homes where there is enough space and objects of simulation which can be used to be the education advantage of children tend to become proud, arrogant, pompous and feel nobody even the teachers have the right to address them the way they want, thereby they thwart school orders and behave the way they want. The above-mentioned situation no doubt can hinder the child's academic performance.

## 8. I.Q and Genetic Factor

Research findings and social statistics show that incidents of indiscipline occur more in dull sub-normal and slow learning children, as stated by Mecandes (1983: 13), "intellectual dullness and backwardness in the school subjects could lead to students' indiscipline thereby affecting academic achievement of secondary school students", This is further heightened when Caspari (1976: 15), said "that severe learning disabilities". This is because the conflicts that they cause prevent them from concentrating on their work.

The origin of such conflicts are sometimes genetically inherited. Anthony et al (2000: 29) pointed out that "genetic origin and connections cause indiscipline and anti-social behaviour in the lives of individuals" the genetic origin they said "is referred to as psychopaths: such persons do not have a properly developed conscience and they are usually ruthless and inconsiderate with a diminished sense of responsibility. They are sadistic even as children".

According to Richardson (1982: 60) genetic factors could also include physiological aspects of the student's life when he said that "between the ages of about seven and twelve, the child will be relating himself to the society by learning to do the things his parents, teacher and peer groups do. It is during the secondary school years that he is striving to discover his own separateness and uniqueness as a person by doing what he wants to do.

Finally, Weigert (1997: 41) in his study of the adolescent noted that "the adolescents is a problematic stage in one's life circles and the reason for this societal/school expectation of passing examination etc, result in frustration and discontent which leads to acts of indiscipline and further resulted in poor academic performance.

**Research Question:** How does the school contribute to student’s indiscipline in post-primary school?

Statement 1-5 were used to test this question; the results are show below:

**Table 3**

S/N	Statement	Yes	Percentage (%)	No	Percentage (%)	Total	Percentage (%)
1	Over centralization of power on the principal	35	23	115	77	150	100
2	Not involving students in decision making and rules that affect them	70	47	80	53	150	100
3	Lack of supervision	100	67	50	33	150	100
4	No disciplinary measure	115	77	35	23	150	100
5	Lack of proper Administration	115	77	35	23	150	100

Statement 1 of the above indicates that 23 percent of the students responded positively while 77 percent of the students responded negatively.

Statement 2 of the above table indicates that 47 percent of the students responded positively while 53 percent of the students responded negatively.

Statement 3 in the above table indicates that 67 percent of the students responded positively 33 percent of the students responded negatively.

Statement 4 in the above table indicates that 77 percent of the students responded positively while 5 percent of the students responded negatively.

Statement 5 in the above table indicates that 77 percent of the students responded positively while 23 percent of the students responded negatively.

From the analysis of data of table 3, we can term the following as ways school contributes to student indiscipline in secondary schools:

- Lack of supervision
- No disciplinary measure
- Lack of proper administration

The finding is in line with Nwokafor et al (1981:32) cited (pulearning-first.com). He traced the school as a factor that cause students undesirable behaviour, when he included bad authoritarian methods of administration, ineffective teaching staff, harsh school rules, poor communication between the school administration staff and students. Also in support, is the statement made by Nwokocha (1990: 59) that the organizational climate of the school can promote or inhibit discipline. He further said that “the ideal climate should reflect democratic way of life”

**9. Summary of the Analysis**

The responses of the survey as observed in the tables indicate that most students who filled the

questionnaire were involved in one act of indiscipline or another. The teachers’ response testify to this also. Students were each either guilty of one offence or the other. There was none of the acts of indiscipline listed out in the questionnaires that at least, a student was not involved in, these ranged from breaking bounds, drinking alcohol, fighting, quarreling, truancy and cheating in examination hall, which are all against school rules and regulations.

**10. Discussion of Findings**

From the findings within the limitation of this study, the following areas have been identified as the causes and types of indiscipline and bad behaviour among secondary school students in, Rivers State:

- Poor administration
- Lack of basic teaching facilities
- Bad Association
- Parental laxity
- Unqualified teaching staff
- Fighting on regular basis
- Disobedient to their seniors at school
- Being rude to their teachers
- Cheating in examination hall
- Smoking Indian hemp and practicing prostitution
- Lack of supervision
- No disciplinary measure
- Parent being divorced and
- Parent influence on the student’s choice of subject

Therefore, these areas mentioned above are summarized under these factors:

- Parental factor
- School management/teachers’ factor
- Students’ attitudes to discipline and learning factor

### **10.1 Parent Factors Contributing to Indiscipline among students in Secondary Schools**

One of the major problems facing the school however is parent non-attendance regarding the progress of their children in school academically or character wise. Some children are delinquent because of “maternal deprivation”.

The present unbecoming attitude of some students in areas of indiscipline is regarded by parents as a manifestation of the inability of the school to control the behaviour of students.

But, unknowingly parents share in the blame of their children who are students. This is because, parents appear to have abdicated their responsibility towards their children and tend to look on school as glorified baby-sitting agencies.

### **10.2 School Management/Teachers’ Factors that contribute to the breakdown of discipline in schools**

It is apparent that various causes of indiscipline among students link to their schools in as much as it links to their home.

The respondents in this study adduced various reasons for doing certain things that are against the school rules. A summary of some reasons is given below:

- Some students do not go to school at the beginning of a new term because studies will not commence until after two weeks. Others said they went late because the principal and his staff were fond of coming late to school. Thereby keeping them long in Assembly Hall for morning devotions and announcements.
- Roughly 130 students went late to school because of lack of water in the environment they live as day students or the distance they walk every day to school. This has to do with government policy of phasing out boarding system and not providing enough amenities for the proper take up of these schools.

In an interview conducted by the researcher with secondary students in the selected schools on “why they go on rampage”, the reply was “*we resort to vandalism when the school authorities refuse to understand and appreciate our points of view*”.

In addition, a teacher’s personality influences the classroom”. The researcher identified that some students roam about when their teachers are not around. Others sit in the classroom to make noise, while another went to the dormitory to sleep when they were supposed to be in class learning. Quite a number of

students are reported to have cheated in examinations because teachers showed them questions before the examination, or undue favour to a number of students in the examination rooms. This was the opinion of 88 students. Some students stayed out of classes because some lessons were not uninteresting to them.

### **10.3 Student’s Attitudes to Discipline and Learning Factor**

This investigation indicates clearly the opinions and attitudes of students about discipline and learning. This now borders on the individuality of the students. Teachers’ opinion indicate that students are generally not mindful of the rules and regulations of the school. This emanates when students indulge in extortion and stealing, sex abuse, consumption of hard drugs/smoking, cultism, fighting, vandalism and hooliganism, possession and use of dangerous weapons and charms, examination malpractices, truancy, loitering and lateness etc as a social deviance which entails the violation of the rules and regulations patterning the behaviour of individual in school.

Some students go late to school for the fun of it, others deliberately stayed out of school because they do not want to learn. While others wear mufti to schools even when they have school uniforms. Some even did not seem to know why they are in school; thus, they imitate others to earn popularity among their colleagues. Others are so mischievous that they absent themselves from important school functions.

All these are real constraints to good behaviour and good academic performance

### **10.4 Educational Implication**

The findings of this study have its educational implication in the following areas:

Lack of adequate financial support can demoralize students, as it’s the popular sample opinion indicated in student’s responses. Invariably, apart from stealing, or keeping friends of the opposite sex, student academic performance could be negatively affected.

The tendency of parents to send their children on errands while lessons are in sessions is detrimental to their good academic performance. This happens mostly to students who come to school from their homes. This also places students in a fix because they cannot refuse to go on errands for their parents. At this time, they are forgoing their studies. This behaviour on the part of some parents indicates that, they do not understand the school system and that missing lessons



could have a negative effect on their children academic performance.

The fact that students absent themselves from school at the beginning of a term amounts to improper preparations on the part of the school authority for the immediate start of studies, they tend to keep students busy by making them cut grasses. This in turn keep those who do not want to cut grass away from school. In as much as it is necessary to keep the school premises clean, it should be incorporated into the regular school programme and should go hand in hand with commencement of studies right from the start of a new term. If this is done, students will definitely return to school in a larger number at the beginning of a term.

Lack of punctuality by some principals and staff to morning devotion is a serious thing that will enhance unseriousness on the part of students. This is because a principal has the duty of spelling out the norms of behaviour in his school. This in effect means that the moral tone of the school depends on his/she being a model for other subordinates to emulate. He is supposed to be “a good commander that leads a good army”. If on the other hands, the principal is incompetent and cannot even keep to his own rules. This means he cannot also establish his authority among his students and staff. He is bound to meet with many difficulties in maintaining discipline in school. This can lead to a total breakdown of rules and regulation of the school and thereby results to poor academic record.

The scarcity of water in these areas has adverse effect on the behaviour of students. This is solely not of their own making or the principal’s per se. this amounts to lack of proper planning by the government to provide at least certain basic minimum facilities before the takeoff of school. Though, it has been a kind of gesture on the part of government in bringing education nearer to the people. But it all amounts to nothing when inadequate provision is made for the takeoff or continuance of such institutions. This has adverse effect on students’ studies since they definitely need these basic amenities e.g. water and dormitories to keep the teaching/learning situation in progress.

The idea of students absenting themselves from class because of uninteresting teaching methods is a real serious problem to tackle. These are related to lack of qualified teachers on one hand and lack of devotion to teaching on the other. This has many implications. One of such is that the teaching and learning process will be adversely impaired.

The idea of keeping students in the class for hours with boring poorly designed lessons or materials that cannot make use of their real interest, nor their actual capabilities, behaviour problems will emanate, students will either keep away from such lessons or they engage in disturbing the learning of other students in the class.

Bad teaching promotes cheating. If a child is given materials which is too difficult for him or if he has specific deficits that prevent his progress and cannot earn reinforcement in a legitimate manner obviously, cheating is likely to occur.

Finally, children who are frequently absent from school show poor academic attainment and adjustment to school.

## 11. Conclusion

From the findings of this research study, the following conclusion were drawn:

- Teachers in secondary schools are aware of the academic performance problems bothering their students
- From the responses to the questionnaire, the research would conclude that the six (6) selected secondary schools in Rivers State which were used for this study believe that, poor administration, bad association from among youths influence academic performance.
- Lack of basic teaching facilities, unqualified teaching staff.
- Bad behaviour such as; destroying school property, smoking Indian hemp, practicing prostitution, fighting on regular basic, disobedient to their seniors at school and being rude to their teachers. All these are areas where indiscipline behaviour are manifested by students and they influence their academic performance negatively.

## 12. Recommendations

In the light of the findings of the researcher the following recommendations are made:

- Parents should be alive to their obligations for up-bringing of their children
- Parents should improve in their efforts to spend more time with their children so as to be able to correct them when they go wrong.
- The school should be able to maintain a code of conduct which spells out clearly the moral tone of the school. This code of conduct should be effectively popularized amongst

students and also implemented so that offenders could be squarely dealt with to serve as deterrents to others.

- Furthermore, with the current handover of schools to private owners in Rivers and Bayelsa States, the Government and these agencies should jointly, in the interest of improving the quality of education provide adequate and qualified staff to all schools.
- Through the school administrators, the government should make provision to improve the quality of teachers, through seminars, workshops and in-service schemes.
- It is also necessary that both the government and private owners of schools enhance the status of the teachers as a deliberate policy to make teaching more attractive than any other job.
- The government and proprietors should also endeavour to reduce the present rate of school fees to enable parents meet up their financial obligations to their children to enable them have a steady and regular studies throughout the term.
- It is also suggested here that the government in conjunction with school proprietors, should provide hostel accommodations for all students in the area of this study. This should be accompanied with the provision of water to the school community. The government's current policy of phasing out boarding facilities does not augur well for a coherent and effective learning due to the distance of some students who have to walk to school.
- Invariably also, I would suggest that accommodation be provided for teachers within the vicinity of the schools to enable them relate closely with students outside the classroom environment. This is likely to expose students' behaviour in a wider perspective to teachers. And this will help the teachers to know the students better. Thus, the teacher should be the major force and source of guidance to the children.
- Finally, as part of disciplinary measures rewards or awards could be given to best well-behaved students at the end of every term.

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## The Role of Parenting Styles and Peer Pressure in Shaping Risky Behaviour Tendencies among Undergraduate Students in Ogun State, Nigeria

TOLULOPE EVELYN ALUKO  
Chrisland University, Abeokuta, Ogun State

OLABODE OLALEKAN DARAMOLA  
University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State

ADEOLA OLUWASEMILORE OMODEHIN  
Chrisland University, Abeokuta, Ogun State

**Abstract.** This study aimed to explore how parenting styles and peer pressure interact to influence students' decisions to engage in risky activities among undergraduate students in Ogun State, Nigeria. A cross-sectional study was conducted using three hundred and fifty (350) undergraduate students who were recruited using a purposive sampling technique. Data was collected from the respondents using the Perceived Parenting Style Scale developed by Divya & Manikandan (2013), the Revised Peer-Pressure Scale Questionnaire by Saini & Singh (2016), and the Risky Impulsive and Self-Destructive Behaviour Questionnaire by Sadeh & Baskin-Sommers (2016). Linear and multiple regression analyses were conducted to examine the data. The results showed that Authoritative parenting style ( $\beta = -.11$ ;  $t = -1.79$ ,  $p > .05$ ) did not have a statistically significant influence on risky behaviour tendencies. Authoritarian parenting style ( $\beta = .15$ ;  $t = 2.54$ ,  $p < .05$ ) and permissive parenting style ( $\beta = .21$ ;  $t = 3.20$ ,  $p < .05$ ) had a significant impact on risky behaviour tendencies. Additionally, peer pressure significantly influenced risky behaviour tendencies ( $\beta = .44$ ;  $t = 8.92$ ,  $p < .05$ ). The combined influence of parenting styles and peer pressure on risky behaviour tendencies was found to be statistically significant ( $F(4,331) = 25.32$ ,  $p < .05$ ). To conclude, the influence of parenting styles and peer pressure on the risky behaviour tendencies of undergraduate students in Ogun State is pivotal and warrants attention. It is recommended that educational programs focussing on self-awareness and assertiveness and campaigns targeting risky

behaviours be introduced to equip students with the necessary skills for navigating challenges and making informed decisions.

**Keywords:** Parenting styles, Peer pressure, Risky behaviours, Undergraduate Students.

### 1. Introduction

University life is a crucial phase for individuals in late adolescence and early adulthood, transitioning from childhood joys to adult responsibilities and independence. It is characterized by evolving emotions like excitement, anxiety, and curiosity, and an increased risk-taking inclination, as students grapple with the challenges of newfound independence and self-discovery (Ojo, 2021). The milieu of tertiary education subject's students to a myriad of influences, which may precipitate risky behaviours that can significantly impact their future trajectories (Schieberet al, 2024).

Risky behaviours, such as substance misuse, impulsive dietary habits, hazardous driving, self-injurious actions and gambling, according to Tariq & Gupta (2022), are actions that increase the risk of illness or damage, potentially leading to disability, death, or social problems. According to the UNODC World Drug Report 2023, 60% of young adults consume alcohol, with 30% misusing cannabis and 20% misusing tramadol. The WHO, 2022 report on risky sexual behaviours reveals that early sexual

activity, inconsistent condom use, and limited access to sexual health services are major contributors to the rise in sexual Transmitted Diseases (STIs) and unintended pregnancies among young Nigerians. Adeyemo et al.'s 2023 research, conducted through surveys with university students revealed the alarming prevalence of gambling addiction among young Nigerians in academic settings. The study concluded that psychosocial factors such as age, financial strain, and suicidality significantly influence gambling behaviours among young Nigerians, with statistics showing a direct correlation between these factors and risky gambling tendencies.

These maladaptive behaviours pose significant threats to psychological health by increasing the risk of mental health disorders, impacting overall well-being negatively, and potentially reducing life expectancy. Studies also indicate that these risky behaviours can lead to harmful effects like increased anxiety, depression, injuries, and higher death rates (WHO, 2017; Afshari, 2019).

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Parenting Styles and Risky Behaviours Tendencies

Family plays a vital role in shaping children's character and behaviour. During infancy, parents or parental figures teach children essential skills for self-sufficiency and care. Moreover, research has shown that people start learning social skills within their families, and their development is shaped by various teaching methods such as positive reinforcement, role-playing and setting clear expectations (Fenton, 2016). Children learn rules and boundaries from their parents through imitation, which helps pass on values such as honesty, social norms like respect for elders, and cultural practices such as celebrating festivals (Sotodeh, 2004).

Parenting significantly shapes a child's development by nurturing and guiding their growth, influencing their physical, emotional, and social well-being. However, it is important to acknowledge that parents, despite their influence on their children's upbringing, may not always serve as positive role models due to factors such as, social prejudices, religious beliefs, and personal issues can lead parents astray, potentially negatively impacting their children.

In 1967, Baumrind identified parenting styles and their substantial impact on a child's development and well-being, affecting areas such as emotional intelligence and social skills through parental interactions and

expectations. Three prominent parenting styles—authoritarian, permissive and authoritative parenting styles have shaped research. Authoritarian parenting, characterized by strict rules and little warmth, can lead to anxiety, low self-esteem, and social difficulties (Sahithya et al., 2019). Authoritative parents set clear expectations, encourage open dialogue, and nurture children, leading to strong academic performance, social skills, and emotional health (Baumrind, 1991; Chen, 2020). Permissive parenting prioritizes children's freedom and self-expression but often lacks clear boundaries and guidance, leading to potential negative outcomes such as lack of discipline and challenges in setting limits. This approach may lead to increased risk-taking behaviours and challenges in self-regulation, highlighting the potential negative impact of permissive parenting (Hoskins, 2014).

Afshari (2019) conducted an empirical investigation into the correlation between various parenting styles and the propensity for risky behaviours among students at an Iranian university. The findings revealed a relationship between permissive parenting styles and the tendency towards smoking, sexual behaviour, and relationships. Balogun & Famakinde's 2019 study found a strong association between peer pressure and cigarette smoking among in-school adolescents in Ibadan, Nigeria. The study by Baharin et al. (2021) also found out that parental engagement and parenting style significantly influence cigarette consumption among teenagers.

There is also a positive relationship between authoritarian parenting styles and the tendency towards high-risk behaviours like violence. Ezebuchu & Chujor (2023) evaluated the correlation between parenting styles and engagement in at-risk sexual behaviours among adolescents in Etche Local Government, Rivers State, Nigeria. The findings indicated that parenting styles, particularly the authoritarian style, strongly correlated with at-risk sexual behaviours. Osborne (2020) investigated the interplay between parenting styles, family dysfunction, and risk behaviours in college students, concluding that students nurtured by authoritarian parents exhibited elevated levels of risky behaviour.

Purba et al., 2023 research elucidated that exposure to risky behaviours on social media correlates with an increased likelihood of substance use and engagement in high-risk sexual activities. In a subsequent study conducted by Aluko et al. (2023), the researchers explored the interrelations of self-esteem and impulsivity within undergraduate populations concerning the dynamics of internet addiction. The findings revealed that students dealing with low self-

esteem and difficulties in regulating impulsive behaviours are prone to various risky behaviours due to their involvement with social media or internet addiction. Overall, these studies highlighted that authoritative parenting fosters effective communication, establishes boundaries, and nurtures trust, leading to a decrease in risky behaviours.

## 2.2 Peer- Pressure and Risky Behaviours Tendencies

During adolescence, individuals often engage in various behaviours, including consuming alcohol, using tobacco, experimenting with illicit substances, engaging in sexual activity, reckless driving, and participating in criminal activities. Studies have shown that adolescents seek independence by trying new and sometimes risky behaviours like challenging norms or pushing personal boundaries to understand themselves better (Middleearthnj, 2024). Peer influence significantly affects adolescents' commitment to behaviours. In the context of social interactions and peer pressure, a 'peer' is defined as a group of individuals who share common traits or interests, typically including close friends or family members who engage in similar activities. Peer pressure encompasses the impact of friends and peers on our thoughts and actions, leading to a range of outcomes that can be either beneficial or detrimental. Positive peer pressure is associated with improved task performance and the promotion of prosocial behaviour among individuals. Conversely, negative peer pressure may lead to behaviours like truancy, substance abuse, or bullying, highlighting the risks associated with negative peer influence.

The effects of both positive and negative peer pressure on mental health can manifest in increased levels of anxiety, depression, and diminished self-esteem. Research by Cruz et al. (2022) has emphasised the substantial correlation between unaddressed peer pressure in adolescents and the development of mental health issues, underscoring the importance of addressing peer pressure among undergraduate students. Research studies, such as those by Bryant et al. (2003), Svensson (2000), and Godley et al. (2005), have demonstrated that peers play a crucial role in both initiating substance experimentation and perpetuating substance use and addiction. According to the study by Liang et al. (2020), peer pressure was found to increase the probability of engaging in risky behaviours, such as binge drinking and drug use, by 30%, highlighting the significant influence of peer pressure on behaviour. This effect was particularly significant among students with low self-esteem and inadequate parental support, resulting in a 50%

increase in engaging in risky behaviours among this population. Thus, the study indicated that peer influence, including direct interactions and peer pressure, was a stronger predictor of risky behaviours compared to parental influence, which predominantly provided guidance and advice.

In their assessment of peer influences on risky sexual behaviours, such as unprotected sex and early sexual debut, among out-of-school adolescents in Kamuli Municipality, Ivan, K.E & Omona K., 2021 found that adolescents' engagement in these behaviours was strongly influenced by their association with peers and friends. Likewise, in a study by Adegboyega et al. (2019) examining the impact of peer pressure on the sexual behaviour of adolescents in Kwara State, it was found that peer pressure substantially heightened the risk of involvement in prostitution, acquiring sexually transmitted diseases, and engaging in incest, resulting in enduring adverse effects.

A study by Knezevic, Pavlovic, & Ninkovic (2021) investigating the correlation between peer pressure, academic success, and adolescent risk behaviours in Serbia found out that both peer pressure and academic achievement were robust predictors of various risky behaviours in adolescents, including substance abuse, academic dishonesty, and delinquent conduct.

## 2.3 Theoretical Framework

The Social Learning Theory by Albert Bandura in 1977 provides a framework for understanding how parenting styles and peer pressure influence risky behaviors among collegiate populations. It highlights the significant role parental figures and peers play in shaping young adults' conduct. Students raised by authoritative parents are more resilient against peer pressure due to their strong values and self-regulatory abilities. Conversely, those from neglectful or permissive families may lack these protective characteristics, making them more vulnerable to peer influence, especially in precarious situations with a lack of support networks (Fosco et al., 2012). Students often engage in hazardous behaviours like substance misuse or reckless driving after observing their peers' receiving rewards or social validation. This behaviour is shaped by observational learning within social frameworks and individual cognitive processes. Social learning theory also emphasizes reinforcement, which involves applying rewards or sanctions to enhance or diminish behaviors. Students are more likely to engage in risky behaviors when they perceive immediate satisfaction, social acknowledgement, or integration into peer groups.

Undergraduate students are experiencing a surge in risky behaviours, leading to frequent disciplinary actions and safety concerns. These include drug concealment, substance misuse, and unsafe social environments. These behaviours compromise student safety and undermine the university's efforts to maintain a secure academic community. Therefore, this study investigates the influence of peer pressure and parenting style on risky behaviours among undergraduate students in Ogun State, Nigeria. Despite previous research on the link between perceived parenting styles and substance use, it has not explored how these styles, combined with peer pressure, influence a wider range of risky behaviours in Nigeria context. Most studies treat peer pressure as a singular factor, neglecting its interaction with other social factors like parenting styles. This leaves the potential joint influence of parenting styles and peer pressure on risky behaviors like self-harm, impulsive eating, and recklessness unclear and requires further investigation. The hypothesis generated for this study are:

- There would be a significant influence of parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) on risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students in Ogun State, Nigeria.
- There would be a significant influence of peer pressure on risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students in Ogun State, Nigeria.
- There would be significant independent and joint contributions of parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) and peer pressure in predicting risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students in Ogun State, Nigeria.

### 3. Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Research Design and Setting

A cross-sectional research design was adopted for the study. This design was chosen because it enabled us to describe the prevalence and characteristics of the study population at a particular time. Additionally, a survey methodology was utilized in the acquisition of data from a heterogeneous cohort of undergraduate university students situated in Ogun State, Nigeria. The independent variables are parenting styles and peer pressure and the dependent variable is risky behaviour tendencies. The study was conducted in Abeokuta, the capital of Ogun State.

#### 3.2 Participants and Sampling Techniques

A total of 350 undergraduate students were conveniently selected from all levels of the universities to participate in the study. The sample size was determined using Slovin's formula. Males (164) comprised 46.9 percent of respondents, while females (186) comprised 53.1 percent. As part of the study, two universities were randomly selected from the three government-owned universities in Ogun State, Nigeria.

#### 3.3 Research Instruments

Researchers used the Perceived Parenting Style Scale (PPSS), Peer-Pressure Scale Questionnaire-Revised (PPSQ-R), and Risky, Impulsive, and Self-Destructive Behaviour Questionnaire to collect information from the respondents.

The Perceived Parenting Style Scale (PPSS) was developed in 2013 by Divya and Manikandan to measure participants' perceptions of their parents' parenting behaviours. The scale consists of 30 items scored on a five-point Likert scale, with scores ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The scale scores for authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting styles. The Cronbach Alpha coefficient indicates reliability for authoritative (0.79), authoritarian (0.81), and permissive styles (0.86).

The Peer-pressure Scale Questionnaire-Revised (PPSQ-R) was developed in 2016 by Saini and Singh to measure adolescents' peer influence tendency. The 29 items in the PPSQ-R evaluate adolescents' peer influence in various daily life scenarios to encompass a wide range of peer pressures. It employs a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 'strongly agree' (5) to 'strongly disagree' (1). It comprises five subscales, each representing a distinct aspect of peer influence. Scoring high on any subscale indicates a heightened level of peer pressure in the corresponding aspect. Internal consistency was evaluated through Cronbach's alpha, resulting in a high reliability score of 0.93

The Risky, Impulsive, and Self-Destructive Behaviour Questionnaire (RISQ) was developed in 2016 by Sadeh and Baskin-Sommers to assess general tendencies related to risky and self-destructive behaviours. The questionnaire consists of 38 items that individuals use to self-report their tendencies towards risky and self-destructive behaviors. The questionnaire evaluates specific risky and impulsive behaviours in eight domains: drug use, aggression, self-harm, gambling, risky sexual behaviour,



impulsive eating, heavy alcohol use, and reckless behaviour. Participants rate the frequency of behaviours in the past month on a scale from 'never' to more times per month.' After rating each domain, scores are computed for individual domains, as well as an overall total score in the questionnaire. Items 1 to 12 are scored on a 4-point Likert scale from Never (1) to Many Times (4) per month. Items 13 to 32 are scored on a 2-point Likert scale with Yes as 2 and Never as 1 per month. The RISQ shows good internal consistency, indicating a strong relationship among items within each domain, as measured by a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.70, which signifies a reliable measure.

**3.4 Procedure**

**3.4.1 Ethical Statement**

The research was conducted with strict adherence to ethical protocols to prioritize the safety and well-being of all participants, highlighting the paramount importance of ethical considerations. Additionally, all collected data was kept confidential and utilized solely for the stated study purposes to protect the privacy and anonymity of the individuals involved in the research. The research findings were analysed and presented objectively without bias or manipulation to uphold impartiality. Before completing the questionnaires, participants were informed about the research purpose, and the researcher obtained their informed consent to participate. This step ensured that participants were

fully aware of the study's objectives before voluntarily agreeing to participate. Participants were reassured that their involvement in the research was voluntary, and they were informed of their right to withdraw at any point. The data of consenting participants was de-identified to protect their identities.

**3.4.2 Inclusion Criteria**

Participants must be currently enrolled as undergraduate students at the university. Participants must be aged between 15 and 27 years old. Participants must be willing to read and sign the informed consent form.

**3.4.3 Exclusion Criteria**

Participants who are not currently enrolled as undergraduate students at the university. Participants aged outside the range of 15 to 27 years old. Participants who are not willing to read and sign the informed consent form.

**4. Data Analysis and Interpretation of Results**

Statistical analysis software SPSS 26 was used to analyse the data. Statistical analyses, including linear regression and multiple regression, were conducted at a significance level of  $p > 0.05$ . Before that, the zero-order correlation analysis was performed to examine the relationships between the variables.

**4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

**Table 1:** Summary of data showing the demographics of the respondents in the study

The descriptive analysis in table 4.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants.

Demographic Profile (N= 350)	Frequency	Percent
Gender		
Male	164	46.9
Female	186	53.1
Level of study		
100	54	15.4
200	99	28.3
300	72	20.6
400	105	30.0
500	20	5.7
Total	350	100.0

The mean age of respondents was 1.30 years (SD = 0.46), with a range of 15 to 27 years. The descriptive analysis shows that male participants were 164, accounting for 46.9% of the total sample, and females were 186, accounting for 53.1% of the total sample. The descriptive analysis reveals that the levels of representation were as follows: 500 level had 20 individuals (5.7%), 100 level had 54 individuals (15.4%), 300 level had 72 individuals (20.6%), 200 level had 99 individuals (28.3%), and the most represented was 400 level with 105 individuals (30.0%).

Table 4.2: Zero Order Correlation showing Relationships among Risky behaviour tendencies, authoritative parenting style, authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style.

		3	4	5	Mean	SD	Range
.**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).							
Authoritative PS	.24**	-			33.36	5.48	10-50
3. AuthoritarianPS	.25**	-.094	-		26.61	6.89	10-50
4. Permissive PS	.32**	-.56**	.38**	-	17.62	5.13	10-50
5. Peer pressure	.44**	-.21**	.26**	.37**	-	49.35	15.02

Legend: PS = Parenting Style

The results of the zero-order correlation in Table 4.2 show that high risk behaviours have a significant negative relationship with authoritative parenting style ( $r = -.24^{**}$ ,  $P < .01$ ), meaning that high risk behaviour tendencies are associated with a decrease in authoritative parenting style among undergraduate students. However, high risk behaviours have a significant positive relationship with authoritarian parenting style ( $r = .25^{**}$ ,  $P < .01$ ) and permissive parenting style ( $r = .32^{**}$ ,  $P < .01$ ), meaning that high risk behaviours are associated with an increase in authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style. Lastly, high-risk behaviours have a significant positive relationship with peer pressure ( $r = .44^{**}$ ,  $P < .01$ ).

#### 4.2 Analysis of Research Hypotheses

**Hypothesis One:** Parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) will significantly influence Risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students.

**Table 4.3:** Summary of Regression analysis of Parental styles (Authoritative parenting style, authoritarian parenting style, and permissive parenting style) on Risky behaviour tendencies.

Predictor	$\beta$	t	P	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	P
Authoritative parenting style	-.11	-1.79	> .05	.36	.13	16.30	<.05
Authoritarian parenting style	.15	2.54	< .05				
Permissive parenting style	.21	3.20	< .05				

The results in Table 4.3 show that parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) significantly influenced risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students ( $F_{(3,332)} = 16.30$ ,  $R^2 = .13$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ). Parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) jointly accounted for 13 % variance on risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students. An analysis of the independent impact of the three parenting styles showed that authoritarian parenting ( $\beta = .15$ ;  $t = 2.54$ ,  $p < .05$ ) and permissive parenting ( $\beta = .21$ ;  $t = 3.20$ ,  $p < .05$ ) significantly increased risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students, while authoritative parenting ( $\beta = -.11$ ;  $t = -1.79$ ,  $p > .05$ ) did not have a significant effect. This result suggests that a standard deviation (SD) unit increase in parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) leads to a 0.13 increase in risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students.

**Hypothesis Two:** Peer-pressure will significantly influence Risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students.

**Table 4.4:** Summary Regression analysis of Peer pressure on Risky behaviour tendencies.

Predictor	$\beta$	t	P	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	P
Peer pressure	.44	8.92	< .05	.44	.19	79.53	< .05

The results in Table 4.4 showed that peer pressure had a significant impact on risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students. The statistical values for this influence were:  $\beta = .44$ ,  $t = 38.92$ , and  $p < .05$ . Peer pressure explained 19% of the variability in risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students. This means that a one-standard-deviation increase in peer pressure results in a 0.19 increase in risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students.

**Hypothesis Three:** Parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) and peer pressure jointly predict Risky behaviours tendencies among undergraduate students.

**Table 4.5:** Joint contribution of parenting styles (Authoritative parenting style, authoritarian parenting style, and permissive parenting style) and peer pressure on risky behaviour tendencies

Predictor	$\beta$	t	P	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	P
Peer pressure	.36	6.77	< .05				
Authoritative PS	-.10	-1.71	> .05				
				.48	.23	25.32	< .05
Authoritarian PS	.10	1.83	> .05				
Permissive PS	.10	1.59	> .05				

Note: PS = Parenting Style

The results in Table 4.5 show that peer pressure and parenting style (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive) jointly influenced risky behaviour tendencies among undergraduate students ( $F_{(4,331)} = 25.32$ ,  $R^2 = .23$ ,  $P < .05$ ). Peer pressure and parenting styles jointly accounted for 23% of the variance in risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students. An assessment of the individual impact of the variables on risky behavior tendencies reveals that only peer pressure ( $\beta = 0.36$ ,  $t = 6.77$ ,  $p < .05$ ) significantly predicted risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students. That is, Peer pressure independently accounted for 36% of the variance in risky behavior tendencies, implying that a standard deviation unit increase in peer pressure increases risky behavior tendencies by 0.36 among undergraduate students. However, authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting styles ( $\beta = 0.10$ ,  $t = -1.71$ ,  $t = 1.83$ ,  $t = 1.59$ , respectively) did not have a significant independent influence on risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students.

permissive parenting styles may elevate the likelihood of students engaging in risky behaviors. Authoritarian parenting fosters a restrictive and severe atmosphere due to excessive control, while permissive parenting fails to establish clear boundaries, resulting in heightened risk-taking. Authoritarian parenting may incite students to defy authority and seek independence, whereas permissive parenting can heighten their susceptibility to risky behaviors by lacking definitive limits. Nonetheless, the minimal adverse effects of authoritative parenting indicate that a balanced and nurturing methodology, which encompasses the establishment of clear expectations, the encouragement of independence, and the provision of a supportive environment, can aid in mitigating risky behavior, despite the absence of statistical significance in this study.

Previous studies have shown that authoritarian and permissive parenting styles positively impact risk-taking behaviors. Maine's 2020 study found that stricter or more lenient environments contribute to higher risk-taking tendencies. Folorunsho, et al, 2024 study found that both authoritarian and permissive parenting styles significantly influence juvenile delinquency in Nigeria. Adegbenro's 2023 study found that both authoritarian and permissive parenting styles significantly predict substance misuse among Kwara State undergraduate students, indicating a correlation between these parenting approaches and an increase in risky behaviors. These findings support the association between authoritarian and permissive parenting styles and increased participation in risky activities.

## 5. Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1 Discussion

The study revealed that parenting styles have a substantial impact on the propensity for risky behaviors among students. Both authoritarian and permissive parenting styles were associated with elevated levels of risky behaviors, whereas authoritative parenting styles demonstrated a modest decrease in such tendencies. Authoritarian and

Peer pressure significantly influences students' decisions to engage in risky behaviors by shaping their responses to the social environment and peers' behaviors. Exposure to peers engaging in high-risk behaviors may lead students to conform to fit in, gain social acceptance, or avoid exclusion. Social interactions, especially in environments with strong peer influence like universities, significantly shape behavior. Studies have shown that adolescents, like university students, are significantly influenced by their peers' behaviors and attitudes, leading to a higher likelihood of engaging in risky activities. Hofmeister (2019) and Wanzheng (2023) also highlight the impact of peer pressure on young adults' engagement in risk-taking behaviors. Adegboyega et al, 2019 found that peer pressure significantly impacts high-risk behaviors, particularly in settings where students are heavily influenced by their social networks.

This study emphasizes the interactive role of both family and peer environments in shaping behavior, aligning with prior research. Ojo's 2021 study highlighted the interaction between parental and peer influences during adolescence, emphasizing the combined impact on risky behaviors, including increased susceptibility to peer pressure and decision-making influenced by parental guidance. Purwadi & Muhliawati (2023) discovered through a long-term analysis that the combination of authoritative parenting styles and positive peer influence substantially reduced the likelihood of risky behaviors, underscoring the significance of supportive family and peer environments. The combination of these factors creates an environment that strengthens students' inclination towards risky behaviours.

## 5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that authoritarian (strict) and permissive (lenient) parenting styles are positively linked to an increase in risky behaviors, while authoritative (balanced) parenting reduces them. Peer pressure plays a significant role in influencing risky behaviors, highlighting how peers shape students' actions. The combined influence of parenting styles and peer pressure highlights how individual and social factors interact in behavior. This interaction was a strong predictor of risky behavior tendencies among undergraduate students in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Future studies should specifically focus on thoroughly examining gender differences. Although the findings of this study are relevant to the general population, it is important to interpret them cautiously as the participants were only a subset of the university's general population. Researchers are encouraged to investigate the implications of these findings by

conducting similar studies in a broader and more diverse population.

## 5.3 Recommendations

On the basis of the present study, the following recommendations were made for school administrators and parents/caregivers:

- School administrators should develop and implement educational programs that focus on self-awareness, resilience, and assertiveness to equip students with skills to resist peer pressure and its negative impacts. Engaging students in role-playing activities that simulate peer pressure scenarios can improve their ability to navigate social situations effectively.
- Also, extensive educational campaigns that can educate students about risky behaviors and their consequences through various mediums such as informational posters, social media content, and interactive workshops to promote accountability and informed decision-making regarding substance abuse, cyberbullying, and unsafe sexual practices, among others.
- Parental Involvement Programs: Workshops and seminars for parents aim to educate them about the impact of parenting styles, such as authoritarian, permissive, and authoritative, on their children's behavior. The goal is to promote understanding and encourage positive parental practices that support responsible and informed decision-making.

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## The Relevance of Azeez Sanni and Segun Awosiyan Newspaper Cartooning in Nigeria

ADEDOLA OLAYINKA ADEYEMI, BENJAMIN ENI-ITAN F. AFOLABI,  
TOLULOPE OLADIMEJI SOBOWALE, ADEBAYO ABIODUN ADELOYE,  
PETER OLUWAGBENGA ODEWOLE  
Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This paper articulates the relevance of newspaper cartooning in Nigeria through which, the forms, styles and character composition of selected cartoonists works were looked into. The study examined the works of Azeez Sanni and Segun Awosiyan who over the years have contributed their quota immensely in Nigeria newspaper cartooning. However, despite their impact in the study area, they are not known in scholarly works. Hence this study which purposively selected five works each from the two cartoonists with a view to looking at their cartoons impact on Nigeria socio-cultural and political issues, without jettisoning Government reaction on the embedded information's carried in their cartoons. In achieving this, descriptive, formal and expressive content was adopted to appraise the purposively selected cartoons of the artists.

**Keywords:** Pre-Colonia, Political, Cartoon, Newspaper and Socio-Cultural

### 1. Introduction

The word 'cartoon' was first used when an exhibition was held for a competition devised by Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, to prepare designs for Frescoes for the new House of Parliament. The entries were naughty and ridiculous in subject matter. John Leech drew a series of imitations from *The Punch* newspaper in Britain; satirizing social and political abuses of the day (Popoola, 1983: 5). The word, cartoon, initially had different meanings. A cartoon was formerly defined as a rough sketch of a painting not yet executed, often produced in charcoal. It served as the painter's first draft that changed the pages of the British humor

magazine *The Punch*. In 1843, *The Punch* began running satirical drawings with caption, bringing to mind modern political cartoons. John Leech, the premier cartoonist, jokingly titled the pieces 'cartoons' to satirically lay claim to a higher sense of art. Since then, the name has come to stay. However, rather than satirically elevating Leech's magazine work, the word came down to his level, leading all subsequent art of its type to be called cartoons (Word Central, n.d).

Cartoons are also made up of drawings and copy writings; they could be a multi-produced set of illustrations in burlesque or satirical simulation. Such cartoons would be with or without copies or captions. However, cartoon drawing is also caricature or funny in outlook; images are hilarious in appearance, and are sometimes drawn to resemblance of persons, events, occasions, and happenings. The inspiration for cartoon is not limited to issues of the moment alone; it incarnates humour, satire, parody, lampoon, mockery, and criticizes the misdeeds of political and religious stalwarts; run socio-economic commentaries calculated to achieve socio-political fairness (Wehmeie, 2004: 217).

Duyile (1987: 12) maintains that cartoon is humorous, amusing or satirical which often deals with something of interest in the news. A cartoonist uses various icons which are symbol representing objects within a bordered object called a panel, or frame (Duyile, 1987: 12). Cartoons also utilize specific visual elements in order to replicate human communication. Sound (dialogue, self-talk, music, etc.) is created using words and symbols.





**Plate 1:** Some Basic Symbols and their meanings.  
© Eleonu Chimene, 1995.

On the other hand, according to Everett (1974: 664-665), defining cartoons is tricky because there is not one widely accepted definition. Therefore, he proffers a definition based on an amalgam of current literature discussions in the field. He states:

... generally, cartoons are single or multi-framed images that convey a message both with words and symbols. Both comics and cartoons use symbols, but comics have a sequential nature to them that utilize more panels to tell their story thereby allowing for more depth to the story". Cartoons, on the other hand, invoke two conceptions: their presentation (all information presented in either a single or just a few panels, versus presentation in multiple panels) and their production (animated programmes are also called cartoons; however, comics are mainly relegated to print). In this, cartoon can be far simpler in their presentation; they amplify what they want the reader to recognize and understand.

Historically in Nigeria, caricature, as a form of art, had been in existence for a very long time before the advent of the colonial masters, contrary to the belief that this form of satirization in Nigeria is a colonial innovation (Hosterman, 2002). It would be pertinent to note that the functional concept of cartoons has been embedded in some Nigerian traditional societies, which were used to satirize and correct the ills of the society. Satire in traditional societies found expressions in verbal and visual elements which include abusive and mocking songs during traditional festivals such as *Ogene Ukwata* satire, *Oke Ibadan*, *Gelede*, *Efe*, *Bolojo*, etc. and sculptural mocking images on helmets and facial masks worn by the masked dancers during *Egungun* festivals of the Yoruba and the *Kwash-hir* theatre of the Tiv which consider the use of ridicule as a means of enforcing conformity with acceptable standards of behaviour in traditional cultures.

During the *Ukwata* Festival of the Emu people (an Ukwuani clan situated West of the Niger Delta area), youths of the community are usually seen dressed in funny ways heightened by the use of make-up and assorted costumes as a means of imitating someone

or a group that they are satirizing during the *Ogene Ukeata* Day activities by paying special calls to the homes of culprits who they ridicule with their songs, mimicry, make-up, costumes, and dance.

According to Adejinle, (1987: 10) the *Egungun* is a form of ancestral worship in Yoruba land; it is used as a form of satire ridiculing wrongdoers in the society. Another form of satirization is the *Efe* ceremony, which is often celebrated during the annual *Gelede* festival; a period when special sacrifices are offered to appease the goddess, *Iya Nla*, to protect the society from any impending dangers. The actual ceremony commences with the *Efe* entertaining the elderly women in the society. In the course of this, the *Efe* mocks and criticizes the traditional rulers/government, and condemns notorious miscreants and criminals in the society such as exploiters, deviants, and murderers. These satires are usually expressed verbally by the *Efe* masquerade. This is in contrast to the *Gelede/Egungun* masquerades who communicate satire visually through different traditional motifs portrayed on the mask (Adejinle, 1987: 11).

Modern cartoon in Nigeria started about seven decades ago (around 1954), but they were not documented. In the contemporary times, cartoons have become very prominent in most Nigerian newspapers. They have now become regular features because of their attributes to readers, publishers, governments, and members of the public in general (Nwanne, 1989: 14). Cartoon strip or comic strip usually tells a story and often appears in periodical publications, whereas an illustration simply illuminates a scene or point accompanying an extended text in a publication (Olaniyan, 2002:5).

The contributions of cartoon to the socio-political life of people are enormous. It has created great impact on Nigerians by educating, correcting, informing, sensitizing, amusing, entertaining, healing, condemning ills, and changing the needs or aspiration of the people since Nigeria's independence (Duyile, 1987: 16). Be that as it may,



the laudable roles of cartoon in any society are highly manifest in the socio-political and economic ills (Onwuchekwa, 1986). It helps the public to recall or re-sharpen views on current events, traditions, beliefs, and socio-economic or political trends. It is, therefore, important in reforming positively the attitudes of the society. It helps to reform lives, and sometimes to change the needs or aspirations of man for the better. Cartoons function as a key indicator of democratic health (Hammett, 2010: 2). They are a barometer of press freedom, government tolerance of freedom of speech and critical thought, and of resistance to dominant power relations. Cartoons are often able to expose a certain kind of essential truth which can encourage readers/viewers to see things from new angles. The suggestive nature of the genre also allows cartoonists to be more forthright in their criticism than would be acceptable in journalistic writing. It has also been one of the most powerful weapons used to lampoon political dictators. This simply implies that political cartoons are more potent than the atomic bomb. No totalitarian government can afford to be ridiculed (DeSousa and Medhurst, 1982: 202). Also, more life as well as fun has been injected into the newspapers for the readers. Economically, the introduction of daily cartoons in some newspapers has increased their sales because some readers buy them purposely to read and collect good cartoons. Some cartoon fanatics go to the extent of making cartoon albums from their cartoon

collection for self-amusement and entertaining their visitors (Popoola, 1983: 31).

The growth of editorial cartoon in Nigeria was due more to the efforts of the individual editors than to any editorial policy. Adekanmbi (1997: 4) observes that the press as at the early 70s had not fully appreciated the enormous power of the cartoon. He states:

Until the eighties, what obtained in the area of cartooning was due more to the efforts of individual editors than to any editorial policy. And the growth of the cartoon genre in Nigeria is indebted more to those individuals than either our colleges or schools of journalism, neither of which has provision for the training of the cartoonist.

The exploits of Akinola Lasekan with his editorial cartoons in *The West African Pilot* in the 1940s and 1950s reflected colonial life and also depicted the struggle for nationhood which later culminated in Nigeria's independence in 1960 (Adekanmbi, 1997: 8). Lasekan was the daily cartoonist of *The West African Pilot* from 1948 to 1961; he was appointed the acting Head of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. This headship was taken from him in 1962 and thereafter, he remained in the department as an instructor (Ogumor 2008: 160-161)



Plate 2: Akinola Lasekan, *Kwame Nkrumah*.  
© Deji Adebolajo, 1995.

The cartoon in Plate 2 reflects the state of nationhood in Ghana; one of the poor African states depicted by Akinola Lasekan in the struggle for nationhood from Kwame Nkrumah's perspective, that later led to their independence in late 1950s.

Most of Lasekan's cartoons push the need for freedom and political emancipation. These were part of nationalists' tool of political resistance of colonialism. The period saw 'LASH' as a political cartoon genius. Most of his well-known cartoons came from *The West African Pilot* published in Nigeria. However, this is an art form that strongly influences the newspapers' readers in running through cartoons to acquire information. It is limited in textual contents, relatively small size and coupled with simple drawings or images. Indeed, many lovers of cartoons

patronize newspapers because cartoons were incorporated to produce a desired result thus influencing the reader's interest (Adeyemi, 2019: 9).

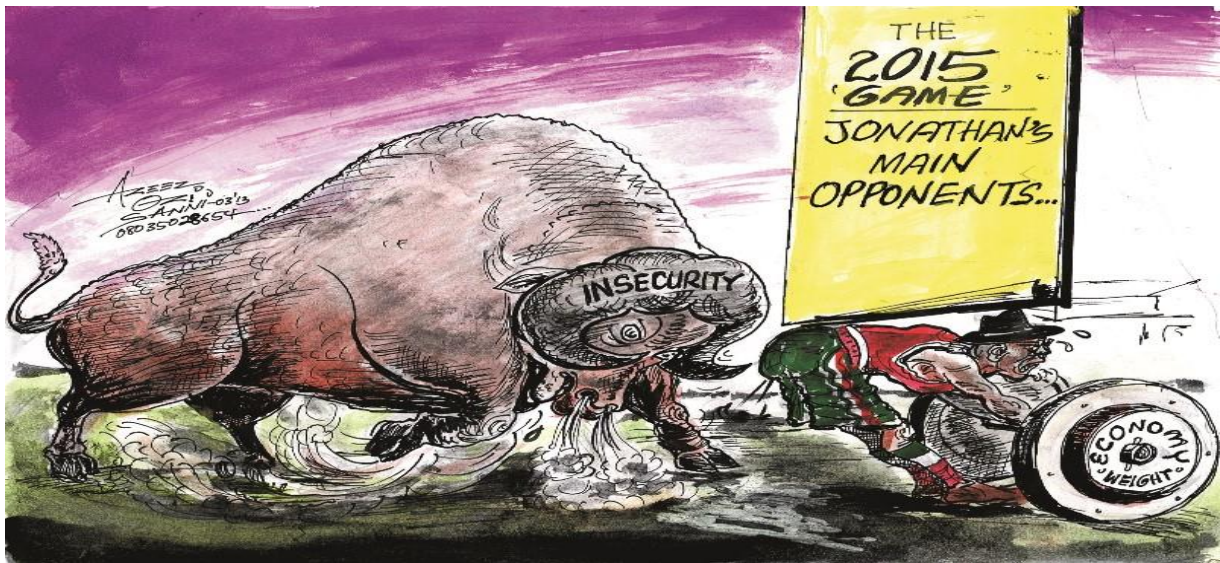
Eko (2007: 30) states "Political cartoons often provide, within and beyond the African continent, visible manifestations of resistance to the abuses and excesses of power by governments and other elites."

There are numerous notable Nigerian cartoonists today: Josy Adenuga, Denise Ajayi-Williams, Olu Ajayi, Wale Adenuga among others; but Azeez Ozi Sanni and Segun Awosiyen, mentioned in the preceding are considered in this research work. The duo are preferred because, examining their visual representations critically, they have same focus and thoughts toward the society especially in the area of politics and economic stagnation. Summarily, the artists, work as full-time cartoonists with various newspapers and magazines publishing companies established in the country.

## 2. The Political Cartoons of Azeez Ozi Sanni

Azeez Sanni was trained as a graphic artist/lithographer by the Nigerian Army. Azeez Sanni's career as a cartoonist is as follows: he started as a graphic artist and cartoonist with the Nigeria Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Mechanized Division Press Publishers of *Tiger Magazine*, in 1989; he moved on to Sketch Press Ltd, Ibadan as both graphic artist and cartoonist in 1992; then to *The Monitor* newspaper, Ibadan as a cartoonist in 2003; *Comet* newspaper, Lagos as editorial cartoonist and illustrator in 2005, and finally to *The Nation* newspaper, Lagos as both cartoonist and illustrator till date.

