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**Women and Terrorism in Nigeria: Roles and Consequences**

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**Abstract**

**W**omen's role in terrorism is multifaceted and its dynamic nature makes it more complex and this poses concern about their active engagement in extreme terrorism. The direct and active involvement of women in terrorism often has been overlooked. However, there has been a shift in academic literature recently that re-examined women's roles in terrorism not only as passive actors but as capable instruments and sophisticated in countering terrorism due to their natural endowment as being empathetic. This article will discuss the role of women in terrorism in Nigeria. It will examine the perceptions surrounding women's roles in terrorism, highlight the consequences of terrorism on women, and ultimately emphasize the need for their inclusion in counter-terrorism. This study adopted a mixed method of research design comprising content analysis, In-depth interviews and historical analysis. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The study adopted the Social Network Theory (SNT) theory as its theoretical framework. The findings suggest that the involvement of women in terrorism is multidimensional and requires a strategic operation to either achieve their disengagement or empower women peace advocates to help terrorists deradicalize. The study recommends integrating gender perspectives into countering terrorism by using monitoring and evaluation to identify gaps and trap terrorism social network operations through local community engagement in the deradicalization processes. The government should establish vocational schools and collaborate with stakeholders to create job opportunities for young people.

**Keywords:** *Terrorism, Peace & Security, Deradicalization, Gender Mainstreaming*

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Women's inclusion in peace and security is presumed to be the pathway to the challenges posed by terrorism. Unfortunately, the exclusion and underrepresentation of women have implications for conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes. Terrorism impacts international relations, trade, politics and policies. This condition has become a global issue of concern, as the world

today is battling its negative impact and influences across the borders of many nations. The threat of terrorism has become more widespread and multifaceted. Groups like Da'esh, Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM), Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), ISIS West Africa Province (ISWAP), Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaida are now more focused on local operations and have taken advantage of instabilities and ethnic rivalries to gain ground in recruiting members. As a result, their regional offshoots are becoming more dispersed, constituting unrest across the affected communities. United Nations (2023) Da'esh has been expanding its reach across Africa (Somalia, Nigeria, Lake Chad Basin, Egypt and Libya), taking advantage of local conflicts and vulnerabilities to carry out acts of terror. JNIM bases in Burkina-Faso and Mali. AQIM operates within the Sahel region of Niger, Mali and Burkina-Faso. ISWAP operates in the Lake Chad Basin area, some parts of Nigeria, Niger and Chad. Boko Haram focuses on Northern Nigeria, extending to neighbouring countries: Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

United Nations Secretary General opines that across the Sahel, the increased hostilities between terrorist groups fighting for control over territory and trafficking are creating nothing short of a hell on earth. Notably, each terrorist threat and each violent, extremist attack undermines our shared efforts to build and maintain peace, development, and stability in Africa (UN, 2023). In examining the conditions terrorism thrives in our world today, the United Nations (2023) opines that isolation, inequalities, limited access to school, lack of job opportunities, eroding trust in government, institutions, and the rule of law, human rights abuses, and perceptions of impunity are conducive conditions that help in spreading terrorism. In Africa, poverty, humanitarian crises, youth unemployment, bad governance, ethnic reveries, corruption, economic and political instabilities, displacement and border conflicts among numerous pose great challenge and help in the increasing spread of terrorism within the borders The adverse consequence is that terrorist groups capitalized on these as an occasion in entering into leagues with transnational organized criminals permeating territories and communities spreading hateful philosophical control, fear, and misery leaving the world in disarray.

These devastating conditions due to terrorism are a result of killing, hunger, insecurity, proliferation of arms, impact on governance, displacement, chaos, mayhem, and devastation of properties and infrastructures. This situation has a devastating impact on the economy, leading to

severe consequences such as extreme poverty, displacement, food insecurity, illness, death, and even rebellion against the government.

Terrorism disrupts peace and security, which is evident in our world today. At the inception of terrorism, men were seen at the forefront as terrorists, unlike what exists now. Women's role in terrorism is a multifaceted operation that manifests in diverse forms. Women are involved in peace advocacy, forming a safe escape and machinery aid to male terrorists. Hall (2020) opines that women's involvement and input in aiding violence have been overlooked. However, there is a current shift occurring in the academic literature which is beginning to re-examine women's role in terrorist groups, not as indolent actors, but as independent agents. According to these scholars, women's roles in terrorism is a complex issue: they are used in direct participation in terrorist acts, they are the most victims of terrorist acts in society, help terrorists to commit atrocities, and also play a significant role in countering and facilitating the disengagement of others from violent acts and extremism. Women's involvement in terrorism poses a concern for security forces, experts, and analysts due to the dynamics of their operations. Women's engagement in terrorism is alarming and has generated a lot of discourse.

Generally, Women and men are affected by terrorism in different ways; however, women absorb the greater portion of the consequences, leaving them childless, widowed, abused, co-opted and emotionally affected. There is this belief that women are not a threat to society but are peace-loving mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters, and as such, are harmless due to the cultural orientation of their caregiving inculcation nurtured through socialization. Unfortunately, society undermines the hidden tendency to co-opt women into terrorism due to their soft-heartedness, which can be easily manipulated to terrorist advantage. Stone (2023) sees the failure of counter-terrorism efforts to recognise the way women radicalize, support, and perpetrate violence in extremist groups as constituting a security threat. Amidst these stereotypes, many are surprised by their involvement in terrorism. Identified is the covert increasing trend of women's engagement in active terrorism because they are least suspected and, as such, adopt tactical operational capabilities.

Women are attributed as incapable of carrying out terrorist attacks, which gives women easier access to navigate their way and perpetrate atrocities, where men struggle to gain access. Even

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when they are involved in carrying out an attack, they still receive empathy and are not tagged as being as harmful as male terrorists. Empirically, armed groups supported by women have a greater tendency to control more territory and have a greater chance of achieving victory over government forces due to their deceptive, covert, and subtle engagement in terrorism (Stone 2023). The failure to acknowledge the roles women play in terrorism often leads to ineffective interventions and exacerbates the negative impact on peaceful coexistence among nations. Laura (2022) postulates that women play a significant role in terrorism, yet their contributions are often overlooked. This oversight is a tactical mistake, as women are involved in various capacities within terrorist organizations, from recruitment and radicalization to operational roles. The identification of these hidden roles is often underestimated, leading to ineffective approaches, policies, and operations to combat their adverse effects.

In Nigeria, women have found being involved in Boko Haram activities in diverse forms as supporters and as active fighters of the menace of Boko Haram. Initially, Islamic clerics opposed women's involvement in jihad, with few clerics acknowledging that women could participate. Nowadays, women's role in religious terrorism is growing; female terrorists have participated in attacks in Israel, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Chechnya. Female participation in radical Islamic terrorism has even been named the *Mujaidaat* (Ali, 2005).

In Nigeria, terrorism finds its dwelling place in fragility and instability, and this has made women more actively involved as direct victims of terrorist acts, aiders of men in terrorist acts, as well as facilitators in the disengagement of people from extremism. As a result of terrorist activities in Nigeria, women and children are being victimized and dehumanized. Terrorists take advantage of the vulnerability of women and children during conflicts and exploit them, especially women. Nigeria's Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) (2017) examines the impact of violence and conflict in Nigeria, following its initial listings in 2014 and 2016 for the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals by extremist groups. Ozoani-Ene et al (2024) have it that the rise of Boko Haram terrorist groups and their continued insurgency has resulted in a dire situation in the North-East region, with the fragility and vulnerability of the area becoming a major concern.

Nigeria concedes to the significance of adopting the Security Council Resolution 1325 in its

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implementation in the adoption and application of gender perspectives in ensuring substantial women's involvement in peacebuilding initiatives through its Action plan in line with the agenda for women's inclusion in peace and security. This led to the creation of the State Action Plan (SAP) and Local Action Plan (LAP). According to Nigeria's Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), promoting fair development is crucial for reducing the escalation of violent conflict and minimising its negative impact. This involves understanding the dynamics of conflict at the federal, state, and local levels. (NSRP, 2016).

Women and children suffer inexplicable negative effects of terrorism as they continue to experience devastation ranging from physical attacks, sexual slavery and assault (rape), culminating in forced marriages and unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, malnutrition, dehumanization and trauma due to armed abduction. The abduction of women into terrorism transformed them into suicide bombers, spies, and welfare agents (suppliers of food) and acted as informants (information gatherers) because they are least suspected, they become shields to militants in perpetuating violent conflict.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Secretary-General of the United Nations conceptualizes terrorism as any act intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, to intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act. (United Nations, 2004). United Nations from an International perspective (2006) terrorism involves violent acts dangerous to human life, acts that violate federal or state law intended to (i) intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; (iii) affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. These acts have been a chain reaction of continuously changing circles and the dynamism of violent acts. These violent acts threaten lives and properties, destroy infrastructures, curtail inter-state mobility and trade, thereby hampering economic growth and impoverishing people.

Women can engage in counter-terrorism measures in different ways. Through their role as mothers, they are responsible for the formation of their children's character. Moreover, they often play important roles within the family. They also possess diverse perspectives that can contribute to the work of men and can be used in problem-solving (Wulan, 2015).

In furtherance, Paulus (2023) opines that there are gender implications of various push and pull factors that drive or exploit actors in terrorism and violent extremism, as well as the influence of women in social networks to be leveraged in identifying early warning signs. She outlined how gender perspective is integrated across NATO's counter-terrorism through:

- i. Raising awareness and understanding
- ii. Including gender in counter-terrorism training and education.
- iii. Engaging with partners and other international organizations.
- iv. Integrating gender into counter-terrorism policies and programmes

### **Historic Development of Insurgency and Arms Conflict in Nigeria**

The genesis of violent conflict in Nigeria can be traced back to 1967-1970, which is the first instance of armed conflict driven by ethnic agitation known as the Nigerian Civil War. This war claimed the lives of people, destroyed properties and widened ethnic hegemony, dominance and power tussle. The Nigerian civil war created a humanitarian crisis, with various countries providing food and material aid. The war deepened ethnic divides and heightened ethnic and regional tensions. It created political consequences with each ethnic group seeking political dominance. The overall implication of the war is its historical narratives across the globe and its economic and social consequences on Nigeria's political development.