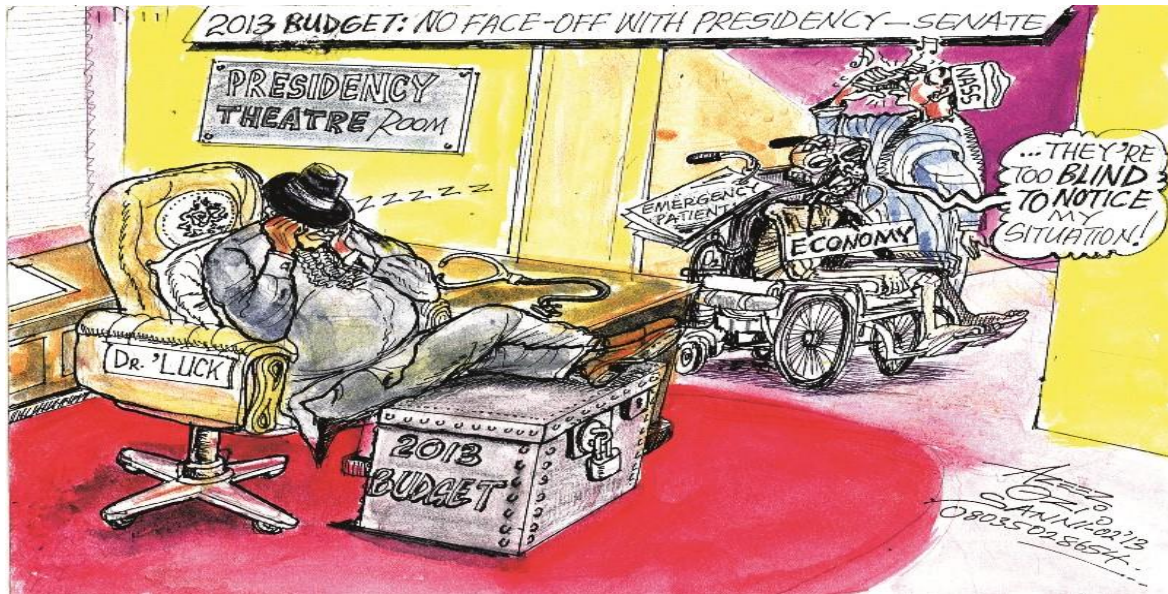
As at today, Azeez Ozi Sanni had over 25 years' experience as a cartoonist, and he has several works to his credit such as book cover designs and illustrations of *The Juries*, *Prudence of Corruption*, *Compendium of Laws Relating to Economics and Financial Crimes*, *The Spider Web of the Law*, Itoha by Ogundipe, *Executive Immunity* by Barr. A. Muhammed among others. Azeez uses ball pens and water colours as his media (mixed media). His choice of techniques and styles include caricaturing, comical style, shading, colouring, and symbolism. His works primarily have themes focusing on government or politics and current affairs.



**Plate 3:** Azeez Ozi Sanni, *Insecurity*.  
© *The Nation*, March 27, 2013.

The above Plate 3 is Azeez's social political cartoon on "Insecurity". The cartoon (Plate 3) portrays the main problem of Nigeria as a nation which was insecurity which are started since 2015 during the former government of President Goodluck Jonathan; and this propelled his political opponents. The said problem was tied round the economy of the nation as a weight while the former President Goodluck Jonathan was the weightlifter. The issue of insecurity is portrayed by a bull or buffalo while the weightlifter is practicing in to solve the danger facing country's economy as the head. This cartoon calls for caution, as well as charging the leaders in various cadre to wake-up and rise to their responsibilities. Here the cartoon expects Mr. President to proffers solution to the problems facing the nation economy.





**Plate 4:** Azeez Ozi Sanni, *Budget*.  
 © *The Nation*, March 4, 2013.

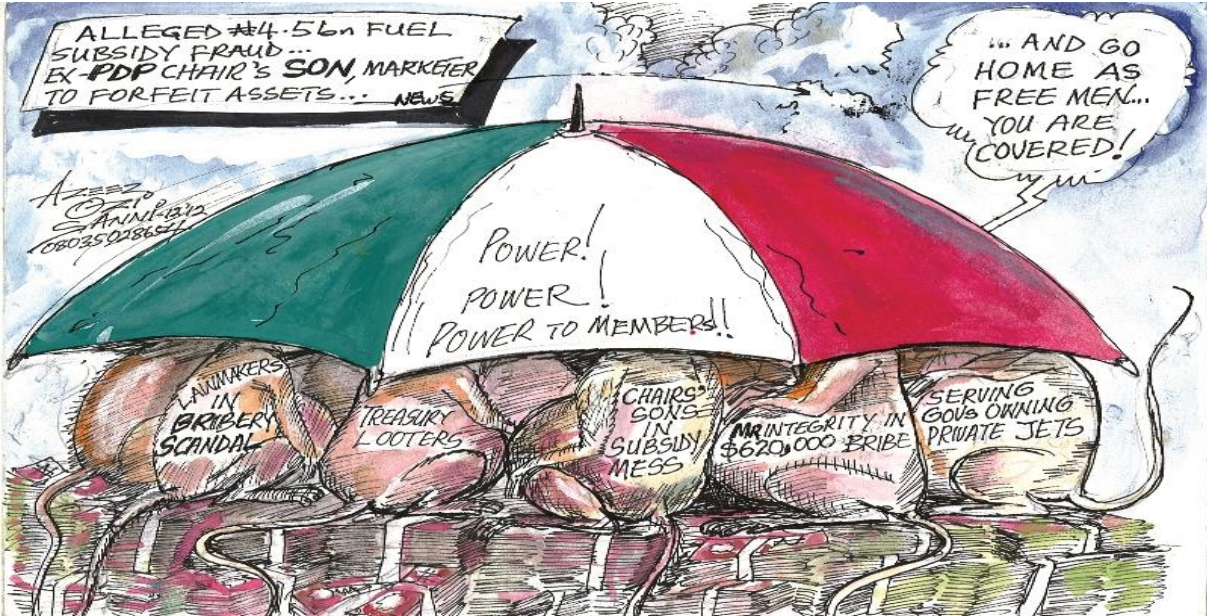
The cartoon Plate 4 above by Azeez Ozi Sanni portrays a swift passage of 2013 Budget at the Senate, without looking thoroughly at the economy position of the country (Nigeria) whether it was in line or not with the budget presented by the President. The nation economy is sick and need urgent attention. The cartoon tags the economy as an emergency patient. Those to treat him were blind, not seeing that the economy was sick. The pot-belly man designates former President Goodluck Jonathan doing nothing only to snore in order to salvage the economy. This shows that the former president does not feel concern for Nigeria economy.



**Plate 5:** Azeez Ozi Sanni, *Dividends of Democracy*.  
 © *The Nation*, March 6, 2013.

“Dividends of Democracy” (Plate 5) is Azeez’s political cum economic cartoon. The cartoon portrays problems associated with the Presidency, leaving economy issues unresolved, and thereby, the dividends of democracy not reaching the people. The cartoon tags the economy as an emergency patient and those to take care of it were blind, not seeing that the economy was sick. The cries of all various newspapers felt on the president deaf ear. He clamoured that ‘all the major obstacles had been cleared! ...what’s next?’ The former president sat down in the air - conditioner office doing nothing to the economy that is dwindling on daily basis without remedy.





**Plate 6:** A cartoon of political shield - People Democratic Party (PDP).  
 © The Nation, February 20, 2013.

“People Democratic Party” (Plate 6) is one of Azeez’s political cum economic main cartoon. The cartoon above portrays alleged #4.5bn fuel subsidy fraud traceable to ex- PDP chairs’, son, marketers, who were to forfeit their assets. They are shielded and covered by the mantra of the party: “Power! Power! Power to members!”. The looters subsequently go home as free men. Instead of Power! Power! Power to the People, what obtains in their own case is Power! Power! Power to the members! The looting is of various magnitudes, ranging from lawmaker in bribery scandal, treasury looters, subsidizing mess, integrity of member and serving Governor owning private jets. All these were free meal to PDP members then, with PDP umbrella symbol covering them all.



**Plate 7:** Azeez Ozi Sanni, Abuse of Power.  
 © The Nation, March 25, 2013.

Plate 7 above is another Azeez’s political main cartoon. The cartoon portrays abuse of power to pardon anyone by the Presidency. The president covers up through the policy of operating high tolerance level for corruption. President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (GEJ) claims that his hands are clean. But his shadow hand shows “High Tolerance level for corruption” which means that he cover-up those corrupt officer under the pretext of high tolerance. For this Aid for Nigeria through Bill-Gates was void by Roger ahead an abort-mission.



Assessment of Visual Elements: Creatively, a good number of the cartoons of Azeez Ozi have vibrant colours, these are clearly depicted through warm colours (Plate 3, 4 & 6); thereby making the cartoons to be catchy. Also, the colours are adequately blended to give the forms, the intended meanings. Heavy use of black, especially for backgrounds, coupled with uneven use of space (asymmetric balance) are evident. In the same vein, a reflection of creativity brought about an image being manipulated with black colour especially for the silhouette effect. Azeez is a watercolourist, an expert who uses ballpen with watercolour as his media.

The deliberate use of animals is a conspicuous feature of Azeez's cartoons. The characters, whether humans or animals are also projected, in some design concepts through exaggeration/ distortion of forms while texts are used either sparingly or copiously to complement the visual forms. The human caricatures are creatively produced to be suggestive of its target and not with direct visual implications; yet, the intended meanings/ messages are cleverly articulated. It can thus be summed up that the visual presentations, logically, showcase the skills of the cartoonist which are more of "fluid" i.e. the cartoonist is not rigid but flexible in his approach to cartoon design. The dynamic approach aided a sort of variance in the artistic styles with the use of space, forms and colours among other visual attributes.

### 3. The Political Cartoons of Segun Awosiyan

Segun Awosiyan was born on 12th April, 1968 to the family of Chief Michael Johnson Oluwafayo and Mrs Segilola Awosiyan, in Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. His father had three wives while his mother was the second wife among them. He is the fifteenth child out of sixteen children of his father. Segun attended St. Stephen's Primary School, Ile-Ife, Osun State between 1974 and 1979. After his primary school education, he proceeded to Seventh Day Adventist Grammar School, Ile-Ife, Osun State

between 1980 and 1984 for his secondary school education. He later proceeded to The Polytechnic, Ibadan for National Diploma, in 1989, to study Fine Arts, and he graduated in 1990. For Higher National Diploma, Segun specialized in painting at Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria, between 1994 and 1996. He wrote his dissertation on cartoon as his final year project at Yaba College of Technology, and this made him discover his talent in cartoon illustration; the experience which later became useful as a youth corps member (NYSC) which he observed at an Imo state newspaper tagged, "Statesman".

Segun Awosiyan started out as an illustrator and cartoonist for *Heart Magazine* in 1996, and also as a contributor to *Vanguard* media before his employment as a senior editorial cartoonist in July, 1999. He participated in an exhibition tagged "Recountre internationale de dessin De Press" during International Press Cartoon meeting in France in 2002. In the field of cartooning, the following are his role models: Wale Ogunyomi, Josy Ajiboye, Obe Seinde, Adenle Adewale, and Emulemu while in Art generally, he sees Abiodun Olakun of Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos as his role model. Mr. Coker and Biodun Olaku are some of the lecturers at the Yaba College of Technology who did a lot to encourage him professional wise, because they always thought of him as painter with prospect.

Segun's philosophy of life is that "If you are not fruitful, you may not be his friend." That is, he who goes to equity must come with empty hand. Segun had staged several exhibitions; he is a registered member of the Cartoonist Association of Nigeria (CARTAN) since 2002, and he remains an active member of the Association up till date. The need to contribute his quota to reshape the country is what made him to temporarily abandon a lucrative and colourful career as a professional painter to being a cartoonist. He said someday, he would go back to painting. He is fulfilling his heart's desire and having fun with his cartoon strips.



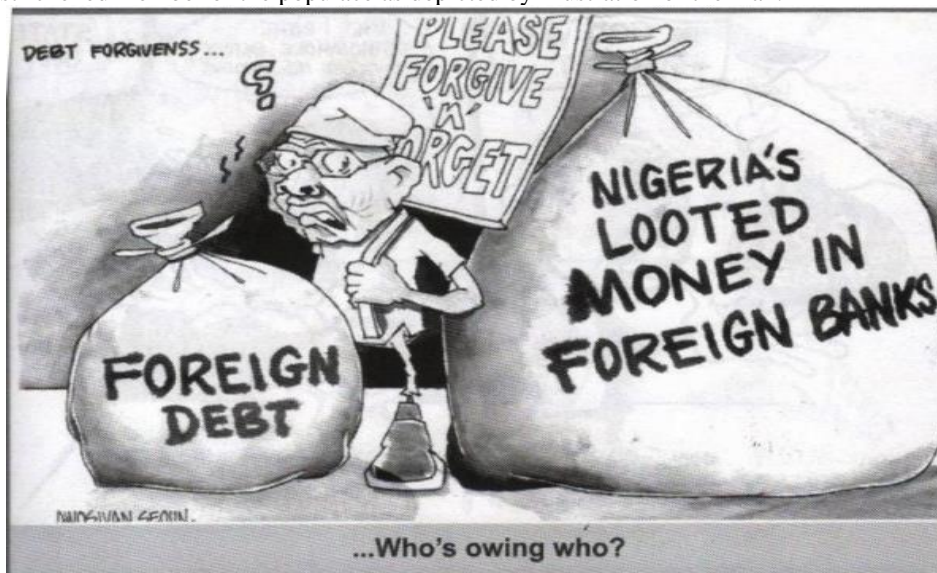
**Plate 8:** Segun Awosiyan, *June 12 Annulment*.  
© The *Vanguard*, December 8, 2000.

Segun's political cartoon portrays a tablet labeled as June 12 with a chain holding a military man to it (Plate 8). The military is seen holding a tattered umbrella over his head to protect him from the torrent of rain falling. There are inscriptions pasted on the halls behind him. One of the inscriptions reads: Structural Adjustment Statecraft, while the second reads: Democratization Statecraft. The military man is seen holding a paper that reads 'Annulment'. A white ghost is seen emanating from a lamp on the June 12 stand. The cartoon also portrays June 12, 1993 Annulment of the general elections which voted Chief M.K.O. Abiola by Gen. Ibrahim Babagida the then military Head of State. This implies that the Head of State employed Structural Adjustment Statecraft and Democratization Statecraft policies in the annulment process, to silence the populace who might revolt against the annulment. Despite this measurement taken, there were lot of chaos and crises within the nation in 1993 then.



**Plate 9:** Segun Awosiyan, *Dividend of Democracy*.  
© *The Vanguard*, November 21, 2003.

Segun Awosiyan cartoon titled "Dividend of Democracy?" (Plate 9). The cartoon portrays a stand labeled 'Naira' with an empty plate and spoon in it. A poverty-stricken man standing before the stand with tattered or severely patched pant is seen emptying his pocket definitely in search of money. Nothing is seen coming from the empty pockets. The empty plate on the table labeled naira shows that nothing is coming from the so-called money table. It also shows there's no food for the man, he has no means of getting food inside the plate because he has no money. However, the man could unsuccessfully handle the spoon placed inside a plate on the stand. Thus, indicating that the dividend of democracy gets to few selected nobles of the society excluding the poverty stricken member of the populace as depicted by illustration of the man.

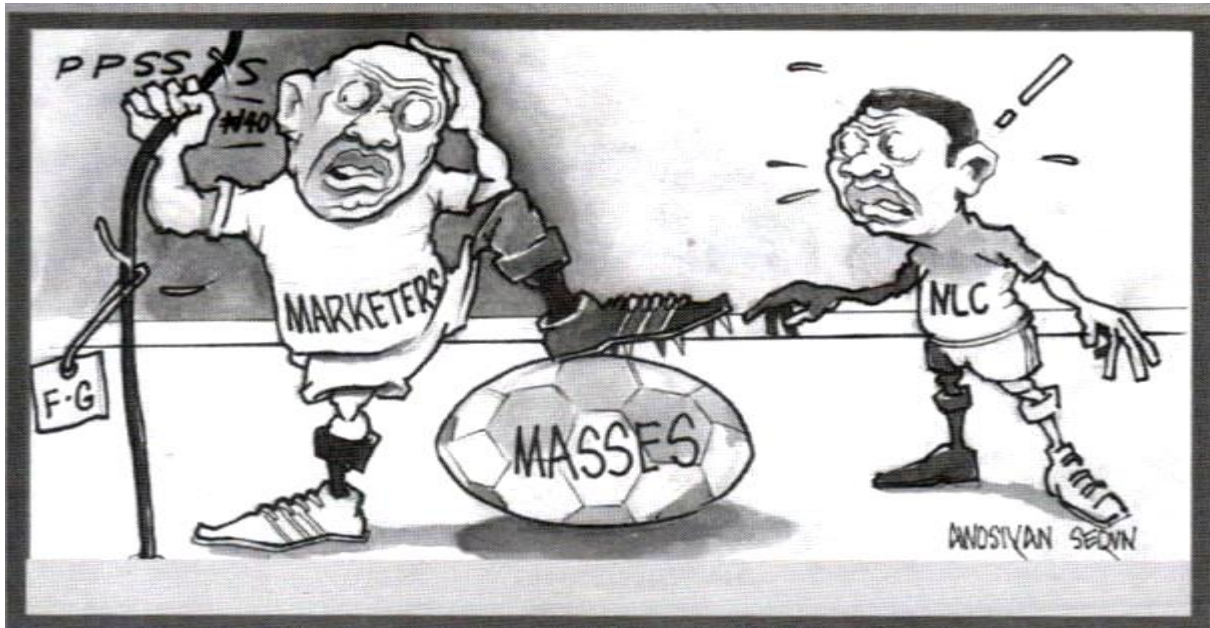


**Plate 10:** Segun Awosiyan, *Debt Forgiveness*.  
© *The Vanguard*, June 25, 2005.

The political cartoon Plate 10 above shows a man depicting the past president of the Nigeria with a placard standing between sacks of different sizes. The placard reads 'please forgive 'n' forget'. He is seen facing a sack labeled 'Foreign Debt' yet eyeing a bigger sack behind him labeled 'Nigeria's Looted Money in Foreign Banks'. The man seems confused with the question tag on his head. The caption beneath the cartoon reads '...who's owing who?' The cartoon also portrays the Federal Government of Nigeria under President Obasanjo then, who travelled

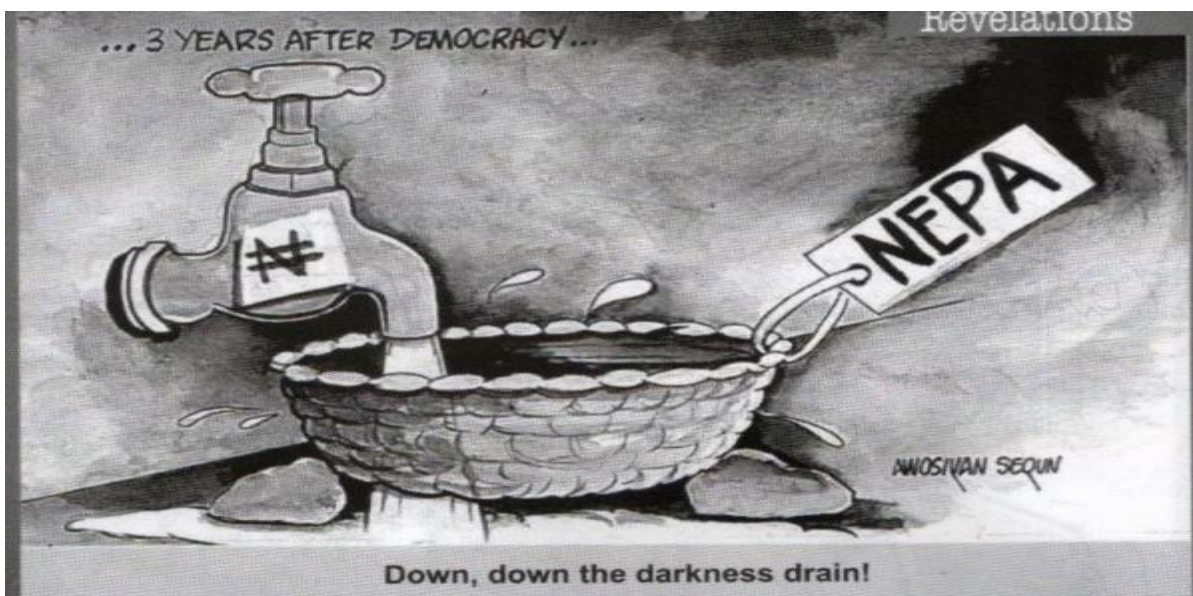


far and wide to foreign countries asking for forgiveness of Nigeria's debts. However, there are foreign debts owed by all tiers of government, and looted money from Nigeria were deposited in foreign banks.



**Plate 11:** Segun Awosiyan, *Marketers Versus NLC*  
 © *The Vanguard*, October 19, 2003

This is Segun Awosiyan's economic main cartoon "Marketers Versus NLC" that portrays two footballers of different sizes. The bigger one labeled 'Marketers' and has football spikes of different features. One with flat football boot and the other with long spikes (Plate 11). The leg with the spike boot is placed on the masses signified by the round football. The other man representing the NLC who is afraid of the hard spike shoe has flat football shoes and doesn't seem to be ready to compete with the other man. The big man is seen holding a pole labeled F.G. The pole is bent by the big man and seems to be listening to something coming from the pole. It portrays Petroleum Products Marketers is listening to the federal government at expense of Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the masses could not play along with the marketers on the field very well.



**Plate 12:** Segun Awosiyan, *Down the Darkness Drain!*  
 © *The Vanguard*, August 23, 2003.

Segun Awosiyan's economic cartoon (Plate 12) tagged "Down the Darkness Drain!". The cartoon portrays a water tap and a basket on stones. The basket is tagged 'NEPA' while the water tap is labeled 'NAIRA'. Water is shown to be running down into the basket from the tap, the resultant is the direct leak of water going in from the tap into the basket on the floor. The interpretation is that the Federal Government of Nigeria which pumps billions of naira and hard currencies into NEPA, the electricity company of the country, for good three years without any success. It was power failure across the country. The power sector has failed, and the country is plunged into darkness. This indicated all funds pumped to NEPA were misappropriated, squandered and looted as reflected in the tap water dropping into the basket which is drained away without retaining a single drop. This signifies a very big failure that is, huge spending on NEPA without a success till date. All the money poured into making the national electric power authority work out goes into oblivion. The caption underneath the cartoon sums up the message of the artwork.

Assessment of Visual Elements: Awosiyan's cartoon are caricature in nature to mimic subjects, the style used is a semi-naturalistic form. By virtue of aesthetic and relevance, His cartoons are the selling point for Vanguard newspaper. This is evident because his cartoons inform and create awareness about happenings in the society. This is something that the public are interested in, hence leads to more patronage of this print media – 'the Vanguard'. Awosiyan's creativity has no boundary because he gives new ideas to the situations he presents. His cartoons are wittingly meant for targeted audience which gives strong and needed information to the readers. This revered cartoonist is skilled in the use of ball pen for creating cartoons. Concurrently, he is also a professional with poster colours, bringing a sort of aesthetics for visual appeal to his informative cartoons in both 2D and 3D. The coloured cartoons are in different series of Vanguard newspapers while there is a compendium of his cartoons (strictly in black and white). The collection was duly accessed for this study.

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the origin of cartoon in Nigeria began with the exploits of Akinola Lasekan (1916 - 1972) with his editorial cartoons in the *West African Pilot* in the 1940s and 1950s. His cartoons reflect colonial life, and depict the struggle for nationhood which later culminated in Nigeria's independence in 1960. He was also detained in prison for two years for one his political cartoon made during colonial era. Cartoons continued to evolve with the emergence of more newspapers in Nigeria. The study identified two Nigerian cartoonists: Segun Awosiyan (b. 1968)

who is well-known for his semi-naturalistic, ball-pen cartoons and Azeez Ozi Sanni (b. 1962), a watercolourist who uses ball-pen and watercolour as his media;

This study reveals the significance of cartooning in the society. Political cartoons are indispensable features of editorial pages; they influence public opinion and serve as a rhetorical object in lampooning the excesses of the political class in Nigeria. Cartoons comprise textual elements and visual imageries that are significant in stimulating the interest of readers both in descriptive and analytical communication.

The cartoonists under study employ different visual elements drawn from several allusions in disseminating information to their readers. These allusions are found to be effective in the editorial news discourse due to their persuasive nature. Most importantly, the cartoonist as a satirist should manage to display a thorough knowledge of the history that has led to current crises without resigning himself or herself to complete hatred.

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## Amartya Sen's Conception of Social Justice and Ethnic Crises in Contemporary Nigeria

RUFUS GODSWILL NWAGBARA

Backcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria

SULAIMAN O. OPAFOLA,

VICTOR O. ADEFARASIN

Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria

**Abstract.** Since the creation of the country called Nigeria, there has been debates on the issue of peaceful coexistence among the different ethnic groups in Nigeria. The nation has faced a series of ethnic, political, and economic crises, this has divided the ethnic lines bringing about disparities among the people. These disparities have raised rivalries due to the unequal distribution of the nation's resources. There are tensions arising from marginalisation of one ethnic group, at the expense of other ethnic groups, especially, minority ethnic groups. The marginalisation and dominance of a particular ethnic group in governance and leadership is daunting and challenging, and this has generated misunderstanding and mistrust among the people. As a result of this, the problem of ethnic relations is also affected due to a large number of ethnic groups in Nigeria. This brought ill feelings, hatred, injustice, imbalance, and intolerance among the people. In this regard, this paper adopts Sen's *Idea of Justice* to end ethnic crises in contemporary Nigeria. This paper adopted analytical method and used the tool of critical analysis. This is to analyse ethnic crises and political instability in contemporary Nigeria. The ethnic crises is more compelling when viewed against the many occasions of injustice and unfair treatment suffered by the majority of marginalised, disadvantaged, and vulnerable minority ethnic groups in Nigerian society. This will pave the way for getting a clear understanding of why crises occurred in the country, gain some certainty of the facts, and establish the reasons and effects between those facts so that one can understand the relationships between variables which will help in getting solutions to the problems of ethnic crises in Nigeria. Findings revealed that Ethnic crises is one of the challenges facing the stability of Nigeria as a nation. It is on this premise that this research is based. Amartya Sen's *Idea of Justice* will end the ethnic crises by adhering to it. Through Amartya Sen's *Niti* and *Nyaya*, human

reason can differentiate between justice and injustice through the realization process. *Niti* according to Sen is an idea of a just world, it is a procedural sense of justice and the instrument of codification. *Nyaya* is a comprehensive vision or design of realized justice. It represents the realistic and holistic sense of justice and focuses attention on the detailed result. The main task of *Nyaya* is preventing *matsanyaya* i.e. big fish-eating small fish which is an injustice. The study concluded that Ethnic crises have led to economic loss and rivalries between various ethnic groups. Contemporary Nigeria can end ethnic crises by adopting Amartya Sen's *Niti* and *Nyaya*, and it is possible through Public Reasoning to end injustice among various Ethnic groups in contemporary Nigeria. The study therefore revealed that through Public Reasoning, it will eradicate ethnic crises and promote equality, unity, and peace.

**Keywords:** Ethnic crises, marginalization, ethnic group, Amartya Sen.

### 1. Introduction

The Nigerian nation has faced a series of ethnic, political, and economic crises. As a result of this, the nation has been divided along ethnic lines which brought disparities among the people. These disparities have raised rivalries due to the unequal distribution of the nation's resources. Also, there are tensions arising from marginalisation of one ethnic group at the expense of other ethnic groups, especially minority ethnic groups.

The marginalisation and dominance of a particular ethnic group in governance and leadership are daunting and challenging. And this has generated misunderstanding and mistrust among the people. As a result of this, the problem of ethnic relations is also affected due to a large number of ethnic groups

in Nigeria. This brought ill-feelings, hatred, injustice, imbalance, and intolerance among the people. It is in this regard that this paper adopts Sen's *Idea of Justice* to curb the challenges of ethnic crises in contemporary Nigeria.

#### Causes of Ethnic Crises in Nigeria

Several scholars have suggested that competition for scarce resources is a major factor in ethnic crises in Nigeria. In a country with diverse ethnic groups like Nigeria, there are competition for the scarce resources of the nation. As observed by Lake and Rothschild, (1996) ethnic crisis is a sign of a weak state or a state embroiled in ancient loyalties. (Lakes, 1996). In this case, states act with a bias to favor a particular ethnic group, and behaviors such as preferential treatment, tribalism, and nepotism fuel ethnic crises. It can be attributed to many factors, and they come in different dimensions. (Lakes, 1996) As observed by David and Popoola, some of the factors are:- colonial legacy, boundary disputes, struggle for power and resources, struggle for citing of local government headquarters or government institutions, failure of the traditional model to solve crisis, poverty, perceived lack of sincerity and fair play on the part of government, manipulation of the elites in the society, ethnic intolerance, and religious intolerance (Ojo, 2014). Otite (2000), and it has affected the peace and stability of the country. The nation has faced a series of ethnic, political, and economic crises, this has divided the ethnic lines bringing about disparities among the people. These disparities have raised rivalries due to the unequal distribution of the nation's resources. There are tensions arising from marginalisation of one ethnic group at the expense of other ethnic groups, especially minority ethnic groups. The marginalisation and dominance of a particular ethnic group in governance and leadership is daunting and challenging. And this has generated misunderstanding and mistrust among the people. As a result of this, the problem of ethnic relations is also affected due to a large number of ethnic groups in Nigeria.

The history of ethnic crisis in Nigeria can be traced back to the colonial and post-colonial periods. Ojo (2014) posited that the colonial tripartite division of Nigeria prevented a Nigerian nationalistic movement, manipulating geographical boundaries to reinforce separation between ethnic groups and transforming ethnicity into an identity by which to gain political power. This structure along with other administrative decisions emphasized ethnic nationalism and regional politics, resulting from significant uneven development within each region.

According to Ebegbulem (2011), the colonial division of Nigeria that reinforced ethnic groups, the rise of ethno-political consciousness, and the

development of ethnic/regional political parties demonstrated that the British administration intentionally prevented the rise and success of Nigerian nationalism, instead promoting ethnic nationalism as a means to gain political power. It is believed that Lord Frederick Lugard's 1914-18 constitutional exercises, which resulted in the amalgamation of the separate protectorates of Southern Nigeria and Cameroon with the protectorate of Northern Nigeria, were carried out without any explicit consent from Nigerians. The Federal Government introduces "Federal Character" to curb this menace called ethnic crises. This is to eradicate injustice and inequality among the various ethnic groups in the country.

#### 2. Ethnic Crises and Federal Character

Ethnic crises have been one of the major problems that may destabilize the system. The federal government came up with a policy that can handle ethnic crises known as Federal Character. The term 'Federal Character' was coined by the Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) which drafted the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The term gained wide currency and usage after it was embodied in the constitution. It is enshrined in section 14(3) of the 1979 Constitution thus: "The composition of the government of the federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity and to command national loyalty thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or a few ethnic or sectional groups, in that government or any of its agencies". Section 14(4) of the said constitution also stipulates that: "The composition of the government of a state, a local government council or any of the agencies of such government or council or such agencies shall be carried out in such manner as to recognize the diversity of the people within its area of authority and the need to promote a sense of belonging and loyalty among all the peoples of the federation.

These constitutional provisions were respectively repeated verbatim in sections 5(3) and 15(4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The CDC adopted the principle of federal character in recognition of the heterogeneous nature of Nigerian society. The Committee decided to entrench the formula in the constitution to check these cleavages, ensure orderly progress of the country and promote national unity, foster national loyalty, and give every citizen of Nigeria a sense of belonging to the nation.

The idea of the federal character principle is however not new. It had operated informally during

the pre-independence era when the nationalists agitated for participation in the administration of colonial Nigeria especially after Nigeria became a formal federation in 1954. During this period, the federal character principle was mainly concerned with legislative representation and equalization of inter-regional opportunities in education and appointments at the new federal level. But in this present formalized and institutionalized form, as entrenched in the 1979 and 1989 constitutions, the federal character policy is practised in virtually every sphere of federal, state, and local government operations. The Federal Character Commission was set up to ensure the smooth application and operation of the policy to engender a sense of belonging in all Nigerians and strengthen the nation's unity and stability.

This Commission is empowered to work out an equitable formula for the distribution of cadres of the post, to monitor, promote, and enforce compliance with the principle of proportional sharing of posts at all levels of government, and to take measures to prosecute heads of government ministries, bodies or agencies who fail to comply with the formula. The principle of federal character emphasizes the need for ethnic balancing as a necessity in the evolution of Nigerian citizenship and for ensuring less acrimonious relationships among the various peoples of Nigeria. The federal character principle is aimed at creating a sense of belonging and participation by the diverse ethnic and political groups in the governance of Nigeria. The federal character policy satisfies the quest for representatives and proportionality in the allocation of resources and the making of appointments among various interest groups. In the application of the formula as noted by Bodunrin (1989:307) "choices are often made based on criterion other than merit". For instance, the quota system as applied in education leads to the lowering of standards against national interest. In the army, it leads to the production of sub-grade soldiers and officers. In the civil and public services of the federation, standards and professionalism are compromised and endangered. By avoiding meritocracy without recourse to standards, the quota system becomes morally reprehensible and an act of injustice.

It was noted by Ohonbamu (1968:130) and Kirk-Greene (1971:186) that if only the merit criterion is used for appointments, most jobs would naturally be taken over by the most enterprising and/or educationally advanced ethnic group. To ensure that the other ethnic groups do not feel deprived or cheated, the policy of federal character should be used to give all ethnic groups a sense of belonging. Be that as it may, in the civil and public services of the nation, it has been noted that as a result of the undue application of quota and lack of regard for

merit in the application of federal character policy, standards and professionalism are being compromised and endangered and it has also created some measure of tension and frustration among some ethnic groups, particularly the minority groups, whose career expectations are adversely affected by the need to reflect the federal character and who see the measure as a ploy to deprive them of jobs for the benefit of the majority group. All these make the service an arena of sectional struggles and competition and it makes people lose confidence in the impartiality of the government and the neutrality of the service as an instrument of state policy (Ayam, 1987:91-102). It is seen that ethnicity sacrifices merit, efficiency, and effectiveness in resource management on the altar of mediocrity. It encourages inter-ethnic bickering, hatred, and non-tolerance and abhors even development and as a result of this, ethnic crises continue strive lead to injustice.

### 3. Amartya Sen's Understanding of Justice

**Amartya Sen** was born on November 3, 1933, in India. He was awarded the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his contributions to welfare economics and social choice theory and for his interest in the problems of society's poorest members. He uses evaluative and comparative methods of justice. In his book *The Idea of Justice*, which he dedicated to John Rawls, Sen attempts to construct a general theory of comparative justice, as well as adding to his previous work on capabilities. To achieve this, Sen first distinguishes two currents of thought, which are related to the idea of social justice.

According to Sen, although the issue of social justice has been discussed for ages, the social and economic transformations that emerged with the European Enlightenment in the 18th and 19th centuries caused the political climate to change in Europe and America, and the concept was strongly supported by the changing political climate. Thus, the line of thought on justice among the main philosophers has been divided into two different directions and two different approaches.

The first of these approaches is the justice approach, which was initiated by the works of Thomas Hobbes in the 17th century and followed by important thinkers with different styles such as Rousseau, Locke, Kant, and Rawls. This approach is the 'social contract' theory, which focuses on social justice mechanisms and is dominant in today's political philosophy. Sen also calls this approach the transcendental institutionalism approach. Another approach to justice is the influence of different institutions advocated by Smith, Condorcet, Wollstonecraft, Bentham, Mill, and Marx.

It is the comparative theory of justice, which argues that justice can be possible by comparing different lifestyles under it (Sen, 2009:6-7). According to Sen, in the transcendental institutionalism approach, rather than comparing justice and injustice in actual societies, it is aimed to define the nature of the just and it is tried to diagnose what perfect justice is without focusing directly on actual societies. Sen evaluates this feature of this approach, which focuses on the fair organization of institutions rather than people and actual societies, as a contractual mode of thinking and states that a hypothetical social contract situation is assumed in this thinking mode.

The obvious relevance of this social contract is to offer an ideal alternative to chaos/confusion. Emphasizing that the transcendental institutionalism approach is arrangement-focused, Sen states that “the results of this approach lead to the development of theories of justice that focus on the transcendent identity of ideal institutions” (Sen, 2009:6). Pointing out that the other approach to justice, the comparative justice approach, is realization-focused, Sen points out that comparative theorists try to correct it by clearly showing the injustice in the world and that social realization (actual institutions, behaviors and other effects on human life) states that they focus on the results). “These theorists, instead of limiting their studies to the transcendent investigation of a perfectly just society, have conducted studies involving the comparison of existing or probable societies, and have directed all their attention to the abolition of injustice in the world” (Sen, 2009:7).

In making a crucial difference between the arrangement-focused approach to justice and the realization-focused approach to justice, the realization-oriented approach, that is, the comparative justice approach, focuses its attention on the actual behavior of people rather than the obedience of ideal behavior. While the regulation-oriented approach (transcendental institutionalism approach) asks 'How is a competent just institution', the realization-oriented approach asks the question 'How can justice be developed'. The realization-oriented approach focuses not only on institutions and rules but also on the actual realization of justice in societies, that is, it focuses attention on comparison/comparison instead of following a transcendent route (Sen, 2009:7-9).

Sen argues that the dominant view regarding justice in today's political philosophy is the view of transcendental institutionalism and shows John Rawls as the representative of this view in our time. Sen states that it is possible to clearly see the principles of justice in Rawls's *Theory of Justice*, in which the norms of right behavior in the moral and political context are illuminating, and our

relationship with perfectly just institutions is fully defined/determined.

Regarding justice, Sen states that he sees two problems in the transcendental institutionalism approach, which includes Rawls. First, even under strict conditions of open-minded scrutiny and impartiality (for example, in the original position Rawls described) there can be an unreasonable agreement on the nature of a just society. According to Sen, this is an agreed-upon transcendent solution and it is a question of feasibility of the conclusion reached. Another of these problems involves the actual selection demands for a comparative framework of justice in the application of practical reason and the selection of the improbably improbable perfect situation from among possible alternatives. According to Sen, this is “the redundancy problem of research in terms of a transcendent solution” (Sen, 2009:9). In Rawls' theory of justice, a hypothetical state of equality (the original position) is assumed to exist at the outset, and it is assumed that people who do not know themselves (under the veil of ignorance) will unanimously choose one thing in choosing the two principles of justice. However, Rawls fails to show why different alternative views on justice were not chosen. Here, Sen, in his approach to justice, tries to show that Rawls' description of these principles of justice is a mistake.

According to Sen, other alternative approaches can easily dismiss Rawls's argument, which he formulated to draw attention to objectivity because it is not a useful and credible argument. For this reason, Sen states that the fulcrum of Rawls' theory of justice is blocked. Sen's interest is focused on how to reduce injustice even though we have different perspectives on an ideal system with a rational consensus. In this context, Sen sees “the diversity of systems and lifestyles not as an error or mistake, but as things that signify human freedom” (Sen, 2009:12). Sen argues that it is impossible to reach a perfect consensus on what a just world is. Justice can have multiple competing causes, all claiming to be impartial. Because Sen (2009:16) argues that “there is more than one value and criterion system to think about justice”. Sen (2009:54), states that the concept of truth is the basic concept of Rawls' theory of justice, "The principles of justice in Rawls' formulation determine the basic social institutions that regulate society." The need for accuracy arises when negotiating within an imaginary original situation to determine the principles of justice in impartiality. “Justice as truth has been central to political thought from the very beginning as a right” (Sen, 2009:55).

The structural purpose of righteousness practice includes identifying appropriate principles that

determine the unanimous selection of just institutions needed for the basic structure of a society. In Rawls, accuracy and impartiality are combined for the selection of appropriate principles of justice. Sen compares Rawls to Kant at this point. According to Sen, "Those who defend a universal law, as Kant did, accept that the characteristics such as not being emotional and being objective are shared by most people" (Sen, 2009:57). At this point, Sen talks about the multiplicity of competing objective principles and tries to explain this with the example of three children with a flute (Sen, 2009:16): There is a flute, and there are three children named Anne, Bob, and Carla. One of these three children will have the flute. Anne says she deserves this flute only because she knows how to play the flute; Bob wants that flute given to him because he has no toys; Carla claims to have produced the flute herself.

The individual in the society controls the rightness or wrongness of his moral action, just as if he were another person (impartial audience), and his action is shaped accordingly. The individual and the neutral audience is like two different selves and may not always be consistent with each other. The impartial spectator is a second self-established in one's imagination, not one's character. However, it precedes one's character and controls and shapes the other to a certain extent. In other words, for Smith, emotions and reason play a role together in shaping our actions or in the formation of character (Metin, 2010:68-69). Sen refers to the concept of an impartial audience, which Smith put forward as a means of achieving objectivity in public debate. Sen sees Smith's principle of the neutral audience as a more useful and uncomplicated application than the veil of ignorance in Rawls' original position. According to Sen, the impartial audience guides a perspective that takes into account deficiencies and incompleteness, does not need a fully competent, just world, but considers a reasonable and credible understanding of justice sufficient. Guided by such a perspective, Sen argues, we must rely on our capacity to determine justice, keeping it out of our interests and orientations.

#### 4. Sen's Public Reasoning and Ethnic Crises

Through Amartya Sen's *Niti* and *Nyaya*, human reason can differentiate between justice and injustice through the realization process. *Niti* according to Sen is an idea of a just world, it is a procedural sense of justice and the instrument of codification. *Nyaya* is a comprehensive vision or design of realised justice. It represents the realistic and holistic sense of justice and focuses attention on the detailed result. The main task of *Nyaya* is preventing *matsanyaya* i.e. big fish-eating small fish which is an injustice'. Ethnic crises have led to economic loss and rivalries

between various ethnic groups. Contemporary Nigeria can end ethnic crises by adopting Amartya Sen's *Niti* and *Nyaya*, and it is possible through Public Reasoning to end injustice among various Ethnic groups in contemporary Nigeria. The study therefore revealed that through Public Reasoning, it will eradicate ethnic crises and promote equality, unity, and peace.

Public Reasoning is a decision-making based on participatory discussions and deliberations. Since human beings have an innate desire to eliminate injustice where possible, institutions are not that important. Ideal institutions are not required to inculcate a sense of fairness or persuade people to act fairly or to very strictly police to prevent transgressive behaviour. Since people have an innate desire to eliminate remediable injustice, it follows that open discussion and rational argument can enable people of different ideologies or belief or value systems such that people can agree upon comparative evaluations regarding justice without having to agree about all their values and beliefs. With this mutual understanding, ethnicity can be relegated to the background putting an end to injustice and building oneness, stability and peace and the various ethnic groups in Nigeria'

#### 5. Conclusion

Ethnic crises have led to economic loss and rivalries among various ethnic groups that is majority and minority groups. The review of the "federal character" strategy led to a further division of the country into a greater number of states and local government units to reflect ethnic recognition and representation more adequately. It also involved an agreement on proportional representation of parties that was assumed to reflect the ethno-regional interest in the executive cabinet, and on the rotation of the highest offices of state among ethnic regions. This assumption was to give a lasting solution to ethnic inequality and crisis but these innovations seemed to have been compromised.

The philosophical and historical analysis of crises in Nigeria indicate that there has been a succession of political instability and mutable constitutional strategies for solving ethnic diversity. Presently in Nigeria, there is rivalry among the ethnic groups over issues, such as power and resource sharing formula. Successive governments have tried to find a lasting solution for inequality, marginalization, and ethnic crises, all to no avail. Contemporary Nigeria can put an end to ethnic crises by adopting Amartya Sen's principles of *Niti* and *Nyaya*. This will eradicate ethnic differences and promote equality, unity, and peace.

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## **An Overview of Factors affecting Women Performance in Some Primary Health Care Delivery in Jere Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria**

IBRAHIM MOHAMMED, AMINA RAMAT SAIDU,  
SADIQ ADEIZA SHEHU  
University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This study is on Primary Health Care Services, and factors Affecting PHC Service Utilization of the Health Facilities. It revolves around Factors Utilization of Primary Health Care Services. The study was carried out in Jere local government Area of Borno state. Having in focus some selected clinics which includes Yerwa Clinic Primary health care situated in Shehuri Ward, and Fatima Ali Sheriff Primary Health care in Maisandari ward were selected for the purpose of this study. Both primary and secondary data were analyzed in respect of this study. Oral Interviews were conducted and questionnaire distributed to elicit information in regard to women contribution in primary health care while textbooks, internet materials were used as part of secondary source of data. The major findings reveal that women played a very significant role in enhancing health service delivery within Jere local government Area of Borno State.

**Keywords:** Women, Participation and Health Care Delivery.

### **1. Introduction**

The primary health care (PHC) system is the first point of contact between the individual and the health system services, and it is the bedrock of national health care system. Nigeria adopted PHC as the grassroots of her National healthcare system and a priority for national development in 1986 and decades after, the PHC lacks the capacity to achieve its objectives. Primary health care (PHC) accelerates timely intervention during and after pregnancy and childbirth, a level for qualitative healthcare, which is easily accessible and affordable to the rural masses. Maternal and child health status have become important indicators for socio-economic development as well as health of the people of a country (Azuh, 2017).

The fundamental aim of primary health care (PHC) is to ensure universal access to available resources in order to provide adequate coverage of the most important health needs of the people. In the last 40 years, primary health care has evolved and developed globally. In Nigeria, primary health care implementation started in 1992 with the commencement of the programme in the local government areas (LGAs). Nigeria therefore became one of the first countries in the developing economies to have systematically decentralized the delivery of the basic health care services through local government administration.

The implementation of primary health care is still passing through diverse challenges (Alenoghena, et al 2014). Most of the Primary Health Care facilities in the country lack the capacity to provide essential and adequate health-care services to the members of their host communities. Such poor and insufficient services are the consequences of phenomena such as poor staffing, inadequate equipment, poor health workers distribution, inadequacy in the numerical strength of available qualified health services personnel, together with dilapidated condition of infrastructure, and lack of the availability of essential drugs (Aregbesola and Khan 2017). More concerned observations in Udentia & Udentia (2018) portray the practice of primary health care services in the country as being in a state of abysmal performance and inadequacies. Most primary health care (PHC) facilities located in various states in the country are in severe condition of disrepair with equipment and infrastructure being either absent or obsolete as the referral system is almost extinct (Udentia & Udentia, 2018).

Primary Health Care (PHC) is a grass-root management approach with the general aims and focuses towards providing health care services to communities. The concept of the operation of Primary Health Care was first published in 1978.

Hence, various countries have attained different levels of progress in implementing the strategy (Aigiemolen et al, 2014). Starting from its independence in 1960, there was little or absence of strong focus on health systems development in Nigeria (Aregbesola and Khan 2017). However, policy makers and political office holders of the time made efforts to establish and expand health-care infrastructures with much emphasis being placed on curative medicine rather than preventive medicine (Fatusi 2015). From 1975 to 1980, health system development was initiated with PHC as the cornerstone. In another view Oluwasogo and Sebutu (2020) posit that the inception of primary healthcare in Nigeria began with the advent of Basic Health Services, a concept which was introduced to be an integral part of the nation's third development plan in 1975. This innovation led to the establishment of 20 health clinics and 4 Primary Health Care (PHC) Centers which were spread across the local government regions. Furthermore, the launching of Nigeria's first comprehensive national health policy based on PHC took place in 1988. From 1986 to 1990, the then minister of health, Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti expanded PHC to all local governments, achieved universal child immunization of over 80%, and devolved responsibility for PHC to local government areas (Aregbesola and Khan 2017). He worked committed between 1985 and 1992 to ensure the implementation of PHC policy.

The World Health Organization WHO (2014) defined health of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Maternal health care services (MHCS) are essentially promoted and preventive and provide avenues for the early detection of mothers at high risk of illness and mortality during pregnancy, labour and postnatal periods (Olugbenga-Bello, Abodunrin and Adeomi, 2011; WHO and UNICEF, 2010). Majority of women who utilize maternal health care services are not ill, and as pregnancy is a frequently and uneventful physiological process, it is logical to imagine that, given the slightest constraints, maternal health services would be underused. Women's experiences relating to continuity of care are mixed. In 2010, 92 per cent of women reported having a named midwife they could contact during pregnancy. However, 22 percent stated that they had been left alone, during or shortly after birth, at a time when it worried them. In 2013, 78 percent of maternity units reported that they provided one-to-one care for at least 90 per cent of women (National Audit Office Borno, 2013).

## 2. Review of Literature

According to World Health Organization (1978), primary health care is essential health care based on

practical scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that the community and country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination. It covers a wide range of health services, which includes diagnosis and treatment, health education, counseling, disease prevention and screening usually provided in a community by general practitioners, practice nurses, pharmacists or other health professionals working within a health facility. Service utilization refers to the extent to which people are making use of whatever services are already available in the community or at their organization. Therefore, health care service utilization is the extent to which people make use of the health care services available to them in their community (Hampton & Nagy, 2016). The extent to which these health services are utilized in developing countries is still very low resulting in many different negative consequences.

The emphasis by development planners and initiators to always involve people in development initiatives or systems that can bring the desired result of sustainable development is paramount, as scholarly literature seeks to understand reasons behind low/passive women performance especially in Health communication development. Over the last couple of decades, development communication and health communication have witnessed an unprecedented change in the trail of events. Women have been confronted with the challenges of improving their lives and welfare of their entire being, together with the trends of globalization and development. Research findings by scholars (Anifowose, 2004, Enejere, 1991, Bamidele, 2004 and Enemu, 1999) have all strongly advocated the necessity of active participation of women in health development and discourse, as this can help in addressing the challenges of low women participation in development as a whole. Women: is an adult female human. Prior to adulthood, a female human Performance: is defined as the action or process of carrying out or accomplishing an action. Task, or function. Primary Health Care: is the first level of contract for individuals, the family, and the community to provide health promotion, preventive, curative and rehabilitation services accordingly.

## 3. Women Development in Primary Healthcare Policies in Nigeria

Women's participation in health administration is a sine-qua-non for sustainable development of health communication in Nigeria, and an opportunity to develop their individual capacities (Anifowose, 1999). Ideally, active participation of

women in primary health care involves the decision that has to do with their lives. Women's participation in health administration involves activities such as involvement in drafting communicating strategies, being active from the stage of conception until the evaluation stage. However, the pursuit of this essential principle in development, according to Khan (2004), shows that women are generally left behind. Most times the women are seen, but not heard in health issues. In the hierarchy of development strides, they are at the lower 39 ladder as a circumstance of either cultural or patriarchal system associated with participation. They are seldom involved in national programmes, and even when they do, it is at the peripheral level. (Anifowose, 2004). The assumption that development planners make about women in society is almost never stated. This is obviously a challenge which no government can afford to ignore, more importantly, it has become increasingly clear that development or progress in people's welfare cannot be achieved where the needs and contribution of half of the world's population (women) are continually downgraded, marginalized or completely ignored (Bamidele: 2000) However, a cursory look at the pattern of women's involvement in health administration in Nigeria reveals abysmal low levels.

In spite of the entire quest for their participation, the objectives and benefits, Nigerian women still suffer a lot of constraints which militate against their personal and national development. The passive role assigned to women in development especially in developing countries, and Nigeria has been so entrenched that the growing concern with the plight of women has not been able to easily dislodge it. According to Ojobo (2001), Women are less informed about issues of development and less able to be exposed to health administration and less likely to be concerned with participation in development intervention because of the way they are being regarded in the whole process. Various policies and interventions in primary health seems to prepare the necessary measures to ensuring that women are adequately taken care of, especially as primary health have much concern for women and children. The area that concerns governments, NGOs and international donor agencies such as W.H.O. and UNPF is in the child and maternal health. For instance, statistics of June 2011 states that maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births for Nigeria in 2010 was 840. This is compared with 608.3 in 2008 and 473.4 in 1990. To address this alarming situation, several bodies, international and local have fashioned out strategies and policies to reduce child mortality and improve maternal death.

In Nigeria, policy making in health is considered as serious business because the goal of Primary Health Care (PHC) was to provide accessible health for all

by the year 2000 and beyond. Unfortunately, this is yet to be achieved in Nigeria and seems to be unrealistic in the next decade. According to Abdurraheem (2012), the following issues tends to inundate or shroud the achievements of these policies owing largely to the following reasons namely lack of political will/attitude to public policy implementation, poor implementation design, conception and discipline, poor program leadership and management, lack of resources, corruption, sectionalism and ethnic biases, egocentrism and duality/multiplicity of public policies, cultural and religious factors, selective and non-implementation budgets and misplaced priority are the paradoxes of public policy implementation, which has continued to militate against public policy success in the country.

In all these factors, scholars, female activist and feminists are worried and are assertive that women who are predominantly the major beneficiaries of primary health care are not given adequate opportunity to contribute in what really concerns them at the level of policy making. This has however generated debates which is basically premised on the platform that governments marginalization of women in playing key and active role in politics, health, education etc has resulted in less representation in policy making especially in the areas of health is appalling. However, what seems to be overtly conspicuous in terms of participatory gap is the fact women are often not squarely involved in the policy planning as well as implementation and general framework. A lot of arguments have ensued in the direction that women's roles are not limited to domestic responsibilities and the fact that women play significant roles in nation building and ought to be given opportunities to contribute meaningfully in nation building processes such as policy formulation. The argument in favor of women is centered on the assumption that the prevalence of unequal power relation resulting in disproportionate distribution of rights and privileges to women has been a great issue of concern leading to different interventions by individuals and women's groups to eradicate such concepts. This is against the background that women have in no small measure advance the course of this country especially struggles to correct acts of discrimination and violence which have been in existence since the 19th century.

Formation of women's movements has led to several interventions by women in social and political landscape which has further helped to improve their status at the grassroots, national and regional levels. Worthy of mention is the ideology of Feminism in Nigeria which emerged out of the demands of women to improve women's status and eliminate debilitating factors that deprive women of enjoying

their full human rights. According to Adamu (2006) women in Nigeria have faced a wide spectrum of experiences in navigating through several hindrances that have confronted them.

The culture of patriarchy, male chauvinism and anarchy has undermined the rights of women and the outcome of this is the exploitation and marginalization of women in the affairs of development both at the private and public spheres. Recently, however, more women in most countries and particularly in Nigeria are beginning to get involved and participate in development intervention, but as Anifowose (1999) rightly pointed out, their participation is still at the peripheral level. Women are being manipulated in development process. A process he described as detrimental to health development in Nigeria. This study aligns with the need to involve women in primary healthcare communication but very importantly, it looks beyond just involving women in the process of primary health communication, but active participation with diverse women groups across communities, because only by forging interactions among diverse groups with divergent views can genuine participation and development processes be forged.

#### 4. Role of women Approach in Primary Health Care

The reaction against modernization, and to some extent the realization of global structural imbalances, gave rise to various participatory approaches. They share the common intent of actively involving people who were the subjects of development in shaping the process, but in most cases, this is where similarity ends and a diversity of differences begin. People's participation became defined in many different ways, and in turn led to numerous unresolved disagreements. According to White (1999), authentic participation of grassroots people may still be more of an ideal than a reality. Individuals and agencies actively engaged in development are conscientiously struggling to move beyond theorization to achieving this ideal. Based on White's observation and inquiry, there seems to be an ever-increasing overt recognition of the need to involve oppressed and disadvantaged people in the flow of decision making and action required for decision development. But it is not as though that recognition will facilitate participation of the people and make it happen. It would not be appropriate for a development professional to talk about participation as being pretty simple. But to "walk the talk" with a commitment to make communication happen is not easy. White (1994) points out different types of participation that can be found during projects which may include either development

projects or health interventions projects; these include:

**Passive performance:** People participate by being told what is going to happen or has already happened. It is a unilateral announcement by an administration or a project management without listening to people's responses. This has been the usual approach of bringing development to the people. It is assumed they know what the people want. (White, 1994)

**Participation by Consultation:** People participate by being consulted, and external agents listen to views. These external agents define both problems and solutions, and may modify these in the light of people's responses. Such consultative process does not concede any share in decision making, and professionals are under no obligation to take on board people's views. (White, 1996).

**Participation for Material Benefit:** People participate by providing resources such as labour, in return for food, cash or other material incentives. Much on farm research falls in this category, as farmers provide the fields but are not involved in experimentation or the process of learning. It is very common to refer to this as participation yet; people have no stake in prolonging activities when incentives end.

**Interactive Participation:** People participate in joint analysis, which leads to action and the formation of new local institutions or the strengthening of existing ones. It tends to involve interdisciplinary methodologies that seek multiple objectives and make use of systematic and structural processes. These groups take control/ownership over local decisions and so people have a stake in maintaining structures or practices. (White, 1996)

**Self-Mobilization:** People participate by taking initiative independent of external institutions to change systems. Such self-initiated mobilization and collective action may or may not challenge existing inequitable distribution of wealth and power.

**Functional Participation:** People participate by forming groups to meet predetermined objectives related to the project which can involve the development or promotion of external initiated social organization. Such involvement tends not to be at early stages of project cycles or planning, but rather after major decisions have already been made. These institutions tend to be dependent on external initiators and facilitators, but may become self-dependent.

**Participation in Information Giving:** The information being shared belongs to the external professionals. People participate by answering questions posed by extractive research using questionnaires, surveys of such similar approaches. People do not have the opportunity to influence proceedings, as the findings of the research are neither shared nor checked for accuracy. White's

(1994), offers some insights into different interests at stake in various forms of participation as a way of working out how people make use of participation, it can be useful tool to identify conflicting ideas about why or how participation is being used at any particular stage in a process. Types of participation such as these can be read as implicitly suggesting a progression towards a more “genuine” type of participation. When these types of participation are contextualized, however, they become more ambiguous. Participation through information giving for example might limit more active engagement, although it could be argued that transparency over certain kinds of information opens up the possibility of collective action in monitoring the consistency of rhetoric with practice. But keeping a flow of information going is in itself important. What people are participating in, conditions how their participation might be evaluated. Delegated power over choosing the kind of Primary health care structure in the name of “patient involvement”- in the absence of any involvement in decisions on what the Primary Health Care does, may count for little in genuine participation. Different purposes, equally demand different types of engagement by different kinds of participants.

A process that sought only the engagement of small group of articulate elite community members is different to one in which community members delegate power to such group to engage with the authorities to receive information and be consulted on key issues.

## 5. Methodology

The data for this study was obtained from both primary and secondary sources. The primary source was the questionnaire that was distributed to the respondents and interview conducted. While the secondary data were the journals, text books and internet materials consulted and analyzed.

The data obtained through the method discussed above was quantitatively presented and significance of data to see whether deviations of the actual observation (observed frequency) from the expected outcome are significant so that it may lead to the acceptance or rejection of the null hypothesis.

It is evidently clear that the process if research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participants setting data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretation of the meaning of the data (Cresswell) Qualitative research is exploratory and researchers use it to explore a topic when the variables and theory base are unknown. For example, Morse

(1991) on ideological perspectives (Lather,1991), to philosophical stances (schwandt, 2000)

## 6. Discussion of Findings

The result of this study shows that some of respondent are of the view that first ante-natal check-up be done in the first 3 months, this is in line of the study of James, (2008), antenatal care should begin before pregnancy when a couple is considering having a child, and it should continue throughout pregnancy. The goals include providing the best care for the pregnant woman and the unborn child, as well as preparing the mother-to-be for the delivery of a healthy baby.

James, (2008) noted that during antenatal visits tests are performed on both the mother and fetus to assess any potential risks, to treat any maternal or fetal complications, and to monitor the growth and development of the fetus. In addition, counseling and guidance are provided regarding the various aspects of pregnancy, including weight gain, exercise, nutrition and overall health.

Antenatal care is crucial to maternal and infant health. Women who receive early and continuous antenatal health care have better pregnancy outcomes than women who do not; a pregnant woman who receives no antenatal care is three times as likely to give birth to a low-birth-weight infant (one that weighs less than 5.5 pounds or 2500 grams as one who receives the appropriate care, and she is four times as likely to have her baby die in infancy (James, 2008).

According to White (1999), authentic participation of grassroots people may still be more of an ideal than a reality. Individuals and agencies actively engaged in development are conscientiously struggling to move beyond theorization to achieving this ideal. Based on White’s observation and inquiry, there seems to be an ever-increasing overt recognition of the need to involve oppressed and disadvantaged people in the flow of decision making and action required for decision development. But it is not as though that recognition will facilitate participation of the people and make it happen. It would not be appropriate for a development professional to talk about participation as being pretty simple. But to “walk the talk” with a commitment to make communication happen is not easy.

Mairiga (2003). Maternal and child healthcare which aims at ensuring a healthy mother and baby throughout pregnancy and childbirth, involves the screening of patients, the treatment of anaemia, malaria, urinary tract infections and sexually transmitted infections, as well as the identification and management of pregnancy-related

complications such as hypertensive disorders, diabetes, abnormal presentations and providing information about family planning and how and when to access medical care when complications arise. This development was stimulated by the realization that while maternal mortality due to puerperal sepsis, hemorrhage and obstructed labour has decline during the early years of the 20th century if these eclampsia-related deaths are to be averted, as it is supposed, interventions would be needed early during the pregnancy to measure blood pressure, identify women at risk of ecliptic convulsions and take measures to reduce blood pressure whenever possible (WHO, 2003). According to Sumithra, (2006), maternal and child health care services are essentially promotive and preventive. James (2008) noted that prevention measures that reduce maternal an infant mortality and promote the health of all childbearing women and their newborns should start before conception and continue throughout the postpartum period.

Bichi, (2007). The provision of special care for women during pregnancy through the public health services is a relatively late development in modern obstetrics. Not until the late 1930s did the United Kingdom authorities decide that women should be offered regular checkups during pregnancy as an integral part of maternity care. This development was stimulated by the realization that while maternal mortality due to puerperal sepsis, hemorrhage and obstructed labour has decline during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century if these eclampsia-related deaths are to be averted, as it is supposed, interventions would be needed early during the pregnancy to measure blood pressure, identify women at risk of ecliptic convulsions and take measures to reduce blood pressure whenever possible (WHO, 2003).

Webster (2001) conducted a survey to examine satisfaction with health care provided and to compare differences in service use in the first four weeks after birth between depressed and non-depressed women who attended bookings in Royal Women's Hospital. The results indicated that 16% of the women were dissatisfied with the health service providers and this contributed to their not utilizing the services. This suggests that for some women to use health services they must be satisfied with the quality of the services and the service providers as well. Therefore, hospitals should strive to improve on the quality of the services they provide to their clients in order to attract the consumers to utilize the services.

## 7. Summary

Perceptions of Primary Health Care Services, Factors Affecting PHC Service Utilization at the Health Facility, Factors Limiting Utilization of

Primary Health Care Services and Summary of Literature Review, Chapter three of the study deals on the Research design. The study was carried out in Jere local government Area of Borno state. Yerwa Clinic Primary health care situated in Shehuri Ward, and Fatima Ali Sheriff Primary Health care of Maisandari ward were selected for the study. The study population includes a selection of facility staff and users that had used the clinic within a certain period.

## 8. Conclusion

It was concluded that the community participation in Primary healthcare in Maiduguri Metropolis of Borno State are significantly adequate. Utilization of ante-natal services using pregnant woman in attending antenatal service in clinic, the health care personnel are friendly, helpful and considerate. Attitude of women regarding the antenatal care Treatment by health care providers in maternal and child health services are satisfactorily.

## 9. Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of Study:

- There should be regular supervision of the PHC facilities in the rural areas by the LGA health department and the State Ministry of Health to improve and sustain the quality of the services offered.
- Government and other stakeholders in maternal health services should ensure active participation of the community in PHC programmes including the involving them in the management of PHC facilities in their communities.
- Government should put in place specific policies and programmes that will encourage men participation in maternal health care of their wives. Such policies should address the constraints to men's participation maternal health care of their women and ensure reward for men that actively encourage their wives' utilization of maternal health services especially in the rural areas.
- Effective community enlightenment programme should be put in place in the rural areas by both the government and non-governmental organizations to improve the utilization of maternal health services by women.

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## The Living Dead: A Past that Links the Present with the Future

GLORIA FAITH EHIEMUA

University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria

CLIFFORD MEESUA SIBANI

Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

**Abstract.** An age prioritizes rationality and regards belief in invisible entities as imaginary, illogical and irrational. African belief systems however, uphold invisible beings as real and central to the day to day running of human affairs. For this, it is underestimated and neglected in global discussions on human freedom, continuity and survival. This work explores the relationship between modern science, an envisioned new age and indigenous studies by examining concepts of singularity, extension, enhancement and expansion as ideas embodied in the African worldview and myth but enabled through scientific and rational processes to become universal. It argues that the African worldview does not separate, clearly distinct or differentiate between the realms of spiritual and physical therein, it contradicts the notion of the world as fragmented, limited and ending. In this presentation of harmony in nature rests the promise of discoveries that would advance science and humanity. The intersectional critical historical approach adopted demonstrates Africa's relevance to humanity's continuity, survival and growth. It highlights racial discrimination, culture erasure and death of God as overlapping historical facts in the discontinuity and continuity of knowledge production among a people regarded as primitives but with potentials, beneficial to science and humanity

**Keywords:** African studies, Science, Technology, New Age.

### 1. Introduction

John Mbiti aptly described Ancestors as 'the living dead' because African thought portrays them as dead relatives who transit into a place where they are endowed with abilities that make them beings with some attributes of God. These special abilities

enable them to be active in human affairs in such a way that brings about order, harmony and tranquility in society. Biological sciences support the view of the dead as lifeless, motionless and inactive but African belief shows the dead as active members of the society therein, contradicting the view of the dead as immovable and motionless. The African worldview projects a cyclic space and continuous time which creates the impression of the universe as unified, boundless and continuous. This presentation contrasts with the Western-Christian conception of the world as fragmented, limited and ending. The interaction between spiritual and physical in the African worldview and myth creates the impression of a merging at the point where spiritual and physical unites and fuses into a single whole (Levy Bruhl, 1923) and highlights a possibility of correlation between things that are of unlike nature therein, contradicting the notion of, an order in the world that is fixed and unchangeable. The thought that motion could arise from a motionless state when transition (evolution) enables an extension of life by increasing motor-sensory abilities in such a way that expands capability and enables a change in function and form created a task for scientists who must find how to turn motionless into motion, immobility to mobility, inactive to active and static to dynamic. This work questions the place and role of man in the world. It addresses themes of continuity and discontinuity in myths of creation, evolution and man's quest to be godlike. It highlights areas of similarities and differences between indigenous studies, modern science and technology

### The Notion of Limitation and Continuity

From the time of conflict between religion and science, faith and reason, humanists worked continuously towards freedom from human dependence on the transcendent being and the

replacement of the image of the creator and controller of the world with that of human beings as intelligent creatures who can maintain and order the human society in a progressive manner. However, the inability of reason to grasp the inner workings of nature necessitated the use of a new approach to having a comprehensive understanding of nature. R.G. Collingwood (1956) in his work,

*The Idea of History* puts it like this:

Historical thought has an object with peculiarities of its own. The past, consisting of particular events in space and time which are no longer happening, cannot be apprehended by mathematical thinking, because mathematical thinking apprehends objects that have no special location in space and time, and it is just that lack of peculiar spatio-temporal location that makes them knowable. Nor can the past be apprehended by theological thinking, because the object of that kind of thinking is a single infinite object, and historical events are finite and plural. Nor by scientific thinking, because the truths which science discovers are known to be true by being found through observation and experiment exemplified in what we actually perceive, whereas the past has vanished and our ideas about it can never be verified as we verify scientific hypotheses

The need to find a people, close to nature who could give an insight to the workings of nature led to a search for primitive societies. Lagana (2008) highlighted this in a reference to Arthur Lovejoy and George Boas work which described cultural primitivism as the discontent of the civilized with civilization, or with some conspicuous and characteristic feature of it. It is the belief of men living in a relatively highly evolved and complex cultural condition that a life far simpler and less sophisticated in some or in all respect is a more desirable life. Thus, cultural primitivism idealizes the natural life of primitive people....

Hegel in his work, *Philosophy of History* referred to “a widely current fiction that there was an original primeval people, taught immediately by God, endowed with perfect insight and wisdom, possessing a thorough knowledge of all natural laws and spiritual truths...” according to Lagana (2008), the concept of ‘Noble Savage’ emerges from philosophical to political writings about primitivism which claimed that “the human being in his original state is closer to nature’. For Stanley Diamond (1964), “the search for the primitive is, then, as old as civilization. It is the search for the utopian of the past, projected into the future; it is paradise lost and regained, with civilization being the middle term...and this search for the primitive is inseparable from the vision of civilization”. Thomas Nagel (2010) described the disposition to seek a view of the world that can play a certain role in the inner life as religious temper

Africa was discovered in the 14th-15th centuries and designated as a primitive society in which civilization was still in the stage of infancy. Vico, a historian in the early eighteenth century held the view that “savages, at all times and in all places, are savages in mind; by studying modern savages we learn what ancient savages were like, and thus find out how to interpret the savage myths and legends that conceal the facts of remotest ancient history”. Diamond (1964) asserts that, “as the last phrase of the French Revolution reaches Africa, the leadership looks to the spirit of the past of its own people, to those “savage tribes” that caught the fancy of certain *philosophies*, and which they used to exemplify certain truths, as guide and catchword for the future”. He holds the view that “if Old Europe and the New World, which it spawned, are to survive their own hardening civilization, it may be to those “savage tribes” now emerging that we must look...” According to Delane Eugene Clark (1989), “...most historians and political theorists continue to mark the transition to the modern world at the turn of the fifteenth century...the years immediately surrounding 1500 mark the beginning of Western European expansion and the birth of a true global history with the voyages of Columbus, da Gama, and Magelian”.

## 2. The Logos, the Chain of Life and Bridge of Continuity

Richard Dewitt (2018) in his work *Worldviews: An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science* described worldviews as “a system of beliefs that are interconnected in something like the way the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle are interconnected”. He stressed that, “a worldview is not merely a collection of separate, independent, unrelated beliefs, but instead an intertwined, interrelated, interconnected system of beliefs”. Anthropologically, worldviews can be expressed as the fundamental cognitive, affective and evaluative presuppositions a group of people make about the nature of things and which they use to order their lives (Dewitt, 2018). Jamolova Mohigul (2022) described Myth as the set of primitive ideas of the ancient man about the universe and existence. Shreya Chatterji (2015) and Mohigul (2022) agreed that “Myth originates from the word *muthos* which translates as ‘anything uttered by word of mouth...’ Chatterji (2015) notes that Myths have always been associated with oracles and dark arts while logos paved the way for rational disciplines such as mathematics and science...Despite their oppositional nature both mythos and logos have complemented each other. In her opinion, ancient Greek philosophers understood mythos to be a distinct entity from logos. For Pella Calogiannakis (1998) logos constitute a set of expressed norms

which aid someone to acquire art and science (episteme) in depth and in a short period of time.

The term *logos* is largely associated with the word of God, the proclamative and creative ability of God. An impression is given that the ‘word’ played a significant role in the creation of the world in an ancient time noted in the scripture as the Beginning. Ascribing time to a period when the world was yet formed and time in itself had not begun to count, raised concern about when time started to count, and when existence began. Neither science nor the scriptures has a satisfactory answer to the question, what was there before human beings were created? W.M Lockwood (1902) highlighted the insufficiency of explanations on human existence and continuity among notable world religions thus, In all of the gleanings of the orient, from the mythological traditions of Egypt’s former greatness, from the relics of the Vedic Aryan race of India, from the speculative theogony of Persia antedating the time of Zoroaster, from the Puranas of Brahmic theosophy, in all the Bibles known to ancient and modern ecclesiasticism, there is no proof of individual existence beyond the physical dissolution of mortal organism...

However, the African worldview shows no gap with a presentation of cosmos as consisting of a cyclic space and continuous time. This presentation gives the impression of the universe as endless, boundless and eternal. It contrasts with Western conception of time as linear, limited and fragmented. The Christian’s scripture creates the impression of the universe as a three-layer decker which contains heaven above, earth, and hell below. Therein, demarcating the physical and spiritual, material and immaterial into two distinct and separate realms and differentiating them in a way that creates an impression that the spiritual and physical are parallel realms that never meet at any point. For instance, in Luke 16:26, the story of Lazarus and the Richman gives the impression of the spiritual and physical realms as fragmented, separated and opposing. It states, “And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross from there to us”. In African mythology, ancestors are described as dead relatives who transited into a world where they continue existence as beings with increased agility, senses of seeing and knowing. It is believed among Africans that the dead interact with the living and participate in the day to day running of human affairs (Mbiti 1969, Idowu, 1975, Cordeiro-Rodrigues and Ada Agada, 2022). They are upheld as efficient and effective social instruments of justice used in combating crime within families and communities. Being spirit beings, ancestors are believed to see beyond what the ordinary human eyes can see as such, nothing is

hidden from them and they are all-knowing. As deities of justice, ancestors are believed to have a reach that is extensive, expansive and far-fetching. It is claimed that justice gods can detect crime, identify criminals and punish offenders even if the culprits reside in a far-away, isolated or remote part of the world. Their efficiency and effectiveness is tied to the incredible high speed with which a spirit being who is neither restricted nor limited in space, time and distance moves. It is widely accepted in Africa that spirit beings have the ability to appear in different places at almost the same time because they are fast (Eiwo, 2020). According to Levy-Bruhl (1923), the mystical participation between the living and the dead gives the impression that there is no separation between the physical and spiritual. The African worldview shows connectivity, interaction and interdependence between the physical and spiritual. The reflection of a harmony and continuity between things of unlike nature is of interest to scientists and humanists who see the possibility of a correlation between things of unlike nature in the order of things in the world as challenging the assumption that the order of things in the world is fixed and unchangeable. According to Frank vanDun (n.d) in his work, “The Pure Theory of Natural Law” “Physicists, chemists, biologist, astronomers, geologists and practitioners of other natural sciences all look at different order of things, concentrating on different sorts of objects and phenomena, trying to discover and eventually explain patterns of order within their chosen fields.” Einstein’s (1916) theory of general relativity affirms that, “...space and time are not absolute and fixed. They are mixed and wrapped by the presence of matter and energy...”.

### 3. Enlightenment and Empowerment

The need to separate religion from science as different disciplines was well accepted at a period when certain happenings within the theocratic governance of the world created doubts that made people question the infallibility of the scriptures and the existence of God. Religion was held as irrelevant in the scheme of things in a modern society as such, its authority and influence were reduced and it was relegated to the private sphere. Humanists hold the view that religion prioritized submission and obedience which made human beings depend on God as the Creator and Sovereign Lord. In all religions, the possibility of human beings advancing to having the nature of God is limited to a privileged and selected few. In the Christian belief, angels who are directly below God in hierarchy lacked “divine powers”. However, the collective representation of Africans on Ancestors as the living dead holds the promise that all human beings can have the nature of gods and become godlike when life is extended and motor-sensory abilities enhanced in such a way that

expands capability and results in a changed form and function. As the pathway to self-realization and enlightenment relevant in scientific research and independence, human freedom and survival, African worldview and myth enabled a shift in the knowledge of God as a Being who created man as an inferior image of himself and subjugated him through the fear of nature's limitations. The presentation of man as capable of becoming godlike contradicts the law of non-contradiction which states that A cannot be A and A and B at the same time. Godwin Sogolo (1998), described three interrelated fundamental laws in formal logic as

the law of identity, which simply states that a thing is always equal to or identical with itself (A equals A). The second law of formal logic is the law of contradiction, which strictly speaking is a negative formulation of the first law. The law of contradiction states that a thing cannot be unequal to or different from itself (A is not non-A). The third law referred to as the law of the excluded middle combines the first and second. The law of the excluded middle states that if a thing is equal to itself, it cannot be unequal to or different from itself (if A equals A, it cannot equal non-A)

Thus, the limitations which the western conception of life and death projected could be logically structured as

- all human beings are mortals
- all mortals are finite beings
- Man is mortal therefore; man is a finite being

The notion that death is an inevitable end of man is upheld in both religious and biological determinism therein, leaving man devastated and disillusioned. In the face of sorrow, suffering and death, man expresses his helplessness through words like "dust you are, dust you must return and totally submit to the will of Allah. Man's acceptance, submission and resignation to fate is well summed in the words, "the Lord gives and the Lord takes". The African belief systems on the other hand, indicate that:

- death is not the final state of life
- Human existence is unending
- Therefore, life is continuous and human existence endless

Thus, in a state of grief, despair and loss, the belief in an ancestral world where dead relatives continue with the journey of life inspires hope in a seemingly hopeless situation and restores man's peace of mind as he takes solace in the belief that his loved ones are still alive and with him in spirit. However, complacency takes away the power of creativity and invention. Thus, Europeans who were dissatisfied with the limitation of nature on man saw what Africans did not see in their belief systems, as the key to "eternal" and "everlasting life" (human continuity and survival). Hegel noted that "the hope

of emancipation was the spirit of age". The African world view and myth create the impression of the possibility of an environment that:

- increases human productivity and survival through an expansion of time into space (transformational changes)
- increases human productivity and survival through an extension in time space (transitional changes)

#### 4. The Excluded Middle and Hegel's Method of Abstraction and Sublation

Hegel's dialectic method of abstraction and sublation is a bottom-up approach needed in two ways firstly, to enable an uploading of the mind into the brain where ideas abstracted from thought are sublated into rational processes as science which makes it universal. In making thoughts "science" and "universal" Hegel's approach enabled rationality to have a comprehensive understanding of a thought that is inward and difficult to understand by enabling its study, using rational terms, symbols and methods to arrive at a conclusion on truth and proof of authenticity. Then, it enabled Hegel to negate "negations" which could obscure the reception of ideas relevant to the advancement of science and the progress of humanity. There is no gainsaying that in his time, there was a high rate of intolerance for Africans. According to CliffsAP (2006),

...from the seventeenth century well into the twentieth, the idea of African, Indian, and, generally, non-Euro-American inferiority was used to justify their exploitation and second-class status. Despite Enlightenment condemnation of slavery and abuse of Amerindians, and the development of abolitionism, ever more hotly defended theories of African and Indian inferiority were circulated to justify their respective conditions

Emevwon Biakolo (quoting Harris, 1969-89) held the view that "the image of the African as brutish, ignorant, idle, crafty, treacherous, bloody, thievish, mistrustful and superstitious was quite current in Europe and the colonies in the 18th century". In his highlight on ethnocentrism among philosophers such as Hume, Voltaire and Montesquieu, he emphasised Hume's quotation:

...there never was civilized nation of any other complexion than white, nor even any individual eminent in action or speculation, no ingenious manufacturer among them, no arts, no sciences...such a uniform and constant difference could not happen, in so many countries and ages, if nature had not made an original distinction btwixt these breeds of men

Europeans regarded themselves as the superior race and chosen ones. Therefore, they took advantage of

the fact that they were the ones writing and telling the story of Africans to project their own knowledge as superior and set it as the standard for all others. Moreover, Africans' belief in spirit beings agrees to a large extent with medieval belief in the existence of God which was the contested border between rationality and irrationality, conservatives and liberals, science and religion, faith and reason, sophisticated and ancient as such it was held that the African belief system and practice is incommensurate and irreconcilable with western knowledge and practice which was regarded as superior. However, in Hegel's view, ...mistaken conceptions arise because we are inclined to think in a 'one-sided' or oppositional way; we believe that something is either finite or infinite, one or many, free or necessitated, human or divine, autonomous or part of a community...we take things in this way, then reason will find it hard to make sense of things as it will then look at reality in a way that abstracts from the complex interrelation of these 'moments', when in fact to see itself in the world, reason must grasp that there is no genuine dichotomy here. Acting freely is acting in a way that is not constrained or fixed in any way.

Hegel wanted rationality to understand the mistake in regarding freedom and necessity as mutually exclusive. In the sphere of science, an uploading of the mind to the brain enabled reason to question claims of a correlation between things unlike in nature in the African worldview presentation. However, the sublation of thoughts into rational processes to make it science and universal, enabled the use of symbols in comprehending the African worldview that does not differentiate, clearly distinct or separate the spiritual from the physical. It also enabled the use of mechanism as prime mover in the act of imitation and the art of replication. Therefore, abstraction and sublation enabled the death of God in creation:

- erasure of culture when a collective representation is uplifted into rational processes where its product is reckoned as scientific
- the elimination of a race in the global struggle for recognition and power

The use of mechanism in creativity has implications for discussions in theology and philosophy because, it upturned

- i. theists' claim of God as the mover and the first cause
- ii. arguments of God's supremacy over man

### 5. The Spirit in the Machine

Science does not work in vacuum because it relies on other sources for ideas which are verified as true or false using scientific method for accuracy and

reliance. The question, is there a relationship between science, technology and religion is likely to find an answer in the fact that religious and cultural myths supply science with historical ideas of the past which it lacks but it verifies claims of such periods and civilizations using modern arts of technology in imitating, replicating and recalling these ideas into reality. Even though the sciences and humanities are different disciplines, scholars hold the view that a correlation exists between them. Galileo, Newton and a host of other scientists used scientific approach in addressing order in God's creation. The use of known to illustrate the unknown is a common teaching and learning method associated with parables in the Bible, proverbs and myth in cultural narratives as well as scientific hypotheses. As the cradle of humanity and civilization, Africa has a view of the world that science is still exploring and experimenting. W. M Lockwood (1902) asserts: ... we hope to be able to demonstrate that the data of the "co-relation of nature's Forces" comprise and promote not only the processes and formula of the evolution of the visible universe, but its lines of cosmic association extend into realms invisible, where disembodied consciousness is in close relation with mortal plane, and that this fact is susceptible of scientific verification, hence, is a cosmic truth

However, projections of African traditional religion as fetish, evil and ancient make people doubt its compatibility with science and modernization and question its ability to contribute to knowledge in a society and era that is more advanced than its own. The African belief systems further the notion that the mind and intelligence are interwoven into the fabric of our universe in a way that altogether surpasses our comprehension. It also supports the conception of the chemical postulate which holds that "the natural tendency of all elements of nature is to promote the development and evolution of something entirely unlike each factor" (Lockwood, 1902). In the 18th century, Julian De La Matrie (2017) in his book *Man, A Machine*, expressed the view that, "it is not only that all phenomena of life could be accounted for physically, but also that the organization of the physical matter could account for consciousness and intelligence." The conception of a greater-than-human intelligence has its basis in the African belief system that projects deified ancestors as justice gods whose assumed high performance in justice dispensation and execution is associated with a high speed and high intelligence that enables accuracy, effectiveness and efficiency. Intelligence, speed and accuracy play important roles in design and discussions on intelligent machines. The correlation between spiritualized intelligence and physical intelligence could be associated with the concept of Artificial intelligence (AI) which is founded on the belief that "...elements of intelligence have a

physical basis and that it is possible to design and build machines that have real intelligence” (Max More, 1988). David Bell (2015) defined “super-intelligence or artefact as artificial agents that surpass humans in our mental capabilities”. According to Max More (1989), ‘human evolution in recent years has been in the direction of elaborating brains and learning ability’. For instance, cognitive science tries to explain the phenomena of intelligence, such as perception, memory, learning, inference, reasoning, deliberation, deciding, language use, motor control, and so on (Hans Moravec, 1989). It is expected that in the near future, an interfacing between objects of materiality and subjects of immateriality would produce human beings with new forms. Ancestors are invisible, intangible beings regarded as imaginations, abstractions and nothingness as such they are not regarded as facts, true and real. However, ancestors like ideas, dreams and visions residing in the realm of imagination and emotion can become real, concrete and tangible in the age when science would have advanced methods that would enable technology to perfect the art of singularity. The production of new forms of human beings who are super intelligent, fast and accurate through an interfacing of objective and subjective intelligence would make a world of ancestors, a reality

## 6. Singularity and Globalization

David Bell (2015) described Singularity simply as, “the point at which super-intelligence emerges. Ray Kurzweil (2005) on the other hand notes that: The singularity is an era in which intelligence will become increasingly non-biological and trillions of times more powerful than it is today. It heralds the dawning of a new civilisation that will enable people to transcend biological limitations and amplify their creativity. As part of the Nanotechnology glossary, the singularity is the hypothetical future creation of super intelligent machines. Super intelligence is defined as a technologically created cognitive capacity far beyond that possible for humans. In natural sciences, gravitational singularity is a region in spacetime in which tidal gravitational forces become infinite. Initial singularity is the gravitational singularity of infinite density before quantum fluctuations that caused the Big Bang and subsequent inflation...technological singularity is the hypothesis that the invention of artificial super intelligence will trigger run-away technological growth, resulting in unfathomable changes to human civilization

Globalization is an order in society that refers to “the widening, deepening and speeding up of global interconnectedness” (Faulconbridge and Beaverstock, 2009). As such, it is “a process that enables a consideration of how space, place and time

are configured and reconfigured as a result of contemporary changes in technological, economic and political practices”. Sotiris Roussos (2020), describes globalization “as a comprehensive term for the emergence of a global society in which economic, political, environmental, and cultural events in one part of the world quickly come to have significance for people in other parts of the world.” James R. Faulconbridge and Jonathan V. Beaverstock (2009), refer to the process of globalization as “those spatio-temporal processes of change which underpin a transformation in the organization of human affairs by linking together and expanding human activity across regions and continents” In their view, at the heart of economic activity and “spaces of flows” in the contemporary network society lies a spatial interconnectivity

Globalization contains elements of extensity, intensity, velocity and impact that are traceable to Africans’ beliefs in ancestors as invisible but active participants in human activities and the day to day running of society. As spirit beings, they are not hindered by space, restricted or limited by time and distance. As such, they move at a speed faster than light and appear in several places at almost the same time which makes their reach so extensive and expansive that it exceeds borders and boundaries

## 7. Elimination of Race from Global Struggle for Recognition and Power

In recent times, the exponential increase in technological advancement and the immanent approach of a singularity have generated anxiety in the religious world (broadly used) where questions on the relevance and role of religion in a technological age show uncertainty about what lies in the future for religion and culture. Within academics, the compatibility of religions with transhumanism which is proposed to replace religions in the envisioned future has taken central place in discussions and debates on the envisioned future and expected changes that come with it. However, while some scholars draw up connections between religions and transhumanism, core transhumanists like Max More, insist on situating transhumanism in the period of enlightenment, associating it with science and technology while brushing religion aside as some obstruction (Extropy, 1990). Therein leaving an unsettling feeling and uncertainty about the future. The fear of an erasure of culture and death of religion made voices of the clergy and faithful loudest in a calling for ethical consideration and caution in the quest for a singularity. Most times, fear is exacerbated by the absence of a known form that the erasure or elimination may assume. Some are of the opinion that “the development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race” (Bell, 2015).

Michael Lipka (2016), observed that “many people who said these technologies would be morally unacceptable explained their position with references to changing God’s plan.” In the case of a computer chip on the brain, “some opponents connected this idea to the “mark of the beast.” (Lipka, 2016). Speculations raise suspicion and tension that foster resistance to new technologies. Resistance to new technologies has been of great concern to policy and decision makers, who wish to attain SDG 15-life on land, SDG 16-Peace, justice and strong institutions; SDG 17-Partnerships for the goals. Resistance in Africa stems from non-acceptance and extremism fostered by the estrangement and alienation of a people from their own ideas. The failure of an inclusive global community to account for something that is so integral to the nature of a universal history shows the egocentric desire by some forces to own not just the means of replicating the ideas embodied in African worldview by imitating them but, also a drive to own the ideas as the source of origin. According to Burghardt Du Bois (1972), a system at first conscious and then unconscious of lying about history and distorting it to the disadvantage of the Negroids became so widespread that the history of Africa ceased to be taught, the color of Memnon was forgotten, and every effort was made in archaeology, history, and biography, in biology, psychology, and sociology, to prove the all but universal assumption that the color line had a scientific basis.

The quest for power and recognition made European explorers and colonists suppress the true ownership of the ideas that would lead to the fulfilment and the enjoyment of life in abundance. Africa was subjugated through a “game of power” that sponsored the view that ‘when the economic needs of the world meets the intellectual needs the problems that arise from scarcity would disappear’. Burghardt Du Bois (1972) puts it like this, “there was the assumption of the absolute necessity of poverty for the majority of men in order to save civilization for the minority...” Africa submitted to political, intellectual and market forces that drove it underground in an uneven field of play where:

i. Rationality became the standard of knowledge. The preference and choice of rationality in a modern world put it above Mind which placed Africans in a disadvantageous position since their intrinsic value knowledge cannot meet the demands of an extrinsic inclined rationality that is demonstrative and practical. Therein, the African belief system was cast aside as unsystematic, irrational and irrelevant in the scheme of things in a modern world. Then, it became a burden of whiteman who must modernize and liberate it from the spirits of the ancient. Africans were projected to the world as unintelligent savages. Learning the ways of the whiteman was a setback for Africans who had to begin again. An

atmosphere of dependency was created for Africans who must rely on the global North for knowledge production, evaluation and measurement. According to Walter Mignolo (2020), “from the Eighteenth century on, secular philosophy and science led the way to disseminate Western knowledges around the planet... local knowledges were destituted in the process of constituting the idea of Western Civilization, the master platform of knowledge and ways of knowing”. The indigenous knowledge of Africans was projected as inconsistent and incompatible with reality in modern times yet, ideas embodied in the African worldview and belief systems, form the basis of a “disenchanted” world and an envisioned future age. The playout between old and new, ancient and modern shows a merging at the point of shared ideas and union between unsystematic and systematic which becomes a single-whole through critical thinking that enables science to sublimate it into rational processes of imitation and replication to produce a new form that is functionally different

ii. Africa is rich in natural and human resources yet; it is a small player in the global economy. Its status in the world economy has been blamed on civil war and corruption. However, the need to prevent scarcity in the global North using economic strategy and force in maintaining a state of equilibrium between nations that have natural resources in abundance and ‘the have not’ is barely mentioned. Africa’s abundance in natural and human resources makes it a natural source from which other nations can draw up raw materials for scientific and economical purposes for generations which could have translated into greater wealth for Africans but Africa inspite of its richness in natural and human resources is poor by economic standards simply because, it depends on the global North as owners of knowledge and the means of production to control determine economy policies and strategy

## 8. The Impact

The exploration of Europeans and the exploitation of Africa is put down in the capitalist economy as opportunity cost and surplus value production. However, for Africans whose wealth of resources is supposed to boost growth, development and wellness in the continent, its wealth of natural and human resources is nothing short of, ‘a resource curse’. The World Bank Group states that “about 462 million people in the region are still living in extreme poverty in 2023 noting that, the region continues to grapple with high debt distress risks, with 21 countries identified as either at high risk of external debt distress or already ensnared in it as of June 2023”. According to African Economic Outlook 2024, “Africa’s structural transformation progress has been slow and uneven, characterized by a slow-paced industrialization and the predominance

of a low-skill services sector, mainly because of low manufacturing activity". Observation indicates that: Africa will need to close an annual financing gap of about US\$402 billion between now and 2030 to fast-track its structural transformation and catch up with high-performing developing countries from other regions in key areas such as education, energy, productivity-enhancing technology and innovation, and productive transport infrastructure

For Mignolo (2020),

...colonial and decolonial subjects in the international market is a different sort of erasure. This mix of global cultural material is not a pollution of the fatherland but a final hollowing out of what has not already been erased by imperial conquest. The chaos of the market blurs the lines between cultural imperialism and appreciative sharing, between appropriation and symbolic support

## 9. Consequences

Although, it has been a long time since slave trade was abolished, Africans have remained in a state of mental and economic slavery due to Europeans usurpers, who took advantage of the people's innocence, gullibility and ignorance to keep them in perpetual servitude of meeting the needs and demands of the white people.

Now in Africa, poverty is a major cause of migration. Africans are forced to flee their land of birth in search of opportunities and improved standard of living leading to a surge in the number of Africans living in the diaspora. According to migration information sources, the sub-Saharan African immigrant population in the United States alone, has grown substantially over the last four decades. According to the MIS report (2024), "Approximately 2.1 million sub-Saharan African immigrants resided in the United States in 2019, representing 5 percent of the total foreign-born population of 44.9 million". However, when compared to the total U.S immigrant population, "sub-Saharan Africans are better educated and participate in the labor force at higher rates". This is an indication that receiving countries benefit from the labor force of migrants who help to build the economies of these countries at a cheaper income rate. Therefore, the question of a lack of will to build the economies in Africa calls for re-examination and a closer look at the economic policies and foreign relationship between Africa and the rest of the world

## 10. Communal Complimentarianism not Capitalist Individualism

Attempts at evolving the order of things in the world to promote human continuity and survival must recognise the need to acknowledge the efforts of others no matter how minimal. Restrained power is

essential in promoting the practice of respectable authority over another who has a right to life and dignity. Justice, fairness and equality regard life and dignity as basic to having a liveable life. Therefore, the exercise of brutish power is condemnable in whatever guise it appears in ancient and modern times. Since the world we live in is made up of different people and things of different order coming together from diverse places and cultures to co-inhabit and co-exist as one humanity, the African worldview supports a unified and integrated universe. In the view of this work, the abundance of natural and human resources in a specific geographical location and an expertise demonstration of practical knowledge on another specific geographical area, is not meant to make any specific group "Lord" over the other, or fragment society into divisions and different groups who oppose each other's ways of doing things. The elimination of Africa from the global struggle for power is a collective violence tantamount to genocide since the race is deprived of its right to a fulfilled life and enjoyable living. Rejected as worthy of living a good life, it is made to suffer enormous poverty in carrying the burden of the whiteman. The estrangement of Africa from the global race for recognition kills the competitive spirit of any democratic leadership however, individualistic ego made the capitalist and racist couch the death of the "goose that lays the golden egg" as victory for white supremacy. In the view of this work, the role of each region is relevant and important to growth and development. The global South, as the keeper at the gate, is the 'womb of the earth' that carries and nurtures into existence, the seed of life. The global North on the other hand is the gardener who tends and nurtures the seed of life to maturity. Both the keeper at the gate and the gardener plays significant roles as life-givers and life-savers. Therefore, the survival and continuity of humankind depends strongly, on a relationship and social networking that is interrelated, interconnected and interdependent

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## An Evaluation of the Effect of Early Marriage on Girl Child Development in Borno

AMINA RAMAT SAIDU, IBRAHIM MOHAMMED  
University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

MOHAMMED IBRAHIM BARE  
Yobe state University, Nigeria

**Abstract.** The study assesses the effect of early marriage on girl child development in Jere L.G.A. Metropolis, Borno State. Related literatures were reviewed based on specific objectives of the study. This study was a survey research method. The target population of the study comprise some selected residence in Maidugiuri, Borno State. The research instrument used for this study was a well-structured questionnaire. The data were analyzed using frequency count and its equivalent percentages score as well as likert scale. The result of the study indicates that many of the respondents strongly agrees that early marriage can make it too difficult for a girl to attend school and perform her duties as wife and mother. Some of the respondents agree with the statement that Education is useful to a girl child even after marriage. While some of them strongly agree to the statement that early marriage increases risk for sexual transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS). Majority of the respondents strongly agree that early marriage affects girl child in providing health services to their children. It is therefore, recommended that Government should create awareness on the negative effect of early marriage and how it makes girl child education almost impossible. Government should create a policy that will be geared towards discouraging early marriage as death may occur during birth.

### 1. Introduction

Marriage is an obligation of couples that has a very noble goal to build harmonious life. Marriage is a process learning about one's self and one's spouse, is all about sharing, growing up, being a member of the family team" (Brown 2013). Marriage has several purposes, including performing sexual desire, to have children, and to achieve a peaceful and happy life (UNICEF, 2008).

Marriage before the age of 18 is a fundamental violation of human rights. Many factors interact to place a child at risk of marriage, including poverty, the perception that marriage will provide 'protection', family honor, social norms, customary or religious laws that condone the practice, an inadequate legislative framework and the state of a country's civil registration system (Schurmann, 2009).

In many parts of the world parents encourage the marriage of their daughters while they are still under age hoping that the marriage will benefit them both financially and socially.

In actual, child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising the development of girls and often resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, with little education and poor vocational training reinforcing the gendered nature and poverty (Schuler, Bates, Islam, & Islam. 2006).

Child marriage often compromise a girl's development by resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, limiting her opportunity for career and vocational advancement and placing her at increased risk of domestic violence. Although the impact of child grooms has not been extensively studied, marriage may similarly place girls in an adult role for which they are unprepared, and may cause economic pressures on them and curtail their opportunities for career advancement (Samandari & Speizer, 2010).

Girl child is considered to be a female of under age, while marriage is said to be a union of man and woman. Though differs from society to society (Santhya, Ram,

Acharya, Jejeebhoy, Ram & Singh, 2010). Parent gives their hand in marriage at the early stages that have barely reached adolescence or sometimes even

before their menstruation period. Truly indeed, a girl will immediately or can biologically begin to bear children once she attains puberty and this could be as early as 11-13 old (Schuler, Bates, Islam, & Islam, 2006). But, the age at which a girl or young woman marries is largely determined by parents, religious and socio-cultural characteristics of a particular society as well as civil laws with little or no regards to medical or health consideration. Although, in Nigeria the fertility survey shows that female of 24.3% were married before 13years old, and 37% were married at the age of 14, while 11.1% were married off before they reach the age of 15years.

Early marriage is in so many ways, a "child assault". This is because girls that get married are still young women. They are psychologically, physically and emotionally to appreciate and carryout the obligations of marriage. But in our own society tradition i.e. Borno State. Women live through their reproductive year either pregnant or breastfeeding, they marry young and their fertility is unregulated. They do not use any modern contraceptive methods (Omwancha, 2012).

Early pregnancies place women face to face with death. Various studies show that death as a result of causes related to pregnancy labour (Anemia in pregnancy, malaria, obstructed labor toxemia of pregnancy) is a very common in young or adolescent mothers particularly with pregnancy. However, when a girl child marries early, her schooling is usually interrupted. More often than not she winds up losing opportunities to improve her socio-economic status. In short, girl early marriage is and must between as one of the deepest roots of socio economic inequality between male and female particularly in Jere local government and Nigeria in general. A girl who is married at once deprived of an opportunity to acquired adequate professionals skills and competence (Nguyen, Wodon. 2012).

Since marriage is a union between two opposite sex to form a family, the functionalist perspective on family or marriage has prescribe marriage or family as "a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction." It includes adults both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approve sexual relationship and one or more children, own or adopted, of the sexually cohabiting adults. Murdock (2000), argued that the family is functioned with what he termed sexual, reproduction, economic and educational responsibilities.

In all societies especially in Africa marriage is a union which include not just the husband and wife but between families and lineages, Fatima (2013) Marriage is regarded as a relatively permanent bond and in some societies marriage is virtually

irrevocable, this could be exemplified in the regular words of marriage ministers thus this two are now one and both in sickness and health (Ministry of Education, Movement of Ethiopia, 2010) However, this work looks into the causes and consequences of early marriage among the entire community of Jere Local Government area of Borno state. The causes and consequences is an important issue to be address due to the fact that it has become a common practice in both rural and urban centers, but often more common in rural settlement. Early marriage is a union between the ages which could be regarded as early and late adolescent of (13-20) years, period (Mensch, Singh and Caster line. 2005), this according to Sigmund Freud is a turbulent traumatic and distress period

## **2. Jere Local Government Area comprises both rural and suburban centers**

Which embraces early marriage amongst it youths especially females. According to the traditional belief, a female is not supposed to be fully grown into adulthood in their father's house and since adultery and fornication is against the norms and Values of the community, it allows early marriage so that the question of Immorality to satisfy sexual desire both in male in female will be minimized.

Studies has been undertaken by different organizations in an attempt to look at the reasons behind early marriage and how it imposed several consequences on the health of the mother as well as the effect on the child. Thus, according to Women Feature Service (1999), in many regions of the world where virginity is given high social values, girls are married off at a young age often to men, many years older. A child face greater unearth risk and experience real physical violation and trauma as a young girl is forced to deal with early sexual activity, in worse case many are divorced or abandoned and become social outcasts (Mensch, Grant and Blanc, 2006).

It is for those reasons that will call persistently for a legislation pegging the minimum age for marriage at least at the age of 18 years (Mahmud and Amin, 2006). In view of the above therefore, it becomes necessary and imperative to look upon the effect of early marriage so that the age at which marriage would occur would be ascertained, effect of early marriage would be brought time light and thus, minimize the related effect of early marriage. This research work will focus on effect of early marriage on girl child in Jere Local government Area of Borno State and this assessment will focus on the educational, Cultural, health issue, Social and economic background as some of the forces that affect early marriage in every region of the world in general and Jere Local Government in specific.

### 3. Literature Review

One of the most respected African scholars that captured concept of marriage is John Mbiti in 1969. He described marriage as a complex affair with economic, social and religious aspects which often overlap so firmly that they cannot be separated from one another. It is the point where all the members of a given community meet: the departed, the living and those yet to be born. All the Dimensions of time meet here and the whole drama of history is repeated, renewed and revitalized (Mahmud and Amin, 2006). Marriage is a drama in which everyone becomes an actor or actress and not just a spectator. Therefore, marriage is a duty, a requirement from the corporate society, and a rhythm of life in which everyone must participate. Otherwise, he who does not participate in it is a curse to the community, he is a rebel and a law breaker, he is not only abnormal but 'under human'. Failure to get married under normal circumstances means that the person concerned has rejected society and society rejects him in return (Mbiti, 1969). Anjo (1991) defined early marriage as either marriage of an adolescent girl/boy or marriage of an adolescent girl to a matured man or vice-versa and this happens at puberty when the individual is getting matured. The marital age according to Molokwu (2000) is above the age of 18 years, when the individual is physically, socially, academically and emotionally matured to cope with the challenges of marriage. The Nigerian review draft decree put the marriageable Age of the girl-child at 18 years. Also, the UNICEF (2001) on the rights of the child recommends that children should not be separated from their parents before 18 years unless it is considered necessary.

### 4. Early Marriage

Early marriage, also referred to as child marriage, is defined as any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years, before the girl is physically, physiologically and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and childbearing (Mahmud and Amin, 2006). While more women are marrying in their thirties in developed countries, overall, 20 to 50 percent of women are married by the age of 18 in the developing world with the highest percentages in West African within Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Approximately 40% of women aged 20-24 worldwide who were married before the age of 18 live in Sub Saharan Africa, thus resulting in early marriage being largely sub-Saharan African phenomena (Walker, 2012). The context of early marriage in this zone must be understood within an environment of poverty, gender inequality, and cultural taboos against premarital sex for girls, religious beliefs and patriarchal predisposition for

controlling female sexuality. Not surprisingly (Walker2012). Early marriage is more prevalent in developing countries, and in particular in poorer communities (Lloyd & Mensch, 2008). Current estimates show that by the age of 18, about 82 million girls in developing countries (excluding China) who are presently aged between 10 and 17 will be married, while 163 million of the 331 million girls who are presently aged between 10 and 19 will be married before they are 20 (Bruce 2002). Early marriage is predominantly a female problem; although some boys may be forced to marry early, the overwhelming burden of this problem falls on girls. In sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, only about five percent of young men marry under the age of 19 (Naana, & Pobi, 2003) the term early marriage or child marriage refers to any marriage of a child younger than 18years old in accordance to Article of the Convention on the Rights of the child. UNICEF (2005) describes it as both formal marriage and informal unions in which a girl lives with a partner as if married before the age of 18. It can also be defined as any marriage carried out below the age of 18 Years, before the girl is physically, physiologically and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and child bearing. Some scholars and activists have argued that instead of looking for a universal age at which girls and boys should marry, the focus should be put instead on eliminating the unwanted effects of early marriage (Women's human rights resources). The argument is that societal understanding of what it means to be a child differs. The situation in the regions of Africa tends to support this argument. Lefebvre (2004) states that while more women are now marrying at later age, early marriage remains a norm in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Overall, 20-50 per cent of women are married by the age of 18 in these regions. Bayisenge (2010) observed that African women in general marry at a much earlier age than their non-African counterparts, leading to early pregnancies. The Health Demographic Survey (HDS) for 1995 to 2003 shows that in Niger, 47 percent of women aged between 20 and 24 were married before the age of 15, and 87 percent before the age of 18, a total of 53 percent had also had a child before the age of 18. Bayisenge (2010) provided data on child marriage prevalence in II African countries that suggest a normative situation. The countries include: Niger (77 percent), Chad (71 percent), Mozambique (57percent), Guinea (65 percent), Mah (65 percent), Uganda (54 percent), Burkina Faso (52 percent). Ethiopia, Togo and South Africa had prevalence rates of 49 percent 3 1 percent and 8 percent respectively (Khan and Mishra, 2008). Reports from IRIN Africa (2008) indicate that in Northern Nigeria, an estimated more than half of the girls are married before age 15. Among Nigerians predominantly Muslim northern states only Jigawa state has passed a Law to enforce the

UN Child Rights Act, which prohibits child marriage (Jensen, and Thornton, 2003). The 2007 law itself does not specify an age, referring only to "puberty" to please the people. The law itself has never been enforced. In 2010, a Nigerian Senator was reported by the news media to have married a 13-year-old Egyptian girl. The report generated opprobrium in various circles but soon died down. The lesson learnt is that implementation of relevant laws are still a far cry from expectations in Nigeria (Jensen and Thornton, 2003).