In the early 2000s, Boko Haram (a jihadist militant organization) in Nigeria began its operation. Boko Haram is an insurgent group that abhors western education and governance. This group was founded by a radical Islamic cleric, "Yusuf Mohammed" in Maiduguri, Borno State, around 2002. Termed as *Jamā'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihād*. The motive of this sect is to establish Islamic rule based on Salafist doctrine (purity and holiness, adherence to the Quran and Hadith, advocacy of a pure Islamic state, opposition to secularism and Western state and rejection of innovations) through the adoption of sharia as a legal system specifically in Northern Nigeria. This sect metamorphosed from a religiously motivated group to a more complex insurgent group (jihadist) after the killing of the founder in 2009. Jered T. (2024) postulates that the killing of the founder of Boko Haram characterized this group's radicalization and the beginning of the violent campaign against the Nigerian State and its citizens. Boko Haram initially operates within smaller-scale attacks, and protest, and later engage in high-profile operations using violent tactics, bombing, assassination, mass abduction and kidnapping via

social networks to recruit members. Their operations in Nigeria have caused a lot of death, displacement, and loss of property and leave a negative impression on their fight against anything associated with Westernization. In 2011 there arose Boko Haram splinter group, *Jama'at Ansar al-Muslimin fi Bilad al-Sudan*, known as Ansaru, emerged and condemned Boko Haram killing. Unfortunately, this group focus on kidnapping foreigners (Zenn, 2013). In 2016, there arose a split within the Boko Haram sect, which pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS), which eventually led to the formation of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP).

The movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) emerged in the early 2000s and used violence in advocating for autonomy and resource control. This group used kidnapping and bombing as a means of agitation to destabilize the economic activities of the state and pose political instability in the region. During this period, foreign personnel were kidnapped somewhere and killed. Oil pipelines were bombed, and properties and lives were also lost. Despite numerous inter- and intra-ethnic conflicts leading to disunity and tension, the conflict between herders and farmers has become increasingly complex. This has resulted in attacks and counter-attacks across the borders of Nigeria and within states and communities. The conflict between farmers and herders is a significant and violent issue with deep-rooted complexities. historical, ethnic and socio-economic factors with devastating consequences on the proliferation of small arms, threatening the security and peaceful co-existence of citizens.

### **The Activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria**

Boko Haram is a terrorist group mainly considered a local insurgency sect until July 2013, when it was finally declared a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department following the escalation of its indiscriminate violent attacks in Nigeria. This sect has made women weaponized and dangerous. Women and girls have become “swords” mobilized and weaponized to carry out attacks while also being used as powerful “symbols” of Boko Haram’s ideology (Bloom and Matfess, 2016). Thurston (2018) & Ibrahim, M (2016) enumerated various attacks launched by Boko Haram including; the July 2009 violent clash between this group and security forces in Bauchi State, the June 2011 United Nations car bomb attack in Abuja, the April 2014 kidnapping of Chibok girls, the January 2015 attack in Borono (Baga town) with a record of extensive casualties and massive destructions, the attack on a military base Borno State June 2015, and January 2016 assault on Dalori village in Borno among numerous. This group engaged in a

series of guerrilla attacks, causing mayhem, social disorder and unrest around Nigeria, using weapons, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and suicide bombings in their operation. Boko Haram insurgency usually adopts gendered tactics in its operation by exploiting and abusing female vulnerability to promote its anti-Western, jihadi agenda. This group oppresses women by exposing them to rape, armed abduction, forced marriage, and captivity. Boko Haram also objectifies women by using them as instruments and objects of war, such as sex slaves, human shields, and suicide bombers. Combating this strategy requires a gender-sensitive approach to counterterrorism, specifically one which mitigates the vulnerability of women in the face of terrorism.

### **The Roles of Women in Terrorism**

Women play numerous roles in terrorism. The Journal of Terrorism Research (2018) indicated that women's roles in terrorism are diverse. Women's roles in terrorism are often misunderstood or overlooked, but they are crucial to understanding the dynamics of terrorist organizations (Ness, 2007). The role of women in terrorism (Boko Haram), according to Matfess (2017), postulates that analysts tend to limit their focus to victims and perpetrators. Today, such a perspective has taken a new dimension from their traditional support roles to include women as agents of de-radicalisation in the conflict continuum. Women have a distinctive influence in their communities where they can detect early signs of radicalisation and spread anti-terrorism messages in religious institutions, schools and local governments (Bigio & Vogelstein, 2019). Women traditionally are considered secondary actors in terrorism, but their involvement has changed over time. The complexity of gender dynamics shows that women's role in terrorism is multifaceted. A significant number of women serve in different capacities in terrorism as either victims of terrorism, aiders of terrorists or recruiters, as well as agents of disengagement from violent conflict in the peace continuum. Women engage in terrorism in the following ways:

### **Women Combat:**

The role of women in terrorism is often driven by many factors such as religion, ideology, social network, or personal reasons. Across Africa, women have been involved in terrorism by coercion or voluntarily. In Nigeria, terrorist groups like the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), Boko Haram and many others use women to carry out their operations. The International Crisis Group (ICG) (2015) opines that some women within the Boko Haram sect participate actively in

combat and equally take up arms alongside male fighters in direct attacks and operations. Women have evolved from being empathetic to adopting masculine behavioural attitudes that are typically associated with men. The attitude of women to take up arms like me shows that stereotypical roles via socialization can be altered if men and women are given the same orientation. Cultural attributes and orientation are what separate women from men. Given the same opportunity, the line between them is a biological attribute of sex.

Most women in active combat are abducted and forced through coercion, indoctrination, abuse and threat into combat roles as unwilling participants in violent operations. There are also cases of voluntary participants who, due to individual motivation and belief, engage in violent conflict. It is suggested that these women receive training in combat. Training typically focuses on guerrilla tactics, survival skills, and firearms, equipping women to take up arms alongside male fighters.

#### **Suicide Bombers:**

The United States Institute of Peace (2018) identified women's role in terrorism as suicide bombers aiding terrorists. These suicide bombers target crowded areas like churches, mosques, bus stops, markets and many other social gatherings (International Crisis Group, 2020). In 2015, a woman suicide bomber detonated an explosive, leaving many dead and injured. In 2017, another operation was carried out by a female suicide bomber; she initiated an attack on a mosque in Mubi, with many casualties recorded. Bloom and Matfess (2016) noted that women and girls between the ages of 7 and 17 have been coerced into targeting civilians. They postulate that the 89 attacks documented between June 2014 and January 2016, mostly of civilian soft targets, are responsible for more than 1200 deaths and an even greater number of injuries.

#### **Informants and Spies:**

The tactical engagement of women in insurgency involves gathering intelligence and supplying information that will aid terrorist attacks. Terrorists use women to fortify and increase their surveillance operations. The more compounded issue is that women terrorists identified and stigmatized as previous Boko Haram members often isolate themselves together with their children from society, spawning new resentment and frustration (UNICEF 2016). This situation makes them more vulnerable and more weaponized as swords in the hands of these insurgent

groups. In areas where men might draw suspicion, women are used to gather information and spy on potential targets without a clue of their harmful intentions.

### **Recruitment and Radicalization:**

There are push and pull factors to recruitment and radicalization. Economic factors such as deprivation and poverty act as a push factor for women to join terrorist groups, while religious belief and ideology may act as a pull factor. Nevertheless, some women are aiders of terrorists not of their own volition, but are being abducted and indoctrinated. Women serve as agents in the recruitment of other women or even men. Women in extreme poverty may have been lured with a very small amount of money or may have been forced (Fatima Muhammed Interviewee, 2024). There are occasions where family members coerced their female children to join terrorist groups. According to a report by Bloom and Matfess (2016), in July 2014, a 10-year-old girl, accompanied by her sister and an older man, was arrested while wearing a suicide bombing vest. In the same vein, a man who has been identified as a supporter of insurgency reportedly encouraged her 13-year-old girl child to join terrorist groups. Citing the Chibok girls' abduction. Matfess (2016) show how the abducted Chibok girls were used as teachers to teach other women how to recite the Qur'an; those who could not do the recitation were punished by their teacher. They therefore conclude that exposing women to extreme violence strategically strips them of their identity and humanity so that they can be forced to accept the militants' ideology. Fatima Muhammed further stresses that recruitment is done by indoctrination through ideology inculcation and promotion. In some cases, women are recruited because they are illiterate and ignorant of the agenda of these terrorists. The majority of these women are naïve, thinking they are fighting for Allah and joining this extremism, as such discounts women's own volition in joining this insurgency (Aisha Ibrahim Interviewee, 2024). Women serve as recruiters and often target vulnerable individuals and co-opt them into terrorism.

**Counter-terrorism:** In terrorism, women's injuries are more evident as victims of war. Sjoberg and Gentry (2007). It is important to recognise and understand that women are not only victims of war but also active participants. Their agency and actions need to be acknowledged. Women play crucial roles in counter-terrorism, but they need empowerment and support to effectively challenge extremist narratives. Women play an active and invaluable role in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism by engaging in fieldwork, analysis, and development (United

Nations, 2020). Across the globe, studies revealed that women are the first to respond to radicalization and extremism within communities in ways that may be difficult for men to apply. Women have a unique way of gathering intelligence because of their unique perspectives and skills, their natural endowment as mothers, makes them show empathy to victims of terrorism. In Nigeria, women at the community level have been countering extremist ideologies; they serve as mediators in various settings, starting from their immediate communities and extending to other settings like schools and religious groups. Women engage in advocacy, which is evidenced in “Bring Back Our Girls”, a cry to the kidnapping of Chibok school girls. Women advocate for policy reforms to women’s advantage to address women’s specific needs -gender inclusion in peace and security to mitigate prevalent gender bias and discriminatory practices that may lead to women adopting extremist views and also deradicalizing terrorists. Additionally, women are involved in promoting the rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists into their families and communities. Women as peace-builders and their presence in law enforcement agencies is vital in preventing extremism. Studies have shown that women are trusted to bring peace and harmony to their communities.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

This study adopted a mixed method of research design comprising content analysis, which involved the analysis of existing data on women’s role in terrorism, In-depth interviews involving four (4) women who have been actively involved in terrorism, and historical analysis to establish the evolution of women in terrorism in the conflict and peace continuum. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data were gathered from the interviews, case studies and field research, while the secondary data were gathered from the internet, gazettes, documentaries, databases and empirical sources. The study was conducted using purposive sampling techniques to make a selection of the study population; North East, Benue State and Kaduna State as a case study. A total of eight (8) women who are victims of terrorist attacks were interviewed to examine the gender dynamics of terrorism and its implications for strategic operations in counter-terrorism.