### 5. Reasons behind Early Marriage

Several reasons may be adduced for early marriage of the girl-child.

#### 5.1 Economic Reason

Poverty has been identified as one of the major causes of early marriage. Where poverty is acute, a young girl may be regarded as an economic burden (UNICEF, 2001). Poverty is a critical factor contributing to child marriage and a common reason why parents may encourage a child to marry, in belief that such marriage may bring both financial and social gain to the family. The Forum of Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls, 2001 provides the following case of a Zimbabwean girl who was married off at a very young age due to economic constraints. In August 2001, a ten-year-old girl in Zimbabwe was reportedly sold to a 40-year-old man as wife in order for the family to obtain cash for food.

#### 5.2 Socio-Cultural and Religious Values

In societies, where early marriage is prevalent. There is strong pressure on families to conform. The old notion of an ideal age for marriage, the desire for submissive wives, and other customary requirements are all enshrined in local customs or religious norms (Bayisenge, 2010). In the northern part of the country, religion plays major part in perpetuating early marriage. In the southern part of Nigeria, where the extended family system is strong, the influence of relations in early marriage phenomenon cannot be over-emphasized (Jensen and Thornton, 2003).

#### 5.3 Notions of Morality and Honour

It has been suggested that the dominant notion of morality and honour are important factors encouraging the practice of child marriage. The importance of maintaining family honour and the high value placed on virginity. Pregnancy outside marriage is not welcome in many societies. Yet. Giving the prevalence of teen pregnancy, many societies settle for early marriage for girls (Hindin & Fatusi, 2009). Awake (2004) reports that 3 1,857

children between 10 and 14 years of age gave birth in Brazil in 1998; in Britain, 90 percent of teenage births in 1997 born outside marriage: while in the United States, 4 in 10 teenage girls get pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20.

## 6. Effects of Early Marriage

Early marriage is associated with certain consequences which include physical, developmental, psychological and social implications.

### 6.1 Physical Health Effects

Early marriage subjects the girl-child to an early sexual experience with her husband. At an age where the bride is not physically and sexually mature, this has severe health consequences. It is reported that the worldwide incidence of premature birth and low birth weight is higher among adolescent mothers. Bayisenge (2010) stated that the young married girls are under tremendous pressure to prove their fertility in the first year of marriage. They therefore have children early. UNICEF (2005) states that there is a strong correlation between the age of a mother and maternal mortality. Girl's ages 10-14 are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or child birth than women aged 20-24 and girls aged 15-19 are twice as likely to die. There is also the problem of heavy bleeding during child birth and the Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF) ravaging young girls in some parts of Northern Nigeria. Moreover, the age difference between the girl and her husband tends to reinforce the Powerlessness of the girl she is therefore at greater risk of abuse and less likely to assert herself. Bayisenge (2010) noted that young married girls are more likely to be beaten or threatened and more likely to believe that a husband might sometimes be justified in beating his wife. The international Center for Research on Women (ICRW, 2008) reports that in Egypt 29 percent of married adolescents were beaten by their husbands of these, 41 percent were beaten when they were pregnant.

### 6.2 Psychological and Social Effects

Girls are not adequately prepared for the roles expected of them in the family. This therefore becomes a burden and has serious impact on their psychological welfare, their perception of themselves and also their relationship. Early marriage can lead to psychological disadvantage which is a psychological development in and interaction with a social environment. Early marriage leads to less of freedom and a feeling of isolation for the girl-child as well as an unhappy marriage.

### 6.3 Denial of Education

Early marriage results to school-drop-out and its chain effects. In Northern Nigeria, 12 million girls aged around 13-14 are married in the region (IRIN Africa, 2008). The denial of education reduced such girls to that of dependence and subservience. Fairaa (2007) states that the gender inequality present in all aspects of society, including education leads to girls often lacking life skills and negotiating power. Husbands of young wives are often older man who expects their wives to follow tradition, stay home and undertake household and childcare duties. The thought of continuing schooling is often lost. Schools often have a policy of refusing to allow married or pregnant girl or girls to return. Even if they do not permit girls with babies to return, the school environment rules, time tables and physical conditions can make it difficult for a girl to attend school and perform her duties as wife and mother at the same time. Early marriage subsequently undermines the Millennium Development Goals (2 and 3) that seeks to achieve universal primary education, and promote gender equality and empower women (Hindin & Fatusi, 2009).

This also affects, not only the health of the child of the illiterate mother, but the child's all-round development (UNICEF, 2001). A study by Treffgarne (2002) found association between maternal literacy and school child's academic achievement. A longitudinal study by Burchfield R, Rumar & Resser (2002) also supports that literate women are more aware of health and reproductive issues and the importance of children's education. But early marriage limits girls' educational opportunities. Lioyd and Mensch (2006) found that early marriage is more likely to limit girls' educational opportunities than early childbirth.

### 6.4 Effect of Early Marriage on Education of a Girl Child

In Nigeria, about 73% of young married girls receive no formal schooling at all, compared with 8% of young girls who are unmarried. Research also shows that only 2% of young married girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are currently in school. This is compared to 69% of their unmarried Counterparts. Literacy rate among these young girls is low as well (Bello and Erulkar, 2007). There is evidence that the immaturity and lack of education of young mothers undermines their ability to nurture their children (UNICEF 2001). Educated women are also more likely to immunize their children, and seek prompt treatment when they are ill (Kabeer 2003). The first area of work focuses on the right of girls and women to have a full education and training in life skills to ensure that they can earn a livelihood.

Innovative and gender-sensitive programmes should provide tailored education and vocational training for both unmarried and married girls. Creating employment opportunities for women in 'non-servile occupations', i.e. non-domestic work. Can help to promote girls' education (UNICEF, 2001). Studies consistently show that marriage of minor aged girls is more likely to occur in rural and impoverished areas with low access to health care; regional conflict and instability further exacerbate these vulnerabilities. However, the primary contextual factor heightening risk for girl child marriage is gender inequity, often characterized, at least in part, by lower access to education and employment Opportunities for females relative to males. Across national contexts, it is the poorest and least educated girls who are most vulnerable to early marriage, and even among girls receiving an education, early marriage appears to impede continuation of that education (Raj, 2010). Education continues to be a strong indicator whether or not a girl will marry as a child in Nigeria. Screaming statistics reveal that virtually all married girls are out of school. UNICEF (2013) report show that 82% of women aged between 20 and 24 who have no education were married by the age of 18, as opposed to 13% of women who have at least finished secondary education. Early marriage abruptly terminates any form of schooling and introduces the girl child to early sexual life, early motherhood with a myriad of health problems and a cycle of illiteracy and poverty. According to UNESCO reports, not only has Nigeria and sub-Saharan countries failed to achieve the 2015 "Education for All" (EFA) goals, indeed they are very far from achieving them (Grant & Hallman, 2008). In the words of Kate

Redman, "Nigeria now has more children out of school than when the global goals were set" (as cited in Eno-Abasi, 2015), and this is obviously traceable to a myriad of challenges inhibiting most especially the girl child (Eno-Abasi, 2015). Having realized that legislation alone may not adequately tackle the menace of child marriage, we must look for more effective means, capable of addressing beliefs rooted in the hearts of men (Grant & Hallman, 2008). Education, if harnessed from the prism of a fundamental human right as recognized in many domestic and international legal instruments, can be an effective tool in tackling child marriage. Education rights are essential for the exercise of all other human rights (Garg, 2012). It has been established that education enhances individual freedom, provides empowerment, and promotes multiple developmental gains. Millions of young girls however remained deprived of educational opportunities as a result of early marriage (Grant & Hallman, 2008). Statistics support the hypothesis that poverty, strong cultural norms, and low societal values for the girl child are the primary forces that

fuel early marriage. Almost all child brides receive little or no schooling. Those who were in school immediately drop out after their marriage. UNICEF study shows clearly that high prevalence of child marriage is correlated with less education for girls. A shortened education is both a cause and effect of early marriage. From this perspective, child marriage is a gross violation of child rights and of course a great inhibition to the realization of education rights. If the timing of marriage does not change, over 100,000,000 children will be married as children in the next 10 years (Council on Foreign Relations). Thus, eradication of child marriage is an imperative for the actualization of child education rights (Garg, 2012). The clear indicators are that child marriage is closely associated with no or low level of schooling for the girl child. A little delay in marriage for the girl child translates into longer years of schooling. The benefits of education include improved economic productivity (Garg, 2012).

### **6.5 Effect of Early Marriage on Socio-Economy of a Girl Child**

Native Authority (NA) (which transformed to Local Government Authority) had to force parents to send the girl-child to enroll in formal schools. The NA fully funded the education of these girls who were conscripted to various schools often located outside their province (Erulkar, 2004). However, the socio-cultural and religious practices that evolved later in Northern states, particularly the North East and North West changed' with the highest number of girl-child not enrolled in school and those who drop out to get married (Garg, 2012). The majority of these girls never return to school to complete their education, learn a trade, or acquire vocational skills that would economically empower and make them self-reliant. Every society and culture have some basic norms and beliefs that guide the people. In Nigeria for instance, specifically the Northern Nigeria (Hausa – Fulani dominated) allowed early marriage of the girl-child (Gimba and Joseph, 2014). Erulkar and Bello (2007) argued that the reason for acceptance of early marriages among Northern region is to preserve the value of virginity, fears about marital sexual activity, to reduce promiscuity of the girl-child, and other socio-cultural and religious norms. However, due to the ignorance and selfish nature, more often than not they forget the effect it has on the girl-child as well as their community development. It is worrisome that the girl-child has no power to resist the offer. The effect of early marriage on the girl-child that affects her wellbeing and that of the society include education, lack of economic empowerment and lack of knowledge on reproductive health services which will enable them take informed decisions, enhance their ability to leverage resources and participate in community decision making (Gimba and Joseph,

2014). Regression analyses reveal that with younger age at marriage there are increased socioeconomic vulnerabilities and greater gender inequities including spousal violence (Raj, 2010): Father's education and mother's education are generally known to be strong correlates of the socioeconomic status of the family. In the context of social change, youths from families with higher socioeconomic status are likely to behave less traditionally (Erulka, 2004). For this reason, higher levels of father's and mother's education are expected to be associated with lower probability of early marriage, lower probability of delayed consummation of marriage and lower probability of early motherhood (Choe, Thapa& Mishra.2005). The economic context in which early marriage exist in Africa is one of household poverty, vulnerability, uncertainty, seasonality of labor, labor surplus economies in a low productive rural setting. In this context, poverty is a significant risk factor as marrying girls off before the age of 18 is experienced positively for poor families who are relieved of the responsibility of feeding, clothing and protecting the girl child in an uncertain and insecure society (Walker,20 12). Poverty has been identified as one of the major causes of early marriage. Where poverty is cute, a young girl may be regarded as an economic burden (UNICEF, 2001). Poverty is a critical factor contributing to child marriage and a common reason why parents may encourage a child to marry, in belief that such marriage may ring both financial and social gain to the family. The Forum of Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls, 2001 provides the following case of a Zimbabwean girl who was married off at a very young age due to economic constraints. In August 2001, a ten year-old girl in Zimbabwe was reportedly sold to a 40-year-old man as wife in order for the family to obtain cash for food (Erulkar.2004).

### **6.6 Effect of Early Marriage on Health Issues of a Girl Child**

Studies on harmful effects of early marriage on girl's health reveal that girls who are married off before the age of consent, 18 years, experience earlier sexual debut, give birth to more children and loose more children to neonatal and childhood diseases. Studies show a strong positive correlation between an early median age of first marriage and an early median age of first birth (Erulkar and Muthengi-Karei, 2012). This explains in part the high maternal mortality and morbidity amongst this population. Moreover, research findings by the Inter-national Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) argue that girls younger than 15 are 5 times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their 20s. Pregnancy is are the leading cause of death worldwide for women 15 to 19. Similarly, recent studies based on DHS data demonstrate a strong positive correlation



between HIV prevalence and the median age of first marriage as well as first sex. While the correlation between early marriage and vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF) has been arguably contested, case reviews of VVF patient's shows clearly that most are young wives with limited education who often married to older men (Erulkar and Muthengi-Karei, 2012). Hence the significant incidence of VVF in locations with high rates of early marriage such as Ethiopia, Niger, Mali and in Northern Nigeria where education rates are low (Judith-Ann, 2012). Pregnancy and its outcome as childbearing are the most special events in the women life and their families, hence, care of mother during that partum period is the necessary and effective interventions for safer and healthier outcome, and it is most essentials if the mother is in teenage stage. As a group, however, teenagers have quite different needs, in terms of reproductive health services, from adult's mothers in different important ways (Navodava. & Chauhan, 2014). Moreover, an increasing body of evidence from diverse settings suggests that the long-held assumption that marriage is a safe haven for adolescent girls is untenable and that a number of health consequences are associated with early marriage (Santhya, 201). A common belief is that child marriage protects girls from promiscuity and, therefore, disease; the reality is quite different (Duflo, Dupas and Kremer, 2012). Married girls are more likely than unmarried girls to become infected with STDs, in particular HIV and human papilloma virus (HPV) (Erulkar, 2013). In sub-Saharan Africa, girls ages 15-19 years are 2-8 times more likely than boys of the same age to become infected with HIV (12) (Duflo, Dupas and Kremer, 2012). The risk of acquiring HIV from a single act of unprotected vaginal intercourse is 2-3 times greater for women than men (73) (Erulkar, 2013a). Globally, the prevalence of HIV infections among women is highest from ages 15 to 24; the risk for men peaks 10 years later (12). Marriage by age 20 has become a risk factor for HIV infection for young and adolescent girls (13), as has been shown by several studies of African populations (14-16) (Erulkar, 2013a; Duflo, Dupas and Kremer, 2012).

A study in Kenya demonstrated that married girls had a 50% higher likelihood than unmarried girls of becoming infected with HIV. This risk was even higher (59%) in Zambia. In Uganda, the HIV prevalence rate for girls 15-19 years of age was higher for married (89%) than single girls (66%): for those 15-29 years of age, HIV prevalence was 28% for married and 15% for single girls. This study noted that the age difference between the men and their wives was a significant HIV risk factor for the wives (16) (Duflo, Dupas and Kremer, 2012). All of these studies showed that girls were being infected by their husbands. A hypothesis relevant to this finding is that a young girl may be physiologically

more prone to HIV infection because her vagina is not yet well lined with protective cells and her cervix may be more easily eroded. Risk for HIV transmission is also heightened because hymenal, vaginal, or cervical lacerations increase the transmission rate, and many of these young girls lose their virginity to HIV-infected husbands. Also, STDs such as herpes simplex virus type 2 infection, gonorrhea, or Chlamydia enhance girls' vulnerability to HIV (17-19) (Erulkar, 2013a). Research findings show that child marriage damages the mental, physical wellbeing and life chances of young girls. Studies on education reveal that early marriage denies school age children the right to education and access to a school environment for self and community development. The literature on early marriage and economic development also identifies an inverse relationship between the phenomenon and the effectiveness of development assistance (Duflo, Dupas and Kremer, 2012).

## 7. Methodology

Data for the study were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data is data that was collected by the researcher from first-hand sources, using methods like surveys, and interviews. Secondary data is data gathered from studies, surveys. Experiments that have been run by other people or for other research. The analytical tools employed for this study include, descriptive statistics.

**Survey:** Survey method is one of the primary sources of data which is used to collect quantitative information about items in a population. Surveys are used in different areas for collecting the data even in public and private sectors.

**Observations:** Observation as one of the primary sources of data. Observation is a technique for obtaining information involves measuring variables or gathering of data necessary for measuring the variable under investigation. Observation is defined as accurate watching and noting of phenomena as they occur in nature with regards to cause and effect relation.

**Interview:** Interviewing is a technique that is primarily used to gain an understanding of the underlying reasons and motivations for people's attitudes, preferences or behavior. Interviews can be undertaken on a personal one-to-one basis or in a group.

**Questionnaires:** Questionnaire as one of the primary sources of data and is an observation or a technique which comprises series of items presented to a respondent in a written form, in which the individual is expected to respond in writing. (Ajayi, 2017). This clearly explains the fact that early marriage significantly affects child education in Jere L.G.A, Borno state. This is in line with Population

Council (2004) the lack of education is a major consequence of girls who marry young. All 100% of the respondents strongly agree that early marriage makes completion education almost impossible. Lioyd and Mensch (2006) found that early marriage is more likely to limit girls' educational opportunities than early childbirth. 80.6% of the respondents also strongly agree that early marriage can physically unable to allow girl child to attend school because of pregnancy or medical complications associated with pregnancy.

In the same spirit a longitudinal study by Burchfield. Rumar & Resser (2002) also supports that literate women are more aware of health and reproductive issues and the importance of children's education. The study reveals that 51.1% of the respondents agree that Husbands do not support their Spouse to go to school. 27.2% of them strongly agree with the statement. 52.8% of the respondents agree with the statement that Education is useful to a girl child even after marriage. 86.9% of them strongly agree to the statement that early marriage increases risk for sexual transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDs). All the respondents 100% strongly agree that Offspring are at premature birth and death neonates. 87.5% of the respondents also strongly agree to the statement that Death during birth is possible for girl child during early marriage. All the respondents 100% strongly agree that Girl child face problem concerning personal hygiene because of lack of education. Majority 82.8% of the respondents strongly agree that early marriage affects girl child in providing health services to their children. Highest proportion 49.2% of the respondents agrees that Girls leave schools to marry early due to inability of parent to pay their fees. 35.6% of them neither agree nor disagreed with the statement. Majority 50.3% of the respondents strongly agree that girl's child early marriage reduces the ability of households to meet their basic needs. All 100% of the respondents strongly agree that Girl child early marriage makes them not useful to the community, 88.9% of the respondent strongly agrees that early marriage does not support girl child to be self-employed. Erulkar and Bello (2007) argued that the reason for acceptance of early marriages among Northern region is to preserve the value of virginity, fears about marital sexual activity, to reduce promiscuity of the girl-child, and other socio-cultural and religious norms.

## 8. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn: early marriage can make it too difficult for a girl to attend school and perform her duties as wife and mother. Early marriage makes completion education almost impossible. Education is useful to a girl child even after marriage. Early

marriage increases risk for sexual transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDs). Offspring are at premature birth and death neonates. Death during birth is possible for girl child during early marriage. Girl child face problem concerning personal hygiene because of lack of education. Early marriage affects girl child in providing health services to their children. Girls leave schools to marry early due to inability of parent to pay their school fees. Early marriage reduces the ability of households to meet their basic needs. Girl child early marriage causes Vesico-Vaginal Fistula (VVF) makes them not to be useful to the community. Early marriage does not support girl child to be self-employed. Early marriages among northern Nigerian region are to preserve the value of virginity fears about marital sexual activity, to reduce promiscuity of the girl-child, and other socio-cultural and religious norms.

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## Comparative Analysis of Oathtaking Method, Strategy and Impact on the Victim-centered Approach

GLORIA FAITH EHIEMUA, VALENTINE E. OBINYAN  
University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

**Abstract.** Oath-taking is an instrument of native judiciary used in human trafficking to further a desire to migrate using illegal means and for protecting the gains of such transactions. In human trafficking, consent given under native oath is disregarded and undermined as “not true” while the complexity of oathtaking in the processes used for the prosecution of traffickers is put simply, as a lack in an understanding of the African worldview. This work argues that the complexity of oathtaking in the processes used for the prosecution of traffickers does not arise from a lack of understanding of the African worldview per se but from the inadequacy of the victim-centered approach in dealing with victimless crime. In examining the efficiency of oath in preventing crime in human trafficking, it contradicts the assumption that oathtaking solely furthers crime in human trafficking and continues discussions on the oath as a means of preventing crime in the past and some parts in contemporary times. Therein, enabling a comparism between different methods accepted as best practice to preventing crime in a particular time and space This work moves discussions on power dynamics in human trafficking beyond the notion that conflict is just a struggle between people or parties of unequal influence, wealth and status. Finding shows that the failure of the victim-centered approach to respect human freedom and self-determinism is self-defeating as it contributes immensely to the use of traffickers for achieving the desire to migrate

### 1. Introduction

The plight of migrants and the effect of migration have drawn much attention to the problem of illegal and undocumented migrants in the 21st century. Governments in developed nations agreed that the increased rate of illegal and undocumented entries from developing countries into places designated as receiving countries is worrisome. However, eradicating trafficking of persons has been difficult

because of the dehumanising condition that necessitates emigration and makes victims vulnerable to traffickers. In human trafficking oath-taking is commonly associated with the Nigerian trafficking syndicate and regarded as a cultural/religious practice used by traffickers to “bind” women and girls especially to forced prostitution. Most scholars present it as an instrument of psychological import which is used to manipulate and coerce women and girls to remain in prostitution. However, van Dijk (2001) and Jorgen (2016) described it as “a seal to an agreement.” A disagreement occurs when an instrument of coercion is projected and as a seal to an “agreement” simply because agreement depicts consent while coercion indicates the absence of an agreement. Historically, it is held that the oath was used in premodern times as a means of preventing crime and obtaining truth.

In Nigeria, a study (Onyima, 2015) on traditional social control mechanisms and traditional methods of social control in Afikpo North LGA of Ebonyi State Nigeria recognised the oath as a mechanism of social control used to prevent crime and obtain truth. Accordingly, Anyacho and Ugal (2009) described “oathtaking (inu iyi or ala isi) as “a strategy for establishing truth and guilt and discouraging dishonest attitudes and (wicked) evil actions in the society.” Msuyi (2019) described the oath “as a pact with the gods and an insurance that the crime of stealing will not occur.” Anyacho and Ugal, (2009) observed that oath-taking is regarded as ungodly, fetish and evil in recent times because of the acceptance and influence of other religions such as Christianity. However, the study carried out by Onyima (2015) indicated a strong belief in the efficiency of the Oath with 22.6% respondents agreeing that it is very successful in carrying out its functions, 62.4% agreed that it has been successful in executing its functions only 3.2% of the respondents held the view that it is not very successful while 2.2% did not respond. Research

shows that in the West, a decline in the acceptance of the oath as an efficient means of preventing crime and obtaining truth is also tied to the waning influence of religion in public life. Rutgers (2013) stated that the perception that oath is dwindling can be found even in very ancient literature: the phoenix started to lose its divine feathers around 600BC when it was no longer regarded as an absolutely trustworthy, divinely warranted guarantee of truth and trust...the faltering value of oath was attributed to a loss of absolute faith in gods, as witnessed for instance among Plato and his contemporaries. Overtime, oath has steadily become replaced by contracts as means to secure promises in everyday transactions. The question is, in what ways did the compartmentalization of religion influence discussions on oath as an instrument of psychological coercion used only for manipulation and exploitation in human trafficking

### 1.1 The Oath in African Belief System

Oath taking is an indigenous belief system widely practiced among natives and used for executing judicial functions. At times, it involves invoking the presence of a deity as witness to a transaction. Oath taking before justice deities is integral to the native judicial system operational in traditional societies and demands total adherence to agreements and pacts made. because of its ability to create a willingness to comply with the moral dictates underlying the relationship involved. It was applied to dispute management, marriages, business and friendship. Oath taking in itself, aims at preventing and discouraging deviant acts by punishing offenders. The role of oath as exploitative is furthered by an impression that juju (Charms), oath taking and rituals are one and the same. However, these are different components of a religious belief system which overflows into another at some point yet, have different functions. In Nigeria, charms are generally referred to as juju. It is one of the components of traditional religion and medicine that forms an important aspect of life for adherents of African traditional religion because of the functions in the life of believers. It is called *ukhuumwun* among the Benin people of Edo State, who differentiates between a good charm and a bad charm. The use of bad charm is considered evil and prohibited. However, good charms are believed to be useful means through which supernatural forces are tapped for protection and defence against attacks from enemies, forestalling evil forces, facilitating gains of desired ends, attaining prosperity, increasing popularity, success in love affairs and restoration of peace (Aghahowa, 1996). From a general perspective, charms are objects with powers believed to have been invoked through incantations or/and observations of specified rituals. Sacrifices on the other hand, are carried out to appease deities.

These sacrifices are associated with rituals which involve the use of specified objects as sacred emblems of symbolic significance. Africans believe that by offering sacrifices and performing certain rituals, they can gain favour and protection of the gods and ancestors who in turn, bless their endeavours (Aghahowa, 1996). The purpose of sacrifices and rituals is to create and maintain relationships between groups of people, the person who performed the rituals and their deities. Africans believe in a world of spirits which is made up of spirit beings that include the Supreme Being, deities or divinities, ancestors, spiritual forces. Divinities and deities are next to the Supreme Being and act as functionaries in charge of special portfolios. Examples of these divinities include as Ogun, Aiyelala and Ogwugwu that are known to be fiery justice divinity and deities

### 1.2 The Notion

According to Emevwo Biakolo (1998), “the anthropology of Levy-Bruhl marked a watershed in the understanding of the other” Levy Bruhl’s theory emphasises a mystical participation which he sees as a pattern of thought that is difficult for the rational mind to comprehend. An understanding of the “other” was a problem for Europeans who discovered Africa and needed to forge a relationship with them in the 15th-18th centuries. Early writers in African studies impressed it on the minds of their audience that Africans are a primitive and backward people. They portrayed them as uncultured for practicing a belief system that is deemed ancient, fetish, harmful to self. The need to liberate Africans from a Dark age was emphasised and vigorously pursued by Europeans in later years who introduced their culture as a best practice method while undermining the belief systems and knowledge of Africans as inferior, irrational, illogical and incompatible with modernity. However, further study of the African people and their culture led some European writers like Levy Bruhl (1923) to conclude that even when the African belief contrasts with existing knowledge and contradicts the law of non-contradiction which holds that A cannot be A and B at the same time and make an acceptance of invisible entities believed to be dead but active in the ordering of human society illogical and irrational yet, unlike his contemporaries who project Africans as ignorant and gullible, he held that Africans are intelligent and introduced relativity to discussions on evolution. In his view, the differences in thought pattern between Africans and Westerners does not indicate the absence of intelligence as presupposed by earlier writers on Africa but rather, projects a thought pattern that poses a challenge to Western thinking and knowledge and calls for further investigation. He agreed with Hegel on the need to abstract from pure abstractions the logic which when

sublated into rational processes, would lead to scientific break-throughs. In his perception, mystical participation exhibits a singularity that holds a promise of new discoveries in a modern world. The notion that the western world is more sophisticated and superior in knowledge than the African world and knowledge, permeate discussions on oath-taking in human trafficking wherein, the oath is presented as a fetish cultural belief and practice peculiar to Africans. The impression of Africans as a primitive people still in the stages of ignorance, gullible and open to deceit colors debates on women and girls' acceptance to be trafficked for prostitution which characterises narratives on the Nigerian trafficking syndicate portrayed as one of the challenges faced by the European police in the fight against human trafficking. In the rationality of the West, the role of oath in human trafficking cannot be comprehended and needs to be clarified through an investigation of the African worldview. Research on oaths in human trafficking concentrates on the rituals and gives an impression of it as fetish and evil. Scholars agreed that the use of oath by the Nigerian human trafficking syndicate is a hindrance in the struggle for emancipation of women and girls especially from sexual slavery. It is held that the oath is a psychological means used by traffickers in the manipulation and exploitation of women and girls in prostitution who fear the consequences for breaking the oath and remain bound to their traffickers who they obey and are submissive to. However, the insufficiency of this explanation could be seen in the inadequacy of this approach to address the complexity of oath in the judicial process used in prosecuting traffickers

### 1.3 Human Trafficking

Human trafficking or trafficking in persons are umbrella words covering various forms of trafficking such as, sex trafficking and forced labour. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (2000), requires that three elements must be met in order for the action to be considered trafficked persons under the Act. Human trafficking is defined as:

*The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or position of power or of vulnerability or the giving of payments or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation.*

Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or

services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs

Sex trafficking is the severe form of human trafficking. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines it as "Trafficking in which commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age." Recently, the requirement of force, fraud or coercion has been expanded to include, non- physical forms such as psychological coercion (Sangalis, 2011).

According to Report, 60 percent of street prostitutes in Italy are women and girls from Nigeria, mainly trafficked for sexual exploitation (Global Monitoring Report on the State of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Nigeria, 2007). In London, over 80 percent of the young people that the NGO Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (Africa) works with as victims of trafficking are of Nigerian origin (Global Monitoring

Report, 2007). Report states that women and girls- primarily from Benin City in Edo State subjected to forced prostitution are trafficked mainly in Italy but as well in Spain, Scotland, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece and Russia (International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, 2015).

Different types of trafficking include, commercial sex act, slavery, involuntary servitude, peonage and debt bondage (OVCTTAC). The crime of human trafficking involves a trafficker using force, fraud, or coercion to make an individual perform labour or engage in commercial sex. Human trafficking involves severe violence against victims and host other crimes that include gang activity, drug operations, property crimes, organised criminal operations, and other violations of law at State, Federal and International levels (OVCTTAC).

### 1.4 Oath-taking in Human Trafficking

Africans are described as "very religious people" according to a survey by the US-based Pew Research Center (2010), 87% of the respondents to a questionnaire in Nigeria on the rate of religiosity, claimed that religion is very important in their lives. Whether as Christians, Muslims or Traditionalists, Africans are "notoriously religious". Accordingly, Mbiti describes the African as one who carries his religion along with him wherever he goes. an attitude that is put down to, an intertwining between culture and religion which makes it difficult to separate spirituality from the physical. Whether as traditionalists, Christians or Muslims, Africans' belief in spirit beings as real is projected into the way

they talk about God and spirits as impacting their everyday living. In sex trafficking narratives, oath taking and the rituals associated with it feature prominently in narratives on human trafficking in Nigeria. The use of oath taking and victim's search for traffickers to assist in transportation arrangements are peculiar to human trafficking in Nigeria. Report reveals that trafficked persons from Nigeria, sell their properties in order to raise some amount of money to give to traffickers as part payment for a deal agreed to (SEEDS, 2005) while others submit documents of buildings as collaterals (SEEDS, 2005). Traffickers also known as sponsors invest money in their efforts to secure travel documents and arrangements. Therefore, they reach agreements with trafficked persons on the mode of payments using a legal framework which could involve lawyers and signing documents that formally bind victims to arrangements made

### 1.5 The Oath as Means of Group Support

In Africa, oath taking is regarded as a covenant fellowship between man with man and man with deity. Traditionally, it was used to solve social problems such as disputes and to strengthen relationships between friends or in marriage. In human trafficking, it is observed that "once a woman agrees to go to Europe, she is taken to a shrine where the pact of emigration is confirmed and sealed through oath taking" (Jorgen, 2006). In the shrine, some items are collected from the victims. These are symbolic objects of significance, used for ritual purposes. They include victims' hair from the head, pubic hair, armpit hair, finger nails, toe nails, blood, and menstrual blood or used underwear stained with menstrual blood (Van Dijk, 2001). It is believed that these personal items represent the medium linking the priest with the victims and becomes the bodily contact needed to mete out punishment of madness or death, in the physical absence of a victim that derails. Packets given to victims contain objects of charm intended to embody personal and spiritual power, beauty and sex appeal, protection and success, and make the women attractive to men (Van Dijk, 2001). It is believed that the soap and powder enhance beauty and make victims attractive to "sexual clients" and turn out high patronage. Some items given to the victims are symbolic. Pieces of twisted metal represent Ogun, the god of iron, a fiery justice deity. The kola nut symbolises a pledge to faithfulness and loyalty to the agreements reached. The use of oath for personal gains shows a compliance and twist to narratives on oath as a means of psychological coercion which creates fear of the consequences of breaking the oath. For Jorgen (2006) the oath acts as, "a seal to an agreed pact."

## 2. Principles of Oath Taking

A common use of Oath taking is in building cohesion among people. Therefore, it centres on solving disputes or keeping intact, mutually reached agreements presented before it. Its major task is to preserve and protect relationships from degenerating and disintegrating. It is not concerned with the originating motive of an arrangement made but establishes the agreement on the strength of an existing cordial relationship between the parties involved by providing values that promote harmony and prevent behavioural tendencies that can destabilise the equilibrium. The general principles of oath taking serve as guidelines against as well as, form the basis for punishment from the deity. Thus, parties involved in oath taking are advised to strictly abide by the following general principles.

### 2.1 Principles of Fidelity

Oath taking requires fidelity to the agreements made. Therefore, it demands that all parties involved in oath taking must fulfil their part of the agreement:

#### No Harm Principle

Oath taking requires love and trust for one another from parties involved in a covenant relationship. Therefore, it demands that every member involved in oath taking must look out for the good of one another and prevent harm from befalling any member of the group or the group itself

#### One for all: all for One Principle

Oath taking establishes a union that binds one party to another in covenant, creating a "we feeling" that should be protected at all times. Therefore, through cooperation they are able to achieve a common good.

#### The Principle of See but Say Nothing

Members are encouraged to keep all they see and hear in the group within members of the group. They are not to divulge information about the oath taking or the group to non-members. This makes it difficult for members to betray trust imposed on them.

Oath-taking uses the values of self-control and discipline as a strategy for maintaining harmonious relationships and preserving agreements. Through discipline and self-control, parties involved in oath-taking remain faithful to the agreement made, become dependable, reliable and trustworthy even in the face of temptation.

### 2.2 Arguments for Oath taking in Human trafficking



In Nigeria, human trafficking is regarded as a commercial venture that involves risks and benefits therefore, it is a game of chance (Adeniji, 2005) that comes with terms and conditions wrapped up in agreements and sealed off on oath. Therefore, the trafficked person recognises the oath as a bond based on an existing agreement between the parties which is either built up (in case of dispute) or built on (in case of friendships or business). Its goal is to achieve a harmonious relationship by sustaining agreements reached through crime control and justice. Among Nigerians, it is expected that the parties involved in oath-taking know the implication of taking an oath before a deity and should decline any offer pertaining to taking an oath before deities if he or she is uncertain of his/her abilities to carry out the rules to the letter. Accepting oath taking as a condition for sponsorship therefore, signifies consent and a willingness to work by the rules. It is held that Oath taking acts as a guarantee and reassures victims and traffickers alike of the commitment to the promises made and as such binds both traffickers with victims to the arrangement and promises made

### 2.3 Functions of the Oath in Human Trafficking

- Legitimizes
- Oath taking in human trafficking seals and makes sacred agreements reach as well as arrangements made when the priest, an authority and representative of the gods is involved in witnessing before the gods to the agreements and arrangements reached.
- Integrates
- The shrine, oath taking, and rituals are striking symbolic objects intended to communicate the need for cooperation between the trafficked and trafficker in order to achieve an ideal harmonious co-existence.
- Preserves
- Religion in human trafficking preserves the agreements reached through fear of repercussions for breaching arrangements. Therefore, the parties involved keep hope alive that their desires would be met.
- Binds
- Religion in human trafficking gives a sense of belonging and creates a feeling of oneness in the struggle of survival and binds the trafficker and the victim to the agreement reached.
- Builds Virtuous Character
- Religion even in human trafficking is prescriptive. It makes rules to regulate the behaviour of the parties involved and develop in them, traits of character that makes loyal, faithful and submissive

### 2.4 Drivers of Oath taking in Human Trafficking

Factors that drive oath taking in human trafficking are grouped into pull and push factors as follows:

#### Push Factors

i. Clandestine nature of trafficking in persons  
Trafficking in persons is both an international and domestic crime. As such, traffickers hide their identity and activities from law enforcement. In their interest, prevent betrayals to avoid confrontation of any sort with the law.

ii. A need to curb criminality among parties in group agreement

Human trafficking is a transaction that is based on promises. The trafficker promises to help the trafficked person get into another country outside Nigeria if certain payments are made to facilitate transactions. The trafficked person is not sure if the trafficker would do what he promised even after collecting some amount of money. The need to repress criminal conduct and betrayals among members of the group, made traffickers apply oath taking to human trafficking.

iii. Protection of individual and group interests

When Oath is taken, it is binding on both the trafficked and trafficker. This assures each person involved that promises will be kept and rekindles hope of attaining set goals. Thus, oath taking helps in preserving arrangements and protecting personal interest

#### Pull Factors

Traffickers are drawn to oath taking because it is believed to be effective. However, belief in the efficiency of the Oath taking is nourished by the following practices:

#### i. Belief in African Traditional Religion

African traditional religion has certain beliefs and practices that suit the purpose of traffickers who exploit these to their advantage. Africans have a strong belief in the world of spirits, trust in the authority of priests, the shrine, rituals and the emblems of worship are held as sacred and reinforce the belief that a delicate balance exists in the universe between the visible world and the invisible world. Oath taking is firmly rooted in the religious belief that the spirit world is powerful so that it can bless those who are faithful, obedient and submissive or punish offenders for deviating from collective morality with diseases and death. The general notion is that oath taking is efficient because deities are incorruptible, just and fair

#### ii. Myths on Deities (gods)

Stories on deities portray deities as powerful spirits that punish offenders with illnesses, diseases such as madness and death. It is believed that they have eyes

everywhere that enable them to see when a crime is committed and know the offenders. In their nature as spirits, they are not restricted by time or space and can be everywhere so that they can reach and punish any offender even if she/he lives in the remotest part of the world. This gives the impression that nobody can escape punishment from the deities when they err particularly, as deities are directly accountable to the Supreme Being and incorruptible.

### **iii. Concept of Justice**

Africans believe that justice is fair and served when the offending party is punished for derailing from agreements and expectations. Therefore, deities believed to punish betrayals, and those who derail from agreements are regarded as effective and the method efficient. Sex trafficking on the other hand, is a transaction based on promises and cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, traffickers take advantage of the belief in the efficiency of oath taking and the reward and punishment approach-typical of any judicial system, to foster commitment to agreement and discourage betrayals.

## **2.5 Effects of Oath-taking in the Fight against Human Trafficking**

According to the United Nations (2023), “detection rates fell by 11% in 2020 and convictions plummeted by 27%, illustrating a worldwide slowdown in criminal justice response to trafficking”. Nigerians believe that the oath is a potent instrument of power which has the ability to inflict diseases and death on those who transgress or deviate from the rules and principles guiding the promises made. Trafficked persons from Nigeria claim that a fear of the consequences for breaking the oath and the promises they made before departure prevents them from divulging information on traffickers’ and their activities. Law enforcement officers, on the other hand indicate that refusal to assist or cooperate with law enforcement officers in their investigations prevent enforcement officers from carrying out their dutiful role of identifying, arresting and detaining people who break the law. It has been observed that the fear of the consequences of breaking the oath also prevent trafficked persons from witnessing the crime of trafficking which impacts on the victim-centered approach that relies on trafficked person’s testimony and witnessing as evidence of crime (OVC). In human trafficking narratives, the oath is presented as furthering crime and an obstacle to obtaining a fair hearing and justice. this assumption contradicts the notion of oath in pre-modern times as a means of preventing crime and obtaining truth and calls for investigation to how the perception of the oath as a means of preventing crime and obtaining truth among Nigerians who still rely on the effectiveness of the indigenous system of fighting crime in warding off criminality such as betrayals in contemporary times

## **2.6 Arguments against Oath taking in Human Trafficking**

Oath taking applied on human trafficking victims, involves the use of supernatural practices that make victims believe that a bad event will occur if the oath is broken. Therefore, trafficked persons remain at the mercy of traffickers who make decisions for them and control their earnings. Values that underlie oath taking strategy, promote silence. Meanwhile, information on traffickers is vital for the prosecution and conviction of traffickers. Without information on traffickers, their activities remain hidden from public knowledge and law enforcement. Thus, traditional oath taking ceremonies are considered as psychological abuses that coerce victims into remaining in the servitude of traffickers. Psychological coercion snuffles the voices of and gross injustices done to victims. Trafficking in persons and human rights

Human trafficking is an offense that not only violates state and federal law, but it also violates international human rights laws. Trade in human beings dehumanises trafficked victims who are objectified as commodities to be bought and sold. Marino (2008) identifies ways in which a person is treated as an object as, instrumentality, denial of autonomy, inertness, fungibility, violability, ownership and denial of subjectivity.

### **Instrumentality**

Instrumentality occurs in human trafficking when traffickers treat their victims as a tool for his/her purposes. In human trafficking, objectification begins with, luring or deceit of victims with an intention to make monetary gain from such.

### **Denial of Autonomy**

Traffickers treat victims as lacking in autonomy and self-determination. For instance, victims are always monitored by traffickers when indebted to traffickers; they cannot afford to live a free life because of a pressing need to pay off the debts. Thus, she has little or no control over the number of sexual clients she would have to attend to in a day neither does she have the freedom to refuse certain sexual partners

### **Denial of subjectivity**

Traffickers treat victims as something whose experience and feelings need not be taken into account. Traffickers lock up victims for days sometimes without food. They threaten to kill or in some cases, do bodily harm to victims who cannot repay the debts they owe

## Violability

Traffickers treat victims as lacking in bodily integrity, as something permissible to break up, smash or break into. Trafficking involves various abuses, including rape. Victims are raped to break down their resistance and prepare them for sex work

## Ownership

Traffickers treat victims as something owned that can be bought and sold. At times, victims are resold.

### 3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Trafficking

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (“UDHR”) is a legal document adopted by participating countries in the United Nations and establishes fundamental human rights universally protected. The UDHR applies when human rights have been blatantly disregarded and the end results are heinous acts that shock the conscience and prevent mankind from enjoying universal freedoms. Thus, human trafficking violates Articles 1,3,4,5 and 13 of the UDHR

Article I grants all human beings the right to be born free and equal in dignity. Human trafficking is a violation of Article I because while those who are taken are born free, they are not equal in dignity since these individuals are used for nefarious sexual activities (Norah, 2019).

Article 3 grants everyone the right to life, liberty and security of person. Forcing trafficked individuals into marriages, labour, and other activities negates the freedom of liberty granted under Article 3 because these persons lost their agency in choosing their partner and freedom of making decisions over themselves (Norah, 2019).

Article 4 bans the holding of a person for the use of slavery or servitude, as well as slave trade in all forms. The act of trafficking in persons violates the right of the trafficked person under Article 4. Trafficked persons are held under slave-like conditions (Norah, 2019). Passports are confiscated and they are made to enter into numerous exploitative forms of prostitution, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery or indentured servitude. Human traffickers involve victims in a host of other crimes that include gang activity, drug activity, drug operations, property crimes, and organized criminal operations.

Article 5 protects people from cruel, inhuman treatment and punishment. Victims of human traffickers suffer inhumane treatment. Some are raped, beaten and may even have their organs removed; and last,

Article 13 grants all humans the right to freedom of movement. Human traffickers prevent those taken from freely moving. Trafficked persons lose autonomy and the liberty to move from one place to another when their passports are seized and they are made to remain in one place, out of public knowledge. They are closely monitored when allowed to go out. Human trafficking violates the UDHR because victims’ basic rights are ignored (Norah, 2019).

## 4. Victim-Centered Approach

The victim centered approach is defined as, the systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in non-judgmental manner (OVCTTAC). Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the legal framework that provides the main components for combating human trafficking as Protection, Prosecution and Prevention also known as 3Ps. Best practice places victims at the centre of the process of combating human trafficking crime and prioritizes the needs of victims in order to reduce trauma and victimization.

### 4.1 Principles of Victim-Centered Approach

- **Identifying Trafficked Persons as Victims of Crime:** Trafficked persons are potentially victims of organised crime and may have serious security concerns not only to their persons but there may also be security risks to their family members (IOM, 2018).
- **Trafficked Persons should not be Treated as Criminals:** Victims’ rights and needs are at the core of the victim centered approach. Victims of human trafficking are provided humanitarian assistance and psychosocial support including, shelter, counselling, education, medical and psychosocial assistance. The aim is to protect victims from being re-victimized, gain their confidence to cooperate with law enforcement, witness against those who victimized them and assist law enforcement in the process of prosecuting traffickers.
- **Trafficked Persons should not be Treated only as Source of Evidence:** Trafficking cases require evidence of force, fraud or coercion. Therefore, victims not only serve as useful sources of information but are also viable witnesses to the crime of human trafficking. Therefore, they play a crucial role in human trafficking investigations and prosecutions. In many trafficking cases, only victims can explain the coercion and control that are basic

elements of crime (OVCTTAC). However, they should not be treated only as a source of evidence. Cooperation from victims is the key factor of success in any trafficking in person's investigation and prosecution.

### 5. Conflicting Interests and Contrasting Methods

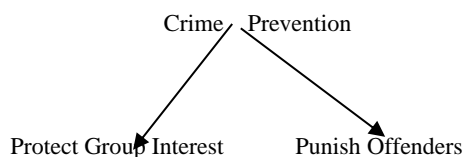
Karl Marx defined conflict as a struggle between parties of unequal status and power. In narratives on human trafficking, feminists project conflict as arising from an inequality between sexes in society where males who are privileged above females benefit more from the subjugation of women in traditional roles as caregivers. Therefore, they fight for the rights of women and girls while calling on the government to punish men who patronise prostitutes since there will be no supply without demand. The government on the other hand, has the responsibility of meeting with the needs of the citizenry by providing an environment conducive for the enjoyment and fulfilment of human rights therefore, conflict for it, arises from an inequality in power between the trafficker and the trafficked person who the trafficker exploits and oppresses. However, from the perspective of the law giver and enforcer, conflict is conceived as a struggle to resist being convicted and sent to prison and as such, stands for all the complexes of activity that operate to bring the substantive law of crime to bear (or

avoid bringing it to bear) on persons who are suspected of having committed crimes (Packer, 1964) also referred to as the criminal process. For this work, conflict is defined as the struggle between two methods at par but using different value-systems in fighting criminality in human trafficking therein, expanding the concept of conflict in human trafficking beyond inequality in power and status to differences in worldviews within a globalised world where migration enabled the oath an indigenous method of preventing and obtaining truth to meet and confront the victim-centered approach used in fighting crime and obtaining truth in human trafficking. it is observed that when two methods at par but using different values systems are pitted together, they compete and struggle against each other for recognition

### 6. The Supremacy Battle

In the legal process, two kinds of criminal process models are recognised as, the crime control model and due process model. In the fight against criminality in human trafficking, two types of value systems have been recognised as, the crime control model and due process model and associated with oath-taking method and the victim-centered approach respectively. The oath which employs the crime control method has an underlying value system that emphasises the repression of criminal conduct as the most important function to be performed by the criminal process.

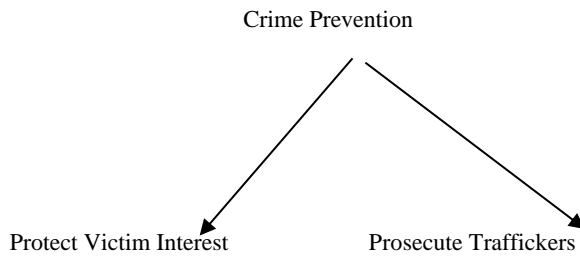
Figure 1 Diagram illustrating Oath-taking Approach



Therefore, it pays attention to absolute adherence to the principles guiding the oath and commitment to obligations. Oath taking usually recognises an existing agreement between the parties which is built up (in case of dispute) or built on (in case of friendships or business). Its goal is to achieve a harmonious relationship by sustaining agreements

reached through crime control and justice. However, it finds unacceptable the presumption of innocence. The victim-centered approach exhibits the due process method. It proposes the legal guilt doctrine which states, "An individual is not to be held guilty of crime merely on showing that in all probability, based upon reliable evidence, he did factually what he is said to have done. Instead, he is to be held guilty if and only if these factual determinations are made in procedurally regular fashion and by authorities acting within competencies duly allocated to them" (Packer, 1964) therefore, it accepts with considerable equanimity a substantial diminution in the efficiency with which criminal process operates in the interest of preventing official oppression of the individual (Packer, 1964).

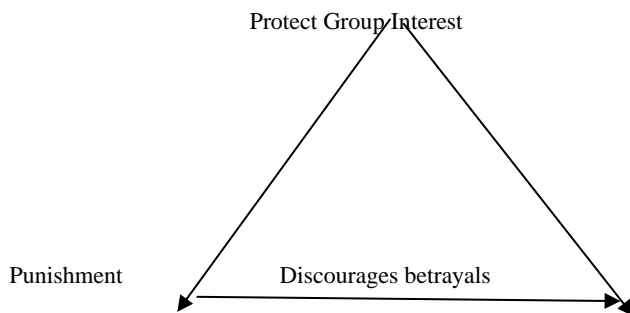
**Figure 2.** Diagram illustrating the Victim Centred Approach in Human Trafficking



**7. Assessing Oath-taking Strategy and the Victim-Centered Strategy**

In human trafficking, an impression is given that trafficked persons are intimidated, oppressed and exploited therefore, the expectation is that trafficked persons would resent their oppressors for punishing them and be offended enough to want to see them punished for their crimes. An opportunity which the victim-centred approach affords them by prioritizing their experiences and elevating their position as witnesses who testify against traffickers who oppressed and afflicted them. It is expected that trafficked persons who feel offended by the act of cruelty meted out on them would cease on this opportunity to see the trafficker pay for his actions. However, in trials held in Europe, it is reported that victims go into fits and trances in the witness box due to fear of juju (Finnish Immigration Services). Reports from Nigeria also indicate that when traffickers are arrested, victims fail to show up in court to testify against them for fear that they would die if they violate the oaths (Mojeed, 2008). Fear of the consequences for breaking the oath has therefore been attributed to reprisal attacks and harm to loved ones in countries of departure. While this may be one of the reasons eliciting fear, in Nigeria, the fear of the consequences for breaking the oath is understood differently and made in reference to the belief in deities' ability to punish betrayal and offenders by inflicting sickness, madness or death on such persons. The fear of invoking the wrath of the gods on oneself or the family comes from the belief that deities are so powerful and unstoppable that neither time, space or distance could not prevent them from inflicting harm on someone that derails. It is also held that deities as spirit beings are so powerful that nothing could be hidden from them so they know when there has been a betrayal or not. With that, no one that derails escapes being seen and punished by the gods

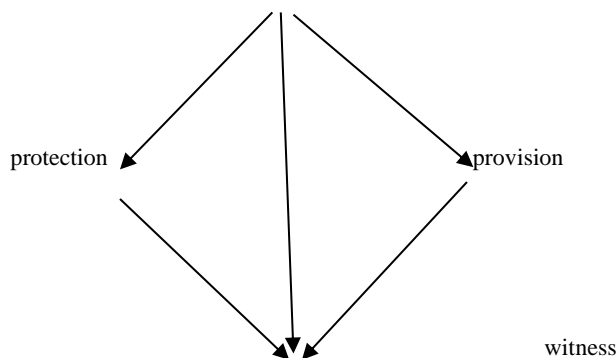
**Figure 3.** Diagram Illustrating Oath-Taking Strategy



The perception of deities as powerful, incorruptible and efficient make a generality of the people prefer to deviate from man-made laws than rules set out as guide by the gods. While this may seem irrational since the existence of deities or spirit beings cannot be proven, this work would compare strategies used by both the oath and victim-centered approach in ascertaining, if the oath would have been efficient if belief in gods were absent.

In the victim-centered approach, trafficked persons are elevated as viable participants in all stages of the criminal justice process and their impact statements are upheld as lending a strong and active voice in the disposition of criminal cases (IOM, 2018). Therefore, the victim-centered method concentrates on provisions of shelter and protection of trafficked persons in exchange for information.

**Figure 4.** Diagram Illustrating Victim Centered Strategy



The oath on the other hand, concentrates on character dispositions and instills values of self-control, self-discipline, loyalty and commitment to a common purpose which nullified selfish, individualistic tendencies that predisposed trafficked persons to criminality. While the values in the victim-centred approach created a situation of dependency, oath-taking fostered values that encouraged an independent status. So that, whether the trafficker was there or not, the trafficked person would continually be loyal

**8. Impact of Oath-taking Strategy on the Victim-Centered Approach**

Oath taking builds self-control and silence on issues of importance concerning the group. Parties involved in the oath taking process are required to keep the secret of the group secret. In discouraging flippancy with promises of punishment, this method prevents betrayals resulting from detailed discussions about the group with non-members which makes

- i. it difficult for law enforcement agents to get information that would help them in identifying traffickers, detecting their operations and activities
- ii. It makes it difficult for trafficked persons to testify against traffickers as witnesses to the crime of trafficking

Oath-taking measures make the victim-centered approach less effective in fighting crime in the following ways

- i. Attacks the dependent posture on victims’ witnessing
- ii. Creates attitudes that contradict enforcement procedures and make law enforcement less efficient. Thus, it creates confusion for law officials who in the course of duty, come in contact with these “victims” who refuse to cooperate with investigation
- iii. It renders criminal justice less effective and with records of low prosecution

**9. The Utilitarian Problem in Oath taking Approach**

The central purpose of the justice system is to deliver an efficient, effective, accountable and fair justice process to the public. However, the Nigerian human trafficking syndicate has been identified as contributing to challenges faced by law enforcement.

Trafficking in persons is a crime against humanity and its impact goes beyond the victim because it undermines national security. Reports state that human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal businesses, third behind illegal sales of arms and drugs deals (Global Monitoring Report). In some countries like Nigeria, migrants pay traffickers to get them across borders and attempt to get into foreign countries through the Mediterranean Sea or Sahara Desert. At times, they do not get to their destination alive. The United Nations 2011 report estimated that almost 21 million persons globally, including 11.4 million women are trapped in what some people call modern day slavery (Voronova and Radjerovic, 2011).

However, oath taking in human trafficking does not allow a balance that is essential in judicial process and necessary for societal good and harmony because it promotes silence that shrouds the activities of traffickers and protects the trafficker from prosecution. Silence on activities of traffickers makes trafficking in persons a low-risk business that enables a trafficker to remain undetected while carrying out an illegal activity. The use of oath taking in human trafficking, forces women and children to submit to the most atrocious offenses against their persons. According to the global report on trafficking (2018), “in all of the sex trafficking cases reported to UNODC, traffickers controlled the victims and forced them to hand over either all or a significant portion of their profits”. Traffickers also

used other method as well such as imposing large 'debts' when victims had travelled to their place of exploitation, extracting 'fines', for a range of insignificant or invented misconduct, and/or obliging women engaged in commercial sex in streets to pay a daily fee for right to occupy a particular location (ECPAT, 2007). Trafficked victims especially, women and children are vulnerable to violence and abuses which violates their fundamental human rights. Thus, trafficking in persons is a crime that should be reported and traffickers prosecuted in order to deter other traffickers and prevent the vulnerable from becoming a victim of traffickers.

### 10. Conclusion

Although findings contradict the view that oath-taking in human trafficking is solely used to further crime, it appears like the construction of all trafficked persons as victims makes it easier to adopt the victim approach in combating human trafficking but this denies the consent of trafficked persons to other arrangements accepted by them as binding. With this, a situation in which trafficked persons who do not consider themselves as victims, lured, forced or coerced are labelled victims of crime. On this basis, they are co-opted as witnesses in a judicial criminal process that might convict the trafficker who they see as a "saviour" for rescuing them from the shackles of poverty. According to Packer (1964, Dan Vijk, 2011) offenses that do not result in anyone feeling that he/she has been injured always present a greater problem to the criminal process than does the crime with an ascertainable victim. The problem with the refusal of trafficked persons to cooperate with investigation and with the enforcement of justice goes beyond the emotion of fear to an application of an approach in human trafficking that is inadequate for dealing with victimless crime

### 11. Recommendations

The victim-centered approach is inadequate and can only deal with certain aspects of crime in human trafficking. therefore, it should be modified and broadened to include:

- i. consent
- ii. victimless crime

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## Exploring the Relationship between Women's Travel Behaviour and Adoption of Sustainable Transportation Practices

VICTORIA OLUWATOYIN ADEMILUYI  
Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria

**Abstract.** The fast and increasingly urban growth necessitated the drastic change in characteristics of travel behaviour of women. Amidst risks involved in different transportation systems and the realities of fiscal constraints, women struggle to have safe access and affordable transportation options. This study examines the relationship between women travels behaviour and adoption of sustainable transportation practices with special references to four (4) urban centres in Ogun State, Nigeria. A total of one thousand three hundred and sixty-six (1,366) completed questionnaires were used for the analysis. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was employed to investigate the correlation between the travel patterns of female's individuals and the implementation of sustainable transportation methods. The results from the correlation analysis depict a significant relationship between women's travel behaviour and adoption of sustainable transportation practices in Ogun State. The result further shows that the level of adoption of sustainable, transportation practices significantly influence women's travel behaviour and the out-of-town trips for all purposes.

**Keywords:** Gender mobility, sustainable transportation, urban growth, travel patterns

### 1. Introduction

The modern city being a centre of industry and commerce and a point for collecting, producing and distributing commodities of all kinds requires transportation which allows the movement of people and goods that the city to function. Since home and work places are not in the same location for many people, it therefore means that must travel. However, the rapid and increasingly complex urban growth has drastically changed the travel behavior of women. Women have very different and complex travel patterns than men; they have various destinations and modes of travel based on social,

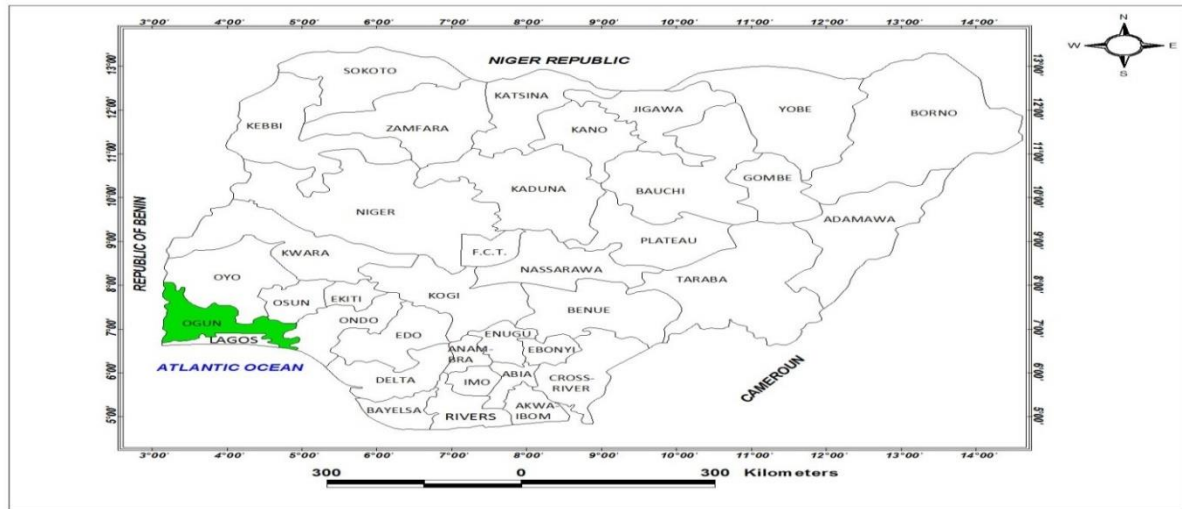
cultural, economic and demographic characteristics (Hayati, 2020; Nicholas, 2024). Mobility in women will not only empower women themselves, but also their families. Women's mobility allows women and family members to reach their destination and to increase production (Hayati, et al. 2020; Nicholas, 2024). The attraction of the city centre as the central business district (CBD), favourite work place/office, shops/malls, schools, recreation centres make the travel pattern almost aimed at the centre by both men and women. (Carlos, 2023; Hayati et al. 2020; Sharmin & Jonathan, 2024).

In most cases, women are most often disadvantaged by inadequate conditions of the infrastructure and transportation facilities in most developing countries/societies. The travel pattern of women is short and relies on non-motorized or public transportation modes; and these adverse transportation conditions change women's travel patterns and the modes they use. Women have distinct sense of responsibility towards themselves and their family; they have more limited access than men; their travel is related to reproduction and nurturing matters such as picking up children, shopping, working, recreation, or just to enjoy their time. (Hayati et al. 2020; Carlos, 2022). Amidst risks involved in different transportation systems, and the stark realities of fiscal constraints, women struggle to have safe access and affordable transport options and in extreme situations, they take to non-motorized transport modes like walking and cycling to create healthier conditions (Nicholas, 2024; Sharmin & Jonathan, 2024).

It is useful to identify the practices adopted by women which enable them to cope with the current challenges particularly if implicitly aligned with sustainable transportation practices. It is based on this backdrops that the study examines the relationship between women travels behaviour and the adoption of sustainable transportation practices

with special reference to four (4) urban centres in Ogun State, Nigeria. Ogun State, located in the Southwestern part of Nigeria, ranks as the 16<sup>th</sup> most populous state in the country out of the 36 states. The state covers a landmass of 16,409 square kilometers

and it shares an international boundary with the Republic of Benin to the west and inter-state boundaries with Oyo State to the north, Lagos and the Atlantic to the south and Ondo State to the east (see figure 1).



**Fig 1:** Map of Nigeria showing Ogun State.  
**Source:** Federal Ministry of Land and Survey (2019)

The research work is anchored on activity-based theory, patriarchal paradigm, travel demand theory and spatial interaction perspective. According to Axhausen and Garling (1992), the analysis of travel demand based on activity considers travel as a demand that is derived from the necessity to engage in activities that are spatially distributed. In other words, people rarely travel without a reason, but rather, it is often necessitated by a variety of activities such as work, shopping, education or hobbies, which require individuals to journey to different locations.

The concept of patriarchy refers to a societal structure in which males occupy positions of primary power and dominance in various domains, including political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property. It can be said therefore that the relationship between patriarchy and gender is crucial to the women subordination position/gender inequalities in many sectors of the economy including transport.

Travel demand models are used to predict travel characteristics and usage of transport services under alternative socio-economic scenarios and land use configurations (Bhat & Koppelman, 2023). According to the theory, ultimately the demand for transport comes about because of the activity happening at the end of the trip.

Many spatial interaction models operate under the fundamental premise that the movement of goods, people, or information is contingent upon the characteristics of the origin and destination locations, as well as the distance between them. This

distance is often referred to as friction, and is a key factor in determining the flow of interactions between locations. In line with Rodrigue et al (2020) findings, the spatial interaction model can be generally formulated in the following manner:

**Tij:** The present study focuses on examining the interaction that occurs between two distinct locations, namely location *i* (origin) and location *j* (destination). The units of measurement associated with it are diverse and may encompass factors such as passenger count, freight weight, traffic volume and so on. This concept is also associated with a specific temporal framework, encompassing interactions occurring on an hourly, daily, monthly or yearly basis.

**Vi:** The attributes pertaining to the location of origin *i*. The attributes in question are frequently represented by variables of a socio-economic nature, including but not limited to population, job availability, industrial output, or any measure that serves as a proxy for the level of economic activity, such as gross domestic product.

**Wj:** The attributes pertaining to the destination location by *i*. This attribute employs comparable socio-economic variables to emphasize the interdependence of the locations.

**Sij:** The concept of *Sij* pertains to the characteristics that distinguish the geographical point of departure *i* from the geographical point of arrival *j*. The phenomenon commonly referred to as “friction of distance” or “impedance” is also recognized in academic circles as “transport friction.” The attributes in question are frequently represented by variables such as distance, transportation expenses, or duration of travel.

**2. Methodology**

The study employed the cross-sectional community survey design. Women in four cities in Ogun State were selected through a multistage sampling technique. A total of one thousand, five hundred and ninety-seven (1,597) respondents completed the questionnaire which were analyzed in relation to the sustainable transportation practices adopted by them for the intra-urban and inter-urban movements.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was employed to investigate the correlation between the travel patterns of females' individuals and the implementation of eco-friendly transportation methods within the designated research region. Due to missing data, 1,366 cases were used for the correlation analysis.

**3. Results**

The results of the correlation analysis are as shown on Table 1. The Pearson correlation coefficient for the total score of sustainable practices by women and total daily trips for all purposes by women is – 0.078. This value denotes a negative correlation between the two variables, though the correlation is weak. It actually means that sustainable transport practices lead to a reduction in the number of daily trips by women. From the table, the observed significant of 0.004 indicates that the correlation coefficient is statistically significant at 5% level.

The table further shows the correlation value between the total score of sustainable practices by women and total out-of-town trips for all purposes by women. The Pearson correlation coefficient is given as 0.153 which indicates a positive correlation between the two variables. The observed significant value is given as 0.000 which is less than our critical level of a significant (0.05). This implies that the level of adoption of sustainable transportation practices significantly influences women's travel behavior and the total out-of-town trips for all purposes. This shows that the sustainable transportation of women does not reduce the out-of-town trips by women.

**Table 1:** Correlation between Total Score of Sustainable Practices by Women and Total Trips Generated

	Total Daily Trips	Total Out of Town Trips
Pearson correlation	-0.078	0.153
Significant Value	0.004	0.000
N	1366	1366

*Source:* Author's Computation with SPSS

**4. Summary and Conclusion**

The results from the correlation analysis depict a significant relationship between women's travel behaviour and adoption of sustainable transportation practices in Ogun State. One of the key determinants of travel behaviour is individual accessibility to the transport mode available to them. Sometimes, travel behaviour is influenced by not our choice of transport but the accessible mode of transportation available to us.

The findings from the study by Ademiluyi et al. (2024) have established that women without vehicles are associated with the adoption of sustainable transportation practices. This result demonstrates the effect of lack of vehicle as the basis for such practices. This result also shows that the adoption of sustainable transportation practices is not fully entrenched as intentional. The adoption of such practices is a response to the inadequacies and lack of vehicle among most of the women in the region.

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1



## Environmental Health Issues and Challenges in Lagos State, Nigeria

OLUWASEYI AMOS EMAKPOR

Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria

ADEBOWALE ADEYEMI –SUENU

Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Nigeria

RASHIDAT OLUWAKEMI EMAKPOR

Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This study is a critical examination of Environmental Health Challenges and Causes in Lagos State Nigeria in historical perspective. The paper also analysed some of the cogent challenges and causes of Environmental Health issues in Lagos State such as urbanisation, air pollution, noise pollution, landfill issues and ground water pollution. Historical research methodology was adopted. The primary data for the study was collected through direct oral interviews of 45 residents of the state through random sampling technique. It also involved the use of secondary data e.g. textbooks, newspapers, journals etc. The study contributed to knowledge by filling the gap of Lagos State Nigeria in historical perspective. This work concluded that Environmental Health in Lagos State is paramount in order to safeguard the people and the environment. And to ensure environmental sustainability in Lagos State, it is therefore crucial for residents and government agencies to wake up to their responsibilities.

**Keywords:** Environmental Challenges and Causes, Environmental Health, Environmental Pollution.

### 1. Introduction

The global presence and obvious effects of environmental degradation are undeniable and the condition of the environment has significantly worsened. There are notable increase in climate change and the greenhouse effect, leading to a countless of natural disasters like floods, noise pollution, air pollution, and the emergence of both infectious and non-communicable diseases, all posing threats to human health. Many of the generally acknowledged global environmental problems (greenhouse warming, ozone depletion,

soil erosion, chemical management, acidic rain and water pollution, among others) are directly or indirectly caused by the creation, operation, or disposal of the built environment undertaken by man. It was believed that many of the environmental challenges were caused by human activities which called for social action on environmental sustainability. Ogunba (2016) observed that Lagos emerged as Nigeria's primate city, its primacy status emanated from its dominance in commerce and huge contributions to the national economy, and its sheer population size. Its primacy originated when Nigeria's colonial administrators made Lagos one of their preferred settlements in Nigeria during their occupation (from 1861 until 1960), a position that was maintained till 1991. During that period, major governmental departments, financial markets, regulators, and multinational corporations were located in Lagos. These include the Central Bank, the Nigerian Stock Exchange, Securities and Exchange Commission, nearly all commercial and merchant bank headquarters, corporate Registrars of blue-chip companies, and multinational corporations especially the petroleum exploration companies which are at the core of the country's economy.

This paper explored various environmental issues and challenges encountered Lagos State Nigeria, with a specific focus on urbanisation, air pollution, noise pollution, landfill issues and ground water pollution. Environmental degradation in Lagos State was rapidly worsened due to human activities, resulted in a surge of negative environmental health issues. Lagos State is a mega city situated in an emerging national economy and the largest city in Africa (Abila and Kantola, 2013). And coupled with its high revenue generation of N 418.99 billion in

2020 accounted for 32.1 percent of the total revenue generated by 36 states and federal capital territory (Abdullahi et al., 2020).

## 2. Literature Review

World Health Organization (2012), opined that Environmental Health addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors impacting behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health. Environmental health is the study of those factors in the environment that affect human health. The factors could be pollutants or toxicants in air, water, soil, or food, transferred to humans by inhalation, ingestion, or absorption and result in adverse health effects (Ebong, 2002). Environmental Health comprises sustaining a natural environment free from undue hazard which provides essential environmental services to households and communities. These include: Sanitation, Water supply, Traffic control, Hygiene promotion, Air pollution control, Storm water drainage and Solid waste management (Aribisala, Omotoso and Folorunso, 2004). Thus, the definitions above highlighted that environmental health fundamentally focused on preventing disease and creating healthy supportive environments.

Faniran and Adeboyejo, (1999), observed that Environmental Health is broader than hygiene and sanitation; it encompasses hygiene, sanitation and many other aspects of the environment such as global warming, climate change, radiation, gene technology, flooding and natural disasters. It also involved studying the environmental factors that affect health. Environmental health is the art and science of protecting against environmental factors that may adversely impact human health or the ecological balances essential to long-term human health and environmental quality. Such factors include, air, food and water contaminants, radiation, toxic chemicals, wastes, disease vectors, safety hazards and habitat alterations (Agberemi, 2003). Owoade et al, (2013), defined environmental health as the use of different means to protect public health through regular removal of wastes, maintenance of clean surroundings, good food and appropriate personal hygiene. It also involved regular supply of safe water, prevention of pollutions, and provision of decent housing with appropriate facilities essential for human conveniences.

## 3. Methodology

Historical research methodology was adopted. Historical research methodology is concerned with analysing and interpreting the meaning of historical events. It is a process by which a researcher is able

to reach a conclusion as to the probable truth of an event in the past studying facts available for observation in the present (Berg and Lune, 2012). This study relied on primary historical data (direct accounts of events, archival data, official documents, personal records and records of eyewitnesses). It also involved the use of secondary historical data (information from persons who do not witness the event e.g. textbooks, newspapers, journals etc.) The primary data for the study was collected through direct oral interviews of 45 residents through random sampling technique.

## 4. Theoretical Framework

### 4.1 Humans-Environment Interaction Model

The model portrayed a system of dependency of humans on its environment and the impact of its attitude and activities on the same environment. From the Model, humans can either choose to protect or destroy their own environment through their actions. The result of their action is either total destruction or sustainability of the environment. Deaton (2004) stated that the disposal of solid waste and hazardous waste in or on land without careful planning and management can present a danger to human health and the environment. The unrestricted dumping of domestic, industrial, hospital and agricultural waste at the city's main dumping site was cause for concern. For example, if a dumpsite occupies about 30 acres, with at least 500 tonnes of waste deposited daily, the indiscriminate dumping of refuse and open dumping of refuse contaminate drinking water from both underground and surface supplies. It also pollutes air and land, above all it provides easy arena for disease spread.

Furthermore, many environment-related diseases developed from filthy environments, which were human creation. Some people lived and carried out their businesses in these environments without concern for their health. When the waste is burnt, poisonous gases are formed and which is very poisonous. Many residents in Lagos State were suffering from respiratory abnormalities and many had blocked airways. Cases of skin disorders, abdominal problems and eye infections were also common among the people of Lagos State. Malaria was another threat, since blocked drains collected water and eventually became breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

In Nigeria, evidence abounds, where ordinary citizens have arbitrarily dumped their solid waste refuse into gutters or open drains (even when hoppers or waste bins are provided). For example, in a study carried out in Lagos in 2005 to assess the success of Lagos Environmental Sanitation Authority and Malaria Control Project in communities like; Surulere, Ajeromi and Mushin Local Government Areas, about seventy percent of the sampled 1403 respondents confirmed that they often dumped their refuse inside the gutters (Aderemi and Otitolaju,

2012). This model explained the necessary interaction between human and environment. It enabled us to properly understand the relationship between man, his environment, and health issues.

## 5. Issues and Challenges

### 5.1 Urbanisation of Lagos from 1800

Mabogunje (2000), observed that urbanisation trends increased after the end of the Second World War, when the volume of people that migrated into cities surged greatly with a large proportion concentrated in big cities. The migration to Lagos has been steadily escalated over the years. Spectacular urban growth in Lagos dated to the early 1800s, when its favorable location on the West African coastline made it attractive to the European settlers. From being a small slave port in 1800 and grew to become the most important port on the West African coastline (Olukoju, 2003). In particular, the southern shores of Lagos Island were conducive to the early European traders on account of the frontage which was suitable for construction of piers and wharves that received ships (Alagbe, 2006). That area became and remained one of the central business districts in Lagos. Its strategic location has interminably attracted people and this resulted in a large and steadily rising population which posed serious threat to environmental health. Urbanisation is inevitable in development process. As John Clos, argued “the only way to avoid urbanisation is to avoid development (Ogunba, 2016). Aworemi, Adegoke and Opoola (2011), suggested that the drift to Lagos was motivated by hope of employment, access to education, improved health care, better social amenities and the presence of recreational facilities in Lagos. All these reasons support the migration theories about the pull of urban areas and explain the attractiveness of this small Island to the migrants.

Ogunba (2016), opined that as a coastal state with sea ports, Lagos has been a natural gateway for international trade and engaged in international commercial transactions and carriage of goods by sea that has generated huge revenues for the country. The larger proportion of Nigeria’s trade is routed through the sea, and its economy accounted for seventy percent of the maritime trade in the West African sub-region. Lagos contributed forty percent of the country’s non-oil National Gross Domestic Product, and is thus a major contributor to national wealth. However, Harris (2000) cautioned that population growth that is unaccompanied by adequate social arrangements causes glaring and troubling human problems of the deepest intensity. Population is indeed a problem for sustainability where the proper infrastructure and institutional frameworks which would otherwise have

contributed to sustainability are lacking. The carrying capacity of any city experiencing rapid population growth will eventually be overextended. He also warned that in consequence, water supply shortages, lack of wastewater treatment, pollution, diseases, congestion, waste problems and deteriorating housing will all be manifestations of environmental stress.

### 5.2 Air Pollution

In Lagos, due to population density coupled with intense industrial and commercial activity, the air pollution of Lagos city was of particular interest (Odekanle et al., 2016). Previous studies undertaken in Lagos have reported the significant impact of pollutants on the local air quality when compared with WHO standards (Efe, 2018). There were several sources of air pollutant in Lagos mega city. One of such sources is road transportation. The extent of the significance of road transport as a source of specific pollutants at any point in time depends on the level of traffic and proximity of other sources of specific pollutants as well as meteorological parameters (Odekanle et al., 2016). A study conducted by the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA, 2008) on air quality revealed that vehicular activities contributed about 43 percent to the deteriorated air quality in Lagos.

In Nigeria, there has been a growing importation of used vehicles which aided the degradation of the environment despite the global attempt to reduce environmental problems caused by transport machinery (Jayesimi, Oral interview, 2023). Ojolo et al. (2007) studied the effects of vehicle emissions on human health in Nigeria using four locations in Lagos State. The study also observed the physical effects on vegetation, buildings and structures and concluded that the type of fuel, presence of industries and concentration of traffic determined the impacts of emissions on the ecosystem. Orisaleye et al, (2018), studied the environmental impacts of urban road transportation in south-western states of Nigeria by conducting interviews, estimating the air quality indicators and performing analyses on blood samples. The study revealed that responders suffered from air pollution related diseases such as headaches, loss of vision, anaemia, forgetfulness and fatigue. Most of the people interviewed said air pollution is one of Lagos identities. On air pollution in Lagos model and simulated approaches have attributed the bulk of noxious emissions to heavy vehicular traffic and widespread usage of generators for electricity to power machinery and other electrical equipment. (Izoma et al, Oral Interview, 2023). Another major source of air pollutant emission in Lagos is solid waste combustion. In Lagos, it was a common

practice to burn solid waste. While solid waste combustion is advantageous in terms of large volume of waste treatment, it thus led to emission of compounds that are of environmental concern. One of the major problems in Lagos State was the increase in quantity of waste generated. Of equal concern is the poor and inefficient management of waste to which government appears incapacitated (Kofoworola and Farinloye Oral Interview, 2023).

Another form of solid wastes generated is sawdust. These were openly burnt without regard for sound environmental management. Sawmills of various sizes were scattered all over the shores of Lagos. Hence, one of the greatest environmental problems facing Lagos State have been how to properly dispose these wastes being generated daily by the ever-increasing activities of saw mill operators (Ismaila, Oral Interview, 2023). In the absence of proper disposal methods, these wastes were burnt in the open air along the bank of lagoon of Lagos in places like Oko Baba, Ebute Meta, Badagary among others (Izoma, Oral Interview, 2023). As the demand for wood and its product increased, the volume of wastes generated by sawmill industries in Lagos State were increased and thus, higher emission from the combustion of the wastes (Farinloye, Oral Interview, 2023). There have been reports from residents on both environmental and health effects of emission from combustion processes which affected numbers of children and adults especially people living close to landfills, sawmill, roads, factories etc. And it must be stated clearly that air pollution is a major threat in Lagos State (Chikwudi, Oral Interview, 2023).

### 5.3 Noise Pollution

Over times, industrial activities of people in construction industries, recording studios, air and sea ports, transportation firms in Lagos have not just caused noise pollution but have worsened the case of the already polluted environment in affected areas (Kuka, Oral Interview, 2023). Similarly, the proliferation of religious houses and places of worship with amplified loud speakers produce unpleasant noise sensation and irritation to the eyes, and when especially when they are shouting at their loudest voices to the discomfort of every resident within 2km radius (Lowoori, Oral Interview, 2023). The use of loud horns of motorists/vehicles, heavy duty, trains, etc. at their loudest level in towns and cities are another disturbing issue of noise pollution in Lagos State. In a similar vein, due to the challenges faced from the public power supply-generating sets from individual residents and business firms make a hell of noise, thus, causing disturbance to the public. Sometimes as early as 3 – 4 am, 4 – 5am when most residents are still sleeping, worshipers disturbed the public in the name of

prayers. These acts are mostly common in mosques and the new generational churches (Daranijo, Oral Interview, 2023).

The World Health Organization (2011), recommends an industrial noise limit of 75 Decibels (dB) so, much that any sound level above 75 dB is already a pollutant. Nevertheless, in dance halls, recording centres, air ports, rail terminals etc. noise is normally heard above 115 dB sound level that must be avoided. This has to be avoided because, at this level, short- or long-term effects alike that can cause damage to the tympanic membrane the ear drum is likely to occur. This may either be injurious to the ear or lead to loss of hearing ability which may result to deafness to the affected members of the society (Madu, Oral Interview, 2023). Orisaleye et al, (2018) investigated exposure to noise among workers in a steel company in Ikorodu and the level of awareness of workers on the effect of industrial noise on hearing. The authors obtained data by randomly distributing 116 questionnaires, and noise mapping of the entire factory. The results of the study showed that noise levels of 49 dB (A), 72 dB (A), 86 dB (A), and 93 dB (A) were obtained around the administrative area, maintenance workshop, grinder floor, and finishing stage respectively. The authors inferred from the results obtained that although 93 percent of workers were aware that industrial noise affects hearing, only 27 percent of the workers possessed hearing protection, and only 18 percent actually used them at all times. The authors warned that even though there was high level of awareness that industrial noise causes occupational noise-induced hearing loss, there was a need to initiate other control measures such as strict compliance with regulation.

Orekoya et al, (Oral Interview, 2023) discussed the extent of noise pollution from sawmill activities in Itamaga Ikorodu, Lagos State. It was found that people complained of both auditory and non-auditory effects as a result of the noise generated by the plant. Over 90 percent complained of experiencing tinnitus while approximately 87 percent and 72 percent reported having headaches and hearing ailments respectively. Others reported annoyance and difficulty in ability to concentrate and double hearing/ hearing loss (diplacusis). Noise contributed to development of cardiovascular problems like heart diseases and high blood pressure. From experience, people exposed to high noise levels have more circulatory problems, cardiac disturbances, neuro-sensory, motor impairment, and even more social conflicts at home and at work (Hameed, Oral Interview, 2023). Dacosta, (Oral Interview, 2023) said primary sources of industrial noise were from machines and generators. He worked in nine manufacturing companies in Lagos, where he observed that noise generated by different



plant and machineries utilised in the production processes were the cause of industrial noise pollution in Lagos State. He revealed that electricity generating sets were the major sources of industrial noise and people around were at the receiving end of more than fifty percent of the effects of industrial noise, with the effects being more physiological than psychological.

#### 5.4 Landfill Issues in Lagos State

Solid waste management in Lagos State is undertaken by the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA). Open dumping of waste is the official method of waste management in Lagos State. The city has three major official waste dumps, the largest and most significant of which is Olusosun, which measures 42 hectares and is located in Ojota area within the Kosofe Local Government Area of the Lagos metropolis (Iwejingi, 2011). The second dump is the Solous Dump, which measures three hectares and is located in Igando within Alimosho Local Government area of the state along. The third dump is in Abule Egba, and is 10.5 hectares, and also located in Alimosho Local Government Area. The city also grapples with illegal dumpsites which are vacant parcels of land that people have unlawfully converted into dumpsites. Lagos residents currently generate 10,000 metric tons of waste daily, at an average rate of 0.5kg of waste per individual (Iwejingi, 2011). Ayodele and Simeon (2012) reported that in 2012 alone, 2,400 metric tons of solid waste was disposed daily at Olusosun waste dump alone. The quantum of waste is constantly increasing due to a persistent population growth and industrialisation. The waste is collected via a tripartite arrangement that involves LAWMA-owned trucks, LAWMA contractors, and Private Sector Participation (PSP) trucks. The LAWMA-owned trucks collect waste generated mainly from markets from the highways; the LAWMA contractors handle industrial waste; and the PSP trucks collect domestic/household waste (Izoma et al, Oral Interview, 2023).

All waste collected is deposited on platforms at the official waste dumps after each truck is weighed at the weighbridge which is located at the point of entry. The city previously experienced indiscriminate waste dumping, uncontrolled garbage, and littered pavements, roads, and sidewalks. These waste practices led to flooding, and created an aesthetic eyesore at that time. Also, LAWMA could only collect a fraction of the waste in the municipality, which it transferred to its open dumps. (Izoma et al, Oral Interview, 2023). The indiscriminate dumping practices have been controlled to a fair extent before 2015 that is prior to Governor Akinwunmi Ambode administration, although there were still noticeable refuse in parts of

the city especially the Lagos Island. Largely, waste collection improved in the first two years of Governor Ambode that is 2015 - 2017, as the mountains of waste on roadsides have disappeared with improved collection and transportation of waste but later collapsed (Ayobami and Efe, Oral Interview, 2023). When Olusosun landfill fire occurred in 2018 this caused environmental disaster in a large scale as harmful emissions were on rampage, such as formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, among others. Particulate matter in the smoke created during landfill fires also exacerbated respiratory and other health complications in those lived in the immediate environment, and those responded to the fire. Obviously, this was why the Lagos State government has ordered the residents of Olasosun to relocate (Mofolayan, Oral Interview, 2023).

In the 1990s, the dumpsite was located on the outskirts of the densely populated Lagos metropolis, but due to population explosion accompanied by urban housing expansion, the site later found itself sitting amidst the commercial and residential enclaves of Ojota, Alausa, Oregun and Ikosi. In those years, one is not sure whether the government instituted improved methods of landfill management at Olusosun. For example, factoring the most possible cause of spontaneous combustion, the government would have introduced methane gas detection and collection methods, to ensure that gas collection systems are not overdrawn and that collected gas is either flared or converted in energy (Awujoola and Jayesimi Oral interview, 2023). As it turned out eventually, a private company (Vision Scape and Cleaner Lagos) took over the management of the Olusosun dumpsite 2017. But the tragedy was that nobody would tell us about the whereabouts of the thousands of residents that have been told to relocate to other safer environments. And indeed, the sad reality was that there were many among them who were so poor that they cannot afford to relocate. In fact, some would prefer a temporal but deadly inhalation of the pollutants in the atmosphere to a spell of homelessness in uncharted waters of urban destitution (Ike, Oral interview, 2023).

Let us not forget the conflict between the Lagos State government and private sector participation (PSP) during Governor Ambode administration in Lagos, who were not happy with the manner the Lagos State administration has sidelined them in the implementation of the Cleaner Lagos Initiative Policy. In addition, we must not be blind to the fact that the Olusosun dumpsite burnt for over two weeks and this seriously endangered the environment and the people around at the period (Ike and Adefarati, Oral interview, 2023).

**Table 1:** Composition of Lagos State Waste Stream

Waste Type	Percentage of Total Waste
Organic	60 percent
Plastic	15 percent
Glass	5 percent
Paper	10 percent
Metal	5 percent
Others	5 percent

**Source:** Ogunba Adeola (2016), Hammed and Izoma (Oral Interview, 2023)

**Table 2:** Some Major Landfills / Dump sites in Lagos State

Landfills / Dump sites	Size	Depth	Year Commissioned	Scheduled Closure Date	Estimate of Waste at Site (million tons)
Olushosun	42 ha	8-15m	1992	2014	1.7
Abule-Egba	10 ha	12m	1983	2009	1.3
Solous	5 ha	9m	1981	2008	1.4
Gbagada	2 ha	5m	1988	2009	1
Jinti Ijede/ Ewu Elepe	7 ha	8m	1992		1.4
Epe	5ha	5m	1998		1
Oke Afa Isolo	2 ha	6m	1984	2009	1
Kesse Badagry	5 ha	5m	1990		1.2

**Source:** (Oyeniyi, Mabadeje and Jayesimi, Oral Interview, 2023)

### 5.5 Ground water Pollution by Solid Waste and Wastewater

Oyegoke, Adeyemi and Sojobi, (2012) observed that the rapid growth of cities and the large population sprawls that ensue are responsible for municipalities inability to deal effectively with solid wastes and wastewater generated from anthropogenic activities. In particular, the improper handling of toxic wastewater as shown by the loading of water bodies from the municipality, and by permitting industries to eject untreated effluents, are a potential source of health problems in epidemic proportions. In the same context, Oyegoke, Adeyemi and Sojobi, (2012) similarly noted that urbanisation, which incorporates the “inseparable” industrial development component with the attendant generation of large quantities of waste and sewage, has severe polluting impacts on the hydrological cycle. These statements are typified in Lagos State.

In 2002, Ikem et al monitored wells in the vicinity of a waste dump site in Oworonshoki, Lagos. They found that groundwater from these wells require further purification to make them suitable for human consumption because the levels of contamination in them are higher than levels permitted by World Health Organisation guidelines for drinking water. In 2008, Longe and Balogun in another research project, researchers drilled monitoring boreholes near the dumpsites in Abule Egba and Igando with the objective of evaluating the quality of soil and raw water samples through laboratory analysis. They found that the first borehole investigated at Abule Egba is prone to leachate contamination due to its shallow depth of 30 meters, and the absence of any significant impermeable layer (clay) to protect the groundwater occurring there. They recommended that boreholes constructed in that vicinity should exceed 42 meters in depth in order to avoid infiltration of leachate contaminants (Longe and Balogun, 2008).

The same researchers conducted a surface geophysical investigation of Olusosun waste dumpsite and a transfer loading station in conjunction with LAWMA in 2008. It was done, inter alia, to delineate possible leachate contamination within the dumpsites. Their report indicated that Olusosun, as the biggest waste dump in Lagos metropolis, has no liners or leachate collection system and therefore it has the potential to cause groundwater contamination especially within its southern flank (Longe and Balogun, 2008). In the same year 2008, Adeyemi et al investigated the physicochemical and microbial qualities of two wells and two boreholes within a closed waste dump Odo Iya Alaro in Kosofe within Lagos metropolis. In terms of physical chemistry, they found that the wells contain very high concentrations of heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and chromium. In terms of microbial characteristics, they also found that harmful coliform bacteria including ecoli, salmonella and shigella were also present in the wells.

In 2013, Longe assessed the level of groundwater contamination through leachate percolation from the Solous waste dump. Results showed that the quality of the groundwater underlying the waste dump had become moderately affected by the leachate from the waste site. Some of the chemical parameters used indicated that the levels of chromium, nitrate, and phosphate in the water samples were above the highest permissible level allowed by Nigerian Standards for Drinking Water Quality and the World Health Organisation Standards. They projected

that with time, the accumulation of leachate at the base of the dumpsite could break into the groundwater. But the very same fact, they said, could still enable leachate ponding and outflow into both surface and groundwater (Longe, 2013).

**Picture 1:** Polluted well in Lagos State



**Source:** The Researcher's Photograph

## 6. Conclusion

Lagos State Wastewater Management Office (LASWAMO) has outlined unhealthy practices within the Lagos metropolis that have the potential to pollute groundwater. These are: septic tanks being piped into the public drainage; pipes leading from ongoing construction of septic tank to a nearby canal and over-full septic tanks spilling seepage into the environment. The indiscriminate discharges of untreated wastewater from homes into open drains and water channels have raised fears about underground water pollution in the metropolis (Olorunnibe, Oral Interview, 2023). Health is inextricably linked to the environment, in the case of Lagos State Day to day activities of residents thus damaged natural environment in one way or the other also resulted in damage of human health. The residents were fully aware of the need to use the health facilities in the state. Most of the resident visited the clinics for the treatment of malaria. Other health cases reported were typhoid, dysentery, cholera and asthma. The study also established that monitoring and mandatory agencies of government were less effective on environmental health challenges. Many of the top risk factors contributed to illness and disability in Lagos State were directly tied to environmental health problems.

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## Influence of Information Management on Decision-Making among University Managers in Southern Nigeria

PAULETTE EKEJIUBA, M.I. YAMAH  
University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria

**Abstract.** This study examined the influence of information management on the decision-making among university managers in Southern Nigeria. Four research questions were raised to guide the study. The population consisted of all the University managers in Southern Nigeria: Three hundred and twenty-five of the population was selected using multi-stage random sample technique. An instrument titled: “Information Management and Decision-making Practices” was used to collect data. Pilot study was used to validate the instrument while Pearson correlation ( $r$ ) was used for the reliability of the instrument. Data collected was analysed using the descriptive Pearson ( $r$ ) statistics. The findings showed that information was effectively managed which enhances effective decision-making among the university managers. The result again showed that there was significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making among university managers based on gender of the managers. Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that broader awareness of information and practices may be valuable as the managers’ attempt to interpret behaviours in the fresh decision-making situations.

**Keywords:** Information Management, Decision-Making, Electronic, Physical.

### 1. Introduction

Information is a genuine component for managing the progress of any organization including education. University managers rely heavily on the information to make decision because they may not be sure of the alternative that best solves a problem. Wikipedia (2014) asserted that management of school information is a proves by which school managers plan, organize, coordinate and control the available information and formulated strategies for the attainment of the national educational goals. Information are specifically selected and prepared

for a particular problem. Most Nigerian universities tend to underpin information management in their decision-making process in the area of governance and management. This is achieved by continued and successful delivery of information to students, staff and external community so that all will comply with legislative requirements. The university requires strategic information management in order to meet these educational goals and objectives. Traditionally, information management system was simply a place where files, documents and images in a location were managed. The users find it difficult to quickly retrieve information in times of need. One has to manually search every folder one by one. It wastes time and cost intensive. In the contemporary society, there is modern information system that is very efficient and productive when compared to traditional ones. Instead of unwieldy paper files and delay access, the modern electronic information is computer-based files and have instant access to information/data.

Contemporary management of the university in developing world could be very complex and difficulty enterprise base on manager’s gender and university types. Such management is unduly made more complex if those who manage the university system have limited incorrect and untimely access to relevant information they directly need for making correct and sustainable decisions. Information (data) can be gotten virtually anywhere such as books, experts’ opinions, data base, library catalogue, internet and the like. These could be categorized under primary and secondary data. Some of the vital information needed in the universities are students’ admissions, behaviours and academic progress, finances, security, staff and the like. Nutt (2002) and Ekejiuba (2018) in their study discovered that, half of the decisions failed, either because they were not implemented or subsequently unrevealed. Information could be captured, managed, stored, preserved and delivered. Information management can be illustrated as shown in Fig. I

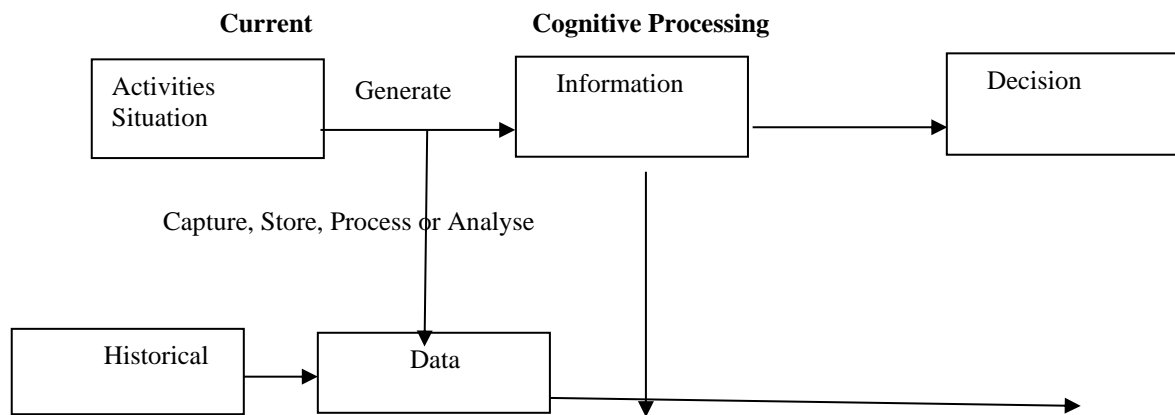


Fig. I: *Formation of information and Data New, Communication and Monitoring System Warning.*

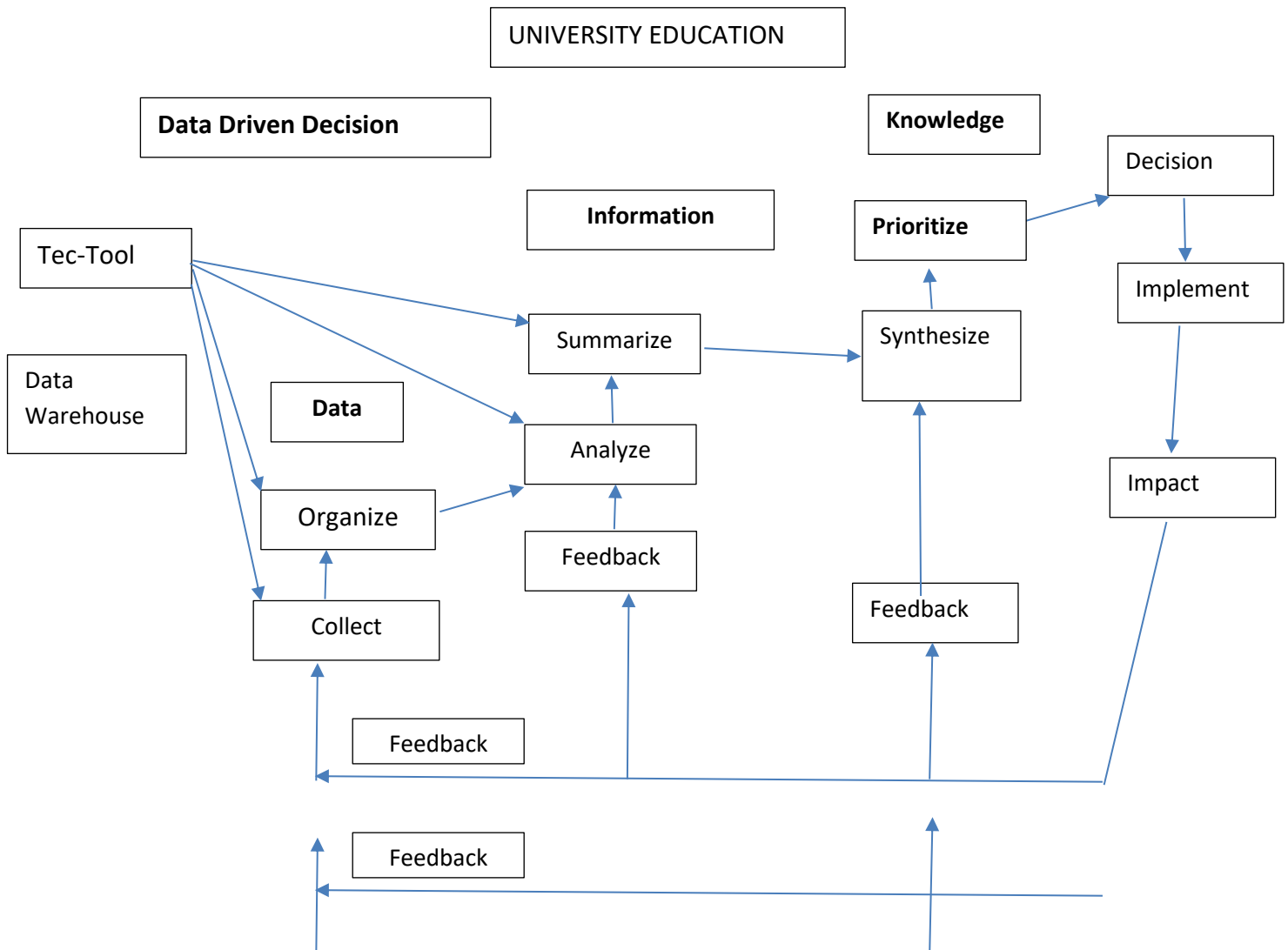
**Source:** Adapted from Liew, (2007). *Understanding data, information, knowledge and their inter-relationship. Journal of knowledge management practice* 8(2) June 2007, Retrieved from <http://www.tlinc.com/article134.htm>.

The diagram in Fig. I implies that relevant information is gathered, processed which in turn is related to other facts from where decision-making hinged. In Nigerian system of university education, data are kept in form of records, manually and electronically. Information serves as a reference point. University as a knowledge-based organization for excellence, needs accurate information to enable people create, analyse, publish and store data.

However, change in technology can contribute problems to school managers' efforts to manage data. Other problems are inadequate storage facilities, inadequate fund, absence of university record keeping centres, untrained/inexperience computer personnel, inadequate supply of computers and internet, insufficient space accommodation and diversity of the dimension of programmes. Most of these problems tended from either lack of information or poor capacity for information management. Nutt (2002) has established that there is a low level of management of information even though there is a high volume of information. If there is no adequate management of information, university education management will be crippled in its planning and decision-making process.

The Model Adapted for this Work was the Data-Driven Decision-Making Model Propounded by Light et al (2004) as in Fig 2.





**Figure 2: Model for Data-Driven Decision adapted from Mandinach, Honey and Light (2006)**

According to these theorists, information and knowledge form a continuum in which data are transferred to information and to knowledge that can be applied to decisions and data management. According to them, information is data that is given meaning when connected to a context. The model further explains that the data to knowledge continuum is defined by the inclusion of certain cognitive skills or actions that are crucial to any decision-making process. This model is relevant to this work because it gives vibrant explanation of the process involved in taking informed decision with appropriate data. The decisions are implemented and the impact serves as inputs to the system. The skills at the information level are ‘analysed’ and ‘summarized’ while at knowledge level are ‘synthesized’ and ‘prioritized’ as seen in Fig. 2.

According to the model, there is need to generate or collect reliable data and organize, thereafter analyse and summarize to give meaningful information. Furthermore, the information is synthesized and

prioritized to produce knowledge. The knowledge guides the University managers in making informed decisions about university education

The practice of educational management involves a wide range of decision-making processes. The more information, the better the decision made. Harry (2010) stated that information is the most essential ingredient for managing school effectiveness. Information according to Bourgon (2009) can be formally and informally obtained. It could be formally obtained when the manger assigned the responsibility of collecting and processing information to subordinates, set procedures, and specified the type of timing of information gathered by means of survey of the entire operation of a sample thereof would also falls into the category of a feedback. Informal aspect is when the managers collect the information by him/herself by asking questions, observing progress and calling for ad hoc committees.

Information management is useful only as long as it has relevance to decision making process in the educational system. In Nigerian universities, managers tend to be concerned about the alarming rate of misplacement or loss of vital records and the slow speed at which needed records are kept and retrieved from their storage, though these could be attributed to the type of the university or the gender of university managers. The Nigerian university system has been riddled by incessant strikes that sometimes lead to closure of schools, misappropriation of funds, wastage of resources, conflicts, insecurity, lack of cooperation between diverse units, low standard of education. Could it be that the information required by these decision makers for sound and sustainable decisions were not properly managed?

The following research questions guided the study:

- How effective are university managers in decision making in Nigeria universities?
- Is there a relationship between information management and effective decision-making among the university managers?
- Is there a relationship between information management and effective decision-making among the university managers based on the gender of the manager?
- Is there a relationship between information managements and effective decision-making process of university managers based on the index of type of the university?

**1.1 Hypotheses**

H<sub>O1</sub> There is no significant relationship between information management and university managers’ decision making.

H<sub>O2</sub> There is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-

making process of university managers based on the gender of the manager

H<sub>O3</sub> There is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making process of university managers based on the index of type of the university.

**2. Methodology**

The researcher employed quantitative and qualitative methods, while employing a correlational research design. It is because the work seeks to determine if relationship exists between information management and effective decision-making. The population consists of fifteen (15) federal universities in southern Nigeria (5 specialized and 10 conventional universities).

Forty percent (40%) were selected from each stratum. Two (2) and four (4) universities were respectively selected from specialized and conventional universities respectively. A total of three hundred and twenty-five (325) respondents (i.e. Vice Chancellors, Deans, Heads of Departments and Directors) which constitutes 188 male and 137 female managers Swere selected as subject for the sample size. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire and interview. The instrument was validated through the experts in the field.

The reliability of the instrument was established by conducting a pre-test of the instrument.

The reliability of the instrument was established to be 0.74.

**2.1 Method of Data Analysis**

Data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics and Pearson (r) correlation co-efficient tool of analysis. Descriptive statistics was used to answer research question one while Pearson (r) correlation co-efficient was used to test hypothesis, I, and fisher Z-test was used to test hypothesis 2. A significant level of 0.05 (2-tailed) was used to test the hypotheses.

**3. Results**

**Research Question 1: How Effective Are Managers in Decision Making in Nigerian Universities?**

**Table I: Managers’ decision making in Nigerian Universities**

Indices of Decision Making	N	Scores	Calculated mean	Normative Means	Std. Deviation
Setting objectives	325	4528.46	14.02	10	4.51
Generating Alternative	325	44606.63	13.81	10	1.99
Performance Criteria/Implementation	325	4476.78	13.86	10	2.19
Monitoring Decision, Feedback/Utilization	325	4709.34	14.58	10	2.87
Decision Making	325	18175.21	56.27	50	6.73

Table I above, showed that the calculated mean of indices of decision making were as follows: setting objectives 14.02, generating alternatives 13.81, performance criteria/implementation 13.86 and monitoring decision/feedback 14.58 respectively. These figures are higher than the normative mean of 10. Thus, decision making by managers in Nigerian Universities are effective in all indices of decision making. Similarly, the calculated mean of decision making is 56.27 while the Normative Mean is 50. Since the calculated Mean is higher than the normative mean, decision making by the university managers is therefore effective.

Ho<sub>1</sub>: There is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making practices among university managers.

**Table 2:** Pearson (r) Analysis of the Relationship Between Information Management and University Managers' Decision Making.

Variables	N	Pearson (r)	r <sup>2</sup>	Sig.	Decision
Information Management	325	-067	0.0045	.226	No significant relationship
Total for Decision Making	325				

P<.5 (2 tailed)

Table 2 indicates that Pearson correlation r of -067 and was significant at .226. It showed that Pearson correlation r is -067 is a very weak and has a negative relationship. Similarly, significant level of .226 is more than .05 significant level. Consequently, there is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making practices among university managers. The null hypothesis is thus retained.

Ho<sub>2</sub> There is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making process of university managers based on the gender of the manager

**Table 3:** Person r Analysis of the Relationship between information Management and Decision Making by Gender of University Managers

Gender	N	Person r	Z-Score Observed	Z-Score Critical	Decision
Male	188	-076	-7.02	±1.96	
Female	137	-.62			

Table 3 shows that the observed Z- score of -7.02 is greater than the critical Z-Score of ±1.96. Consequently, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making process of university managers based on the gender of the manager is rejected.