### **4.0 THE CONSEQUENCES OF TERRORISM ON WOMEN**

Women suffer profound and complex consequences which impact them emotionally, socially,

economically, sexually and physically. Understanding the roles and consequences of terrorism on women requires a nuanced analysis of gender, agency and context (Cunningham, 2018).

**Emotional Consequences:** Women endure emotional trauma from violence as a consequence of losing their husbands, children, and relatives. The upheaval caused by violent conflict places significant psychological strain on women. Displacement forcibly uproots women and their families, resulting in family separation, loss of livelihoods, cultural identity, and social support networks. Many women suffer from Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to their exposure to violence, while others grapple with anxiety or depression. Additionally, women who are sexually abused experience emotional distress and stigmatization.

**Social Consequences:** As a result of the loss of cultural identity and social support networks, women often experience social isolation, neglect, and a lack of care. Some of this social isolation stems from the stigma associated with sexual abuse, harassment, and exploitation. Cultural norms, gender roles, and social expectations dictate behavioural conformity and purity. When these expectations are not met, feelings of shame and unacceptance arise. Women endure rejection and isolation due to these violations. Once a woman is stigmatized in the community, her reputation and honour are at risk.

**Economic Consequences:** Women face economic stress as they often bear the responsibility of caring for their families during times of conflict. Consequently, they are at a high risk of financial instability and hopelessness due to the loss of businesses, sources of income, or jobs. Accessing necessities such as water, food, shelter, and healthcare becomes challenging. Many women, under pressure to support their families, may be forced into labour, subjected to abuse, or exploited.

**Sexual Abuse Consequences:** Sexual abuse of women is one of the dangerous aspects of the strategy of terrorist groups. These groups exploit female vulnerability and subject them to rape and forced marriage, sometimes using women as instruments of war and sexual experiments and abuse. Seifert (1996) observed that rape is not an aggressive expression of sexuality, but a sexual expression of aggression, manifestation of anger, violence and domination, making violence against women a way for terrorist groups to project power and demonstrate. Dominance in this context reinforces the patriarchal ideology of women's subjugation and men's control. It shows a

broader trend of gender-based dehumanization and oppression. Sexual subjection without consent is rape. In a situation of terrorist operation, rape is not accidental but a calculated operation and strategies employed by insurgents to reproduce their kind for more sophisticated, extreme violence and ideology promotion (IDI/50/Ex-terrorist/2024). This ideology has helped in reproducing more terrorists via birth.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

Terrorism remains a significant concern, particularly in Nigeria, where its increasing prevalence poses a serious threat to security. The devastating impact of terrorism is evident in the severe economic downturn, loss of lives, and its far-reaching influence on the political landscape. The involvement of women in terrorism is multifaceted and deeply affects the cultural harmony of Nigeria. Women serve diverse roles in terrorism, functioning as active participants, supporters, victims, and instruments for deradicalization, rendering their involvement in terrorism complex. However, their role in dictating early warning signs, conflict resolution and peacebuilding distinguishes them from men in counter-terrorism. Terrorism exposes women to emotional, economic, sexual, physical, and social repercussions. It is essential to bring gender perspectives and initiate policy frameworks that can empower women in active counter-terrorism.

The following are recommendations from the findings

- The study recommends gender mainstreaming by integrating gender perspectives in countering terrorism using monitoring and evaluation to address gaps and identify terrorism social network operations through local community engagement in the DE radicalization processes. The government should ensure that all facets of counter-terrorism strategies and policies are approached from a gender-inclusive perspective by raising awareness about the diverse roles played by women to enable effective policies and frameworks for their contributions.
- The government should create employment opportunities for the youths by establishing technical and vocational schools to empower young ones through collaboration with stakeholders, especially communities (leaders and elites) and NGOs.
- There is a need to foster cooperation across various quarters among the government, stakeholders, gender experts, peacebuilders, security and conflict experts on information-sharing concerning women and terrorism for the effective countering of active

involvement in terrorism.

- There is a need for the promotion of active inclusion of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding initiatives to prevent radicalization within their families and communities through their unique endowment to dictate and curb early warning signs.
- There is a need to focus on preventing radicalization through reintegration, capacity-building, training and empowerment by forming collaboration with women's organizations and stakeholders.

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**Non-Governmental Organizations and Peacebuilding among the Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

**L**ocal NGOs play a vital role in peacebuilding and managing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in post-conflict societies, especially where government intervention is weak or delayed. These organizations provide immediate humanitarian relief and contribute to long-term stability by fostering reconciliation, rebuilding trust, and addressing the causes of displacement. This study examined the role of NGOs in peacebuilding among IDPs in Nigeria, using a qualitative research approach and secondary data sources. Findings revealed that NGOs were central to providing humanitarian assistance and facilitating conflict resolution in affected communities. In the aftermath of crises, the state's response was often inadequate, leaving thousands of displaced persons without necessary support. NGOs helped bridge this gap by promoting peace education, skill acquisition, and community dialogue, thereby strengthening social cohesion and trust. The study concluded that NGOs are indispensable in crisis management and peacebuilding, particularly where government efforts fall short. Their contributions in emergency relief, reconciliation, and livelihood support were crucial in stabilizing displaced communities. The study recommended increased funding from donors, international agencies, and government bodies to sustain long-term humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts. Additionally, NGOs should explore alternative funding sources, including partnerships with the private sector, to ensure financial sustainability in post-conflict interventions.

**Keywords:** *Conflict, Internally Displaced Persons, Peacebuilding, Management, Non-Governmental Organizations*

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Conflicts and crises are usually seen as major disruptors of societal stability, often leading to mass displacement, destruction of livelihoods, and deep-seated social divisions. In many post-

conflict societies, the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the restoration of peace become critical challenges that require both immediate humanitarian response and long-term peacebuilding efforts. Nigeria has witnessed numerous ethno-religious and communal conflicts, among which the 2001 Plateau State crisis seems to stand out due to its devastating impact on human lives, properties, and social cohesion. In such situations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play an essential role in mitigating the humanitarian consequences of conflicts while fostering reconciliation and building sustainable peace.

The 2001 crisis in Plateau State was a violent conflict marked by widespread destruction of lives and property. The crisis was largely fuelled by ethnic and religious tensions, deep-seated grievances over land ownership, and issues of political representation. The intensity of the violence led to mass displacement, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes in search of safety. The inability of the government to provide immediate and adequate support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) left a significant humanitarian gap, which was filled by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). These organizations played a critical role in providing emergency relief, rehabilitation, and peacebuilding interventions aimed at restoring stability and fostering reconciliation in affected communities (Adesote & Peters, 2015). The 2001 Plateau State crisis was triggered by long-standing disputes between indigenous ethnic groups and settler populations, particularly between the Berom, Afizere, and Anaguta (indigenous groups) and the Hausa-Fulani (settlers). The competition for political control and economic opportunities further deepened the divide, resulting in violent clashes that led to the destruction of entire communities. As Adamu and Rasheed (2016) noted, the crisis saw the loss of thousands of lives, with homes, businesses, and places of worship burned to the ground. The violence also created a humanitarian crisis, as thousands of people, particularly women and children, were displaced and forced into makeshift camps with inadequate access to food, clean water, and medical care.

The government's response to the crisis was slow and seems largely ineffective in addressing the immediate needs of displaced persons. Security forces were deployed to quell the violence, but their efforts were often criticized as biased or inadequate. The lack of a structured response plan for IDPs worsened the situation, leaving many without shelter or necessities (Ekoh et al., 2022). The failure of state institutions to provide swift humanitarian intervention created an

urgent need for non-state actors, particularly NGOs, to step in and provide relief. Non-Governmental Organizations played a pivotal role in addressing the humanitarian challenges posed by the Plateau crisis. Their contributions can be categorized into two main areas: humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding initiatives. NGOs played a crucial role in providing emergency relief to displaced persons. This included food distribution, access to clean drinking water, medical aid, and temporary shelters. Many displaced individuals lacked access to healthcare, leading to the spread of diseases in IDP camps. NGOs such as the Red Cross and faith-based organizations intervened by establishing mobile clinics and providing essential medical supplies (Adewale, 2016). These efforts significantly reduced mortality rates among IDPs and improved overall living conditions. According to Ajayi (2020), the crisis left many survivors with deep psychological scars, particularly among children and women who experienced trauma due to the violence and displacement. NGOs implemented psychosocial support programs, including trauma counselling and community healing workshops, to help IDPs recover emotionally and reintegrate into society. These efforts contributed to reducing the likelihood of retaliatory violence and fostering a sense of hope among affected populations.

Beyond providing immediate relief, NGOs played a critical role in peacebuilding by facilitating inter-community dialogue and reconciliation efforts. They organized peace forums where conflicting groups engaged in dialogue, fostering understanding and coexistence. Faith-based organizations and community development groups were instrumental in promoting messages of peace and tolerance, helping to rebuild trust among divided communities (Bamidele & Pikirayi, 2023). The crisis severely affected the economic stability of displaced persons, many of whom lost their businesses and means of livelihood. To prevent long-term dependency on aid, NGOs introduced livelihood empowerment programs such as vocational training, small-scale business grants, and agricultural support for IDPs. These initiatives helped many displaced persons regain financial independence, reducing the risk of crime and further conflict (Admasu et al., 2021).

Despite their significant contributions, NGOs encountered numerous challenges in managing IDPs and promoting peacebuilding. Many NGOs faced financial constraints, limiting their capacity to provide long-term support for IDPs. Donor fatigue and competition for resources made it difficult for organizations to sustain their programs (Brigido et al., 2019). Operating in conflict-affected areas exposed humanitarian workers to security risks. Some NGOs faced

attacks from armed groups, making it difficult to access IDPs in remote locations (GRID, 2019). NGOs often struggled with bureaucratic red tape when seeking government approval for aid distribution and peacebuilding projects. Delays in obtaining necessary permits sometimes hindered their effectiveness (Dirikgil, 2022). Chidume et al. (2018) noted that local communities sometimes resisted efforts to promote peace and reconciliation due to deep-rooted mistrust and ideological differences. NGOs had to navigate these challenges carefully to avoid further inflaming tensions.