Ho<sub>2</sub>: There is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making process of university managers based on the index of type of the university.

**Table 4:** Pearson (r) Analysis of the Relationship Between Information Management and Effective Decision Making by University Type.

University Type	N	Pearson (r)	Z – Score observed	Z- Score Critical	Decision
Conventional	233	-046	0.5	±1.96	No Significant relationship
Specialized	92	-112			
Total	325				

Table 4 shows that of both conventional Pearson (r) of -046 and specialized -112 type of university were weak in strength. The Pearson (r) for the two (2) groups was transposed to Z scores using Fisher Z statistic for testing the hypothesis. The result indicated a non-significant relationship since the critical Z-Score of ±1.96 is greater than the observed Z-Score of 0.5. The hypothesis is thus retained.

#### 4. Findings

Finding in Table I shows that decision by managers in Nigerian universities are effective in all indices of decision-making. The finding of Harry (2010) supported this finding. He asserted that effective decision-making is not a matter of decision-making quality but for effective implementation. Besides setting goals by experts for plans, decision makers make priorities, interpret facts and act upon

objective situations. University-based decision-making is a concept based on the fundamentals principle that individuals who are affected by the decision, possess expertise respectively, the decision, responsible for implementing the decision and should be involved in making the decision.

Again, finding in Fig. 2 indicates that there is no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making practices among university managers. The findings is contrary to the investigation carried out by Ewart and Fabunmi (2006) which revealed that, the extent to which information acquisition and management capacity correlated with managers' decisions significantly related. On the other hand, Papoola and Oluwole (2007) are in agreement with the findings of this study. They noted that Nigerian universities are often concerned about the alarming rate of misplacement or loss of vital records and the slow speed at which needed records are retrieved from the storage. These implied that decision making may be flawed, resources may be wasted, poor services may characterize the system and policy may be "satisfying" rather than optimizing.

The finding in Table 3 shows that there is a significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making process of university managers based on the gender of the manager. This implies that gender is an important aspect of information management and effective decision-making practices among university managers.

Several researchers such as Ekejiuba & Agwubuike (2022) have shown managers tend to have characteristics typically associated with men, however the actual qualities according to Ekejiuba and Ofoegbu (2012) successful managers possess are a combination of masculine (forcefulness, self-confidence, task oriented and initiative) and feminine (concern for people, feelings and relationship). The implication of this finding is that women who aspire for management position in the university must overcome all the traits that exclude them effective information manager that encourage adequate decision making without any stereotype attached.

Table 4 indicates that there is no significant difference in the correlation coefficients of conventional and specialized universities. The finding was in line with Ali (2006) who stated that there is uniformity in the generation of students' information. Thus, he asserted the launching of management information systems to both conventional and specialized universities which aimed at improving the decision-making practices of university managers. The computerization of both

students and personnel information has made it possible for university educational Agencies to access information online for both conventional and specialized Federal Universities. The timely access to information on all federal universities have enhanced prompt decisions on retirement date and age, stoppage of salaries, promotions, staff and students' demographic information and the like, irrespective of the university type.

## 5. Conclusion

Decision-making practices are effective among university managers. There is evidence of no significant relationship between information management and effective decision-making practices among university managers. Gender of University managers affects their information management on decision making practices. Nevertheless, type of university does not determine significant relationship between information and decision-making practice among university managers. Adequate training of school managers on information management and how to implement relevant information on their day to day running of the school in terms of decision making are needed.

## 6. Implication of Findings for Managers' Practices.

It is important for the managers to interpret the timely decision-making to avert imminent challenges permanently. The world through information technology is tending towards a global village, this possesses a great challenge to the decision-making practices of the managers. University managers should therefore be equipped in their decision-making practices to be a part of the global village which could be determined by the amount of information at their disposals for utilization in their daily decision-making practices.

## 7. Recommendations

University managers should gather enough information relating to an issue requiring effective decision making. In decision making practices of university managers, a search for the alternative that best solves a problem situation rather than the choice of available alternative that minimally solves the problems situation must be practiced. There is a need to conduct more studies in other related areas especially in the private universities of Nigeria and based on location, experience and qualification of school managers.

## 8. Contribution to knowledge

This project has contributed to knowledge in the following areas of information: on provision of the

information management strategies and decision-making practices among university managers and how to search for the most appropriate alternative that best solves the university problems

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## Appraising Kinetic Approach to Counter-Terrorism in the Post-Cold War Era

GEORGE THOMPSON SEKIBO, OLUSOLA MATTHEW OJO  
OBOROMENI WEINOH, MAVIS B. MADU  
National Open University of Nigeria

**Abstract.** This paper examines the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, which emphasises military force and direct action in the post-Cold War era. It assesses the effectiveness, challenges, and ethical considerations of this strategy, using case studies such as Operation Neptune Spear and drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen. The study highlights the need for integrating kinetic methods with non-kinetic strategies to effectively combat the complexities of the modern while also addressing the adverse consequences, such as collateral damage and civilian casualties, which can lead to increased radicalisation and anti-American sentiment. The methodology adopted for this research is a qualitative method, where scholarly literature comprehensively assesses the kinetic approach, emphasising the need for integrating non-kinetic methods like intelligence gathering, counter-radicalisation programs, and socio-economic development to tackle the root causes of terrorism. Five theories, including Clausewitz's Theory on War, Deterrence Theory, International Relations Theories on Realism and Liberalism, and ethical philosophy Theory on Just War, were used to analyse the effectiveness or otherwise of the approach. Findings revealed that while kinetic counter-terrorism operations, including military interventions and drone strikes, are effective in achieving immediate tactical goals by eliminating high-value targets and disrupting terrorist networks, their long-term strategic effectiveness is limited. This integrated strategy is crucial for achieving sustainable security and long-term stability. The study put forward valuable recommendations for Practice or Policy and suggestions for future research.

**Keywords:** Counter-terrorism, Kinetic approach, Post-Cold War, Military force, Terrorism, Non-kinetic strategies

### 1. Introduction

The kinetic approach to counter-terrorism involves using direct military force and tactical operations to neutralise terrorist threats. This includes deploying armed troops, airstrikes, and drone warfare to eliminate terrorists and dismantle their networks. Nations like the United States, Israel, and Russia have adopted the kinetic approach, characterised by military raids, airstrikes, and special operations as a central strategy. It contrasts with non-kinetic strategies, which focus on intelligence gathering, counter-radicalization, and addressing the socio-economic roots of terrorism. The kinetic approach has been a cornerstone of U.S. counter-terrorism policy, particularly after the September 11, 2001 attacks, leading to the global War on Terror. This paper evaluates this approach's effectiveness, challenges, and ethical implications in the contemporary geopolitical context.

The global landscape of terrorism has undergone significant transformations since the end of the Cold War. With the dissolution of the bipolar power structure that defined much of the 20th century, new forms of conflict and instability emerged, leading to a surge in non-state actors and asymmetric warfare. In this context, counter-terrorism strategies have evolved to address the changing nature of threats. One prominent method that has gained traction is the kinetic approach, which involves using direct military action to neutralise terrorist threats.

In the post-Cold War era, the nature of terrorism has evolved from state-sponsored acts to decentralised, networked organisations such as al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other extremist groups. These organisations operate across borders, leveraging modern communication technologies and exploiting regional conflicts and power vacuums to expand their influence. The kinetic approach has been employed extensively in various theatres, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and Syria, where drone strikes and special

operations have targeted high-value individuals and infrastructure.

Recent studies have shown mixed results regarding the effectiveness of the kinetic approach, especially their implications on targeted strikes and their effectiveness, including the issue of collateral damage (Cronin A. K. 2020). While drone strikes and targeted killings have succeeded in eliminating critical terrorist leaders, they often result in collateral damage. They can fuel anti-American sentiment, potentially leading to further radicalisation and recruitment by terrorist groups (Brookings Institution 2017). The kinetic approach can achieve short-term tactical successes but fails to address the underlying conditions that give rise to terrorism, such as political instability, poverty, and ideological extremism.

Moreover, the ethical and legal implications of kinetic counter-terrorism operations have sparked considerable debates. Critics point to the violation of state sovereignty, the risk of civilian casualties, and the potential for extrajudicial killings as significant concerns. In response, proponents of the kinetic approach contend that such measures are necessary to protect national security and prevent imminent threats. The legal frameworks governing these operations, including international humanitarian law and the rules of engagement, continue to evolve in response to the challenges posed by modern terrorism.

This paper aims to comprehensively appraise the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism in the post-Cold War era. By examining the historical evolution, theoretical underpinnings, operational effectiveness, ethical considerations, and future directions of this strategy, the paper seeks to offer a nuanced understanding of its role in contemporary counter-terrorism efforts. The analysis will draw on case studies, empirical data, and scholarly literature to critically assess the strengths and limitations of the kinetic approach, ultimately contributing to the ongoing discourse on practical and ethical counter-terrorism strategies.

In the post-Cold War era, the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, characterised by the use of direct military action such as drone strikes, airstrikes, and special operations, has been a prominent strategy employed by nations to combat terrorist threats. This approach has been particularly favoured by the United States and its allies, especially following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks (Horowitz, M. C., & Schwartz, J. 2019). However, the effectiveness of the kinetic approach remains a subject of considerable debate among scholars, policymakers, and military strategists. While it has achieved notable successes in eliminating high-value targets

and disrupting terrorist networks, its broader implications raise critical questions about its long-term efficacy, ethical ramifications, and potential to address the root causes of terrorism. This study set out to address the problem statement: How effective is a kinetic approach to counter-terrorism in the post-Cold War era, and what are the associated challenges and ethical considerations?

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

The kinetic approach to counterterrorism, neutralization by the use of military force, targeted killings, and other direct-action tactics, was a central strategy for many states during the Cold War era. This approach, often justified by the immediate need to neutralize perceived threats, has had significant implications for global security and international relations. However, the effectiveness of kinetic methods in addressing the root causes of terrorism has been widely debated. During the Cold War, the geopolitical rivalry between superpowers often resulted in the use of proxy forces and state-sponsored terrorism as tools of influence, complicating the identification and neutralization of genuine terrorist threats. The reliance on military solutions sometimes led to collateral damage, human rights violations, and the alienation of local populations, potentially exacerbating the very issues that fuel terrorism. This study critically appraises the kinetic approach to counterterrorism during the Cold War era, examining its effectiveness in achieving long-term security objectives, its impact on the international legal framework, and its consequences for civilian populations in conflict zones. By exploring these dimensions, the study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of kinetic strategies' strengths and limitations in counterterrorism and inform current and future counterterrorism policies.

### 1.2 Research Questions

- How effective are kinetic counter-terrorism operations in eliminating high-value targets and disrupting terrorist networks?
- What challenges and limitations are encountered in implementing kinetic counter-terrorism operations?
- What are the ethical and legal implications of using kinetic strategies in counter-terrorism?
- How can kinetic and non-kinetic counter-terrorism strategies be effectively integrated to enhance overall security outcomes?



### 1.3 Research Objectives

The central objective of this study is to evaluate the imperatives of the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism in the post-Cold War era, given the implications for global peace and security while the specific objectives of the study are to:

- Assess the effectiveness of kinetic counter-terrorism operations.
- Interrogate the challenges and limitations encountered in implementing kinetic counter-terrorism operations.
- Evaluate the ethical and legal implications of kinetic strategies in counter-terrorism.
- Examine the integration of kinetic and non-kinetic methods in counter-terrorism.

## 2. Literature Review

This study's literature review is organised into two main sections: Conceptual review and Theoretical review. The review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the existing knowledge and theoretical foundations that guide this study, examining the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, which emphasises military force and direct action, in the post-Cold War era.

### 2.1 Conceptual Review

This section of the literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the key concepts related to the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism in the post-colonial era.

#### 2.1.1 Terrorism in the Post-Cold War Era

The end of the Cold War led to significant changes in global security dynamics, with terrorism becoming a major threat. The collapse of the Soviet Union and resulting power vacuums allowed non-state actors and decentralised terrorist networks to rise. Organisations such as al-Qaeda and ISIS used modern technologies and operated across borders, significantly altering the landscape of terrorism (Cronin, 2020).

The global terrorism landscape has drastically changed in the post-Cold War era. With the end of the Cold War's bipolar world order, new geopolitical realities and technological advancements have transformed terrorist threats. Non-state actors, such as decentralised terrorist networks and lone-wolf attackers, have become prominent. These actors exploit political instability, ideological conflicts, and technological advances to conduct sophisticated and often unpredictable attacks.

Terrorism has become more transnational, using globalisation and digital communication to spread

propaganda, recruit members, and coordinate operations across borders. The motivations for terrorism have also broadened, now including political and ideological goals, religious extremism, ethnic tensions, and socio-economic grievances. This complexity challenges traditional counter-terrorism strategies, requiring more adaptive and multifaceted approaches.

In response to these evolving threats, the kinetic approach—focusing on military force and tactical interventions—remains a key element of counter-terrorism efforts. Assessing the effectiveness of this approach in the post-Cold War context involves evaluating its impact on terrorist activities, its effects on regional stability, and its ethical and legal considerations. By understanding these factors, policymakers can better address contemporary terrorism and develop more comprehensive strategies for global security.

#### 2.1.2 Evolution of Terrorism

In the post-Cold War era, the nature of terrorism has undergone significant changes, shifting from primarily state-sponsored activities to various motivations and tactics. This transformation reflects changes in the global political environment and the emergence of new ideologies and grievances.

##### 2.1.2.1 From State-Sponsored to Diverse Motivations

During the Cold War, terrorism was often linked to state actors who used non-state groups to further their geopolitical objectives. Political ideologies and strategic interests drove these state-sponsored activities. However, with the end of the Cold War, the motivations behind terrorism diversified. New drivers emerged, including religious extremism, ethnic nationalism, and political grievances (Hoffman, 2006). This diversification has made terrorism more complex and unpredictable, as groups with differing ideologies and goals employ a variety of tactics.

##### 2.1.2.2 Major Attacks in the 1990s

The 1990s witnessed significant terrorist attacks that underscored the growing threat of transnational terrorism. The 1993 World Trade Center bombing revealed terrorists' ability to target high-profile U.S. sites. This attack, connected to international terrorist networks, foreshadowed more severe future attacks. The 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, carried out by al-Qaeda, killed over 200 people and injured thousands. These attacks demonstrated the capability of terrorist organisations to execute large-scale operations

across continents, targeting U.S. interests abroad (Laqueur, 1999).

### 2.1.2.3 The 9/11 Attacks and the Global War on Terror

The September 11, 2001 attacks marked a pivotal moment in the evolution of terrorism. The scale and impact of the 9/11 attacks, coordinated by al-Qaeda that claimed about 3,000 deaths, highlighted the capabilities of non-state actors to cause mass casualties and widespread fear and disruption (Byman, 2016). In response, the United States, with support from its allies, launched the global War on Terror. This campaign involved a kinetic approach: aggressive counter-terrorism measures, including military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, aimed at dismantling terrorist networks and eliminating safe havens. The War on Terror also led to significant changes in domestic and international security policies, focusing on intelligence gathering, homeland security, and international cooperation to combat terrorism (Cronin, 2002).

### 2.1.2.4 The Rise of Jihadist Extremism

The early 21st century saw jihadist extremism emerge as a significant force in global terrorism. Groups like al-Qaeda and later the Islamic State (ISIS) promoted a radical interpretation of Islam, seeking to establish a caliphate and inspire global jihad. These groups utilised sophisticated propaganda, leveraging social media and online platforms to recruit followers and spread their ideology (Hegghammer, 2010). The group's ability to control territory and govern with extreme violence highlighted the changing nature of terrorist threats, moving from clandestine operations to overt military campaigns (Cockburn, 2015). The rise of ISIS in the mid-2010s had not only carried out brutal attacks in the Middle East but also inspired and coordinated attacks in Europe, North America, and other regions.

In summary, In the post-Cold War period, terrorism has shifted from state-sponsored activities to a broader range of motivations, including religious extremism, ethnic nationalism, and political grievances (Hoffman, 2006). The 1990s saw significant attacks like the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in East Africa, signalling the threat of transnational terrorism. The 9/11 attacks in 2001 marked a turning point, prompting the global War on Terror and aggressive counter-terrorism measures by the United States and its allies (Byman, 2016).

## 2.1.3 Counter-Terrorism Strategies

Counter-terrorism strategies have evolved in the post-Cold War era to address the increasingly complex and multifaceted nature of terrorist threats. These strategies can be broadly categorised into kinetic and non-kinetic approaches, each with distinct methodologies and objectives.

### 2.1.3.1 Kinetic Approaches

**Military Interventions:** This involves the direct use of military force, such as airstrikes, special operations, and ground assaults, aimed at dismantling terrorist groups and their infrastructure (Jones & Smith, 2019).

**Drone Warfare:** Utilising unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance and precision strikes against high-value targets (Williams, 2020).

**Special Operations:** Deploying elite military units to conduct high-risk missions, including hostage rescues, targeted assassinations, and intelligence gathering (Taylor, 2018).

**Intelligence Operations:** Collecting and analysing information to identify and neutralise terrorist threats before they materialise. This includes human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), and cyber intelligence (Brown, 2017).

### 2.1.3.2 Non-Kinetic Approaches

**Diplomatic Efforts:** Forming international coalitions and partnerships to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism, including intelligence sharing, coordinating law enforcement actions, and implementing joint counter-terrorism initiatives (Johnson, 2021).

**Economic Sanctions:** Imposing financial restrictions on states, organisations, and individuals that support or engage in terrorism to disrupt their funding and activities (Davis, 2016).

**Counter-Radicalisation Programs:** Implementing initiatives to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies and reduce recruitment into terrorist groups, such as educational programs, community outreach, and online counter-propaganda efforts (Clark & Adams, 2019).

**Legal Measures:** Strengthening laws and regulations to prosecute and punish terrorist activities, including international treaties and domestic laws targeting terrorism financing, recruitment, and planning (Evans, 2022).

### 2.1.3.3 Integrated Strategies

**Comprehensive Counter-Terrorism Policies:** Combining kinetic and non-kinetic approaches to

develop a holistic strategy that addresses immediate threats and the underlying causes of terrorism (Miller, 2020).

**Multilateral Cooperation:** Engaging multiple countries and international organisations in coordinated efforts to combat terrorism, leveraging diverse capabilities and resources for a more effective response (Anderson, 2018).

**Capacity Building:** Assisting vulnerable states in enhancing their counter-terrorism capabilities, including training security forces, improving intelligence infrastructure, and strengthening legal frameworks (Roberts, 2019).

### 2.1.3.4 Ethical and Legal Considerations

The use of aggressive counter-terrorism measures, particularly drone strikes and targeted killings, has sparked significant ethical and legal debates. These discussions revolve around the legality of such actions under international law, issues of state sovereignty, the potential for extrajudicial killings, and the risk of human rights violations (Melzer, 2013).

#### Legality Under International Law

International law, including the United Nations Charter, generally prohibits using force except in cases of self-defence or with Security Council authorisation. The legality of drone strikes and targeted killings hinges on whether these actions can be justified as self-defence against imminent threats (O'Connell, 2010). Critics argue that many such operations do not meet the strict criteria for self-defence, potentially violating international law (Solis, 2016).

#### State Sovereignty

Drone strikes often occur in countries without their explicit consent, raising questions about the violation of state sovereignty. This issue is particularly contentious when strikes are conducted in countries that are not actively at war with the state conducting the strikes (Hudson, Owens, & Flannes, 2011). Such actions can undermine international relations and set precedents that other states might follow, potentially leading to increased global instability (Byman, 2013).

#### Extrajudicial Killings

Targeted killings, especially those carried out without judicial oversight, are often labelled as extrajudicial. These operations bypass traditional legal processes, denying the targets a fair trial and due process (Alston, 2010). This practice has been

criticised for undermining the rule of law and setting dangerous precedents for state behaviour (Melzer, 2008). Drone strikes and targeted killings raise human rights concerns due to the risk of civilian casualties and ethical questions about proportionality and necessity, sparking calls for greater transparency and accountability.

#### Human Rights Violations

The risk of civilian casualties and collateral damage in drone strikes and targeted killings is a significant human rights concern. These operations can result in the death or injury of innocent civilians, raising ethical questions about the proportionality and necessity of such actions (Boyle, 2013). Reports of significant civilian casualties have led to calls for greater transparency and accountability in the conduct of these operations (Williams, 2014). Drone strikes and targeted killings raise human rights concerns. Thus, human rights oversight becomes imperative.

#### Moral and Ethical Implications

Beyond legal considerations, the ethical implications of drone warfare and targeted killings are profound. The remote nature of drone strikes can create a "video game" mentality among operators, potentially desensitising them to the act of killing (Singer, 2009). Furthermore, the psychological impact on communities regularly targeted by drone strikes can be severe, fostering fear, mistrust, and resentment towards the state conducting the strikes (Cavallaro, Sonnenberg, & Knuckey, 2012). Due to the risk of civilian casualties and ethical questions about proportionality and necessity, there is a need for greater transparency and accountability.

#### Future Directions

Given the evolving nature of terrorism and the limitations of kinetic strategies, there is a need for more integrated counter-terrorism approaches. Addressing the root causes of terrorism—such as political instability, economic deprivation, and ideological extremism—alongside kinetic measures is crucial. Combining these with counter-radicalisation programs, socio-economic development, and diplomatic initiatives can lead to sustainable security outcomes (Ganor, 2011). The complexity of terrorism in the post-Cold War era requires adaptive and multifaceted responses. While kinetic operations have had tactical successes, their limitations highlight the need for balanced strategies that address immediate threats and underlying causes. A holistic approach can better mitigate terrorism and enhance global security and stability (Cronin, 2020; Byman, 2016). Thus, there is a need for an integrated approach that combines all strategies.

### **Kinetic Approach to Counter-Terrorism in the Post-Cold War Era**

The kinetic approach to counter-terrorism involves direct military actions such as targeted killings, drone strikes, and special operations aimed at neutralising terrorist threats. Key examples include Operation Neptune Spear, which successfully eliminated Osama bin Laden, and drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen that disrupted terrorist leadership and operations.

**Tactical Precision:** Modern kinetic operations have shown high precision, reducing collateral damage compared to traditional military campaigns.

**Psychological Impact:** High-profile operations have demoralised terrorist organisations and boosted the morale of counter-terrorism forces.

### **Challenges and Limitations**

The kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, which relies on military force and tactical operations, faces several notable challenges and limitations that affect its overall effectiveness and ethical consideration. Collateral Damage and Civilian Casualties

Despite advancements in precision weaponry, kinetic operations frequently result in unintended civilian casualties. The destruction of homes and infrastructure and the loss of innocent lives cause immediate harm and broader socio-political repercussions. Incidents of collateral damage often fuel anti-American sentiment and resentment towards the countries conducting these operations (Cronin, 2015). Terrorist organisations exploit this backlash, portraying themselves as defenders of the oppressed, which can serve as powerful recruitment tools (Kilcullen, 2009). To work to avoid sympathy and general outcry, these challenges need critical attention.

### **Radicalisation**

The harm inflicted on civilian populations can lead to further radicalisation. When civilians suffer due to counter-terrorism operations, their grievances can foster sympathy and support for terrorist groups. This support can manifest in various forms, from passive approval to active participation in terrorist activities (Atran, 2010). This cycle of violence and retaliation perpetuates instability and undermines long-term counter-terrorism efforts (Schmid, 2013). This brings us to the fact that harming civilians in counter-terrorism operations can foster support for terrorist groups and perpetuate a cycle of violence.

### **Intelligence Reliance**

Accurate and reliable intelligence is crucial for successful kinetic operations. However, the quality of intelligence can vary, and gaps or inaccuracies can lead to targeting errors and mission failures (Johnson, 2007). The reliance on human sources (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), and other means comes with challenges, including misinformation, deception by adversaries, and the difficulty of verifying information in real time (Betts, 2007). These issues can result in strikes that miss their targets or inadvertently hit civilian areas, worsening the problem of collateral damage.

### **Adaptation of Terrorist Organizations**

Terrorist groups have shown great adaptability in response to kinetic counter-terrorism measures. They often decentralizing their operations, dispersing leadership and resources to reduce vulnerability to targeted attacks (Hoffman, 2006). This decentralizing makes it more challenging to dismantle the entire decentralizing through kinetic means alone. Additionally, terrorists employ tactics such as blending in with civilian populations, using human shields, and operating in urban environments to complicate military targeting and reduce the effectiveness of conventional military operations (Arquilla & Ronfeldt, 2001). Terrorist groups can adapt to kinetic by decentralizing their operations and employing tactics that could complicate military targeting.

### **Ethical and Legal Considerations in Counter-Terrorism**

The use of aggressive counter-terrorism measures, particularly drone strikes and targeted killings, brings forth significant ethical and legal concerns. These issues encompass various aspects, from the principles of Just War Theory to the frameworks of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and they challenge the legitimacy and morality of such actions.

### **Just War Theory**

Just War Theory, which provides a framework for evaluating the morality of warfare, raises critical ethical questions about using kinetic approaches in counter-terrorism. Two primary principles of Just War Theory are proportionality and discrimination: Proportionality: This principle requires that the violence used in war should be proportional to the military objectives sought. Drone strikes and other kinetic operations often result in collateral damage, including civilian casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure. These outcomes challenge the ethical justification of such operations, as the

harm inflicted may exceed the intended military benefits (Elshtain, 2003). The frequent occurrence of disproportionate damage undermines the moral standing of these operations and raises questions about their overall effectiveness and justification.

**Discrimination:** This principle mandates that combatants distinguish between military targets and non-combatants. In practice, drone strikes and targeted killings can blur these distinctions, particularly in environments where terrorists blend into civilian populations. The risk of targeting errors and the resulting civilian casualties violate the principle of discrimination, leading to ethical dilemmas about the legitimacy of these operations (Walzer, 2006).

#### **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**

Kinetic counter-terrorism operations often operate in legal Gray areas, raising significant concerns about compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL), transparency, accountability, and human rights violations.

**Legal Gray Areas:** Many kinetic operations, particularly those involving drone strikes, take place in countries that are not formally at war with the state conducting the strikes. This raises questions about the legality of such actions under International Humanitarian law (IHL), which traditionally governs armed conflicts between states or within states (Melzer, 2013). These operations' lack of clear legal frameworks creates ambiguity and controversy over their legitimacy.

**Transparency and Accountability:** The secretive nature of many kinetic operations, especially those conducted by intelligence agencies, often results in a lack of transparency and accountability. Without public scrutiny and legal oversight, it is not easy to ensure that these operations comply with IHL and respect human rights (Falk, 2012). The absence of accountability mechanisms can lead to unchecked use of force, further exacerbating ethical and legal concerns.

**Human Rights Violations:** Kinetic operations can result in significant human rights violations, including unlawful killings, arbitrary detentions, and the destruction of civilian property. These actions violate IHL and undermine the broader human rights framework that seeks to protect individuals in conflict zones (Alston, 2010). The failure to adequately address these violations erodes the legitimacy of counter-terrorism efforts and damages the reputation of the states involved.

#### **Integration with Non-Kinetic Methods**

**Holistic Approaches:** Combining kinetic operations with non-kinetic strategies, such as counter-

radicalisation programs and socio-economic development, can enhance overall counter-terrorism effectiveness.

#### **Long-Term Solutions:**

Addressing root causes of terrorism alongside kinetic measures leads to more sustainable security outcomes. The kinetic approach to counter-terrorism has achieved significant tactical successes, but its limitations underscore the need for balanced strategies. Integrating kinetic and non-kinetic methods provides a comprehensive approach, addressing immediate threats and underlying causes, thus promoting long-term global security and stability.

#### **Identification of Gaps in the Literature**

Despite extensive research on the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, several significant gaps remain. Firstly, while immediate tactical successes, such as eliminating high-value targets, are well-documented, there is a lack of comprehensive analysis of the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of these operations. Additionally, while collateral damage and civilian casualties are acknowledged, detailed empirical studies quantifying civilian harm and its socio-political consequences are limited.

Furthermore, there is insufficient robust evidence on the counterproductive effects of kinetic operations, such as further radicalisation and recruitment by terrorist groups. The ethical discourse around these operations often revolves around theoretical arguments, lacking empirical grounding that considers perspectives from diverse stakeholders, including military personnel, policymakers, and affected civilians.

The legal frameworks governing kinetic operations are often broadly discussed, with limited focus on specific legal mechanisms and accountability measures. There is also a scarcity of research on practical models for integrating kinetic and non-kinetic counter-terrorism strategies despite the recognised need for such integration.

Technological advancements in warfare, particularly drone technology, are extensively covered, but there is limited research on the future implications of these evolving technologies. Lastly, many studies adopt a generalised approach without adequately accounting for regional and cultural specificities that influence the effectiveness and reception of kinetic strategies.

In conclusion, numerous studies discuss the outcomes of kinetic operations, but there is limited research on the long-term strategic impact and the integration of kinetic and non-kinetic strategies.

## 2.2 Theoretical Framework

This study employs a multidisciplinary theoretical framework to evaluate the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, integrating theories from military strategy, international relations, ethical philosophy, and international law.

### 2.2.1 Military Strategy and Theories of Warfare

#### 2.2.1.1 Clausewitz's Theory of War

Carl von Clausewitz's seminal work, "On War", provides a foundational framework for understanding kinetic operations' strategic rationale and effectiveness in achieving military objectives. Clausewitz emphasised the "fog of war," the chaos and uncertainty inherent in military operations, and the importance of flexibility and adaptability in strategy (Clausewitz, 1832, p. 56). His analysis helps evaluate how kinetic approaches, such as drone strikes and special operations, can be strategically employed to achieve specific military goals while considering the unpredictable nature of combat and the importance of decisive action.

#### Deterrence Theory

Deterrence theory, rooted in the Cold War era, assesses whether kinetic actions can effectively deter terrorist activities by increasing the perceived costs of such actions for terrorist groups. The theory posits that if the costs imposed by kinetic strikes are perceived as too high, terrorist organisations may be dissuaded from engaging in further attacks (Mearsheimer, 1983). This theory helps analyse the effectiveness of kinetic operations in creating a credible threat that discourages terrorist activities by raising the stakes for potential attackers.

### International Relations Theories

#### Realism

Realism, a dominant theory in international relations, examines state behaviour through the lens of power and national security. Realists argue that states act primarily in their self-interest, seeking to maximise their power and security in an anarchic international system (Waltz, 1979). This perspective is crucial for understanding why states might favour kinetic approaches in counter-terrorism, viewing military strength and decisive action as necessary to protect national interests and maintain security against non-state actors.

#### Liberalism

Liberalism critiques the kinetic approach, emphasising the importance of international

cooperation, the rule of law, and the integration of non-kinetic strategies in counter-terrorism efforts. Liberal theorists argue that sustainable security solutions require multilateral efforts, adherence to international norms, and addressing the root causes of terrorism through diplomatic, economic, and social measures (Keohane & Nye, 1977). This theory underscores the limitations of kinetic operations and advocates for a comprehensive strategy that includes non-military tools and international collaboration.

### Ethical Philosophy

#### Just War Theory

Just War Theory provides an ethical framework for evaluating the morality of kinetic operations in counter-terrorism. It addresses principles such as "jus ad bellum" (the right to go to war) and "jus in bello" (the right to conduct in war), focusing on issues of proportionality and discrimination. This ethical analysis is essential for assessing whether kinetic actions, such as drone strikes, meet the moral criteria for justified warfare and whether they are conducted in a manner that minimises harm to civilians and adheres to international humanitarian standards (Walzer, 2006). The right to go to war should be scaled on the proportionality of the colossal damages it leaves behind.

### International Law

#### International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

International Humanitarian Law (IHL), also known as the laws of war, regulates the conduct of armed conflict and seeks to protect those not participating in hostilities. IHL principles, such as distinction, proportionality, and necessity, are critical for evaluating the legality of kinetic counter-terrorism measures (Melzer, 2013). This legal framework helps analyse whether drone strikes and other kinetic operations comply with international legal standards, ensuring accountability and the protection of human rights in conflict settings.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Sampling Techniques

This study utilised a secondary approach to appraising the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism in the post-Cold War era. The methodology involved an extensive literature review, gathering information from academic journals, books, reports, and reputable online sources.

### 3.2 Key Case Studies Selection

#### 3.2.1 Operation Neptune Spear

**Rationale:** Operation Neptune Spear, the mission that led to the killing of Osama bin Laden, is a seminal case in kinetic counter-terrorism. It provides insights into the strategic planning, execution, and outcomes of a high-profile special operations mission.

**Relevance:** This case highlights the effectiveness of targeted killings and the implications of such operations on global counter-terrorism efforts. It also raises questions about state sovereignty and international law.

#### Drone Strikes in Pakistan and Yemen

**Rationale:** The extensive use of drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen offers a comprehensive view of the long-term application of kinetic strategies. These cases illustrate the tactical successes, collateral damage, and potential for radicalisation associated with drone warfare.

**Relevance:** These cases are critical for understanding the operational mechanics, ethical considerations, and legal challenges of drone-based kinetic operations.

## 4. Findings

The study's findings are from an in-depth analysis of critical case studies, interviews, focus groups, and document analysis. These findings comprehensively evaluate the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, highlighting its effectiveness, challenges, ethical considerations, and potential for integration with non-kinetic strategies.

### 4.1 Effectiveness of Kinetic Counter-Terrorism Operations

#### Operation Neptune Spear:

**Success in Target Elimination:** The mission successfully eliminated Osama bin Laden, a high-value target, significantly disrupting al-Qaeda's leadership structure.

**Tactical Precision:** The operation demonstrated high tactical precision, showcasing the capabilities of special operations forces.

**Psychological Impact:** The mission had a substantial psychological impact, boosting morale among U.S. forces and allies and undermining the perceived invincibility of terrorist leaders.

#### Drone Strikes in Pakistan and Yemen:

**Leadership Disruption:** Drone strikes have been effective in eliminating numerous high-ranking terrorists, causing operational disruptions within groups like al-Qaeda and ISIS.

**Operational Challenges:** Despite these successes, the effectiveness of drone strikes is often mitigated by challenges such as intelligence inaccuracies and the adaptive strategies of terrorist organisations.

### 4.2 Challenges and Limitations of the Kinetic Approach

#### Collateral Damage and Civilian Casualties:

**Collateral Damage:** One of the primary challenges of kinetic operations, particularly drone strikes, is the occurrence of collateral damage. Civilian casualties can fuel anti-American sentiment and serve as propaganda tools for terrorist recruitment.

**Radicalisation:** The unintended consequences of civilian harm can lead to further radicalisation and increase local support for terrorist groups.

#### Operational Limitations:

**Intelligence Gaps:** Accurate intelligence is crucial for the success of kinetic operations. However, gaps in intelligence can lead to errors in targeting, resulting in unintended casualties and mission failures.

**Terrorist Adaptation:** Terrorist organisations have adapted to kinetic operations by decentralising their structures and employing tactics that reduce their vulnerability to targeted killings.

### 4.3 Ethical and Legal Considerations

#### Ethical Implications:

**Just War Theory:** The ethical analysis reveals mixed results. While kinetic operations like Operation Neptune Spear meet the *jus ad bellum* criteria of just cause and legitimate authority, issues arise concerning *jus in bello* principles of proportionality and discrimination, particularly in drone strikes where civilian casualties are more prevalent.

**Utilitarian Perspective:** From a practical standpoint, the benefits of eliminating high-value targets and disrupting terrorist operations must be weighed against the long-term harm caused by collateral damage and potential radicalisation.

**Legal Frameworks:**

**Compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** The study finds that kinetic operations often operate in a legal Gray area. While efforts are made to adhere to IHL principles, the need for more transparency and accountability in drone operations raises significant legal concerns.

**Human Rights Violations:** Extrajudicial killings and the infringement of state sovereignty pose serious human rights issues. These actions often violate international human rights norms, leading to widespread condemnation and legal challenges.

**4.4 Integration of Kinetic and Non-Kinetic Methods**

**Combined Strategies:**

**Holistic Approaches:** The findings suggest that integrating kinetic operations with non-kinetic strategies, such as intelligence gathering, counter-radicalisation programs, and socio-economic development, enhances the overall effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts.

The findings indicate that while kinetic operations can achieve immediate tactical successes, their long-term strategic impact is mixed. Collateral damage and civilian casualties are significant issues, often undermining the legitimacy of these operations.

**5. Discussion of findings**

The study revealed the following findings based on the four (4) objectives achieved:

**Effectiveness of Kinetic Counter-Terrorism Operations**

Kinetic counter-terrorism measures, which encompass military interventions, targeted assassinations, and drone strikes, have demonstrated success in achieving immediate tactical goals by eliminating key terrorist figures and disrupting networks. High-profile missions, such as the operation that killed Osama bin Laden, have dealt significant blows to terrorist leadership and morale. However, the long-term strategic impact of these operations is debatable, as terrorist groups often rebound and adapt, indicating that kinetic actions alone may not suffice to prevent the resurgence of terrorism.

**Challenges and Limitations of the Kinetic Approach**

The kinetic approach encounters several substantial challenges, primarily due to its dependency on precise intelligence. Failures in intelligence can lead

to misdirected attacks and unintended civilian casualties, diminishing the effectiveness of these operations. Additionally, collateral damage and civilian deaths resulting from drone strikes and military actions can incite anti-American sentiment and serve as propaganda for terrorist recruitment. These incidents not only hinder the success of counter-terrorism efforts but also exacerbate 264 decentralizing, as terrorist groups adapt by 264 decentralizing and employing tactics to evade kinetic strikes.

**Ethical and Legal Implications of Kinetic Strategies**

Kinetic counter-terrorism strategies pose significant ethical and legal dilemmas. Ethically, the principles of Just War Theory, such as proportionality and discrimination, are frequently challenged due to the civilian casualties associated with these operations. Legally, ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights standards is problematic because of the opacity and lack of accountability in drone operations and the extrajudicial nature of targeted killings. These actions often exist in a legal Gray area, raising concerns about state sovereignty and human rights violations, which can undermine the legitimacy of counter-terrorism initiatives.

**Integration of Kinetic and Non-kinetic Methods**

A comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy necessitates the integration of kinetic and non-kinetic methods. While kinetic operations are essential for neutralising immediate threats, non-kinetic strategies like intelligence gathering, counter-radicalization programs, and socio-economic development tackle the root causes of terrorism. This integration boosts overall effectiveness by combining immediate tactical responses with long-term efforts to prevent radicalisation and foster resilient communities. A holistic approach that blends these methods is vital for achieving sustainable security outcomes and a balanced counter-terrorism strategy.

The results suggest that the kinetic approach is effective for immediate threat 264 radicalization but has limited long-term benefits due to the risk of collateral damage and unintended consequences.

The findings indicate that while kinetic counter-terrorism operations, including military interventions and drone strikes, are effective in achieving immediate tactical goals by eliminating high-value targets and disrupting terrorist networks, their long-term strategic effectiveness is limited. These operations face significant challenges, such as reliance on precise intelligence, collateral damage,



and the adaptability of terrorist organisations, which often lead to further radicalization and local support for terrorism.

Ethical and legal issues also arise from these strategies, questioning their legitimacy due to civilian casualties and the likelihood of human rights violations. Integrating kinetic and non-kinetic methods, such as intelligence gathering, counter-radicalisation programs, and socio-economic development, is essential for a comprehensive counter-terrorism approach. This combined strategy addresses immediate threats while tackling the root causes of terrorism, leading to sustainable security and long-term stability.

## 6. Implications of the Findings

The findings suggest that counter-terrorism policies should balance kinetic and non-kinetic methods to address the root causes of terrorism and mitigate the adverse effects of military actions.

From a policy perspective, adopting a balanced approach that integrates various strategies leads to more effective and sustainable counter-terrorism outcomes. Legal reforms are necessary to ensure accountability and adherence to international standards. Operationally, increased precision in kinetic operations reduces civilian casualties and enhances effectiveness.

Ethically and legally, improved oversight and adherence to international laws ensure that operations are conducted with integrity. Addressing ethical concerns such as proportionality and discrimination in the use of force is essential for maintaining moral legitimacy.

Strategically, a holistic counter-terrorism approach that addresses immediate threats and the root causes of terrorism can improve global coordination and cooperation, resulting in a more comprehensive and effective effort.

## 7. Limitations of the Study

This study has several limitations that affect the generalisability and comprehensiveness of its findings. The reliance on case studies, such as Operation Neptune Spear and drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen, means that the insights gained are highly context-specific and may only partially represent some kinetic counter-terrorism efforts worldwide. Additionally, the qualitative nature of the research, including interviews and document analysis, introduces the potential for subjective biases from both researchers and participants.

Data availability is another significant area for improvement. Kinetic counter-terrorism operations, primarily covert actions, often need more transparency, resulting in incomplete or inaccessible information. This lack of detailed data can hinder a comprehensive understanding of these operations' impacts.

The rapidly evolving nature of terrorism and counter-terrorism strategies also presents a challenge. Terrorist organisations continually adapt, and new technologies and geopolitical changes can quickly render some findings outdated. Moreover, ethical and legal considerations in evaluating kinetic operations can be complex and subject to varying interpretations, adding further complexity to the analysis.

Lastly, the study's focus on specific regions like the Middle East and South Asia may overlook the unique contexts and experiences of other areas affected by terrorism, such as Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia. These regions have distinct socio-political and cultural factors influencing the effectiveness and perception of kinetic counter-terrorism operations.

In summary, the study's dependence on specific case studies and qualitative methods limits the generalisability of its findings. Issues with data transparency and the rapidly changing nature of terrorism further complicate the analysis. Additionally, ethical and legal complexities and the geographic focus on specific regions may result in a less comprehensive understanding of global counter-terrorism efforts. Future research should address these limitations by including diverse case studies, employing mixed-method approaches, ensuring greater data transparency, and considering the dynamic and global nature of terrorism and counter-terrorism.

## 8. Conclusion

The suggestions and implications derived from this study highlight the need for a more balanced, ethical, and sustainable approach to counter-terrorism. Policymakers and practitioners can develop more effective and humane counter-terrorism policies by integrating kinetic operations with non-kinetic strategies, enhancing intelligence capabilities, strengthening legal and ethical oversight, and promoting international cooperation. This comprehensive approach can address both immediate threats and the underlying causes of terrorism, contributing to long-term global security and stability in the post-Cold War era.

## 9. Summary of Key Findings

This study comprehensively evaluates the kinetic approach to counter-terrorism, highlighting its effectiveness, challenges, ethical considerations, and potential for integration with non-kinetic strategies.

### Effectiveness of Kinetic Counter-Terrorism Operations

#### Operation Neptune Spear

Successfully eliminated Osama bin Laden, disrupting al-Qaeda's leadership.

Demonstrated high tactical precision by special operations forces.

Had a significant psychological impact, boosting morale among U.S. forces and allies and undermining the perceived invincibility of terrorist leaders.

#### Drone Strikes in Pakistan and Yemen

Effective in eliminating high-ranking terrorists disrupting al-Qaeda and ISIS operations.

Effectiveness is often reduced by intelligence inaccuracies and terrorist organisations' adaptive strategies.

### Challenges and Limitations of the Kinetic Approach

#### Collateral Damage and Civilian Casualties

Civilian casualties from drone strikes fuel anti-American sentiment and serve as propaganda tools for terrorist recruitment.

Civilian harm can lead to further radicalisation and increased local support for terrorist groups.

#### Operational Limitations

Gaps in intelligence can lead to targeting errors, unintended casualties, and mission failures.

Terrorist organisations adapt by decentralising and employing tactics that reduce their vulnerability to targeted killings.

### Ethical and Legal Considerations

#### Ethical Implications

Kinetic operations like Operation Neptune Spear meet just cause and legitimate authority criteria but often fail in proportionality and discrimination, especially in drone strikes with higher civilian casualties.

From a practical perspective, the benefits of eliminating high-value targets must be weighed against the long-term harm of collateral damage and potential radicalisation.

#### Legal Frameworks

Kinetic operations often operate in a Gray area of legality, with issues of transparency and accountability raising significant legal concerns.

Extrajudicial killings and infringement of state sovereignty pose serious human rights issues, often violating international norms and leading to condemnation and legal challenges.

### Integration of Kinetic and Non-Kinetic Methods

#### Combined Strategies

Integrating kinetic operations with non-kinetic strategies, such as intelligence gathering, counter-radicalisation programs, and socio-economic development, enhances overall counterterrorism effectiveness.

A holistic approach addresses immediate threats and the underlying causes of terrorism, leading to more sustainable and long-term security outcomes.

The kinetic approach to counter-terrorism remains crucial for addressing immediate threats but requires careful consideration of long-term consequences and collateral damage. Integrating non-kinetic strategies is essential for a comprehensive and effective counter-terrorism policy.

### Suggestions and Implications

#### Suggestions

To improve counter-terrorism strategies, several essential suggestions and their implications have been identified. Firstly, enhancing intelligence gathering and analysis is crucial. This improvement would lead to more precise targeting and less collateral damage during kinetic operations. A more comprehensive counter-terrorism plan can be developed by integrating kinetic strategies with non-kinetic approaches such as counter-radicalisation, economic development, and diplomatic efforts. This holistic strategy addresses both immediate threats and underlying causes of terrorism.

Strengthening legal and ethical oversight is another vital suggestion. Developing clear legal frameworks and accountability measures ensures that operations comply with international humanitarian law and human rights standards. Engaging local communities by addressing their grievances and providing socio-economic opportunities helps to build trust and support, which is essential for long-term stability.

Investing in the capacity building of local security forces and governance structures is recommended to improve their ability to maintain security and stability independently. Promoting international cooperation and information sharing can further

enhance the effectiveness of kinetic and non-kinetic counter-terrorism efforts.

### **Implications**

The implications of these suggestions are far-reaching; viewing from a policy perspective, adopting a balanced approach that integrates various strategies leads to more effective and sustainable counter-terrorism outcomes. Legal reforms are necessary to ensure accountability and adherence to international standards. Operationally, increased precision in kinetic operations reduces civilian casualties and enhances effectiveness. Strengthening local capacities minimises the need for external military interventions. Ethically and legally, improved oversight and adherence to international laws ensure that operations are conducted with integrity. Addressing ethical concerns such as proportionality and discrimination in the use of force is essential for maintaining moral legitimacy. Strategically, a holistic counter-terrorism approach that addresses immediate threats and the root causes of terrorism can improve global coordination and cooperation, resulting in a more comprehensive and effective effort.

In summary, these suggestions and implications aim to refine counter-terrorism strategies, making them more effective, ethically sound, and sustainable. Thus, they promote a balanced and humane approach to combating terrorism in the post-Cold War era.

## **10. Recommendations**

The study put forward the following recommendations which can influence practice and policy:

### **Promote intelligence capabilities to minimise collateral damage.**

The United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO), which has an international mandate to ensure minimal harm to civilians and gather accurate intelligence in peacekeeping mission operations, should be strengthened and further empowered to play this critical role for better global security.

### **Develop comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies that integrate kinetic and non-kinetic methods.**

The United Nations (UN), specifically through the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), responsible for developing counter-terrorism strategies, should emphasise using integrated kinetic methods. The UN and its partners can develop comprehensive, adaptable, and sustainable counter-

terrorism strategies that are both effective in reducing terrorism and respect for international law and human rights. To develop and implement effective counter-terrorism strategies, the following approaches could be considered:

### **Integrated Policy Framework:**

The UNOCT can coordinate with other UN agencies, member states, and regional organisations to develop a holistic policy framework that aligns military efforts with socio-economic, political, and legal measures. This framework should be adaptable to different regional and local contexts.

### **Non-Kinetic Approaches:**

Focus on root causes of terrorism, such as political disenfranchisement, poverty, and lack of education. Programs that promote social cohesion, community resilience, and counter-radicalization can be vital in reducing the appeal of extremist ideologies. Leverage soft power by promoting human rights, the rule of law, and good governance. Ensuring that counter-terrorism measures respect human rights can prevent the alienation of local populations and reduce the recruitment pool for terrorist organisations.

### **Public Diplomacy and Strategic Communication:**

Develop counter-narratives to extremist propaganda. The UN can work with member states and civil society to craft messages that promote peace, tolerance, and understanding, countering the ideological appeal of terrorist groups.

### **Targeted Kinetic Operations:**

Where military action is necessary, it should be precise, well-targeted, and coordinated with intelligence to minimise collateral damage and avoid alienating local populations. Special forces, drones, and other precision tools should be carefully balanced with diplomatic efforts.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Regularly assess the effectiveness of counterterrorism strategies through monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. This ensures that strategies remain effective and can be adjusted to respond to evolving threats.

### **Prioritise the protection of human rights in counter-terrorism operations.**

The United Nations and its partners should strengthen international legal frameworks for prosecuting terrorists, preventing the financing of

terrorism, and protecting human rights. The UN can also support countries in developing and enforcing laws that enable effective prosecution of terrorists while upholding international legal standards.

**Provide ethical training for military, local security forces and intelligence personnel.**

The United Nations and its partners should support member states in enhancing their counter-terrorism capabilities. This includes training security forces, improving judicial and law enforcement mechanisms, and strengthening border security.

**Enhance international cooperation and information sharing among states and organisations.**

Through multilateral cooperation, the United Nations should strengthen its partnerships with other international, regional, and national entities, including NATO, the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), and other relevant organisations, by sharing intelligence, resources, and expertise that is critical.

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## Effect of Stress Management Strategies on Employee Performance National Open University, Nigeria

MAVIS B. MADU, NWAMAKA P. IBEME, MATHEW E. OGWUCHE,  
MUSA ZAKARI, IBRAHIM M. GADDAFI  
National Open University, Abuja Nigeria,

**Abstract.** The study examined stress management strategies and its effect on employee performance among academic staff of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). Survey and documentary research designs were employed. Survey was used to generate primary data in order to establish the relationship between stress management strategies and employee performance among academic staff in NOUN while the documentary research designs was used to obtain data from the documentary evidences. The population of the study comprises academic staff of National Open University of Nigeria. Primary data were collected through the administration of questionnaire, while secondary data were obtained from the work of past researchers and pieces of reports on the subject matter. The simple sampling technique was used to select the participants. Quantitative statistical analysis was used to test the hypotheses at 5% level of significance. Multiple regressions with the aid of SPSS version 27.0 were used to analyse the data. Person-Environment Fit Theory was adopted to explain stress management and performance. Findings revealed positive impact of functional working equipment in managing stress level and performance among academic staff members at the National Open University of Nigeria. Finding also revealed positive impact staff welfare scheme on stress levels and work performance among academic staff members at NOUN. The study recommends among others, that the Management of National Open University of Nigeria should introduce and implement more Stress Management Programs. The Management of National Open University of Nigeria should strengthen its policies aimed at promoting work-life balance for academic staff at NOUN.

**Keywords:** Stress Management Strategies, Functional Working Equipment, Staff Welfare Scheme, Employee Performance and Academic Staff

### 1. Introduction

The origins of workplace stress can be traced back to a prevalent problem like (poor communication) in modern times, which has, had a profound impact on the well-being of employees and the productivity of organization. Selye (2006) stated that the stress response, an inherent part of our nervous systems, was once essential for survival. However, this acute stress was meant to be temporary, followed by a period of recovery. In today's world, chronic stress experienced by employees rarely involves actual encounters with predators. Instead, it arises from the mismatch between our evolved stress response and the demands of modern work, as highlighted by Cooper and Dewe (2012). Factors such as long working hours, tight deadlines, and relentless expectations trigger a physiological cascade in our bodies, similar to the stress response.

Workplace stress has emerged as a significant issue in public universities, including online institutions such as the National Open University of Nigeria. The Nigerian public university system has long been grappling with insufficient financial support from the government (Aina & Adeleke, 2011). This has resulted in various challenges, including limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and unfavorable working conditions, all of which contribute to stress among academic staff (Akah, 2017). Furthermore, the departure of skilled academics seeking better opportunities abroad has further strained the system and increased workloads for those who remain (Okoro & Onwuegbuzie, 2012). According to Osibanjo et al., (2019), academic staff in Online Distance Learning universities often find themselves juggling multiple responsibilities, including teaching, research, administrative duties, and managing online platforms, which can lead to burnout.