This study seeks to analyze the role of NGOs in peacebuilding and the management of IDPs in the aftermath of the 2001 Plateau State crisis in Nigeria. By investigating the impact of NGO interventions in Plateau State, this study aims to highlight the importance of non-state actors in conflict resolution and post-crisis reconstruction. Furthermore, it will provide insights into how NGOs can be better supported to enhance their effectiveness in peacebuilding efforts. The findings of this research will be valuable for policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and scholars interested in post-conflict recovery and sustainable peace in Nigeria and other conflict-prone regions.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Conceptual Review**

#### **Understanding Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are individuals or groups who have been forced to leave their homes due to various circumstances but remain within their country's borders. Unlike refugees, who cross international boundaries, IDPs do not fall under the legal definition of a refugee, despite often facing similar challenges (Anjorin & Ojebisi, 2022). According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2017), IDPs are people who have been compelled to flee their homes or places of habitual residence due to armed conflict, widespread violence, human rights violations, or natural and human-made disasters, yet remain within their own country.

While IDPs are sometimes informally referred to as refugees, this is not legally accurate. Some scholars argue that the definition of IDPs should be more specific, focusing only on those displaced by violence. However, displacement can occur for a variety of reasons, including political instability, economic hardship, environmental disasters, and war. In many cases, IDPs

face significant challenges, such as a lack of access to necessities, insecurity, and inadequate government support.

Although the causes of internal displacement vary, IDPs are often regarded as individuals who would be considered refugees if they crossed an international border. As a result, the phrase "refugees in all but name" is frequently used to describe them. International attention is typically drawn to IDP situations when national governments are unable to provide adequate support, leading to intervention by humanitarian organisations (Essia & Yearoo, 2009).

### **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are independent organisations formed by individuals with shared humanitarian goals. They work collectively to address social concerns, advocate for change, and contribute to community development (Gberevbie, 2013). According to Dodo and Mabvurira (2014), NGOs play a crucial role in raising awareness about issues affecting specific groups, advocating on their behalf, and providing essential social services to support sustainable development.

Anjorin and Ojebisi (2022) define NGOs as organisations that operate within civil society but are not part of the government. They function independently of state control and do not primarily serve the interests of their members. Instead, they focus on supporting disadvantaged groups or addressing broader societal challenges that may affect community well-being. Through their work, NGOs help to bridge gaps in social services, promote human rights, and contribute to overall societal progress.

### **The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Crisis Resolution and Peacebuilding**

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a critical role in crisis resolution and peacebuilding, particularly in conflict-affected societies. Their contributions extend beyond providing humanitarian aid to facilitating dialogue, rebuilding trust, and fostering long-term stability. NGOs operate in areas where government responses may be slow or inadequate, working directly with affected communities to address both the immediate and structural causes of conflict (Bamidele & Pikirayi, 2023).

One of the primary roles of NGOs in crisis resolution is providing immediate humanitarian aid to

displaced persons. In conflict situations, NGOs step in to offer essential services such as food, clean water, medical care, and temporary shelter to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). For instance, during the Plateau State crisis, NGOs played a crucial role in sustaining the livelihoods of thousands of displaced individuals by addressing their urgent needs (Adamu & Rasheed, 2016). Their interventions help prevent further deterioration of humanitarian conditions and reduce the potential for renewed conflict.

NGOs facilitate peace negotiations and reconciliation efforts by acting as neutral mediators between conflicting groups. They engage in dialogue initiatives that bring together different ethnic, religious, or political factions to foster mutual understanding. By promoting inclusive discussions, NGOs help to address grievances and find common ground for peaceful coexistence (Adesote & Peters, 2015). This approach is essential in preventing the recurrence of violence and ensuring long-term stability.

NGOs play a key role in advocating for human rights protection and legal accountability in post-conflict societies. They document human rights violations, provide legal aid to victims, and push for policies that promote justice and equality. Ensuring that perpetrators of violence are held accountable helps to prevent future conflicts and builds public trust in the peace process (Ekoh et al., 2022).

Post-conflict trauma can have long-term psychological effects on individuals and communities. NGOs provide mental health and psychosocial support services, helping victims of violence, particularly women and children, to recover from the emotional and psychological impact of conflict. By facilitating trauma healing and social cohesion programs, NGOs contribute to long-term peacebuilding (Ajayi, 2020).

Economic hardship is often a driver of conflict. NGOs implement skills training and livelihood programs to empower conflict-affected populations, particularly IDPs, to rebuild their lives. Through vocational training, microfinance initiatives, and entrepreneurship support, NGOs help create economic stability, reducing the likelihood of conflict recurrence (Agbaje, 2020).

Helgason (2020) noted that NGOs contribute to peacebuilding by promoting education and awareness campaigns that encourage peaceful coexistence. They engage in civic education

programs, teach conflict resolution skills, and introduce peace education in schools to prevent the spread of hate ideologies. Education plays a crucial role in breaking cycles of violence and fostering a culture of peace.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Human Needs Theory**

The theoretical basis of this work is the Human Needs Theory. The Human Needs Theory was propounded by an American psychologist called Abraham Maslow in 1943 (Wills & McEwen, 2014). Maslow subsequently extended the idea to include his observations of humans' innate curiosity. Maslow's theories parallel many other theories of human developmental psychology, some of which focus on describing the stages of growth in humans. The theory is a classification system intended to reflect the universal needs of society as its base, then proceeding to more acquired emotions (Deckers, 2018). The hierarchy of needs can be split between deficiency needs and growth needs, with two key themes involved within the theory being individualism and the prioritization of needs. While the theory is usually shown as a pyramid in illustrations, Maslow himself never created a pyramid to represent the hierarchy of needs. The hierarchy of needs is a psychological idea and also an assessment tool, particularly in education, healthcare and social work. The hierarchy remains a popular framework in sociology research, including management training and higher education.

Moreover, the hierarchy of needs is used to study how humans intrinsically partake in behavioral motivation. Maslow used the terms "physiological", "safety", "belonging and love", "social needs" or "esteem", "self-actualization" and "transcendence" to describe the pattern through which human needs and motivations generally move. This means that, according to the theory, for motivation to arise at the next stage, each prior stage must be satisfied by an individual. The hierarchy has been used to explain how effort and motivation are correlated in the context of human behaviour. Each of these individual levels contains a certain amount of internal sensation that must be met for an individual to complete their hierarchy (McLeod, 2021). The goal in Maslow's hierarchy is to attain the level or stage of self-actualization.

In the application of the human needs theory to this study, it could be seen that IDPs are often confronted with diverse needs during a time of conflict. There is a lack of access to

necessities such as healthcare, decent sanitation, and adequate facilities for accommodation or shelter. To properly resettle into society, the needs of IDPs must be adequately met. NGOs are therefore a very good lifeline to provide relief to the IDPs, pending when help could reach from other humanitarian stakeholders. NGOs have proven to be effective in the provision of aid to IDPs around the world by providing them with essential amenities and infrastructures that enable them to resettle more safely and securely under better living conditions.

### **Empirical Review**

Ngoshe et al. (2022) carried out a study to assess humanitarian health interventions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camp in Maiduguri, Borno State, from 2018-2021. The study examined the major humanitarian health needs of the IDPs in Stadium camp, the roles of the NGOs in the provision of humanitarian health assistance to the IDPs in Maiduguri. The findings of the study reveal that majority of the non-governmental organization focus on medication, food, and nutrition. Findings in the study further reveal that interventions such as HIV/AIDS prevention, epidemiology surveillance, water, sanitation and hygiene, health screening/promotion, and vaccination are the types of health interventions focused on by NGOs in the stadium camp, Maiduguri. It was concluded that despite the increasing number of IDPs in camps across Borno State, NGOs provided relief services that reduced the burden of various health problems in the IDP populations. However, the gap noted in the research is that it did not outline the effectiveness of the role played by NGOs in their intervention in Maiduguri. The study only itemises the types of intervention provided by NGOs, but does not state the resultant effect of the intervention on IDPs in Borno State. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the various effects of NGOs' intervention on the needs of IDPs in the aspects of health interventions, coordination, food security and livelihood.

Bamidele (2022) assessed the effectiveness of government and non-governmental organization in assisting internally displaced women in Nigeria. The study identified the problem of scant information on support systems for internally displaced persons in Nigeria, and none on internally displaced women in the New Kuchingoro camp. This limits the operations of aid agencies and other stakeholders, preventing them from providing targeted assistance. Bamidele (2022) examined the support provided by two government agencies: the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and the National

Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The research also investigated and examined the support given by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), religious organizations, and philanthropists, analyzed the challenges facing these bodies, drew conclusions about the policy implications of the situation in New Kuchingoro, and made recommendations for changes that would improve the lives of internally displaced women in the camp. Using qualitative research methods, the study investigated and evaluated the various support systems provided by NCFRMI and NEMA to internally displaced women in the New Kuchingoro camp in Abuja, along with some NGOs, religious groups, and philanthropists. The study revealed the inadequacy of coordination between government agencies and NGOs in the provision of humanitarian assistance to the New Kuchingoro camp. While these NGOs were willing to provide humanitarian assistance to the women, the lack of administrative support from NCFRMI and NEMA frustrated this objective. Bamidele (2022) recommends that the Nigerian government needs to clarify the respective roles of NCFRMI and NEMA concerning IDPs and relationships with non-government aid providers, ensure adequate funding for IDPs, stamp out corruption, respect the humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality, and ultimately address the underlying causes of displacement. However, the gap noted in the study is that the study only focused on support systems provided for IDPs by various stakeholders, including State actors. It did not categorically emphasise the role played by NGOs in the provision of aid to IDPs. Therefore, this study aims to present the role played by NGOs in the provision of aid to IDPs in Nigeria.

Olukolajo et al. (2014) studied crisis-induced internal displacement: The implication on real estate investment in Nigeria. The study examined the effects of conflict in Nigeria on investments in real estate among displaced people in Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo. The research found that most real estate investors would not reinvest in conflict-affected areas for fear of losing their investments. The study recommended that all levels of government should step up efforts to reduce armed conflict, partly through the integration of local communities. The gap observed in this study is that it did not specify the shelter needs of IDPs and the efforts of various non-State actors in addressing them. This study will therefore provide insights into the needs of IDPs (including shelter needs) as a result of conflict, and the various efforts non-State actors apply in addressing these needs.

Isokon (2014) assessed the well-being of Bakassi settlers in Cross River State, along with the effect of the relocation plan, finding that these IDPs were deprived of basic needs, were extremely poor, had no livelihoods, and faced discrimination, inhumane treatment, and human rights violations. The study recommended campaigns to promote attitudinal change, harmony, co-operation, peace, and unity among the settlers and neighbouring communities. The study also recommended that the government take a strategic development approach to tackling the IDPs' problems, including efforts to promote economic empowerment, job provision, infrastructure development, and the functional participation of IDPs in decisions regarding their resettlement. The gap noted in this study is that it did not categorically emphasise the role played by NGOs in the provision of aid to IDPs. Therefore, this study aims to present the role played by NGOs in the provision of aid to IDPs in Nigeria.

Coltart (2016) studied the relationship between Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and conflict resolution. The study noted that non-governmental organizations have worked hard to become an important part of world conflict resolution: They have become fully-fledged actors in international governance, as advisers, administrators, advocates, and monitors for people and causes, working on behalf of governments, International Government organizations (IGOs) and themselves. They provide much of the world's humanitarian assistance, and they often find themselves on the frontlines of the world's trouble spots. The study found that INGOs like World Vision and Amnesty International provide humanitarian assistance around the world to improve human security and reduce conflict. The INGOs did a good job of demonstrating their abilities and credibility, so that they are now viewed as a crucial part of the 'connective tissue' of vigorous civil society. Through experience and training, NGOs have developed the knowledge and understanding to realize that making the best decision for each situation is necessarily unique, and they have organized themselves accordingly. The research recommends that the adaptive ability of NGOs should be encouraged so as to mitigate the negative consequences of conflict.

Karampini (2023) studied the role of NGOs in conflict management. The study identified that the changing environment of war and conflicts has exacerbated the need for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to intervene and play a key role in resolving conflicts and restoring civil society. It examines the place of NGOs in the global environment as well as the more specialized way in which they are involved in the dispute resolution process. The research involves the

theoretical part and the practical application of dispute management from NGOs in case studies and more specifically Bosnia, Georgia and Afghanistan, examining their degree of success in each of these cases. The study found that NGOs are organizations that operate independently of any government, and they are responsible for addressing social and political issues. However, the major gap noted in the study is that it did not show the connection between NGOs' humanitarian intervention in post-conflict communities and the provision of basic resources that address the immediate needs of IDPs as a result of conflict-induced displacement. This study will therefore address this gap by providing insights into the role played by NGOs in the provision of basic needs for IDPs such as food, clothing and shelter, before the intervention of other stakeholders.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

This study adopted a qualitative research design, which is appropriate for exploring complex social issues such as the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in crisis resolution and peacebuilding. Qualitative research allows for an in-depth understanding of the subject by analyzing textual and documentary evidence rather than relying on numerical data. The study relied on secondary sources for data collection. These sources included: Academic journals that provided empirical studies and theoretical discussions on NGOs, crisis management, and peacebuilding. Newspapers that reported on the Plateau State crisis and the interventions of NGOs. Textbooks that offered historical and conceptual insights into conflict resolution and humanitarian responses. Internet resources, including credible reports from international organizations, NGOs, and government agencies.

The collected data were analyzed using content analysis, which involves systematically examining the content of texts to identify patterns, themes, and insights relevant to the research objectives. This method enabled the study to evaluate the contributions of NGOs by reviewing existing literature, reports, and case studies on their role in managing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and promoting peace in post-conflict societies. By adopting this methodological approach, the study ensured a comprehensive review of existing knowledge while drawing conclusions based on documented evidence from various sources.

### **4.0 FINDINGS**

The study's findings highlight the crucial role played by Non-Governmental Organizations

(NGOs) in the management of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and peacebuilding efforts in Nigeria. The research revealed that NGOs were central to providing humanitarian assistance and fostering conflict resolution in the affected communities. The study found that in the aftermath of the crisis, the state's response was inadequate, leaving thousands of displaced persons without immediate assistance (Bamidele & Pikirayi, 2023). In such situations, local NGOs acted as first responders, offering crucial services before the arrival of larger international humanitarian agencies. Their interventions included:

- Provision of emergency shelters for displaced families.
- Distribution of food, clean water, and clothing to IDPs.
- Basic healthcare and sanitation support to prevent disease outbreaks (Adamu & Rasheed, 2016).
- Psychosocial support for trauma recovery, especially for women and children (Ajayi, 2020).

These immediate relief efforts helped stabilize IDPs and sustain their livelihoods while awaiting long-term interventions from the government and international bodies.

Secondly, beyond humanitarian aid, NGOs played an essential role in peacebuilding initiatives aimed at preventing future conflicts and ensuring long-term stability in Nigeria. The study identified the following peacebuilding contributions by NGOs:

- Facilitating dialogue between conflicting groups, creating avenues for reconciliation (Adesote & Peters, 2015).
- Advocating for human rights, particularly for marginalized and displaced communities.
- Providing economic empowerment programs, such as vocational training, to prevent conflict relapse (Adewale, 2016).
- Supporting education for displaced children, helping restore normalcy in the affected communities (Ekoh et al., 2022).

By promoting peace education, skill acquisition, and community dialogue, NGOs contributed significantly to the rebuilding of trust and social cohesion in the crisis-affected areas.

Thirdly, the study found that local NGOs were among the most effective organizations in post-conflict recovery in Plateau State, from 2001 to 2010. Their effectiveness was attributed to:

- Proximity and understanding of local dynamics, enabling them to provide targeted

interventions.

- Flexibility in operations, allowing them to respond quickly to crises.
- Strong community engagement, which fostered trust between aid providers and beneficiaries (Essia & Yearoo, 2009).

Local NGOs were particularly instrumental in filling the gaps left by weak state institutions, ensuring that thousands of displaced persons received timely assistance. Despite their effectiveness, NGOs faced several challenges in managing IDPs and fostering peace in Plateau State. The study identified key areas for improvement:

- **Increased Funding:** NGOs require more financial support from donors and international agencies to sustain long-term humanitarian efforts (Admasu et al., 2021).
- **Integration of Conflict Resolution Strategies:** There is a need to combine humanitarian aid with peacebuilding mechanisms, ensuring that IDPs can safely return to their communities without the risk of renewed violence (Dirikgil, 2022).
- **Enhanced Government-NGO Collaboration:** Strengthening partnerships between NGOs and the government can lead to more coordinated responses to crises, ensuring that interventions are sustainable (GRID, 2019).

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The role of NGOs in crisis resolution and peacebuilding is multifaceted, encompassing humanitarian assistance, conflict mediation, human rights advocacy, psychosocial support, economic empowerment, and education. This study confirmed that NGOs play an indispensable role in crisis management and peacebuilding, particularly in contexts where government intervention is insufficient. Their work in providing emergency relief, supporting reconciliation, and fostering sustainable livelihoods was crucial in stabilizing displaced communities in Nigeria. Strengthening funding, collaboration, and conflict resolution mechanisms will further enhance the effectiveness of NGOs in addressing future crises in Nigeria.

Based on the findings made in the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Increased funding from donors, international agencies, and government bodies should be prioritized to enable NGOs to sustain long-term humanitarian aid and peacebuilding initiatives. NGOs should explore alternative funding sources, including partnerships with the private sector, to ensure financial sustainability in post-conflict interventions.

2. The Nigerian government should work closely with NGOs to develop a structured response framework for IDP management. Regular stakeholder meetings between NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations should be organized to improve collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.
3. NGOs should combine emergency relief efforts with long-term peacebuilding initiatives, such as inter-community dialogue, reconciliation programs, and trauma healing for victims of violence. The use of local peace committees and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms should be encouraged to foster trust and sustainable peace in affected communities.
4. Training programs should be provided to NGO personnel on crisis response, peacebuilding techniques, and sustainable development strategies to improve their effectiveness. IDPs should be empowered through skills acquisition, vocational training, and education programs to ensure self-reliance and prevent dependence on humanitarian aid.
5. The government and NGOs should collaborate on long-term housing solutions for IDPs, reducing the risk of prolonged displacement and secondary displacement. Sustainable resettlement policies should be developed to facilitate the safe return of IDPs to their communities while ensuring security and economic opportunities in these areas.
6. NGOs should engage in advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the plight of IDPs and mobilize public and international support. Media platforms should be leveraged to highlight issues related to displacement, peacebuilding efforts, and the need for policy reforms.

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## Intelligence Driven Policing and the Monster of Criminal Profiling in Law Enforcement

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### Abstract

One of the core issues facing criminal profiling in recent time largely connects bias and lack of sufficient training in forensic psychology and behavioral analysis to frontally confront deficiencies in deepening the quality of intelligence for reliable crime statistics in policing and law enforcement. While more research has gone into addressing the negative consequences of unreliable intelligence and crime statistics in policing and law enforcement, not much is done in the area deepening training for more objective intelligence against biased criminal profiling. Hence, the title of this study that speaks to the Intelligence Driven Policing and the Monster of Criminal Profiling in Law Enforcement. The growing concern about potential biases within profiling also compromises trust and exercise of police discretion and precision as officers may inadvertently rely on stereotypes when developing profiles in the absence of formal training. These biases can lead to wrongful accusations, undermining the integrity of law enforcement efforts. Addressing these biases is critical to this study as it ensures that profiling is characterized by the highest dose of objectivism. To this end, the study argues that biased criminal profiling negatively impacts the effectiveness of crime control, it points to the disruptive and subversive challenges faced by law enforcement officers in applying criminal profiling techniques and asserts that there are ways forward to improve the use of profiling to address crimes efficiently. Using routine activity theory combined with descriptive design, the study addresses the above concerns, resulting in the outcomes that suggest: enhancing training and capacity-building; improving Infrastructure and resource allocation; strengthening inter-agency collaboration and technological adoption.