Empirically, the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) has recognized the importance of

addressing stress management and enhancing welfare schemes among academic staff.

Research has shown that when occupational demands outweigh occupational resources, it can lead to work stress and an exhausted, disengaged workforce (Poalses & Bezuidenhout, 2018). According to Spilg, et al, (2022), in order to support the well-being of academic staff, interventions such as the Stress Management and Resilience Training (SMART) program have been implemented. The SMART program aims to build resilience and address physical wellness, particularly during challenging periods such as the implementation of new hospital-wide systems. Additionally, digital psychological interventions have shown promise in improving psychological well-being among university students, who often face academic and financial stress (Ferrari, et al, 2018)

This study therefore examines the effectiveness of stress management strategies on employee performance among academic staff in National Open University of Nigeria. Empirical studies have demonstrated that tailored stress management interventions can lead to improved job satisfaction, reduced burnout, and enhanced performance among employees (Karatepe & Karadas, 2015). However, without specific research on NOUN, it is challenging to identify which strategies would be most effective for its employees. This lack of empirical data hinders the development of targeted interventions that could improve employee performance and, by extension, the overall effectiveness of the institution. Therefore, there is an urgent need for empirical research to assess the impact of stress management strategies on employee performance at NOUN. Such research would fill the existing empirical gaps and provide valuable insights into the most effective ways to support employees in this unique educational setting. By understanding the specific stressors and effective management strategies, NOUN can implement policies that enhance employee well-being and performance. Despite the recognized importance of stress management strategies, their impact on employee performance at the National Open University of Nigeria has not been empirically examined. Addressing this gap is essential for developing effective interventions that can improve employee performance and organizational outcomes at NOUN.

The research problem therefore is to ascertain whether stress management strategies adopted by the management of National Open University of Nigeria has enhanced employees' performance among academic Staff.

The general objective of this study is to assess the effect of stress management strategies on employee performance at the National Open University of Nigeria while the specific objectives are to:

- assess the effect of functional working equipment on stress management and performance among Academic Staff in NOUN
- evaluate the effectiveness of staff welfare scheme on stress management and performance among Academic Staff in NOUN

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- Does the functional working equipment have effect on stress management and performance among Academic Staff in National Open University of Nigeria?
- How effective has the staff welfare scheme had effect on stress management and performance among Academic Staff in National Open University of Nigeria?

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

H<sub>01</sub>: functional working equipment has no significant relationship with stress management and performance among Academic Staff in NOUN.

H<sub>02</sub>: staff welfare scheme has no significant relationship with stress management and performance among Academic Staff in NOUN.

## 2. Concept of Stress

Stress is a physiological and psychological response to real or perceived threats, challenges, or obligations. It often elicits feelings of pressure, strain, and tension (Selye, 2014). Individuals experience stress variably, and it can provide both acute and chronic repercussions on their bodily and emotional well-being. The "fight or flight" response in the body is activated by stress, resulting in increased heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, muscle tension, and other physiological alterations, as stated by the American Institute of Stress (2012). This reaction secretes hormones into the bloodstream, such as cortisol and adrenaline, to prepare the body for potential threats. Stress can be categorized into two types: acute stress, which results from imminent threats or challenges, and chronic stress, which is caused by persistent situations such as financial difficulties or occupational problems. Chronic stress is associated with various health problems, including anxiety, depression, gastrointestinal disorders, and cardiovascular disease (Taylor & Ostroff, 2018).



This study indicates that stress is a typical reaction to challenging situations; nevertheless, if it endures for a longer duration, it might adversely impact overall wellness. Consequently, it is imperative for individuals to recognize troubling signs promptly to obtain appropriate support before conditions deteriorate. The body's response to any perceived threat or challenge is termed stress. Selye (2006) describes it as a physiological and psychological response that prepares the body for action in the face of danger or injury. In other words, stress occurs when an individual perceives a problem as excessively large or intricate for them to manage.

Stress, as defined by Lazarus and Folkman (2014), arises from a disparity between internal resources available to address external demands and the demands themselves. This indicates that individuals may experience stress when they perceive an inability to manage challenges in their relationships, employment, familial situations, or health. Various stressors can elicit this reaction, encompassing social factors such as marital problems and financial challenges, in addition to environmental factors like noise pollution (D'Mello & Nicolson 2012).

### 2.1 Concept of Stress Management

Stress management is the identification and regulation of stressors to enhance physical, mental, and emotional health. It entails formulating coping methods or procedures that assist individuals in managing stressors and mitigating their adverse effects on overall health. Lazarus and Folkman's transactional model of stress (2014) posits that stress management encompasses both problem-focused and emotion-focused coping strategies. Problem-focused coping involves directly tackling the underlying cause of a stressful circumstance, whereas emotion-focused coping emphasizes managing emotions in reaction to a stressful occurrence (Lazarus & Folkman, 2014). Stress management encompasses approaches and strategies employed by individuals to mitigate and alleviate the adverse impacts of stress on their physical, mental, and emotional health. The process entails recognizing stresses, formulating coping strategies, and adopting healthy lifestyle modifications to enhance resilience against forthcoming stressors. Lazarus & Folkman (2014) assert that stress management encompasses both problem-focused coping, which targets the underlying source of stress, and emotion-focused coping, which involves regulating one's responses to stressful circumstances.

An essential component of stress management is time-management skills, which entail prioritizing

tasks according to their significance while continuously allocating sufficient pauses for rest and self-care activities throughout each day (McEwen, et al., 2013).

### 3. Literature Review and Gaps in Literature

A study by Igbino and Omoregie (2023) assessed the "Influence of Stress Management Strategies on Employee Productivity in Selected Manufacturing Firms in Lagos, Nigeria." The study employed a descriptive survey design, collecting data through structured questionnaires. Data analysis was done using simple descriptive statistics and chi-square, without considering more complex techniques like correlation and multiple regressions. The findings indicated that stress management strategies, such as work-life balance and relaxation techniques, significantly improved employee productivity. The authors recommended that organizations prioritize training on stress management to enhance overall performance. The gap in this study lies in the focus on manufacturing firms in Lagos and its methodological limitation in using only chi-square analysis, leaving out regression analysis.

Another study by Mohammed and Akinola (2021) examined "The Impact of Stress Management Techniques on Employee Performance in the Banking Sector in Abuja, Nigeria." This research also utilized a descriptive survey design and collected data using questionnaires. Simple analysis and chi-square were employed, similar to the first study, but correlation or multiple regression analysis was not incorporated. The study found that stress reduction techniques, such as time management and counseling services, had a positive impact on employee performance in the banking sector. Recommendations included the implementation of regular stress management workshops. The study's gap is its focus on the banking sector in Abuja and its limited analysis techniques, not extending to regression methods.

A study by Adeyemi and Ojo (2018) investigated "Stress Management and Its Effect on Employee Performance in the Public Sector: A Study of Ministries in Oyo State." Using a similar descriptive survey design, data was gathered through questionnaires and analyzed using chi-square, omitting correlation and regression techniques. The study concluded that government employees who had access to stress management resources, such as wellness programs, performed better. The authors recommended integrating these strategies into human resource policies to boost performance. The gap in this study is its focus on public sector ministries in Oyo State and the exclusion of advanced analytical techniques.

In comparison, this current study on "The Effect of Stress Management Strategies on Employee Performance at the National Open University of Nigeria" differs as it targets the academic environment, specifically a higher education institution. Additionally, the methodological gap exists in previous studies where only simple and chi-square analyses were used, excluding more robust techniques such as correlation and multiple regression analysis, which will be incorporated into the present study to offer more comprehensive insights.

**4. Research Methodology**

This study used a mixed-method research design combining survey and documentary research. The survey, administered through structured questionnaire, collected primary data from academic staff of the National Open University of Nigeria to examine the relationship between stress management strategies and employee performance. Various stress management techniques, including time management and organizational support, were assessed, and key performance indicators like teaching effectiveness and research output were measured. Documentary research provided secondary data from institutional records and reports, offering context on stress levels and performance history. The study utilized census sampling, involving all 492 academic staff members, eliminating sampling errors. Primary data were collected via a Likert scale questionnaire, and secondary data were sourced from textbooks, journals, and official documents. Descriptive and inferential statistics, including multiple linear regression analysis, were employed to analyze the data using SPSS software. The study aimed to provide comprehensive insights into how stress management strategies affect employee performance.

The descriptive statistics was used to present and interpret quantitative data. The Descriptive statistics are; frequency table, figure and chart.

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data collected. Inferential statistics such as multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyze the data. The

multiple linear regression analysis is calculated at 5% level of significance. The Multiple Linear Regression model is stated as:  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1 + \beta_2X_2 + \beta_3X_3 + e$

Where Y is dependent variable (or response variable) (employee performance)

Where  $\beta_0$  is constant or intercept

Where  $B_1, B_2, B_3$ , is the co-efficient of X

i.e.  $\beta_1$  is called coefficient of  $X_1$ ;  $\beta_2$  is called coefficient of  $X_2$

Where  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  is the independent variable

The analysis was done using independent variable as stress management strategies and employees' performance as the dependent variable.

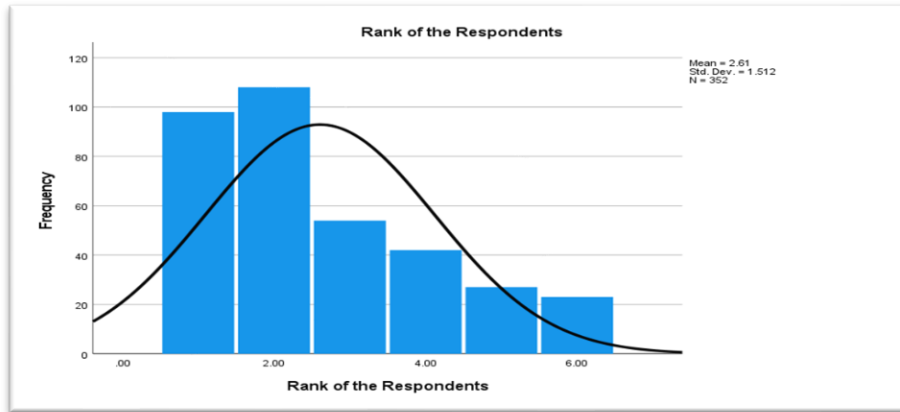
**5. Research Results and Discussion**

	N	%
Lecturer II	98	27.8%
Lecturer I	108	30.7%
Senior Lecturer	54	15.3%
Reader	42	11.9%
Professor	27	7.7%
Assistant Lecturer	23	6.5%

*Source: Questionnaire Data, 2024*

The data in the table shows the distribution of respondents based on their ranks within the academic staff of NOUN. The respondents are categorized into various roles, each reflecting a distinct level of seniority and responsibility within the institution. Lecturer II occupies the largest proportion with 98 respondents, constituting 27.8% of the total. Following closely is Lecturer I with 108 respondents, making up 30.7%. The middle tier is represented by Senior Lecturers, totaling 54 individuals at 15.3%. Moving further up, we have Readers with 42 respondents, comprising 11.9%. Professors are a notable presence, consisting of 27 respondents at 7.7%, showcasing a higher echelon of expertise and leadership. Lastly, Assistant Lecturers round up the distribution with 23 individuals, accounting for 6.5% of the total. This breakdown reflects a diverse and structured hierarchy within the academic staff, highlighting the range of experience and qualifications present at NOUN.

Fig. 1

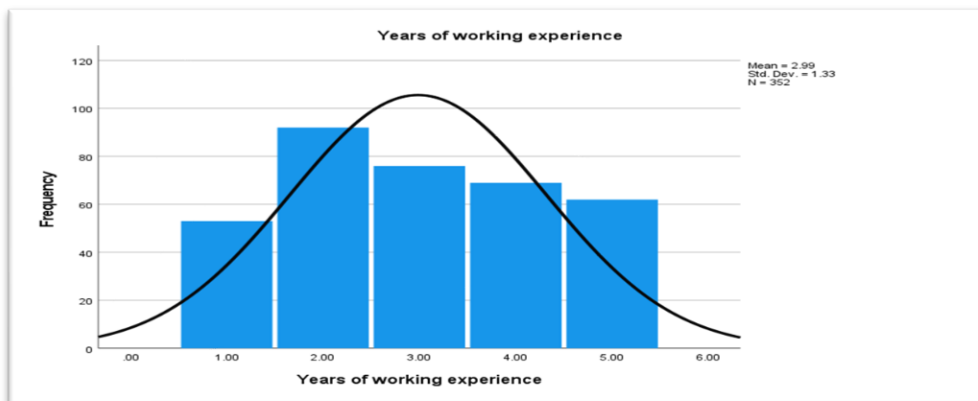


	N	%
0-5 years	53	15.1%
6-10 years	92	26.1%
11-15 years	76	21.6%
16-20 years	69	19.6%
21-Above	62	17.6%

Source: Questionnaire Data, 2024

The data in the table shows the Years of working experience of distribution of respondents in various fields. The distribution shows a range of experience levels among individuals, with the largest percentage falling within the 6-10 years category. This suggests a significant portion of the sample group holds a moderate level of expertise in their respective fields. Furthermore, the data reveals a fairly even spread among the 0-5, 11-15-, and 16-20-years categories, indicating a diverse mix of experience levels. Notably, there is a substantial representation in the 21 years and above category, signifying a significant number of individuals with extensive expertise and tenure in their professions. Overall, the data showcases a varied spectrum of experience levels, highlighting the diverse workforce contributing their skills and knowledge across different sectors.

Fig. 2



Responses on stress management strategies and employee performance among academic staff at the National Open University of Nigeria

	N	%
Strongly Agreed	38	10.8%
Agreed	124	35.2%
Disagreed	118	33.5%
Strongly Disagreed	65	18.5%
Undecided	7	2.0%

Source: Questionnaire Data, 2024

The data in the table represent responses on whether the availability of functional working equipment contributes to sustaining stress-free working conditions with 38 (10.8%) respondents strongly believe that having functional working equipment significantly contributes to maintaining stress-free working conditions, 124 (35.2%) respondents agree that there is a positive correlation between the availability of functional working equipment and stress-free working conditions, 118 (33.5) respondents disagree that functional working equipment plays a significant role in sustaining stress-free working conditions, 65 (18.5%) respondents strongly disagree with the notion that functional working equipment contributes to stress-free working conditions while 7 (2.0%) respondents are unsure about the relationship between the availability of functional working equipment and stress-free working conditions. Overall, while there is a division of opinions, a larger proportion of respondents lean towards agreeing that having functional working equipment is beneficial for maintaining stress-free working conditions.

**Table 4.1:** Responses regarding whether the availability of a staff welfare scheme positively impacts my stress levels at work

	N	%
Strongly Agreed	22	6.3%
Agreed	123	34.9%
Disagreed	126	35.8%
Strongly Disagreed	73	20.7%
Undecided	8	2.3%

*Source: Questionnaire Data, 2024*

The data in the table represent responses regarding the impact of the availability of a staff welfare scheme on stress levels at work with 22 respondents representing (6.3%) respondents strongly agreed that the availability of a staff welfare scheme positively impacts their stress levels at work. These individuals feel strongly that such a scheme helps reduce their stress, 123 respondents representing (34.9%) respondents agreed that the staff welfare scheme positively impacts their stress levels at work. While not as strong as the previous group, they still hold a positive view on the effect of the scheme on their stress. 126 respondents representing respondents representing (35.8%) disagreed that the staff welfare scheme positively impacts their stress levels at work. They perceive that the scheme does not have a positive effect on their stress levels. 73 respondents representing 20.7% strongly disagreed that the staff welfare scheme positively impacts their stress levels at work. They hold a firm belief that the scheme has no positive effect on their stress while 8 respondents representing (2.3%) are undecided about whether the staff welfare scheme positively impacts their stress levels at work. They neither agree nor disagree and might need more information or experience to form an opinion. It was established that the staff welfare scheme as beneficial for reducing stress. This suggests a divided perspective among respondents regarding the effectiveness of the scheme in alleviating work-related stress.

**Table 5.1:** Responses regarding whether the financial support or assistance offered through the staff welfare scheme alleviates stress related to personal finances, thereby enhancing my performance

	N	%
Strongly Agreed	83	23.6%
Agreed	163	46.3%
Disagreed	56	15.9%
Strongly Disagreed	43	12.2%
Undecided	7	2.0%

*Source: Questionnaire Data, 2024*

The data in the table represent responses regarding financial support or assistance offered through the staff welfare scheme alleviates stress related to personal finances and enhances performance with 23.6% of respondents hold a strong belief that financial support positively impacts their performance by relieving financial stress, 46.3%, also agree that financial assistance contributes to reducing stress and consequently improving their performance, 15.9% of respondents disagreed with the statement, indicating that they don't believe financial support provided through the welfare scheme has a significant impact on their performance, 12.2% of respondents strongly disagreed with the idea that financial support from the welfare scheme improves their performance while 2.0%, remained undecided about the impact of financial assistance on their performance. Overall, a majority of respondents (69.9% combined from strongly agreed and agreed categories) perceive a positive relationship between financial support and performance enhancement, while a smaller portion (27.1% combined from disagreed and strongly disagreed categories) do not share this view. The undecided group is relatively small, suggesting that most respondents have formed a clear opinion on the matter.

**Table 7.1:** Responses regarding whether the staff welfare scheme at NOUN effectively helps in managing stress and enhancing the performance of academic staff

	N	%
Strongly Agreed	51	14.5%
Agreed	203	57.7%
Disagreed	63	17.9%
Strongly Disagreed	27	7.7%
Undecided	8	2.3%

Source: Questionnaire Data, 2024

The data in the table represent responses regarding the staff welfare scheme at NOUN and its effectiveness in managing stress and enhancing performance, with 14.5% of the respondents strongly believe that the staff welfare scheme is effective in managing stress and enhancing performance. These individuals likely perceive tangible benefits from the scheme and may have experienced positive outcomes personally or observed them in their colleagues, 57.7% of respondents agree that the staff welfare scheme is effective. This suggests that a significant portion of the academic staff perceives the scheme positively, even if they might not feel as strongly as those who "strongly agreed." They likely acknowledge the benefits it provides in terms of stress management and performance enhancement. 17.9% of respondents disagreed with the effectiveness of the staff welfare scheme. This could indicate dissatisfaction or skepticism regarding the scheme's ability to effectively address stress and improve performance. These individuals may feel that the scheme is inadequate or ineffective in meeting their needs. 7.7% of respondents strongly disagree with the effectiveness of the scheme. These individuals likely have strong reservations or negative experiences with the scheme and may perceive it as actively contributing to stress or hindering performance rather than alleviating it. 2.3% of respondents are undecided about the effectiveness of the staff welfare scheme. Overall, staff welfare scheme at NOUN have effectively helped in managing stress and enhancing performance, there is still a significant minority who either disagree or are undecided. This suggests that there may be areas for improvement in the scheme or that further investigation into its effectiveness is warranted.

**Analysis**

Table 4.34: Model Summary<sup>b</sup>

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.737 <sup>a</sup>	.543	.536	.71963	.335

a. Predictors: (Constant), functional working equipment, staff welfare scheme among the academic staff in National Open University of Nigeria

b. Dependent Variable: stress management strategies have enhanced performance for academic staff in NOUN

The regression analysis examined the relationship between predictors and stress management strategies enhancing academic staff performance at NOUN. With an R of .737<sup>a</sup> and an R<sup>2</sup> of .543, 54.3% of the variance is explained by the predictors. However, Durbin-Watson (.335) suggests potential positive autocorrelation, requiring further analysis.

Table 4.35: ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	212.497	5	42.499	82.067	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	179.182	346	.518		
	Total	391.679	351			

a. Dependent Variable: stress management strategies have enhanced performance for academic staff in NOUN

b. Predictors: (Constant), functional working equipment has significantly minimized stress and enhanced performance among Academic Staff in NOUN, staff welfare scheme significantly minimize stress and enhanced performance among Academic Staff in NOUN

The ANOVA table assessed the relationship between stress management strategies and performance among NOUN academic staff. The model explained significant variability in performance, with a total sum of squares of 212.497 and a highly significant F-value of 82.067. The residual sum was 179.182, with a significance level below 0.05.

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.607	.146		4.156	.000
	functional working equipment has significantly minimize stress and enhanced performance among Academic Staff in NOUN	.182	.066	.174	2.766	.002
	staff welfare scheme did not significantly minimize stress and enhanced performance among Academic Staff in NOUN	.671	.089	.593	7.543	.000

a. Dependent Variable: stress management strategies have enhanced performance for academic staff in NOUN

The table presents the results of a regression analysis with variables related to job-related stress and performance enhancement among academic staff at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

The Constant) represents the intercept of the regression equation when all independent variables are zero. In this case, the constant is 0.607 with a standard error of 0.146 and a t-value of 4.156, which is statistically significant at  $p < 0.05$ . It means that even when all other variables are zero, there is still a significant baseline level of the dependent variable.

The result of the regression analysis on Increasing work demands shows that the coefficient is 0.11 with a standard error of 0.402 and a t-value of 0.508, which is statistically significant ( $p = 0.004$ ). This study therefore rejects the null hypothesis which stated that “increasing work demands did not significantly induced job-related stress among the academic staff in National Open University of Nigeria”. This suggests that increasing work demands significantly induce job-related stress among academic staff at NOUN.

Some of the Functional working equipment that helps Minimize Stress and Enhancing Performance as shown in the table below:

Functional working equipment stress management and performance among Academic Staff in NOUN	Description
Access to laptops for staff to work remotely and manage workload	This provides staff with more flexibility in their work schedule, allowing them to work from home or other locations when needed. This can help to reduce stress associated with commuting and long working hours.
Provision of internet connectivity to facilitate online research and communication	Reliable and fast internet access is essential for academic staff to conduct research, communicate with students, and collaborate with colleagues. This can help to improve efficiency and reduce frustration.
printer and copier facilities printing and photocopying	Faulty or slow printers and copiers can be a major source of stress for academic staff. Upgrading these facilities can help to improve efficiency and reduce wait times.
Installation of ergonomic furniture to promote physical comfort and well-being	Ergonomic furniture is designed to support the body in a healthy position, which can help to reduce pain and discomfort. This can improve staff concentration and productivity.
water dispensers and air conditioners	commitment to keeping academics in good working order, ensuring staff has reliable access to hydration and temperature control.
Budgetary allocations for the procurement and maintenance	The allocation of financial resources for these appliances signifies the institution's prioritization of staff well-being and creating a conducive work environment.

The result of the regression analysis on Staff welfare scheme shows the coefficient is 0.671 with a standard error of 0.089 and a t-value of 7.543, which is highly statistically significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). This study therefore rejects the null hypothesis which stated that “staff welfare scheme has no significantly relationship with stress management and performance among Academic Staff in NOUN” This suggests that the staff welfare scheme significantly minimizes stress and enhances performance among academic staff at NOUN.

Some Staff Welfare Scheme that helps Minimize Stress and Enhancing Performance in NOUN as shown in the table below:

Evidence	Description	Impact on Stress & Performance
ODL and welfare Allowances: Reduced Financial Burden	NOUN management provides some financial allowance to enhance extra effort and provides financial security.	This financial support alleviates stress about personal finances, allowing staff to focus on their work. It improves morale and fosters a sense of appreciation, leading to increased motivation and productivity.
Research Grants: Enhanced Research Activities	Research grants provide funding for academic staff to pursue their research interests. This allows them to contribute to their field and potentially gain recognition.	Access to research funding reduces stress associated with limited resources for research. It fosters a sense of professional development and accomplishment, leading to increased job satisfaction and improved research output.
Training Sponsorship: Professional Development Opportunities	Sponsoring training programs equips academic staff with new skills and knowledge relevant to ODL pedagogy and technology.	Training opportunities reduce stress associated with feeling outdated or lacking necessary skills. It fosters a sense of growth and confidence, leading to improved teaching effectiveness and student engagement.
Improved Work-Life Balance (Flexible Work Arrangements)	Some staff welfare schemes include flexible work arrangements, allowing staff to manage their workload and personal lives effectively.	Flexible work arrangements reduce stress associated with time constraints and work-life conflicts. It fosters a sense of autonomy and control, leading to improved well-being and a more sustainable work pace.
Increased Job Satisfaction and Retention	staff welfare scheme demonstrates the institution's commitment to its employees' well-being and professional development.	Staff who feel valued and supported are more likely to experience job satisfaction and remain with the institution. This reduces stress associated with job insecurity and fosters a sense of loyalty, leading to a more stable and experienced workforce.

The result of the regression analysis on university policy on collaboration shows the coefficient is 0.564 with a standard error of 0.066 and a t-value of 0.054, which is not statistically significant ( $p = 0.004$ ). This study therefore rejects the null hypothesis which stated that “University policy on collaboration has no significantly relationship with stress management and performance among Academic Staff in NOUN” This implies that the university policy on collaboration have significantly minimize stress and enhance performance among academic staff at NOUN.

Findings revealed positive impact of fully functional working equipment in managing stress level and productivity of academic staff members at the National Open University of Nigeria. It was discovered that maintaining efficient and reliable equipment not only plays a crucial role in reducing stress levels but also in improving overall performance and job satisfaction among the faculty.

The study revealed that the presence of functional equipment serves as a key factor in creating a conducive work environment, allowing educators to carry out their duties effectively and with minimal disruptions. By ensuring that staff members have access to reliable tools and resources, the university can foster a culture of efficiency and excellence within its academic community.

Moreover, the findings emphasized the importance of proactive maintenance and timely upgrades to existing equipment to sustain optimal performance

levels and prevent potential breakdowns. This proactive approach not only supports the well-being of the faculty but also contributes to the university's overall operational effectiveness and reputation as a leading institution of higher learning. This finding conformed to the studies on working environment and managing stress and improving productivity in academic staff. Hwang et al., (2017) analyzed Mindfulness-Based Interventions for University Teachers: A Meta-Analysis. This meta-analysis reviewed 12 studies published between 2000 and 2015 that investigated mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) for university teachers. The researchers used random-effects models to analyze the effect of MBIs on stress, anxiety, depression, and burnout in university teachers. Additionally, they explored the impact on teaching self-efficacy and perceived student engagement. The study found that MBIs had a moderate positive effect on reducing stress, anxiety, and burnout in university teachers. Additionally, MBIs showed a small positive effect on teaching self-efficacy and perceived student engagement. This suggests that mindfulness practices can be a valuable tool for academic staff to manage stress and potentially improve their teaching effectiveness.

Yost & Walsh, (2019) examined the Effectiveness of Time Management Interventions on Faculty Stress and Productivity in Higher Education. This study employed a pre-test, post-test design with a control group. 102 faculty members at a university in the southeastern United States participated. The intervention group received a 6-week time

management training program, while the control group received no intervention. The researchers used t-tests and ANOVAs to analyze changes in perceived stress, self-reported productivity, and time management behaviors between the intervention and control groups. The study found that the time management training program significantly reduced perceived stress and increased self-reported productivity in the intervention group compared to the control group. These findings indicate that time management skills can be a helpful tool for academic staff to manage stress and improve their productivity.

Burke & Siltanen (2021) examined the Impact of Work-Life Balance Initiatives on Faculty Job Satisfaction and Productivity (2021). This study used a survey design with a sample of 238 faculty members from a public university in the southwestern United States. The researchers used regression analysis to examine the relationship between work-life balance initiatives offered by the university (e.g., flexible work arrangements, childcare support) and faculty job satisfaction and self-reported productivity. The study found a positive association between the availability of work-life balance initiatives and faculty job satisfaction and productivity. This suggests that universities that prioritize work-life balance through supportive policies can potentially improve faculty well-being and performance. These studies highlight various approaches that can be effective in managing stress and improving productivity in academic staff. Mindfulness practices, time management skills, and supportive work-life balance initiatives all hold promise for fostering a healthier and more productive academic environment.

Finding revealed positive impact staff welfare scheme on stress levels and work performance among academic staff members at NOUN. This crucial initiative not only reduced stress among the staff, but also played a vital role in boosting the overall performance and productivity. The university management to some extent has create a supportive and conducive work environment that enabled the employees to thrive and excel in their roles through sponsorship of training and Development, Institutional Based Research, NOUN Senate research grants and ODL financial support. The data indicated a clear correlation between the staff welfare scheme and the improvements observed in both stress levels and performance metrics among academic staff members at NOUN. The provision of the welfare benefits and support mechanisms proved to be instrumental in creating a work culture that values employee well-being and satisfaction. As a result, academic staff members were able to focus more effectively on facilitation,

support services and researches, leading to increased job satisfaction and a higher quality of work output.

This finding conformed to studies on Staff Welfare Schemes, Stress, and Work Performance by Julius, Nderu & Mwige whose study examined the Influence of Staff Welfare on Employee Performance at Public Service Commission in Kenya. Method of Data Collection: Survey questionnaires were distributed to a sample of 141 staff members at the Public Service Commission in Kenya. Stratified proportionate random sampling was used to select participants. Data analysis involved descriptive statistics and correlation analysis to assess the relationship between staff welfare practices (including benefits and work-life balance initiatives) and employee performance. The study found a positive and significant correlation between staff welfare and employee performance. This suggests that comprehensive staff welfare schemes can contribute to improved work performance in academic settings.

Adedoyin & Adeyemo (2017) examined the occupational Stress and Academic Staff Job Performance in Two Nigerian Universities. A questionnaire with 31 items was administered to a sample of 150 lecturers from two public universities in Nigeria. Simple linear regression analysis was used to test the hypothesis that occupational stress negatively affects academic staff job performance. The study confirmed a negative association between occupational stress and academic staff job performance. It highlights the importance of addressing stress factors to ensure optimal work performance. While the study doesn't directly assess staff welfare schemes, it suggests that interventions that reduce stress (potentially through well-designed welfare programs) could improve performance.

Juanjuan & Yanhong (2015) examined the Work-Life Balance, Stress and Job Satisfaction of University Teachers in China. A survey questionnaire was distributed to 400 university teachers in China. Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis were used to examine the relationships between work-life balance, stress, and job satisfaction. The study found a significant negative correlation between work-life balance and stress levels, and a positive correlation between work-life balance and job satisfaction. This suggests that initiatives promoting work-life balance (which can be part of a comprehensive staff welfare scheme) can contribute to reduced stress and increased job satisfaction among academic staff.

## 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the study underscores the critical role of functional working equipment in reducing stress



level the well-being and performance of academic staff at the National Open University of Nigeria, highlighting the significance of investing in the maintenance and upkeep of essential tools and resources to support a thriving academic environment.

Staff welfare schemes provide evidence that staff well-being is linked to stress levels and work performance in academic settings. Initiatives that address work-life balance, offer various benefits, and promote employee well-being are key components of staff welfare schemes that contribute to a positive and productive academic environment. The importance of investing in staff welfare initiatives as a means of promoting a positive work environment and enhancing organizational performance. The successful implementation of the staff welfare scheme at NOUN serves as a testament to the tangible benefits of prioritizing employee well-being and underscores the university's commitment to supporting its academic staff members in achieving their full potential it is has been proven that university policies promoting collaboration can positively impact student outcomes. Collaboration appears to be linked to reduced stress levels, improved academic performance, and increased student engagement in both traditional and online learning environments.

Based on the findings, the study therefore, recommends that:

- The Management of National Open University of Nigeria should allocate more resources to ensure that academic staff has access to functional working equipment to minimize stress and enhance performance. Regular maintenance and updates should be prioritized to sustain effectiveness.
- The Management of National Open University of Nigeria should enhance existing staff welfare schemes or introduce new initiatives to prioritize the well-being of academic staff at NOUN, thereby reducing stress levels and fostering a conducive work environment.

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## Effect of Ad-hoc Staff Training on Election Outcomes in Kano State, Nigeria

AMINU SANI DUTSE,      NWAMAKA P. IBEME,  
MARK OCHALA,        MUSA ZAKARI  
National Open University, Abuja Nigeria,

**Abstract.** The study titled “Effect of Ad-hoc Staff Training and Development on Election Outcomes in Kano State, Nigeria”, a quantitative survey research design was adopted. Data collection was done through the administration of structured questionnaires to the population of 300 ad-hoc staff in Kano state. The use of secondary sources includes reports from INEC on its past elections as well as guidelines on the ad-hoc staff training). The data collected were analyzed using inferential and descriptive statistics which include the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and multiple regression analysis. The findings of the study have shown that training on technological skills have great impact on the efficiency of Election Day activities, with a p-value of 0.000. On the other hand, the duration of training as an independent variable did not affect the efficiency and accuracy of electoral activities, with a p-value of 0.127. Pre-election training content as an independent variable was found to be statistically significant on the accuracy of electoral outcomes, with a p-value of 0.000. the study concludes that when ad-hoc staffs are well trained, the election delivered are more credible, even with more realistic voter-turnout and vote counts. Consequently, it was recommended that training for ad-hoc staffs should be extensive and effective. INEC should ensure training on technological expertise as well as the pre-election training on the conduct and ethics of electoral processes. Also, periodic training should be carried out as part of the refresher courses aimed at ensuring staff competence and updates on innovations in the electoral process.

**Keyword:** Ad-hoc Staff Training, Election Outcomes, election technological skills and duration of training

### 1. Introduction

Elections are the fundamental exercise of political rights, and their outcomes play an important role in the conduct of government and in society at large. Election management bodies (EMBs) are especially

important in democratic states, particularly as they engage in reforms to enhance the credibility of elections around the globe. One significant contributor to that credibility of elections is the professionalism of the staff, particularly ad-hoc staff that is often assigned to man polling units and executes critical tasks on Election Day.

Several studies have emphasised the role of training and development programmes for election staff in promoting the conduct and integrity of elections. A 2021 study by Collier and Vicente in the European Journal of Political Research shows that ‘the quality of election officials is one of the most important determinants of the success of election management bodies in a dual sense: they need to run elections well and they need to build public confidence in the outcomes’. Thus, training programmes focused on providing staff with the skills needed to manage electoral processes that involve complex and often novel features, such as registration systems, voting equipment, vote counting, and electoral law, are instrumental to the conduct of free and fair elections. Indeed, the growing complexity of election processes in many countries, underpinned by growing technological sophistication, such as the use of electronic voting and real-time transmission of results from voter rolls, numbering machines, and other sources, has increased the need for well-trained election staff who can manage these systems to deliver credible and secure elections.

Electoral bodies on the continent often complain of inadequate funding and limited capacity, as well as logistical difficulties. Ad-hoc personnel, the employees hired from the general staff to work exclusively on elections is often recruited on a temporary basis and forms a substantial number of electoral staff across the continent. In fact, a recent study on electoral failures in the continent found that ad-hoc staff was a major source of electoral shortcomings.

Or take the case that well-trained election staff is less likely to make errors in the electoral process that can lead to disputes and, subsequently, election-related violence, as Olukoshi and Laakso (2020) wrote across 10 different African states: ‘Election staff with lack of experience and training was more likely to make errors in conducting the election.’ The 2017 general election in Kenya was no exception: there were a number of legal challenges based on irregularities at polling stations, many of which were linked to election staff incompetence. The same can be said about the 2019 elections in Malawi. The results were challenged because of allegations of irregularities linked to untrained election staff. The country’s Supreme Court ended up annulling the election results.

Aware of these challenges, some African states have taken steps recently to bolster training of election staff. In Ghana, for instance, a range of training programmes has been instituted by the Electoral Commission to systematically impart the necessary knowledge and skills to ad-hoc staff on how to deal with Election Day challenges. Studies have demonstrated that these kinds of approaches have bolstered perceptions of credibility around elections, and improved the levels of trust that citizens place in elections as a whole.

It is in Kano State in Nigeria that ad-hoc staff are being hired to manage elections by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), especially university lecturers, youth corps members and civil servants. Consequently, the inadequacies of the training and development of ad-hoc staff given in Kano State, Nigeria, has become a major topic of debate.

As Okonkwo et al. found in Kano State, such lapses have been repeatedly observed in the conduct of Nigerian elections. These include delays in the counting of votes, improper handling of the sensitive electoral materials, and poor communication between the polling units and the central electoral body. Such lapses have also eroded public confidence in election results and, in some cases, resulted in post-election violence. The 2019 general elections in Kano State, Nigeria received condemnation for various irregularities, many of which were blamed on ad-hoc staff who hadn’t been trained properly in the management of Election Day activities.

But recent developments suggest an upswing in the appreciation of the need for ad-hoc staff training in Nigeria. INEC has embarked on new reforms that show new levels of commitment to staff recruitment and training. For the 2023 general elections, INEC introduced new training modules in the use of technology in election, and new modules focused on

ethics and conflict management. Preliminary reports suggest that these reforms also mitigated electoral malpractices.

It is imperative that we rigorously examine the impact of ad-hoc staff training and development on the success of elections, especially in countries like Nigeria where the electoral process is often contaminated by irregularities that defeat the purpose of elections. Although INEC has improved the recruitment and training of ad-hoc staff over the years, the relationship between their recruitment and training practices and the success of elections has not been systematically studied. The relationship between effective training and election outcomes can provide useful direction for future electoral reforms.

Given that Kano State in Nigeria will hold future elections; this study is timely in addressing the issue of the credibility of the electoral process. The adoption or non-adoption of ad-hoc staff training programmes as a policy based on the findings of this research could contribute to the development of policy and practical measures to improve election administration in Nigeria.

The integrity of elections is a fundamental pillar of democratic governance, but elections in Nigeria are plagued by irregularities, inefficiencies and allegations of fraud, for which one of the factors cited is the inadequacies of the ad-hoc staff who organize elections. These temporary electoral workers play critical roles in the electoral process, and this role has not been fully complemented by their training and development, which is crucial for the credibility, transparency and acceptance of election outcomes. Given the role of ad-hoc electoral staff in election administration generally and the seeming lack of attention in the area of their training and development in Nigeria in particular, the purpose of this study is to establish the precise nature of the impact of training and development of ad-hoc electoral staff on the success of elections in Nigeria.

One major criticism of the Nigerian electoral system is its inability to ‘train the ad-hoc staff on election-day modalities, election technological application and use, conflict management, and compliance with electoral laws’. Most research on electoral reforms in Nigeria have focused on the bigger picture, such as role of political actors; very little has been done on training ad-hoc staff, who are often unprepared for the demands of the job. There are many contradictions noted in studies: while some scholars have argued that electoral training of ad-hoc staff improves the quality of election management (Ojo, 2020; Eme 2014), others have noted that poor training continues to impact negatively on the credibility of elections (Adeniyi 2021). This

indicates a major research gap that requires a much deeper analysis of how election outcomes are impacted by the various areas of training/development.

Most studies in this domain tend to only observe the effect of policies and strategies in improving the operational result of elections, but fail to offer empirical tests on how lack of training could lead to errors in electoral process, use of electoral technology, and electoral conflict. Second, there is a paucity of scholarship on how electoral training could affect voters' perception of electoral fairness, and more specifically, how the quality of training influences voters' perception of fairness. Although the literature subtly discusses problems related to training, none offer a clear framework to empirically assess this relationship, especially as it relates to elections in democratizing polities like Kano State, Nigeria, where problems such as post-election violence and general disillusionment about the electoral process are highly prevalent. This study is sustained by the assumption that the increasing use of ad-hoc staff at elections, exacerbated by new electoral reforms to deepen the use of technology requirement for vote accreditation and transmission, if not properly minded, could engender further problems if training and development manuals are not adequately improved. Addressing this gap becomes even more pivotal now than ever before, considering the enthusiasm by most developing countries to adopt electronic voting and transmission systems. Practically, the study would potentially enhance the efficiency of elections-day operations, reduction in election-related violence, and increase in public confidence in electoral outcomes. Theoretical contributions may come from a nuanced understanding of human resource development, trailing from bureaucratic perspectives, and detailed insights into the workings of election bodies in developing countries. The wider objective is to investigate the impact of ad-hoc staff training (pre-election training, technological skills and training duration) on the electoral outcomes Kano State.

The study seeks to answer the following research:

- To what extent does pre-election training of ad-hoc staff enhance the efficacy of voter registration in Kano State, Nigeria?
- What is the effect of technological skills by ad-hoc staff on the efficiency electronic gadgets in the election-day?
- How does the duration of training programs enhance the performance for ad-hoc staff enhance the in electoral management operations?

The study seeks to achieve the followings Research Objectives:

- To assess the extent to which pre-election training of ad-hoc staff enhances the efficacy of voter registration in Kano State, Nigeria.
- To examine the effect of technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff on the efficiency of electronic gadgets used in election-day operations.
- To evaluate how the duration of training programs enhances the performance of ad-hoc staff in managing electoral operations.

The following Alternative Hypotheses (H1) was formulated to guide the study:

- Pre-election training of ad-hoc staff significantly enhances the efficacy of voter registration in Kano State, Nigeria.
- Technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff significantly improve the efficiency of electronic gadgets used in election-day operations.
- The duration of training programs significantly enhances the performance of ad-hoc staff in electoral management operations.

## 2. Election Training

Election training is broadly conceived of in this paper as the systematic preparation and education of individuals involved in electoral processes to enable them to conduct elections efficiently, transparently and credibly. Zakari (2022) defines election training as 'the process of building the capacity of electoral officials, including both permanent and ad hoc staff, with the relevant skills, knowledge and tools to conduct election operations and to address challenges that arise during the electoral cycle'. In this definition, the focus is clearly on the need for training poll workers to be prepared for the many tasks associated with elections, from voter registration to the counting of votes.

Similarly, Smith and Tano (2019) bluntly state that election training is 'a structured educational intervention designed to acquaint election staff with legislative frameworks, procedural guidelines, and operational best practices to improve their performance on elections'. This definition emphasises the procedural and legal parameters of the training, required to keep the process in compliance with electoral law and regulation. In this view, there is no overlap between the professional and legal definitions of the training. It is not merely an operational process that happens to have a legal basis, but a legal mandate that is operationalised.

Furthermore, Ahmed (2020) writes that the term 'encompasses the theoretical and practical aspects of

election management, including the training of staff on the use of technology in elections, such as biometric systems, and the management of election-day logistics.' This definition prompts the inclusion of the modern technological element of election training as digital systems become more and more important to modern elections, as well as the specific logistical training needed for election day operations of large-scale elections.

Finally, Olofin (2021) describes election training as 'an ongoing process that begins long before Election Day and continues throughout the electoral cycle, with a key focus on capacitating the organisations, promoting ethical values, and holding staff accountable'. This definition highlights the ongoing nature of election training, emphasising that it is part of a broader capacity-building effort spanning the electoral cycle.

Election training is the process of systematically preparing people who will participate in the administration of elections (such as election officials, poll workers, and ad-hoc staff) in order to ensure that elections are carried out smoothly, effectively and efficiently. It includes various activities intended to equip election officials with knowledge, skills, and competencies in line with electoral legal frameworks, policies and best practices. The areas covered in election training are wide-ranging but could include training on voter registration, handling ballots, vote counting and conflict management. The underlying objective of election training is to promote openness, accuracy and fairness in the electoral process in line with the imperative of democratic governance. It is important to mention that the training may vary from one electoral jurisdiction to another, from one election to another, as well as from one time to another. For instance, I observed a variation of election training in different election processes in Sierra Leone.

Ad-hoc staff training refers to the training given to ad-hoc staff before an election. Ad-hoc staff is temporary staff that is recruited close to the date of the election to fill critical roles of the electoral process such as polling unit officers, ballot box handlers, and result collation staff. This training is done to ensure that ad-hoc staff has some idea of electoral processes, voting rules and logistics of the electoral process so as to be able to operate their posts effectively on Election Day. The training is usually intensive as it is practical and focuses on the day to day running of the electoral process to ensure that the process is seamless.

Electoral training of election officials represents another important electoral management, namely, the extensive preparation of permanent electoral commission staff in charge of managing the entire

election processes (Salami, 2019). Such training usually include a wide variety of topics from electoral laws, voter education and the management of electoral technologies such as electronic voting machines (Kano, 2021). This is intended to equip such officials to be able to sustain the integrity of the electoral process and solve problems that may arise during election period (Salami, 2019). Elections training represent one of the significant efforts ever undertaken to build the capacities of people involved in elections. This further is geared towards making elections credible and successful (Ibrahim, 2021).

### 3. Pre-Election Training

Election-day training refers to a structured course designed to provide key electoral actors (ie, election officials, security personnel, agents of political parties and civil society actors) with the skills, knowledge, procedures and best practice needed to fulfil their assigned roles in the electoral process. The goal is to increase the level of preparedness and capacity to be able to discharge their assigned responsibilities in a professional way during the election period. This can include areas such as voter registration procedures; election-day operations; post-election procedures for vote-counting; resolution of electoral conflict; electoral law; and trainings on handling election emergencies and disruptions. It is important that election officials and other key actors handling election operations are professionally trained or retrained so they can manage the high-pressure demands during elections.

Pre-election training helps the electoral process to stay clean of foul play, malpractices and voter intimidation, thus promoting a credible, open and fair election system (Khan 2019). It fosters electoral trust through the visible competence and neutrality of the electoral body and its stakeholders, which strengthens the institutional framework of democratic processes (Chima 2021). It helps to clarify the participants' ethical and regulatory responsibilities in the direction of free, fair and credible elections as well as the consequences of non-compliance to electoral rules and systems (Obi Aina 2020).

Moreover, pre-election training might be tailored to a country's specific political, cultural and logistical contexts, enabling the training to tackle concrete problems such as electoral violence, technological shortfalls in voting or other potential challenges (Brown, 2018). Consequently, the chances are higher that the training will have a lasting impact on electoral processes. Thanks to technological developments, this training more frequently incorporates digital tools, simulations and online fora to facilitate training and outreach (Adelaja, 2023)..

#### 4. Empirical Review

A study by Blishchuk (2023) used a qualitative design to examine the Modern approaches to public sphere specialist training in Ukraine. The datasets were collected from document review and interviews. The simple manners of analysis techniques of content analysis were applied. The study revealed that public service personnel training in Ukraine is supposed to improve using the modern approaches of reformation in education to meet the New Public Management concept, and the European standards of the accession of Ukraine in the European Union. Closer collaboration with international educational initiatives, public sector training was emphasized to be strengthened. The academic gap of the study was that it focused on the European training standard, but the current study on the pre-election training in Kano, Nigeria, differed in context and concept.

Using a mixed-methods approach, Nelson et al. (2023) looked at Residents as supervisors: How senior residents make ad hoc entrustment decisions. Surveys and observations were both employed as a source of data, with chi-square tests used to assess the effect of decisions being made on the supervisory behaviour. The authors recommended focusing more attention on how entrustment practices are refined in the clinical education setting. Here is a gap: the clinical and medical education setting is the context (not the electoral setting of the present study).

Musa and Audi and Salisu (2022) identified the impact of electoral malpractices on sustainable democracy in Nigeria. The study was anchored on the case study research design, while the qualitative research method was adopted for data gathering. The results reveal that, ethnicity and sentiments have remained the focal point of the election campaigning in Nigeria and this has remained to affect the Nigerian democracy. Findings from the studies reveal that, electoral fraud is the single most potent threat to democratic transition in Nigeria. Rigging is perpetrated by all political parties relative to their strength. However, it is the party with “incumbency factor” that can rig to make the differences between winning and losing an election. Incumbency, particularly at the Federal level guarantees access to and control over election materials and the electoral commission and security agencies are at mercy of the government in power. This scenario is undermining the nation’s democracy in recent years. The finding of the study further indicates that, election rigging has led to the electoral violence and this has resulted to the loss of lives and valuables. The paper suggests that, an independent, yet a natural source electoral reforms laws and regulations

anchored on even opportunities. There should be a reform that will break the electoral body dependence on government by empowering the body to recruit its own staffs and give it authority over its finances.

Another study by Salim (2022), Training Effectiveness and Academic Staffs Performance in Higher Learning Institutions, used a survey design. The results were derived through questionnaires, with an analysis using chi-square. The questions asked related to aspects of the academic staffs’ performance level, and their responses seemed to confirm that there was an improvement in performance after the training was implemented. Near the end of the report, the gaps identified were: the need to consider more frequent needs assessments and the need to schedule training more often. Salim’s study was different from the Kano State study in that the context was academic institutions.

In their study, achieving the Ad Hoc Teamwork by Employing the Attention Mechanism (AATEAM) (2020), Rahman et al applied an experimental research design. The data was collected through simulation of teamwork scenarios, using statistical modelling to analyze the results. The team adaptability was demonstrated to be improved by the attention mechanism. A major gap in this study is the emphasis on machine learning and artificial intelligence compared with the focus on human training (public sector staff) in this current study.

Kerdnoonwong’s (2018) studied Training Model to Enhance Human Resource Development of Government Organizations in Thailand implemented a case study design and collected data from interviews and reports of two government organizations and applied chi-square analysis. The conclusion indicated that training plays an important role as one of the strategic solutions towards human capital development, and recommended the integration of need and post-training analyses into training programmes. The obvious gap here is that the focus of the study was human resource staff rather than electoral staff, as in the current study on election outcomes.

Brandariz and Bernardo (2018) evaluated Ad hoc v large general training populations for genome wide selection in maize. The study applied an empirical research (pretest-posttest) design using phenotyping environments collected and analyzed with simple statistical models (eg, general combining ability, GCA). It showed smaller ad hoc training populations were superior for predictive performance. The gap here is in the study’s agricultural context compared with the public sector and election staff training focus in the current study in Nigeria.

In short, there are many gaps in the studies: context (healthcare, agriculture, academia); research design (case studies vs surveys); and geography. None of these are unique to electoral training in the Nigerian public sector.

### 5. Gap In literature

The author Blishchuk attempts to answer the research question: ‘What are the modern trends of public sector personnel training in Ukraine? How does it correspond to European standards and to what extent has the training reform of public management’s been carried out? The study used a qualitative methodology that reviewed documentation and conducted interviews, while employing content analysis as the main tool. But this approach is not related to politics (pre-election training), let alone technology (international electronic voting). This is the first serious attempt to study pre-election technologies, which doesn’t touch upon any of the three factors mentioned above (pre-election training, ‘international electronic voting’, and public management reforms within the European context). By contrast,

The study by Nelson and colleagues (2023) on medical education, on the other hand, examines ad hoc decision-making by senior residents using mixed methods, a far-cry from the extremely rigorous electoral training focus in Kano.

Salim used a survey with a chi-square analysis to determine whether academic staff training in Zanzibar was effective, but this is very different from determining whether training of ad-hoc staff for elections in Kano is effective. These studies leave us with obvious holes in terms of content, methods and analysis, namely healthcare, agriculture, education or artificial intelligence, while the study of Kano State has chosen to perform an analysis on pre-election training, technology, and training duration, an aspect that has not been studied in any other literature and is one of the reasons we need to better understand it because it might have an impact on the outcome of the election.

Similarly, Rahman et al (2020) studied algorithmic co-ordination and machine co-operation with artificial intelligence via experimental design and statistical modelling, which is far from electoral training.

The case study was based on empirical research. Kerndnoonwong (2018) studies change in human resource development in Thai government organizations, using case studies, interviews and chi-square analysis. But while the study emphasizes staff development, it does not mention election-specific training.

It’s applied to genome wide selection in agriculture. Brandariz A, Bernardo J.M (2018). Selected topics in quantitative genetics. *Genetics and the genetics education society of America* 213:791-809), derived from empirical research and combining ability models. Also unrelated to training public sector or electoral staff.

### 6. Theoretical Framework

The Democratic Management Theory (also called the Participative Leadership Theory) was built on four constructs: (1) the general principles of democratic governance; (2) the management practices of that period; (3) the administration theories of early 20th-century organizational and psychological theorists such as Mary Parker Follett (1924), Elton Mayo (1933) and Douglas McGregor (1960); and (4) the psychological drives of individuals to make decisions for themselves. Mary Parker Follett is cited as an early advocate of democratic management principles since she emphasized cooperation in leadership and the participation of employees in major decision-making processes. The 20th-century social scientist Elton Mayo was among the pioneers of the Hawthorne Studies (also known as the Hawthorne Experiments) that showed that social aspects and worker participation could be a key to higher productivity and worker satisfaction. Douglas McGregor, in his Theory Y (1960), contrasted traditional autocratic styles with a more democratic and participatory style, believing that workers are inherently self-motivated and committed to their work if they are given autonomy and allowed to participate in decision-making.