**Keywords:** *Training, Objective intelligence, Biased profiling, Policing, Law enforcement*

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The criminalization tendency occasioned by criminal profiling has inadvertently created a loop in the reliability assessment of intelligence and intelligence gathering in law enforcement and policing globally, regionally and nationally. The depth of systemic harm this miscarriage of

justice causes can better be seen than imagined. However, while the attention of criminologists has largely been on need for intelligence in law enforcement, the critical fundamentals of miscarriage of justice associated with criminal profiling has only and always been glossed over by scholars leaving intellectual gap unfilled regarded as an art and science blend, has gained global attention as a tool for identifying likely offenders and preventing crimes. Its use by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States is among the most notable, as the FBI's Behavioural Analysis Unit has refined profiling to solve cases involving serial crimes, such as those by Ted Bundy and the Unabomber. These cases highlighted how profiling can significantly narrow down suspect pools and contribute to law enforcement efficiency (FBI Behavioural Analysis Unit, 2020). As crime has become more complex with digital advancements, profiling has adapted, integrating data analytics to better understand and predict criminal behaviour, illustrating its transformative impact in the modern era of crime-fighting (Winerman, 2022).

According to Carter (2023), profiling has proven essential across Europe. In the UK, for instance, the practice was popularized in cases like the Yorkshire Ripper investigation, where behavioural analysis helped identify patterns that assisted law enforcement in narrowing down suspects. Since then, the UK has implemented various profiling techniques in serial crime investigations, relying heavily on offender typologies and criminal patterns. This approach is similarly used across European Union countries, where criminal profiling is frequently applied to address terrorism and organized crime, reflecting its broad application in addressing modern security challenges.

Smallbone and Wortley (2020) note that the success of profiling has extended to Australia, where the Australian Federal Police utilize it in both criminal investigations and terrorism-related cases. Profiling efforts here are focused on identifying behaviour patterns in potential terrorists and organized crime members. Profilers work alongside forensic psychologists, social scientists, and data analysts, creating a multidisciplinary approach to profiling that increases accuracy and effectiveness in apprehending suspects. As a result, profiling in Australia serves as a benchmark for collaborative efforts in crime control, showing its adaptability to local and international law enforcement needs.

Despite these successes, Bull and Carson (2018) highlight that criminal profiling's global impact is not without challenges. Issues related to biases, accuracy, and ethical implications have raised concerns, particularly in multicultural societies where profiling could inadvertently perpetuate stereotypes. This has led to significant debates on refining profiling methods to ensure fairness and accuracy without compromising investigative quality.

In Africa, profiling is still emerging as a viable approach for law enforcement, with South Africa being a notable example. According to Tait (2022), South Africa's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, also known as the Hawks, uses profiling techniques for tackling crimes like poaching, human trafficking, and organized crime. These efforts are supported by forensic analysts and behavioural psychologists who work to develop profiles based on crime patterns and cultural context. Profiling's role in tackling poaching, a significant regional issue, underscores its flexibility to address local crime challenges and aligns with global trends in specialized law enforcement.

For instance, Rotich (2019) notes that Kenya has also embraced profiling, particularly in counter-terrorism efforts, due to its proximity to Somalia and the threat posed by extremist groups. Kenyan law enforcement has begun using psychological and geographic profiling to track terror suspects and prevent attacks. Profiling in Kenya has shown promise in combating terrorism and has garnered support for its preventative capabilities in reducing risks posed by extremists. However, challenges remain due to limited technological resources, underscoring the need for infrastructure support to fully capitalize on profiling's potential. Profiling is similarly developing in Egypt, where police have employed it for crime prevention, particularly in urban areas where gang activities and violent crimes are prevalent. Egyptian authorities use profiling to assess criminal motives and predict future crimes based on past incidents. However, Egypt faces significant limitations, including gaps in profiling expertise and an underdeveloped forensic psychology sector, hindering broader adoption. This reflects a broader issue across African countries where profiling's growth is often constrained by resource and training limitations (El Sayed, 2020).

In West Africa, Nigeria in particular, stands as one of the few countries to initiate profiling on a larger scale, particularly in urban areas like Lagos. Profiling efforts are supported by training

from international law enforcement agencies, contributing to crime-solving efforts in some of the nation's busiest regions. Yet, challenges such as resource scarcity and lack of trained personnel continue to limit profiling's potential, emphasizing the need for more comprehensive training and investment in technological resources (Fakunle & Akinade, 2018). In Nigeria, the application of criminal profiling has gradually expanded, especially in metropolitan areas where complex crimes are more common. The Nigerian Police Force has introduced behavioural profiling techniques in larger cities like Lagos and Abuja to combat crimes involving gangs, violent offenders, and serial criminals. Profiling, combined with traditional investigation methods, has improved the ability to identify suspects in major cases, contributing to the success of high-profile investigations (Olayemi, 2021).

Despite its growth, criminal profiling in Nigeria is hampered by infrastructural challenges, including limited access to forensic technology and trained behavioural analysts. Law enforcement in many regions lacks resources, making it challenging to implement comprehensive profiling techniques. These challenges illustrate the need for a framework that supports infrastructure development and collaboration with international forensic experts to strengthen Nigeria's crime prevention strategies (Olayemi, 2021).

The Nigerian police have also faced challenges related to biases within profiling, with concerns about racial, ethnic, and gender biases affecting investigative outcomes. This issue reflects a need for profiling methods that are sensitive to Nigeria's diverse society, encouraging a more culturally inclusive approach. Addressing these biases is essential for ensuring fair and accurate criminal profiling, which is crucial for effective crime control in Nigeria (Egbuniwe, 2020). Profiling efforts in Nigeria also include efforts to counter insurgency activities in the northeastern region, where profiling has been applied to identify and track suspected insurgents. This has been instrumental in the fight against groups like Boko Haram. However, the high cost of profiling equipment and training, alongside issues of security in conflict zones, restricts its application, highlighting areas for future improvement to fully leverage profiling in Nigeria's fight against terrorism (Olayemi, 2021).

In New Karu, a suburban area in Nasarawa State, profiling is gradually being incorporated into local policing efforts. New Karu's proximity to Abuja exposes it to crime spillovers, making it a strategic location for law enforcement initiatives. Profiling in New Karu focuses on identifying

behavioural patterns in recurring crimes, such as theft and burglary. However, the local police face significant limitations, including limited technological resources and training in advanced profiling techniques (Amadi, 2023). Profiling techniques in New Karu have shown promise in recent cases, helping to reduce crime rates by identifying potential repeat offenders. Police officers in the division work with basic profiling techniques, often based on observations and known behaviours of suspects, to narrow down potential leads. Although these methods have proven somewhat effective, New Karu's profiling efforts are often constrained by limited infrastructure, underscoring a need for improved resources to fully benefit from profiling (Akinyele, 2019). Consequent upon these given limitations, New Karu represents a compelling case study for examining how criminal profiling can be objectively optimized in resource-limited settings. This study aims to identify the challenges faced by the New Karu local policing and law enforcement system. It points to how to apply profiling and recommend strategies for enhancing profiling capabilities in the region, ensuring that law enforcement can efficiently address crime patterns.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Conceptualised Criminal Profiling**

Criminal profiling is a methodological tool used in crime investigation to infer characteristics of perpetrators based on the nature of the offense and evidence gathered from the crime scene. According to Bull and Carson (2018), criminal profiling involves identifying behavioural patterns and psychological traits that are indicative of an offender's modus operandi. This technique aims to narrow down the suspect pool, thereby facilitating a more efficient investigation process. Another scholarly definition by Smallbone and Wortley (2020) emphasizes that criminal profiling incorporates both psychological and criminological insights, often based on crime scene analysis and offender behaviour. Profiling helps law enforcement predict the possible future actions of offenders, making it a critical element of modern investigative strategies. Rotich (2019) defines criminal profiling as a science of understanding criminal behaviour through patterns and linking it with potential suspects. Profiling provides a strategic advantage in crime prevention by addressing the psychological factors that influence an offender's actions. These definitions collectively highlight the analytical nature of profiling, supported by the integration of psychological and forensic data (Fakunle & Akinade, 2018).

The history of criminal profiling dates back to efforts by the FBI in the 1970s, where advancements were made in understanding the behavioural tendencies of serial offenders (Amadi, 2023). Since then, criminal profiling has evolved to include data-driven approaches, though it still faces challenges related to accuracy and bias. The application of profiling remains contentious, especially in regions lacking proper resources, as biases and misinterpretations can lead to wrongful accusations. Despite the promise of criminal profiling, scholars like Olayemi (2021) argue that without adequate training and tools, law enforcement can misuse profiling techniques. Moreover, profiling has limitations, as it cannot account for all psychological variables that influence criminal behaviour. Therefore, its integration into crime control mechanisms requires careful and ethical application (Tait, 2022).

### **Profiling as an Intelligence and Law Enforcement Approach**

Law enforcement refers to the strategies and methodologies used by policing agencies to maintain public order, deter crime, and administer justice. According to Amadi (2023), a modern law enforcement approach integrates technology, community involvement, and intelligence-led policing. Effective law enforcement strategies are proactive, emphasizing the prevention of crime rather than reactive measures. Bull and Carson (2018) describe law enforcement as the systematic process by which authorities maintain legal order and enforce laws through structured operational tactics. This definition underscores the complexity of police work, which requires strategic planning, community engagement, and consistent updates to methodologies. Tait (2022) highlights the importance of data-driven policing, where law enforcement uses statistical models and technological tools to optimize resource allocation and increase patrol efficiency. This evidence-based approach has transformed traditional policing, making it more adaptive to emerging threats. One of the key strategies in modern law enforcement is community policing, a model emphasizing collaboration between police and the community to solve problems and enhance public trust (Fakunle & Akinade, 2018). Law enforcement agencies are increasingly adopting this model to foster cooperation and better understand local crime dynamics.

However, Rotich (2019) notes that in regions like New Karu, law enforcement faces significant obstacles, such as limited access to resources and inadequate training. These limitations hinder the effective implementation of advanced crime-fighting strategies. Olayemi (2021) adds that cultural factors also influence law enforcement practices, requiring tailored approaches that

respect local norms while ensuring safety and justice. The application of law enforcement techniques has a direct impact on crime control, and this interplay is crucial for understanding the success or failure of criminal profiling as an approach to crime prevention (Smallbone & Wortley, 2020). Therefore, it is imperative to explore how profiling can be incorporated into existing law enforcement frameworks to achieve maximum efficacy.

### **Crime Control**

Crime control refers to the measures and policies implemented to reduce crime and maintain social order. According to Smallbone and Wortley (2020), crime control strategies encompass a wide range of practices, including surveillance, criminal profiling, and community engagement. These strategies are designed to deter criminal behaviour through both preventive and punitive measures. Bull and Carson (2018) define crime control as a systemic effort to minimize criminal activities and ensure public safety. They emphasize the importance of using an integrated approach that combines traditional policing with innovative methods such as predictive analytics and profiling. The concept revolves around the idea of preempting crime through strategic interventions. Amadi (2023) discusses crime control in the context of developing countries, where resource limitations often impede the effectiveness of conventional strategies. The author suggests that profiling can be an efficient tool if properly implemented, as it helps law enforcement agencies act swiftly in apprehending suspects. However, the accuracy and ethical use of profiling remain critical concerns. Crime control measures in New Karu have evolved in recent years, incorporating elements like community awareness and data analysis. However, as Olayemi (2021) argues, the effectiveness of these measures is often compromised by gaps in training and technology. Despite these challenges, crime control remains a core responsibility of law enforcement, requiring continuous adaptation and innovation.

However, Rotich (2019) emphasizes that profiling should complement, not replace, other crime control strategies. For instance, robust crime control requires collaboration between different sectors of society, including healthcare, education, and urban planning, to address the root causes of crime comprehensively. Therefore, profiling serves as one component of a multifaceted approach to maintaining safety. Tait (2022) concludes that crime control strategies must be continually reassessed and refined to adapt to changing criminal behaviours. The integration of

profiling techniques with other investigative tools is essential for developing a holistic approach to crime prevention and control, especially in regions facing resource constraints.

### **The Effectiveness of Criminal Profiling in Solving Crimes**

Criminal profiling has proven to be a valuable tool in modern law enforcement, as it allows for a systematic analysis of offender behaviour to predict future actions. Profiling draws on psychological theories and forensic evidence to create a composite of potential suspects, which helps narrow down investigative leads. This technique has led to successful outcomes in complex cases, particularly those involving serial crimes where behavioural patterns are crucial. However, its effectiveness is highly variable and often influenced by the resources available to a police force. For instance, profiling tends to be more successful when combined with data-driven methods and advanced forensic technologies (Bull & Carson, 2018; Tait, 2022).

Despite its successes, some criticisms of profiling highlight its subjectivity. The reliability of profiles often depends on the skill and experience of the profiler, and in some cases, inaccurate profiles have diverted investigations away from the actual perpetrators. A widely cited example is the misdirection in the case of the Washington D.C. sniper attacks, where assumptions about the offender's race and background led to delays in apprehension. Studies emphasize the need for continuous training and the integration of new profiling methodologies, which have become more sophisticated with advances in data analytics and machine learning (Amadi, 2023; Rotich, 2019).

Profiling is not a standalone solution but part of a broader investigative strategy. The integration of psychological insights into criminal investigations allows law enforcement to understand not only the who but also the why behind crimes. Profiling is especially effective in understanding organized crime syndicates, as patterns and rituals often indicate hierarchical structures or affiliations (Smallbone & Wortley, 2020). For instance, profiling has been used to track human trafficking rings by identifying behavioural cues in communication methods. The empirical evidence for the effectiveness of profiling remains mixed. While high-profile cases have demonstrated their potential, smaller, less-resourced jurisdictions struggle to implement profiling effectively. The limitations are often due to a lack of funding for training and technology. A comparative analysis of jurisdictions in developed and developing countries shows that the latter

often rely on outdated profiling techniques, which can lead to inefficiencies and errors (Fakunle & Akinade, 2018; Olayemi, 2021).

Recent advancements in profiling include the use of artificial intelligence to analyze vast datasets, enhancing the predictive accuracy of profiles. AI-driven profiling has shown promising results in cybercrime investigations, where traditional methods are inadequate. However, these technologies are not widely available, and the ethical implications of relying on AI-generated profiles are still under debate. Critics argue that algorithms can perpetuate biases present in the data, leading to ethical dilemmas in their use for law enforcement (Tait, 2022; Bull & Carson, 2018). Ethical considerations also come into play when discussing the effectiveness of profiling. Biases inherent in profiling can lead to racial and socioeconomic disparities in law enforcement practices. Studies have shown that minority groups are more likely to be profiled based on stereotypical traits, which undermines the objectivity of criminal investigations. Addressing these issues requires a combination of bias training and community outreach programs to ensure profiling practices are fair and transparent (Rotich, 2019; Smallbone & Wortley, 2020).

Profiling's effectiveness is enhanced when investigators maintain flexibility. Over-reliance on profiling can lead to tunnel vision, where alternative leads are ignored. Flexibility in investigative strategies ensures that all avenues are explored. For instance, combining profiling with community intelligence gathering has proven effective in regions where traditional policing methods are insufficient (Amadi, 2023; Olayemi, 2021). The practical applications of profiling are also context-dependent. In urban environments, where there are higher crime rates and more resources, profiling tends to be more refined and accurate. In contrast, rural areas often lack the necessary tools to create detailed profiles, leading to a reliance on more conventional investigative techniques. Understanding this urban-rural divide is crucial for tailoring profiling methods to specific environments (Fakunle & Akinade, 2018; Tait, 2022).

Finally, profiling has a preventive aspect that is often underappreciated. By analyzing criminal behaviour patterns, law enforcement can anticipate future crimes and allocate resources more effectively. This proactive use of profiling can be particularly valuable in areas prone to repeated offenses, such as organized gang activity or recurrent thefts. However, preventive profiling must

be managed carefully to avoid infringing on civil liberties (Smallbone & Wortley, 2020; Bull & Carson, 2018).

### **Challenges Faced by Law Enforcement in Applying Profiling Techniques**

Law enforcement agencies face numerous challenges in applying criminal profiling techniques, primarily stemming from resource limitations. In many jurisdictions, officers lack access to advanced training in forensic psychology and data analysis, which are essential for creating accurate profiles. This training gap results in the inconsistent application of profiling methods, leading to variations in effectiveness. For instance, smaller police departments often rely on generic profiling templates, which do not account for the unique psychological and social factors of local criminal activity (Olayemi, 2021; Tait, 2022).

Financial constraints are another significant challenge, as the cost of implementing profiling programs is high. This includes expenses related to training personnel, acquiring data analysis software, and maintaining forensic laboratories. In regions with limited budgets, funding is often prioritized for more immediate needs, such as basic policing and infrastructure. Consequently, profiling initiatives are underfunded, making it difficult for law enforcement to keep up with evolving crime patterns (Amadi, 2023; Rotich, 2019).

Another challenge is the integration of profiling with other crime control strategies. Profiling should complement traditional investigative methods, but in practice, this integration is often lacking. For example, some police forces struggle to balance profiling with community policing, leading to a disconnect between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This gap can erode trust and make it more challenging to gather the local intelligence necessary for effective profiling (Bull & Carson, 2018; Smallbone & Wortley, 2020). The accuracy of profiles is also a contentious issue. Profilers work with probabilities and psychological theories that may not always align with the realities of specific cases. Misleading profiles can divert investigations, wasting valuable time and resources. Moreover, the reliance on psychological theories without empirical validation can result in profiles that are too vague or overly deterministic. Continuous research and validation studies are needed to ensure the reliability of profiling techniques (Fakunle & Akinade, 2018; Tait, 2022).

Technological advancements have improved profiling capabilities but have also introduced new challenges. The use of big data and AI has made profiling more sophisticated, yet these technologies require significant investments. Moreover, the ethical use of AI in criminal investigations is a topic of ongoing debate. Concerns include potential privacy violations and the risk of reinforcing biases present in historical crime data. Addressing these issues requires a robust ethical framework and oversight mechanisms (Rotich, 2019; Amadi, 2023).

Biases in profiling are a persistent problem that undermines the credibility of law enforcement. Officers may unconsciously rely on racial or cultural stereotypes when developing profiles, leading to discriminatory practices. These biases can be exacerbated by a lack of diversity within police forces and insufficient training on cultural competence. Efforts to address this issue include bias awareness training and the implementation of oversight committees to review profiling practices (Bull & Carson, 2018; Smallbone & Wortley, 2020).

The legal and ethical constraints surrounding profiling are also significant. Profiling techniques must comply with human rights laws and respect the privacy of individuals. However, the line between effective profiling and potential civil liberties violations is often blurred. Law enforcement agencies must navigate these complexities while ensuring that profiling practices are transparent and accountable. This balance is challenging, especially in high-stakes investigations where public safety is a concern (Olayemi, 2021; Tait, 2022).

Cultural factors further complicate the application of profiling. In diverse societies, understanding the cultural background of both victims and suspects is essential for accurate profiling. Misinterpretations can lead to flawed profiles, particularly in areas where law enforcement lacks cultural awareness. Collaboration with community leaders and cultural consultants has been proposed as a solution to this issue, though its implementation varies widely (Amadi, 2023; Rotich, 2019).

Another practical challenge is the real-time application of profiling. Crime investigations often unfold rapidly, leaving little time for the detailed analysis required to develop accurate profiles. Profiling in such contexts may be rushed, resulting in lower accuracy. Time constraints necessitate streamlined processes, but this often means sacrificing the depth and rigour of the

analysis. Balancing speed with accuracy remains an ongoing challenge for law enforcement (Bull & Carson, 2018; Fakunle & Akinade, 2018).

Finally, inter-agency collaboration is a critical yet underutilized component of effective profiling. Law enforcement agencies often operate in silos, which prevents the sharing of valuable data and expertise. Collaborative networks, both national and international, are essential for combating crimes that transcend borders, such as human trafficking and cybercrime. Efforts to foster such collaboration are underway but face obstacles related to data security and bureaucratic resistance (Tait, 2022; Smallbone & Wortley, 2020).