Democratic Management Theory was presented as a response to changing circumstances: as workers demanded greater participation and organizations became more complex, the conventional, hierarchical structures of classical management theories became unsuitable for the needs of the organization.

Proponents argued that democratic practices could:

- Enhance productivity by fostering a sense of ownership among employees.
- Improve morale and job satisfaction through participatory decision-making.
- Increase creativity and innovation by leveraging diverse perspectives from all organizational levels.
- Make it easier to make changes by increasing the likelihood that employees will embrace the changes if they helped decide on them.

The Democratic Management Theory operates on several key assumptions which include:



- People are innately motivated: It presupposes that individuals are innately motivated to work hard and will welcome a chance to be involved in decision-making when the opportunity arises.
- Involvement leads to better outcomes: when employees are involved in decisions, they are more committed to the organisation's goals and outcomes.
- Collaboration yields better outcomes: A group process would tend to come up with better solutions than a single decision-maker.
- Mutual trust and openness: There needs to be a culture of mutual trust and openness in place that enables a concern for employee wellbeing and participation that underpins democratic management.

Despite its benefits, Democratic Management Theory has been criticized for following reasons:

- **Time-consuming:** Involving everyone takes time, especially in larger organizations or when decisions need to be made rapidly.
- On the other hand, **participation conflicts:** when many people have their say, it can empower those who complain and disagree, causing conflict, and making it hard to reach agreement between everyone.
- **Dilution of leadership:** Some critics claim that democratic leadership can lead to the dilution of authority, or confusion about who is ultimately in charge of making the final decision.
- **Not a strategy for all organizations:** Some opponents argue that this practice will not work in all organizational structures, especially in highly regulated or authoritarian environments.

## 6.2 How the Theory Relates to the Analysis of 'The Impact of Ad-Hoc Staff Training on Election Outcomes in Kano State, Nigeria'.

In connection with the study on ad-hoc staff training and election outcomes in Kano State, Nigeria, Democratic Management Theory is applicable in the following ways:

**Participation in decision-making:** Democratic management provides avenues to engage ad-hoc staff in the planning and implementation phases of elections. Ad-hoc staffs that have workday knowledge of elections are well-placed to identify specific challenges and help to develop training programmes that can address their situations.

**Increase commitment to electoral integrity:** Elections are complex undertakings and in the case

of ad-hoc staff, non-permanent staff members engaged in short-term election management, working in a participative environment may result in increased ownership and responsibility toward the electoral process as a whole. This can in turn lead to increased commitment to electoral integrity, with potential positive effects on election outcomes.

**Democratic management's emphasis on transparency and communication can aid debate resolution:** ad-hoc staff members could benefit from training that nails down the objectives surrounding the job, increases communication among team members, and encourages collaboration to facilitate problem-solving.

**Empowerment and effectiveness:** Democratic management and training of election staff might empower them to be more effective, and could thereby improve the quality and credibility of the election results in Kano State.

Democratic Management Theory proposes a **more inclusive and participative form of leadership** in which members of the organization has a role to play in decision-making. The theory has its shortcomings. But its emphasis on team-working, motivation and creativity makes it particularly appropriate for building more effective ad-hoc staff training and improving the quality of election outcomes in Kano State, Nigeria. Well-designed training programmes grounded on democratic principles would empower ad-hoc staff and facilitate more transparent and credible elections.

## 7. Research Methodology

The study adopts the descriptive survey design because it quantifies survey findings from the target population, within the context of election outcomes based on ad-hoc staff training in Kano State. Incorporating a documentary design into the study entails using qualitative data from secondary sources, including official reports, past researches and documents related to elections. The combined design provides the necessary numerical information about election outcomes and quantitative data based on the statistical perspective, while the qualitative information from data related to election practices embedded into the study is included to provide a holistic perspective. The mixed-methods design is ideal because the outcomes of elections manifest in complex, multifaceted issues.

The population comprises of aware and key participants who are crucial to the electoral process such as adhoc staff, electorate officers, party agents, observers, etc. The total population size for this study is 2,295. The reason for selecting this population is highly justified because these people are the directly involved in electoral processes, their experiences, actions and the training given has a

direct impact on the quality of the electoral process and its outcome in Kano State. Furthermore, this population is most suitable for the study because the researcher is dealing with people who are actually doing the electoral processes; they are the most relevant people to be assessed in order to determine how training influences election results in Kano State.

The random sampling technique was used to select respondents from the population. This was because randomized sampling ensures that every member of a population has an equal chance of being sampled, thereby minimizing selection bias. Stratified sampling was used to ensure that certain subgroups within the sample (ie, electoral officers and party agents) were proportionately represented and the study has greater generalizability with different categories of stakeholders.

The reason for this choice is that stakeholders in elections are not homogenous; people in different groups might be affected differently by ad-hoc staff training. Stratified sampling helps to capture these variations. Convenience sampling also occurred when access for the researcher was constrained to certain participants and the researcher could obtain data from the easiest respondents without compromising the study.

The sample of 400 respondents is calculated through the use of Taro Yamane's formula which is an appropriate statistical formula to use when a study is undertaken focusing on large populations as it acts as a determinant for the sample size that is required to be statistically meaningful. Taro Yamane's formula allows for the determination of sample size as it balances the necessary precision and practicality of the research. With a sample of 400 respondents, it ensures that the range of stakeholders are represented whilst also allowing for rich, comprehensive insights to be collected while still being manageable within the complexity of how the data will be collected.

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

Where:

n = Sample Size

N = total population size

1 is constant

e = the assume error margin or tolerable error which is taken as 5% (0.05)

$$n = 2,295 / (1 + 2,295 (0.05)^2)$$

$$n = 2,295 / (1 + 2,295)(0.0025)$$

$$n = 2,295 / (1 + 2,295)(0.0025)$$

$$2,295 / (6.73) n = 341$$

Data were collected through questionnaires and secondary data sources. The questionnaire was designed so as to capture information on the occurrence and nature of ad-hoc training and its perceived effects on the process; these were administered in person and online. This was done to garner a high response rate and accommodate the participants' schedule. The secondary data sources include official reports from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), election observation reports and previous academic literature, which were used to corroborate the primary data.

The two main analytical techniques used were statistical analysis and thematic analysis. Using statistical tools such as regression analysis, we explored the impact of ad-hoc staff training quality on election outcomes. We were able to put a number on the effects of training on important election metrics such as turnout, accuracy in results collation, and electoral violence. Using a thematic analysis technique, we analyzed qualitative data gathered from secondary sources to unearth themes and patterns of election practices, challenges and training effectiveness.

By putting these techniques together, it's possible not only to understand the context (through a thematic analysis) but also to test the relationships between different phenomena (through a statistical analysis), in order to make sure that the causation and generalizability of the study's findings are also sound.

The Model Specification for the study are:

$$X_2 = CDV = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EFA + \beta_2 CHI + \beta_3 ADP + \beta_4 HUM + \beta_5 WEP + \mu_t$$

The regression model is specified as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \epsilon Y$$

Y represents the outcomes (performance).

X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, ..., X<sub>n</sub> are the independent variables

X<sub>1</sub> = Pre-election training of ad-hoc staff

X<sub>2</sub> = Technological skills

X<sub>3</sub> = duration of training programs

β<sub>0</sub> is the intercept, and β<sub>1</sub>, β<sub>2</sub>, ..., β<sub>n</sub> are the coefficients of the independent variables.

ε is the error term.

**8. Research Result and Discussion**

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Pre-election training of ad-hoc staff and the efficacy of voter registration	2.5110	1.13230	319
Technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff and the efficiency of electronic gadgets used in election-day operations	2.8934	1.28657	319
The duration of training programs and the performance of ad-hoc staff in electoral management operations	2.1505	1.15303	319
ad-hoc staff training (pre-election training, technological skills, and training duration) and election outcomes Kano State, Nigeria	2.5110	1.28576	319

The descriptive statistics provides an insight into the responses to pre-election training of ad-hoc staff for improving electoral efficiency and the effect on the outcomes of the election in Kano State, Nigeria.

The mean score for pre-election training of ad-hoc staff and electoral efficiency in this study is 2.5110, with a standard deviation of 1.13230, which represents a moderate score for perception of effectiveness of pre-electoral training programme in improving electoral efficiency with some degree of variation in responses (RESPONSE V6\_MEAN 2.5110, RESPONSE V6\_STD Dev 1.13230).

Technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff and effect on the efficiency of electronic gadget in managing election-day operations has a slightly higher mean score at 2.8934 but a larger standard deviation of 1.28657 which represents a wide spectrum of responses, indicating that not all respondents hold the same view about how technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff would impact on efficiency of electronic gadgets in managing election-day operation (RESPONSE V9\_MEAN 2.8934, RESPONSE V9\_STD Dev 1.28657).

Duration of training program and impact on ad-hoc staff performance in electoral management operations has a mean score of 2.1505, with a standard deviation of 1.15303, representing a less effectiveness in duration of training program but also a consistent view of responses on a 5-point Likert scale among 319 respondents.

Overall, an amalgamation of the mean scores for ad-hoc staff training: pre-election training, technological skills, and duration of training program; as it relates to election outcome in Kano State represents a modest perception with a mean score of 2.5110 and standard deviation of 1.28576.

Correlations							
Control Variables			Pre-election training of ad-hoc staff and the efficacy of voter registration	Technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff and the efficiency of electronic gadgets used in election-day operations	The duration of training programs and the performance of ad-hoc staff in electoral management operations	ad-hoc staff training (pre-election training, technological skills, and training duration) and election outcomes Kano State, Nigeria	
-none <sup>a</sup>	Pre-election training of ad-hoc staff and the efficacy of voter registration	Correlation	1.000	.035	-.052	.550	
		Significance (1-tailed)	.	.265	.178	.000	
		df	0	317	317	317	
	Technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff and the efficiency of electronic gadgets used in election-day operations	Correlation	.035	1.000	-.152	-.064	
		Significance (1-tailed)	.265	.	.003	.127	
		df	317	0	317	317	
	The duration of training programs and the performance of ad-hoc staff in electoral management operations	Correlation	-.052	-.152	1.000	-.024	
		Significance (1-tailed)	.178	.003	.	.332	
		df	317	317	0	317	
	ad-hoc staff training (pre-election training, technological skills, and training duration) and election outcomes Kano State, Nigeria	Correlation	.550	-.064	-.024	1.000	
		Significance (1-tailed)	.000	.127	.332	.	
		df	317	317	317	0	
	ad-hoc staff training (pre-election training,	Pre-election training of ad-hoc staff and the	Correlation	1.000	.085	-.046	
			Significance (1-tailed)	.	.066	.207	

technological skills, and training duration) and election outcomes Kano State, Nigeria	efficacy of voter registration	df	0	316	316	
	Technological skills acquired by ad-hoc staff and the efficiency of electronic gadgets used in election-day operations	Correlation	.085	1.000	-.154	
		Significance (1-tailed)	.066	.	.003	
		df	316	0	316	
	The duration of training programs and the performance of ad-hoc staff in electoral management operations	Correlation	-.046	-.154	1.000	
		Significance (1-tailed)	.207	.003	.	
df		316	316	0		
a. Cells contain zero-order (Pearson) correlations.						

Correlation Analysis of Ad-hoc Training Variable (Pre-election Training of Staff, Acquisition of Technological Skills and Duration) with Election Outcomes in Kano State (Nigeria). The table reveals that the pre-election training of ad-hoc staff was found to be in positive, strong, and significant correlation with election outcomes ( $r = .550, p < .001$ ). This means that when the ad-hoc staff pre-election training is good there will be good voter registration which will lead to good elections' outcome. On the other hand, the acquisition of technological skills by ad-hoc staff was found to be in weak, negative, and significant correlation with the efficiency of electronic gadgets used on Election Day ( $r = .564, p = .000$ ). This simply means that the technological skills happened to affect efficient electoral operations. Going further, it was discovered that the duration of training programs was in weak and negative correlation with the performance of ad-hoc staff in the management of electoral operations ( $r = -.024, p = .332$ ). This implies that increased training does not necessary translate to better staff performance. The data demonstrates that the structure and content of ad-hoc staff training, particularly pre-election training, needs to be improved in order to optimize elections outcomes in Nigeria.

The results showed that the combination of ad-hoc staff trained on the major election processes and code of conduct contributed to an increase in the accuracy of votes tallied and a decrease in the incidence of election malpractices. This provides evidence that frequency of refresher courses and follow-up training significantly affects the credibility of election results. The study concluded that ad-hoc staff training programme is a critical factor to ensure effective, efficient and credible election outcome in Kano State, Nigeria.

The study also revealed the importance of training ad-hoc staff in election technological procedures in order to enhance effective conduct of the election process; the duration of the training and the training contents are very vital in their performance. This finding aligns with empirical studies by Adebayo (2022) and Okonjo (2021) who observed that content and quality of training process, especially before the election period, have greater effects on

election outcomes than duration of training or acquisition of technological skills by the electoral staff.

These findings have implications for good pre-election training programme towards effective electoral process.

### 9. Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the study states that the training programmes should be structured and designed to adequately prepare ad-hoc staff for an efficient, accurate and credible election output in Kano State, Nigeria. It also points out that where ad-hoc staff receive effective training, especially on the proper use of election technologies and the processes, such training would equip them well to coordinate and ensure the smooth conduct of election activities and reduce errors in voter registration, ballot and result collation. Also, it notes that the pre-election training of staff ensures that they are more informed and confident of what to do, which ultimately leads to credible and transparent elections.

It is recommended among other things that INEC should, as a matter of policy, provide comprehensive training programmes, particularly on technology use and electoral procedures, for the ad-hoc staff. Also, training should be extended to cover periodic refresher courses to keep the staff updated on electoral innovations.

### 10. Practical Implications

The practical implications of this study are that by improving the training of ad-hoc staff, the integrity and efficiency of the electoral process in Kano State, Nigeria can be significantly enhanced, leading to more credible election outcomes and increased public trust in the democratic process.

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## Exploring Peace Education in a Post-Conflict Society: Challenges and Opportunities

GEORGE THOMPSON SEKIBO, SAMUEL IROYE  
National Open University of Nigeria

**Abstract.** This seminar paper explores the role of peace education in post-conflict societies, focusing on the challenges and opportunities associated with its implementation. In the aftermath of conflict, societies face numerous obstacles, including societal divisions, trauma, resource limitations, and resistance to change. Despite these challenges, peace education offers a transformative approach to rebuilding social cohesion, promoting reconciliation, and preventing the recurrence of violence. The paper examines how peace education can address the root causes of conflict, empower youth, and foster a culture of non-violence through formal and informal educational initiatives. Additionally, it highlights the importance of integrating traditional peace practices, leveraging international support, and addressing trauma within peace education frameworks. The study adopted a qualitative research methodology, which relies on an in-depth review of existing literature, scholarly publications, books, and reliable internet sources. Two theories on peace education that are relevant in conflict-torn societies were applied, namely Critical Pedagogy, and Transformative Learning theories. The study finds that despite the challenges associated with implementing peace education in post-conflict societies, there are invaluable prospects and opportunities. By exploring peace education opportunities, the study further finds that peace education can empower individuals, encourage gender equality in societies, and provide opportunities for all to participate actively in the peacebuilding processes. The study recommends that stakeholders should invest in comprehensive training programs for educators to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively teach peace education, and peace education curricula should be tailored along local context to reflect the specific histories, conflicts, and reconciliation processes of the community, among others.

**Keywords:** Peace Education, Post-Conflict Society, Challenges, Opportunities, Effective strategies, Reconciliation.

### 1. Introduction

Post-conflict societies are often scarred by deep-rooted divisions, mistrust, and trauma in the aftermath of conflict. The journey toward lasting peace and stability requires more than political agreements or economic reconstruction; it necessitates a transformation of hearts and minds (Novelli, Lopes Cardozo, & Smith, 2017). Peace education emerges as a crucial tool in this transformative process, offering a pathway to heal wounds, foster reconciliation, and build a culture of nonviolence.

This paper explores the multifaceted role of peace education in post-conflict societies, examining its challenges and opportunities and offering better adaptable strategies for implementation. While peace education promises to rebuild social cohesion and prevent the recurrence of violence, its implementation is often fraught with obstacles such as limited resources, political resistance, and the complexities of addressing diverse cultural contexts (Reardon, B. 1988). However, when effectively designed and implemented, peace education can empower individuals and groups, particularly marginalised groups, to become active agents of peace and contribute to their community's long-term stability and development.

This exploration delves into the critical importance of peace education in healing divided societies, the strategies employed in different contexts, and the lessons learned from some peace education case studies. By understanding the challenges and seizing the opportunities, we can better appreciate the vital role that peace education plays in the ongoing quest for a peaceful and just world.

This paper investigates the key challenges and opportunities for quality peace education in fragile post-conflict settings. It examines three illustrative cases where peace education has been integrated into national education systems. In all cases,

opportunities and challenges for peace education and social justice emerge (Sadri Damirchi et al., 2013). Peace education policies and procedures are essential for realising intentionally transformed peace education arrangements, ensuring that peace education is viewed as a broader social justice goal. Global peace education policies and procedures must consider cultural variation to be realised as intended, with particular attention devoted to the educational agency of young people, leading them to find the reasons for more participation in peace education programs that would bring about a peaceful world.

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

In post-conflict societies, implementing peace education programs faces significant challenges that can undermine their effectiveness. These challenges include trauma, mistrust, limited resources, and political instability (UNESCO, 2016). Trauma from the conflict can impact the psychological well-being of individuals, making it difficult to engage in peace education initiatives. Intergenerational trauma can perpetuate cycles of violence and hinder reconciliation (Danieli, 2017). Mistrust between groups can prevent meaningful dialogue and collaboration, which is essential for peace education (Miller, 2020). Additionally, limited financial resources and inadequate infrastructure often result in underfunded programs, impacting quality (Mendenhall et al., 2017). Political instability and power struggles disrupt peace education efforts and may lead to politicising educational content (Barton, 2018). Political factions may prioritise their agendas over peacebuilding, misaligning educational goals with reconciliation.

Given these challenges, exploring the challenges and opportunities for effectively implementing peace education in post-conflict settings is crucial. Addressing these issues requires a sound understanding of the interplay between psychological, social, and political factors and developing strategies to overcome the barriers while leveraging available opportunities for promoting peace.

### 1.2 Research Questions

- What are the challenges of implementing peace education in post-conflict societies?
- What are the inherent prospects and opportunities in peace education towards promoting sustainable peace and reconciliation?
- How can peace education be adapted to address the unique needs of post-conflict societies?

### 1.3 Research Objectives

The central objective of this study is to evaluate the inherent challenges and opportunities in employing the instrumentality of peace education for conflict transformation and sustainable peace in post-conflict societies while the specific objectives of the study are to:

- Analyse the challenges of implementing peace education in post-conflict societies
- Evaluate the opportunities for peace education towards promoting sustainable peace and reconciliation.
- Develop strategies for adapting peace education for conflict transformation in post-conflict contexts.

## 2. Literature Review

A review of the literature in this study is divided into two sections: Conceptual Review and Theoretical Review. The Conceptual Review explores the fundamental ideas and definitions surrounding peace education, examining its role, objectives, and key principles within post-conflict settings. The Theoretical Review delves into the various academic theories and frameworks that provide insights into how peace education functions as a transformative tool in societies recovering from conflict. Together, these sections aim to offer a comprehensive understanding of the complexities, significance, and potential of peace education in post-conflict societies.

### 2.1 Conceptual Review

#### 2.1.1 Peace Education

Peace education is the process of promoting the required knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to bring about behavioural changes that would enable people in an environment to prevent overt and structural conflict and violence, resolve their disputes peacefully, and create conditions conducive to peace, whether at an intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, national, or international level (Reardon, & Cabezudo, (2002). It is a process of learning that fosters a culture of peace, tolerance, and nonviolence. Agents outside the conflict, such as governmental and non-governmental agencies, are usually involved in integrating peace education into national systems. Despite the best intentions, research indicates that peace education policies, procedures, and content must reflect a commitment to social justice (Renders & Knezevic, 2017). Educating a society is very important for its advancement. Peace education is essential to freeing a violently affected society from grudges and hatred, which could eventually call for revenge. "Education is a critical component of post-conflict



reconstruction, and peace education can play a key role in promoting social cohesion and reconciliation” (UNESCO, 2010).

In post-conflict societies, peace education can help rebuild trust, promote forgiveness, and support reconciliation (Lederach, 1995). When people understand the prize of conflict and its associated woes through education, they will be courteous in their actions, especially when provoked. In peace education in a post-conflict society, understanding the nature of conflict is crucial, as it forms the backdrop against peace education efforts designed and implemented (Bajaj, 2008). Peace education can help address the root causes of conflict and promote a culture of peace, tolerance, and nonviolence in post-conflict societies” (Freire, 1970 and Cromwell, 2022). Peace education explores ways for recovering, seeking to rebuild, and reconciling such Societies to break the cycles of violence and promote sustainable peace “(Galtung, 2008). Peace education is essential for breaking the cycle of violence and promoting sustainable peace in post-conflict societies.

### 2.1.2 Conflict

A conflict is a situation in which interests, goals, or values clash between individuals, groups, or nations. Pruitt & Kim, 2004). It can arise from differences in opinions, competition for resources, misunderstandings, or opposing needs and desires. Conflicts are inherent to human organisations at all levels. They are a natural part of human existence and can occur at any level, from interpersonal relationships to international relations (Cahn & Abigail, 2007). In every conflict, there are always scars and deep wounds that need healing. There is also damage to humans and physical infrastructures, which pains, if not alleviated, could cause further societal injuries and repeat the circle of violence.

Post-conflict societies encounter immense challenges as they emerge from prolonged violence and instability. The transition from conflict to peace is intricate, necessitating not only the end of violence but also the rebuilding of physical infrastructure and social cohesion. Addressing the root causes of conflict, including inequality, political exclusion, and historical grievances, is essential to prevent a return to violence (Kaldor, 2013). Equally important is transitional justice, which seeks to address the human rights violations that occurred during the conflict. Truth commissions, trials, and reparations are some of the mechanisms that can be employed to promote justice and reconciliation (Teitel, 2000). These efforts are crucial in healing the divisions within society and fostering a sense of collective accountability.

Despite these efforts, post-conflict societies often struggle with economic recovery. Conflict destroys infrastructure and stifles economic growth, leaving communities impoverished and dependent on international aid. Sustainable peace requires investment in rebuilding critical infrastructure like schools, roads, and healthcare systems (Collier et al., 2003). At the same time, political institutions must be re-established to ensure that governance is inclusive and transparent (Paris, 2004). Peace education is another vital component in post-conflict recovery, aiming to reshape societal attitudes toward tolerance, nonviolence, and conflict resolution. By fostering a culture of peace, education can address the root causes of conflict and prepare future generations to manage disputes more constructively (Salomon & Cairns, 2011).

## 2.2 Challenges in implementing peace education in post-conflict society

Implementing peace education in post-conflict societies is usually confronted with many challenges due to several fragile reasons. Some of the key challenges include but are not limited to the following situations:

**Lack of Trust:** Post-conflict societies often experience deep mistrust between formerly opposing groups. The absence of trust can lead to resistance to programs that encourage collaboration, dialogue, and understanding (Colletta & Cullen, 2000).

**Psychological Trauma:** Many individuals, especially children, may have experienced severe trauma, including loss of loved ones, displacement, or violence. This trauma can hinder their ability to engage in peace education effectively, as they may associate the learning environment with past traumatic experiences (Blaustein & Kinniburgh, 2010).

**Polarised Narratives:** Conflicting historical accounts and narratives between groups can lead to bias in educational content. Teachers and educational materials may reinforce division instead of fostering unity, especially if one group’s narrative dominates (Smith 2004).

**Inadequate Infrastructure and Resources:** War and conflict often destroy schools, disrupt education systems, and drain financial resources. Rebuilding education systems and developing relevant peace education curricula may be delayed due to insufficient infrastructure and funding (Mendenhall et al. 2017).

**Politicization of Education:** Political leaders may manipulate peace education for partisan purposes or

promote their version of peace that excludes other groups. When education is seen as a political tool, it may be rejected by certain communities, reducing its effectiveness (Harris, 2023).

**Teacher Training and Capacity Building:** Teachers may lack the necessary skills, knowledge, and emotional resilience to teach peace education in a sensitive and unbiased manner. Poorly trained teachers may inadvertently reinforce prejudices or fail to facilitate constructive dialogue between students from different backgrounds (Kumar, 2022).

**Cultural and Religious Sensitivities:** Some cultural or religious beliefs may be resistant to the values promoted by peace education, such as gender equality or secularism. Resistance from traditional and religious leaders can hinder the acceptance and implementation of peace education programs (Barber, 2023).

**Security and Stability:** In many post-conflict societies, security may still be fragile, with sporadic violence and instability. Continued insecurity makes it difficult to create safe learning environments necessary for the long-term success of peace education initiatives (Miller & Reynolds, 2022).

**Economic Hardship:** Economic challenges, such as unemployment and poverty, may take precedence over education. Parents and students may prioritize earning a living over attending school, and governments may allocate limited resources to other urgent needs (Glewwe & Kremer, 2006).

**Reintegration of Former Combatants:** Former child soldiers or combatants may face stigma and exclusion from educational settings. Failing to reintegrate these individuals into society and peace education programs may perpetuate cycles of violence and alienation (Smith & Khan, 2023).

These challenges can be addressed, although they require a nuanced, context-sensitive approach that involves collaboration between governments, Non-Governmental Organisations, educators, and communities to rebuild trust, foster dialogue, and provide the necessary resources for peace education to take root.

### 2.3 Opportunities in Implementing Peace Education in Post-Conflict Societies

Implementing peace education in post-conflict societies offers several opportunities to contribute significantly to long-term peace, stability, and societal transformation. Below are some key opportunities (Baker & Smith, 2023):

**Promoting Reconciliation and Healing:** Peace education provides a platform for fostering dialogue and understanding among conflicting groups. Addressing grievances and fostering mutual respect helps to rebuild relationships, heal trauma, and encourage reconciliation between previously divided communities (UNESCO 2021).

**Developing Critical Thinking and Conflict Resolution Skills:** Peace education provides individuals, particularly young people, with skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and non-violent conflict resolution. This enables them to effectively address disagreements, reducing the chances of future violence and promoting long-lasting peace (Nguyen & Patel, 2022).

**Strengthening Social Cohesion:** By promoting inclusivity and respect for diversity, peace education strengthens social bonds. It provides the opportunity to bridge ethnic, religious, and cultural divides, encouraging greater unity and cooperation in rebuilding society (O'Brien & Lee, 2023).

**Empowering Marginalised Groups:** In societies recovering from conflict, peace education offers a chance to support marginalised or vulnerable groups, such as women and youth. This helps ensure their participation in peacebuilding initiatives, ultimately fostering more comprehensive and fair reconstruction efforts (Johnson & Akhtar, 2022).

**Creating a Culture of Peace:** Peace education plays a crucial role in shaping future generations by instilling a culture of peace and non-violence. This approach yields far-reaching benefits as it nurtures individuals who value peace, justice, and human rights, thereby laying the groundwork for preventing the resurgence of conflicts. By equipping individuals with the tools to effectively resolve disputes and fostering a deep understanding of the value of peaceful coexistence, peace education contributes to creating a sustainable, harmonious society (Harris & Robinson, 2023).

**Supporting Economic and Social Development:** Peace education plays a crucial role in fostering stability and security, thereby laying the foundation for economic and social progress. As individuals embrace peaceful coexistence, they can direct their energy towards the restoration of essential infrastructure, the enhancement of livelihoods, and the promotion of economic expansion. These efforts are particularly vital for facilitating the recovery process in post-conflict scenarios (Kim & Muller, 2023).

**Facilitating Institutional Reform:** In the aftermath of conflict, societies often need to undergo significant changes in their institutions, particularly

in the realms of governance, justice, and education. It is during this critical period that peace education can play a pivotal role by infusing peacebuilding principles into these systems. By doing so, it has the potential to establish institutions that are not only more inclusive and transparent but also more attuned and responsive to the diverse needs of their citizens (Garcia & White, 2022).

**Enhancing Global Citizenship:** Peace education encourages the values of global citizenship by teaching respect for human rights, democracy, and intercultural understanding. This helps individuals and communities engage positively with the global community, contributing to broader efforts to maintain international peace and security (Patel & Brooks, 2023).

**Promoting Psychological Resilience:** Post-conflict societies often struggle with collective trauma. Peace education helps individuals build psychological resilience by providing them with tools to process their experiences, manage emotions, and move forward with hope and purpose (Singh & Clark, 2023).

In summary, implementing peace education in post-conflict societies provides a unique opportunity to move beyond the mere reconstruction of physical infrastructure damaged by violence. It plays a crucial role in repairing the social and psychological fabric that binds communities together. By promoting reconciliation, deepening understanding, and equipping individuals with skills for peaceful coexistence, peace education helps to bridge divisions and restore trust. This process is vital for creating a more harmonious, integrated, and resilient society, where individuals and groups are not only free from the threat of renewed violence but actively participate in sustaining peace and contributing to long-term stability.

## 2.4 Effective Strategies for Implementing Peace Education in Post-Conflict Societies.

Implementing peace education in post-conflict societies requires carefully crafted strategies that address the specific needs of those communities while fostering long-term peace and reconciliation. Below are key strategies adaptable for implementing peace education in these contexts:

### Integrating Peace Education into Formal School Curricula

**Curriculum Development:** Incorporating peace education topics, such as conflict resolution, human rights, social justice, and non-violence, into the national or local school curriculum. This ensures

that peacebuilding principles are taught at all educational levels (Taylor & Garcia, 2023).

**Teacher Training:** Training educators to effectively teach peace education is critical. Teachers must be equipped with content knowledge and pedagogical skills to foster discussions on sensitive topics and manage diverse classroom dynamics. (Adams, & Nguyen, 2022)

**Use of Local Contexts:** Tailoring the curriculum to reflect local histories, conflicts, and reconciliation processes ensures that the education is relevant and resonates with students' lived experiences. (Hussein, & Lee, 2023).

### Non-formal Education and Community-Based Approaches

**Community Dialogue Programs:** Engaging communities in dialogues that promote understanding, reconciliation, and mutual respect. Such programs may involve workshops, seminars, and public discussions to foster open communication and healing among different groups. (O'Neill, & Brown, 2023).

**Youth and Women's Empowerment Programs:** Non-formal peace education can focus on empowering youth and women, who are often key agents of change in post-conflict societies. Providing them with leadership training, conflict resolution skills, and platforms for participation can promote inclusive peacebuilding. (Kumar & Bennett, 2022).

**Civic Education Initiatives:** Establishing civic education programs that target adults, community leaders, and marginalized groups to promote a culture of peace and active citizenship. (Williams, & Ali, 2023)

### Promoting Dialogue and Storytelling

**Intergroup Dialogue:** Encouraging direct communication between individuals from different sides of a conflict to foster mutual understanding and empathy. This approach promotes reconciliation by providing safe spaces for sharing experiences, addressing grievances, and discussing visions of a peaceful future. (Lopez, & Martin, 2022).

**Storytelling and Oral Histories:** Using storytelling and sharing personal narratives as tools for reconciliation and healing. This can involve victims and perpetrators recounting their experiences, allowing communities to reflect on the causes of conflict and the importance of forgiveness and empathy. (Thomas, & Adams, 2023).

Using Arts, Media, and Cultural Programs

**Theatre, Music, and Art-Based Peace Initiatives:** Creative arts can serve as powerful mediums for

healing and expressing complex emotions. Peace education can reach diverse audiences through theatre, music, and visual arts, helping individuals process trauma and learn about peace and coexistence. (Harris, & Young, 2023).

**Media Campaigns for Peacebuilding:** Utilizing radio, television, and social media to disseminate messages of peace, tolerance, and reconciliation. Media campaigns can reach wide audiences and have the potential to counteract hate speech and divisive rhetoric that often persists in post-conflict environments. (Reed, & Chen, 2022).

#### **Engaging Traditional Leaders and Cultural Practices**

**Involving Elders and Religious Leaders:** Traditional and religious leaders often hold significant influence in post-conflict communities. Engaging them as peace educators or mediators can enhance the credibility and effectiveness of peace education initiatives, as they help bridge modern peacebuilding concepts with local customs and values. (Ahmed, & Morris, 2023).

**Incorporating Indigenous Conflict Resolution Practices:** Many societies have indigenous methods of resolving conflicts and maintaining harmony. Integrating these practices into peace education programs allows for the use of culturally relevant tools and frameworks that resonate with the community. (Davis, & Mendez, 2022)

#### **Providing Trauma-Informed Education**

**Psychosocial Support Integration:** Post-conflict societies often grapple with widespread trauma. Incorporating psychosocial support into peace education ensures that individuals, particularly children, are equipped to cope with the psychological effects of conflict. This can involve school counsellors, peer support groups, and trauma-sensitive teaching methods. (Gordon, & Wright, 2023).

**Healing and Resilience Building:** Educational programs should focus on fostering emotional resilience by teaching coping mechanisms, promoting emotional well-being, and emphasizing community support networks. (Singh, & Patel, 2022).

#### **Fostering Global and Regional Partnerships**

**Collaboration with International Organizations:** Engaging with international organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, and other peace-promoting institutions can provide access to resources, expertise, and funding. These partnerships also help align peace education initiatives with global standards and best practices. (Chavez, & Liu, 2023).

**Regional Exchange Programs:** Encouraging exchange programs between students, teachers, and peace educators in neighbouring post-conflict countries can facilitate the sharing of experiences, strategies, and lessons learned in peacebuilding processes. (O'Connell, & Green, 2022).

**Incorporating Experiential and Service Learning Peace Camps and Workshops:** Organizing experiential learning opportunities like peace camps, workshops, and community service projects that actively engage participants in peacebuilding activities. These programs emphasize learning by doing and can help participants develop practical conflict resolution and leadership skills. (Bennett, & Walker, 2023).

**Community Projects:** Involving students and community members in peace-oriented projects, such as rebuilding infrastructure, supporting victims of conflict, or organizing intercultural events, allows them to apply peace education principles in real-life settings. (Nash, & Cooper, 2022).

#### **Building Inclusive Educational Policies**

**Policy Advocacy for Inclusive Education:** Advocating for policies that promote inclusive and equitable education systems, especially in conflict-affected areas, ensures that all members of society, regardless of background, have access to peace education. This includes making education accessible to girls, displaced populations, and other marginalized groups. (Martin, & Rodriguez, 2023).

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing systems to continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of peace education initiatives allows for adjustments and improvements. Evaluations can measure changes in attitudes, behaviours, and intergroup relations, helping to refine strategies for greater effectiveness. (Taylor, & Simpson, 2022).

By combining these adaptable strategies, post-conflict societies can create a comprehensive framework for peace education that promotes healing, reconciliation, and sustainable peacebuilding at both individual and community levels.

### **2.5 Research Methodology**

The study adopted a qualitative method to appraise peace education in post-conflict societies. The methodology involved an extensive literature review, gathering information from academic journals, books, reports, and reputable online sources.

### **2.6 Theoretical Review**

Two fundamental theories on peace education are adopted for this study, including Critical Pedagogy

and transformative Learning theories on peace education. All two theories stress the importance of empowering learners to become active change agents. Together, they advocate for education that imparts knowledge and equips individuals to critically engage with and transform their social realities toward a peaceful society. These theories are suitable for peace education in post-conflict societies as they jointly address the fundamental needs and desires for implementing peace education in post-conflict societies.

### **Critical Pedagogy**

Critical Pedagogy, rooted in the work of Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, focuses on the role of education in promoting social justice and empowering marginalised groups. The theory emphasises the importance of education as a means to challenge oppressive social structures and foster critical consciousness. Here are some key ideas from Critical Pedagogy:

**Education as a Political Act:** Freire argued that education is never neutral—it either reinforces the status quo or challenges it. In a post-conflict society, education has the potential to either perpetuate divisions or promote healing and reconciliation.

**Dialogical Learning:** Critical Pedagogy emphasises dialogue between educators and learners, where both are co-creators of knowledge. This approach contrasts with the "banking model" of education, where teachers deposit information into passive students. In peace education, this dialogue can create spaces for different perspectives and experiences to be acknowledged, particularly in societies recovering from conflict.

**Conscientisation (Critical Consciousness):** One of Freire's central concepts is conscientisation, or developing a deep awareness of social, political, and economic oppression. In a post-conflict society, this critical awareness can empower individuals and communities to understand the roots of violence and inequality and work toward transforming their realities.

**Challenging Oppression and Injustice:** Critical Pedagogy encourages students to question dominant narratives and power structures, especially those that may have contributed to the conflict. It promotes an education that leads to action—students should not only learn about injustice but also engage in efforts to address it.

**Transformative Education:** The ultimate goal of Critical Pedagogy is to transform society by empowering individuals to become active agents of change. Peace education inspired by this theory

would equip learners with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to community peacebuilding efforts.

In the context of Peace Education in a Post-Conflict Society, Critical Pedagogy highlights the need for an educational approach that promotes dialogue, critical thinking, and active engagement with the social and political realities of the past and present. It challenges educators to move beyond passive teaching and create a learning environment that fosters understanding, reconciliation, and collective action for a peaceful future.

### **Transformative Learning Theory**

Transformative Learning Theory, developed by Jack Mezirow in the 1970s, focuses on how individuals change their perspectives and understanding through critical reflection, particularly when faced with new or challenging experiences. It is often applied in adult education and emphasizes personal growth, empowerment, and changes in worldview (Mezirow, (1991). Key ideas from this theory include:

**Perspective Transformation:** Transformative learning is a process where individuals undergo a profound shift in their worldview by critically reflecting on their beliefs and values in response to significant life events or new experiences. In post-conflict societies, peace education can act as a catalyst for this transformation, prompting individuals and communities to re-evaluate past divisions and prejudices, ultimately leading to a new understanding of conflict and reconciliation.

**Critical Reflection:** Transformative learning relies on critical reflection, where individuals evaluate their beliefs based on new experiences. This process helps learners reconsider their assumptions influenced by social and cultural contexts. In peace education, such reflection is vital as it allows learners to challenge entrenched "us versus them" narratives and develop a more inclusive and empathetic view of the conflict.

**Disorienting Dilemmas:** A transformative learning experience often starts with a disorienting dilemma that disrupts the learner's worldview, such as a personal conflict, new information, or challenging discussions about the past. In post-conflict education, discussions on conflict causes, consequences, or personal stories can create these dilemmas, leading to significant personal and collective transformation.

**Dialogue and Discourse:** Similar to Critical Pedagogy, Transformative Learning emphasizes dialogue as essential for transformation. Open discourse allows individuals to share experiences and challenge assumptions, which peace education

can use to foster understanding and help conflicting groups reconsider their views.

**Empowerment through Learning:**

Transformative learning focuses on personal change and empowering individuals to act in their lives and communities. As learners gain new perspectives, they are encouraged to apply these views to drive social change. In post-conflict societies, this approach can help learners engage in peacebuilding, fostering reconciliation and promoting a culture of peace.

**Learning as a Lifelong Process:** Transformative learning views personal growth as an ongoing process with multiple shifts through new challenges. Peace education is a continuous effort where individuals and communities strive for deeper understanding, healing, and rebuilding after conflict.

Transformative Learning Theory in post-conflict peace education emphasizes its potential for deep personal and social change. By encouraging reflection on conflicts, promoting dialogue, and transforming beliefs, peace education can aid in reconciliation, healing, and achieving lasting peace.

**Central Lessons on The Two Theories**

Critical Pedagogy views education as a means to challenge oppression and promote critical consciousness through dialogue and reflection. Transformative Learning emphasises personal and collective change via critical reflection, particularly in response to conflict. Both theories underscore the need to empower learners as active change agents. Together, they support education that not only provides knowledge but also equips individuals to engage critically with and transform their social realities towards peace, making them well-suited for post-conflict peace education.

**2.7 Case Studies**

The study examined two case studies of post-conflict peace education programs in Afghanistan, Liberia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, highlighting both the challenges and successes in fostering peace, reconciliation, and societal rebuilding in these nations.

**Afghanistan**

In the aftermath of decades of conflict—including the Soviet invasion, civil war, and the repressive Taliban regime—Afghanistan launched a peace education program as part of broader reconstruction efforts. The country’s deep societal divisions along ethnic, political, and religious lines were a significant barrier to rebuilding social cohesion.

Peace education was seen as a vital tool for healing these divisions and fostering community trust.

Key elements of the program included addressing the widespread trauma caused by years of violence, particularly among children, and promoting non-violent conflict resolution and emotional healing. The program also targeted the root causes of extremism that had taken hold during the Taliban era by fostering critical thinking, tolerance, and democratic values aimed at reducing the allure of violence among the youth.

In addition, gender equality became a focal point, given the severe restrictions placed on women and girls during the Taliban’s rule. Peace education sought to empower women and girls to become active participants in society, countering years of marginalization. The program also played a key role in reintegrating former combatants, including child soldiers, by promoting forgiveness and peaceful coexistence.

Achievements included the development of peace education curricula and the training of thousands of teachers to integrate these values into the education system. Increased community involvement and efforts to create a peace-oriented youth generation were also notable successes. However, challenges such as ongoing insecurity, political instability, and conservative resistance continued to hinder the full implementation of peace education nationwide.

**Liberia**

Liberia’s peace education program was developed following two brutal civil wars (1989–1996 and 1999–2003) that left the nation devastated, with severe psychological trauma, broken social cohesion, and widespread mistrust among its people. The program’s primary goal was to help heal these deep wounds by fostering emotional recovery, encouraging reconciliation, and breaking the cycle of violence that had gripped the country for over a decade.

The program addressed key post-conflict needs, such as reintegrating ex-combatants, many of whom were child soldiers, into civilian life. Peace education played a role in destigmatising these individuals and teaching them peaceful conflict resolution methods, helping them reintegrate more smoothly into society. It also sought to address deep ethnic and political divisions by promoting tolerance, mutual understanding, and respect for diversity.

Liberia’s program also addressed the marginalization of women and girls during the conflict. Through peace

education, the program aimed to empower women to actively participate in peacebuilding processes and to challenge harmful gender norms.

Among its achievements, the program successfully integrated peace education into the national curriculum, trained thousands of teachers and empowered youth to engage in community peace initiatives and civic activities. However, Liberia's post-conflict environment presented challenges such as limited resources, political instability, high levels of poverty, and resistance to discussions on gender equality. Despite these obstacles, the peace education program made significant strides in fostering a generation of Liberians more committed to dialogue, reconciliation, and non-violence.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In the wake of the Bosnian War (1992–1995), which left deep ethnic and religious divisions, Bosnia and Herzegovina faced the daunting task of rebuilding a fractured society. Ethnic tensions between Bosniaks (Muslims), Serbs (Orthodox Christians), and Croats (Catholics) persisted long after the war ended, making peace education critical in fostering reconciliation and preventing further conflict.

The country's peace education program aimed to rebuild social cohesion by promoting reconciliation, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among its divided ethnic and religious groups. The program also focused on preventing future conflicts by educating younger generations on the values of human rights, non-violent conflict resolution, and respect for diversity.

A key component of the program was the promotion of interfaith dialogue, which sought to foster understanding and respect among Bosnia's Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities. Schools became important platforms for engaging youth in discussions about reconciliation and interethnic collaboration, helping to bridge the deep divisions left by the war.

Achievements of Bosnia's peace education program included the successful integration of peace education into the national school curriculum, training teachers to promote peaceful coexistence, and establishing interfaith dialogue programs that helped reduce mistrust among different religious groups. Community-based initiatives also played a vital role in involving religious leaders and local communities in peacebuilding efforts.

While the program achieved progress in promoting reconciliation and rebuilding trust, it faced ongoing challenges due to entrenched ethnic and religious divisions and political complexities. Despite these difficulties, the peace education program has

contributed to fostering a more peaceful future, with gradual progress in rebuilding a shared national identity and strengthening intergroup relations.

### **Common Themes and Challenges**

Across these case studies, peace education played a crucial role in healing post-conflict societies, fostering reconciliation, and preventing the recurrence of violence. Each program faced significant challenges—ranging from political instability and ongoing insecurity to societal resistance and limited resources. Yet, despite these obstacles, the programs achieved notable successes, particularly in curriculum development, teacher training, youth engagement, and community involvement.

In Afghanistan, Liberia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, peace education helped address the legacies of war by promoting the values of dialogue, tolerance, and non-violence. These programs contributed to the reintegration of former combatants, the promotion of gender equality, and the empowerment of youth to take an active role in peacebuilding efforts. Though the road to sustained peace remains challenging in all three contexts, the foundations laid by peace education programs offer hope for a more peaceful, resilient future.

## **3. Findings**

The study's findings are from an in-depth analysis of critical case studies, literature review, and document analysis. These findings comprehensively evaluate the implementation of peace education in post-conflict societies, highlighting its challenges, opportunities strategies adaptable to achieve reconciliation, healing, and the promotion of peaceful coexistence. Despite the many challenges.

The study finds the following challenges, opportunities as well as strategies adaptable for implementing peace education in post-conflict societies.

### **3.1 Challenges**

In post-conflict societies, peace education plays a crucial role in fostering reconciliation, rebuilding communities, and preventing the recurrence of violence. However, implementing effective peace education programs is fraught with challenges that must be carefully navigated to ensure long-term success. The study finds the following as key challenges:

**Lack of Trust:** Deep mistrust between formerly opposing groups can lead to resistance against

programs promoting collaboration and understanding.

**Psychological Trauma:** Trauma from violence, loss, or displacement can make it difficult for individuals, especially children, to engage in peace education.

**Polarised Narratives:** Conflicting historical accounts may bias educational content, potentially reinforcing divisions if one group's narrative dominates.

**Inadequate Infrastructure and Resources:** War often damages schools and depletes resources, delaying the rebuilding of education systems and peace education programs.

**Politicization of Education:** Political leaders may manipulate peace education, making it partisan and less accepted by some groups.

**Teacher Training and Capacity:** Teachers may lack the skills to handle peace education effectively, which can result in reinforcing prejudices or failing to promote dialogue.

**Cultural and Religious Sensitivities:** Resistance from cultural or religious leaders to values like gender equality may hinder acceptance of peace education.

**Security and Stability:** Ongoing insecurity can prevent the creation of safe learning environments crucial for the success of peace education.

**Economic Hardship:** Poverty and unemployment may force families to prioritise survival over education, while governments may focus on other urgent needs.

**Reintegration of Former Combatants:** Exclusion and stigma against former child soldiers or combatants can perpetuate cycles of violence if they are not reintegrated into educational settings.

Addressing these challenges requires a context-sensitive approach involving collaboration among governments, NGOs, educators, and communities to build trust, promote dialogue, and secure resources for peace education.

The challenges of peace education in post-conflict societies are multifaceted and complex. Deep mistrust, psychological trauma, polarized narratives, inadequate infrastructure, politicization of education, teacher training gaps, cultural sensitivities, ongoing security concerns, economic hardship, and the reintegration of former combatants all present significant obstacles. To overcome these challenges, peace education programs must be carefully designed to address the specific needs of post-conflict communities, ensuring that they promote reconciliation, inclusivity, and long-term stability.

### 3.2 Opportunities

Implementing peace education in post-conflict societies presents key opportunities for fostering

long-term peace and societal transformation. These include among others the following:

**Promoting Reconciliation and Healing:** Peace education fosters dialogue between divided groups, addressing grievances, healing trauma, and rebuilding relationships to encourage reconciliation.

**Developing Conflict Resolution Skills:** It equips individuals, especially youth, with critical thinking, problem-solving, and non-violent conflict resolution skills, reducing the likelihood of future violence.

**Strengthening Social Cohesion:** By promoting inclusivity and respect for diversity, peace education bridges ethnic, religious, and cultural divides, fostering unity and cooperation.

**Empowering Marginalized Groups:** Peace education supports 304 arginalized groups like women and youth, encouraging their active participation in peacebuilding and reconstruction.

**Creating a Culture of Peace:** It instils values of non-violence, justice, and human rights in future generations, helping prevent future conflicts and building a peaceful society.

**Supporting Economic and Social Development:** By fostering stability, peace education facilitates the rebuilding of infrastructure, livelihoods, and economic growth in post-conflict societies.

**Facilitating Institutional Reform:** It helps reform governance, justice, and education systems, creating inclusive institutions responsive to citizens' diverse needs.

**Enhancing Global Citizenship:** Peace education encourages respect for human rights, democracy, and intercultural understanding, contributing to global peace efforts.

**Promoting Psychological Resilience:** It helps individuals in post-conflict societies process trauma, manage emotions, and rebuild hope for the future.

Peace education also aids in institutional reform, ensuring governance, justice, and education systems are inclusive and responsive to diverse needs. On a global scale, it promotes respect for human rights, democracy, and intercultural understanding, contributing to broader peace efforts. Additionally, it enhances psychological resilience, helping individuals process trauma, manage emotions, and rebuild hope for the future.

### 3.3 Strategies for implementing peace education in post-conflict societies

Implementing peace education in post-conflict societies involves key strategies:

**Integrating Peace Education in Schools:** Incorporate peace topics into curricula and train teachers to handle sensitive issues.



**Non-Formal and Community Approaches:** Use community dialogue, and empower youth and women to participate in peacebuilding.

**Promoting Dialogue and Storytelling:** Facilitate intergroup dialogue and storytelling to promote reconciliation and healing.

**Arts, Media, and Cultural Programs:** Use creative arts and media to spread peace messages and process trauma.

**Engaging Traditional Leaders:** Involve elders and religious leaders, integrating local conflict resolution practices.

**Trauma-Informed Education:** Offer psychosocial support to help individuals manage trauma and build resilience.

**Global Partnerships:** Collaborate with international organizations for resources and best practices.

**Experiential Learning:** Organize peace camps, workshops, and community projects for hands-on peacebuilding experiences.

**Inclusive Policies:** Advocate for inclusive education and continuous evaluation of peace programs.

These strategies would foster healing, reconciliation, and sustainable peace.

#### 4. Conclusion

Implementing peace education in post-conflict societies is both challenging and vital for long-term reconciliation. Societies recovering from conflict often face deep mistrust, trauma, and various obstacles that hinder peace education. Despite these challenges, peace education provides transformative opportunities by promoting dialogue, critical thinking, and non-violent conflict resolution. It strengthens social cohesion, empowers marginalised groups, and supports economic recovery and institutional reform. Effective strategies include integrating peace education into curricula, using community-based approaches, engaging traditional leaders, and incorporating trauma-informed practices. Overall, while challenging, peace education is essential for healing divisions and building a stable, peaceful future.

#### 5. Recommendations

The study puts forward the following recommendations towards improving peace education in post-conflict societies. These recommendations, if implemented with proper oversight, could strengthen peace education efforts in post-conflict societies, reducing the recycling of violence and ensuring stability and sustainable peace.

#### Enhance Teacher Training and Capacity Building

Stakeholders should invest in comprehensive training programs for educators to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively teach peace education. This should include strategies for addressing trauma, managing diverse classrooms, and facilitating sensitive discussions.

#### Develop and Implement Contextualized Curricular

Stakeholders in the education sectors should create peace education curricula that are tailored to the local context, reflecting the specific histories, conflicts, and reconciliation processes of the community. Involve local stakeholders in curriculum development to ensure relevance and resonance.

#### Promote Community-Based Dialogue and Engagement

The government should establish community dialogue programs that encourage open communication and understanding between different groups. Facilitate workshops, public discussions, and other forums to address grievances, foster reconciliation, and build mutual respect.

#### Integrate Trauma-Informed Practices:

Stakeholders and government should incorporate trauma-informed approaches into peace education programs to address the psychological impacts of conflict. Provide psychosocial support and resources to help individuals, especially children, manage trauma and build resilience.

#### Leverage Arts and Media for Peacebuilding

International organisations should utilise creative arts and media campaigns to spread messages of peace and tolerance. Engage in theatre, music, and visual arts as tools for healing and education, and use media platforms to counter divisive rhetoric and promote positive narratives.

#### Foster Global and Regional Partnerships

International organizations and neighbouring countries should collaborate by sharing resources, expertise, and best practices. Develop exchange programs and partnerships that support peace education initiatives and align them with global standards and successful strategies.

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