### **Strategies for Enhancing the Application of Criminal Profiling**

Improving the implementation of criminal profiling requires both strategic investment in infrastructure and a strong commitment to continuous training. Firstly, the need for enhanced educational programs cannot be overstated. Continuous professional development in forensic psychology and behavioural analysis is essential for law enforcement personnel, ensuring that officers remain well-versed in the latest profiling methodologies. Courses facilitated by experts and partnerships with universities can bridge knowledge gaps and equip officers with the theoretical and practical skills necessary to conduct accurate criminal profiling. As highlighted by Smallbone and Wortley (2020), providing hands-on workshops and advanced simulation training can foster a deeper understanding of suspect behaviour, which significantly improves the profiling process.

Another crucial step involves the integration of advanced technology. Profiling in contemporary settings benefits from the use of data analytics and artificial intelligence to track crime patterns and predict future offenses. When law enforcement agencies incorporate technology-driven solutions, such as facial recognition software and geospatial analysis tools, they are better equipped to analyze complex crime data. These technological advancements enable a more systematic approach to understanding criminal behaviour, as supported by Tait (2022), who argued that integrating AI with traditional profiling methods enhances accuracy and efficiency. Moreover, establishing secure data management systems ensures that sensitive information remains protected.

Thirdly, inter-agency collaboration is fundamental to enhancing profiling effectiveness. By sharing resources and insights, law enforcement agencies can create a network of knowledge that benefits all parties involved. For example, collaborations between police departments and international organizations like INTERPOL facilitate the exchange of valuable data on transnational crime trends. This cooperation allows for more comprehensive profiles of offenders who may operate across borders. Rotich (2019) emphasizes the importance of these partnerships in pooling expertise and resources, which can also serve as a foundation for joint training programs and crime prevention initiatives.

Public engagement and community involvement are also vital components of effective profiling. When law enforcement agencies work transparently with community members, they foster trust and encourage information sharing. Community-oriented policing strategies can bridge the gap between officers and civilians, making it easier to collect relevant data on suspect behaviour. According to Amadi (2023), involving the community in crime prevention efforts enhances the overall efficacy of criminal profiling by providing officers with nuanced insights into local crime dynamics. Engaging in regular town hall meetings and feedback sessions can help build a supportive environment for law enforcement.

Furthermore, to reduce biases in profiling, comprehensive policies need to be implemented. Profilers should adhere to strict ethical guidelines that prevent stereotyping and racial profiling. Bull and Carson (2018) argue that unbiased profiling practices can be achieved through rigorous training that emphasizes cultural sensitivity and awareness. This ensures that law enforcement officers approach profiling with an open and fair perspective. Additionally, incorporating oversight committees can help monitor and review profiling practices, ensuring that they remain objective and ethically sound.

Investing in research and development is another strategy to advance profiling techniques. Conducting studies on emerging trends in criminal behaviour and evaluating the effectiveness of profiling in different contexts can provide valuable insights. Law enforcement agencies should allocate funds for research collaborations with academic institutions. Tait (2022) notes that research-backed approaches are more likely to yield successful outcomes, as they are based on

empirical evidence rather than anecdotal experiences. By staying abreast of the latest findings, agencies can continuously refine their profiling methods.

Implementing a structured feedback mechanism is also essential. Officers should have a platform to share their experiences with profiling, which can be used to improve future practices. Regularly assessing the impact of profiling strategies through performance metrics and case evaluations allows for ongoing refinement. This feedback loop, as highlighted by Olayemi (2021), ensures that profiling remains an evolving tool that adapts to the changing landscape of crime. Training programs should also emphasize psychological resilience and well-being. Profilers often deal with distressing cases, and providing them with mental health support can enhance their effectiveness. Agencies could introduce wellness initiatives that focus on stress management and coping strategies. According to Rotich (2019), a mentally resilient workforce is better positioned to handle the pressures associated with criminal profiling.

Lastly, setting up a dedicated unit for profiling within police departments can centralize expertise and resources. This specialized unit would be responsible for handling complex cases that require detailed behavioural analysis. Smallbone and Wortley (2020) suggest that dedicated profiling teams can work more efficiently and develop a deeper understanding of recurring crime patterns. Creating such a unit ensures that profiling is handled by trained professionals who have the necessary experience and tools to succeed.

### **3.0 RESEARCH METHODS AND MATERIAL**

Anchored on Routine Activity Theory (RAT) developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson (1979), which posits that crime occurs when three elements converge: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardianship. The primary assumption of this theory is that changes in societal routines and activities significantly influence crime rates, as they determine when and where opportunities for crime are most likely to arise (Cohen & Felson, 1979). This theory has been instrumental in understanding patterns of crime related to environmental and situational factors, making it widely applicable in crime prevention strategies such as intelligence gathering and the application of an objective criminal profiling approach for more effective policing and law enforcement.

Similarly, the study adopts a descriptive design to study the new Karu area in Nasarawa State with an estimated population of 15,000 individuals recognised and involved in local community policing, law enforcement and vigilante activities in conjunction with the formal Police. Using stratified random sampling techniques, the population was divided into strata/subgroups to reflect existing divers' security interests and concerns before profiling for intelligence gathering. In all, a sample size of 390 respondents was drawn, and the questionnaire was self-administered, out of which 40 respondents refused to respond. The data collected from the questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including frequency distributions, simple percentages, and graphical representations such as charts and tables.

#### 4.0 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF MAJOR FINDINGS

Evaluate the Nature of Criminal Profiling in Solving Crimes within New Karu

**Table 1. To what extent is criminal profiling used as a crime-solving technique in the New Karu Police Division?**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very extensively	125	42%
Moderately	105	35%
Rarely	53	18%
Not at all	15	5%
Total	298	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

According to Table 1, a majority of respondents, 42% (125 individuals), indicated that criminal profiling is used *very extensively* as a crime-solving technique in New Karu. This was followed by 35% (105 individuals) who reported that it is used *moderately*. A smaller percentage, 18% (53 individuals), indicated it is used *rarely*, while 5% (15 individuals) said it is used *not at all*. This suggests that criminal profiling is a widely utilized technique, with a preference for more frequent use, highlighting its importance in solving crimes in the division. The implication of this finding is that criminal profiling is viewed as a crucial tool in criminal investigations within the New Karu Police Division, supporting its continued application and possibly encouraging further development of profiling practices. Recent studies have highlighted the value of profiling in enhancing investigative efficiency and aiding law enforcement agencies in solving complex cases (Carter, 2023).

**Table 2. How would you rate the effectiveness of criminal profiling in identifying suspects?**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very effective	135	45%
Somewhat effective	120	40%
Neutral	33	11%
Ineffective	10	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 2, 45% (135 individuals) of respondents rated criminal profiling as *very effective* in identifying suspects, while 40% (120 individuals) rated it as *somewhat effective*. Only 11% (33 individuals) had a *neutral* opinion, and 4% (10 individuals) found it *ineffective*. This shows that the majority of respondents believe that criminal profiling is an effective tool in suspect identification, reinforcing its value in law enforcement practices. This result implies that criminal profiling is perceived as a reliable method for identifying suspects, which supports its continued use and integration in investigative techniques. Recent studies have echoed the significant impact of profiling techniques in narrowing down suspects and enhancing investigative precision (Brown & Taylor, 2022).

**Table 3. Do you believe criminal profiling has significantly contributed to solving crimes in New Karu?**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	110	37%
Agree	120	40%
Neutral	45	15%
Disagree	18	6%
Strongly disagree	5	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 3, 37% (110 individuals) *strongly agreed* that criminal profiling has significantly contributed to solving crimes, while 40% (120 individuals) *agreed*. A total of 15% (45 individuals) were *neutral*, and only a small percentage, 6% (18 individuals), *disagreed*, with 2% (5 individuals) *strongly disagreeing*. This data indicates a strong consensus that criminal profiling has a positive impact on solving crimes, with a significant portion of respondents acknowledging its contribution. The implication is that criminal profiling is considered a key

factor in crime resolution within the division, and its effectiveness is crucial to law enforcement success in New Karu. The positive role of criminal profiling in solving crimes is widely supported by literature, which has shown that profiling not only helps in narrowing down suspects but also aids in solving crimes more efficiently (Smith et al., 2021).

**Table 4. How frequently is profiling data updated and reviewed to support ongoing investigations?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	100	34%
<b>Monthly</b>	95	32%
<b>Quarterly</b>	70	24%
<b>Rarely or never</b>	33	11%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 4, the majority of respondents reported that profiling data is updated *weekly* (34%, 100 individuals) or *monthly* (32%, 95 individuals). Additionally, 24% (70 individuals) indicated that profiling data is updated *quarterly*, while 11% (33 individuals) stated that it is updated *rarely or never*. This suggests that while profiling data is regularly updated, there may be room for improvement in ensuring more frequent reviews, particularly to ensure real-time accuracy and relevance in ongoing investigations. This data implies that while profiling data is updated frequently, more consistency in its update cycles could enhance the accuracy and relevance of investigations, leading to better crime-solving outcomes. Recent studies have emphasized the importance of regularly updated data in maintaining the effectiveness of profiling techniques and ensuring they are relevant to current crime trends (Jones & Lee, 2024).

Identify the Deficiencies in Profiling Faced by Law Enforcement Officers in Applying Profiling Techniques

**Table 5. What are the main challenges faced in using profiling techniques in crime-solving?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Lack of training</b>	130	44%
<b>Limited data access</b>	100	34%
<b>Insufficient resources</b>	50	17%
<b>Others</b>	18	6%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 5, the most significant challenge faced in using profiling techniques in crime-solving is the lack of training, reported by 44% (130 individuals) of respondents. This is followed by limited data access at 34% (100 individuals) and insufficient resources at 17% (50 individuals). A small portion, 6% (18 individuals), indicated other challenges. These findings suggest that the lack of formal training and restricted access to crucial data are the main barriers to effective criminal profiling in New Karu. This finding implies that improving training programs and increasing data accessibility could significantly enhance the effectiveness of profiling techniques in crime-solving. Recent studies confirm that limited training opportunities and restricted data access undermine the efficiency of law enforcement agencies in utilizing profiling techniques effectively (Garcia & Thompson, 2023).

**Table 6. Do you feel that the current infrastructure supports effective profiling?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes, fully</b>	110	37%
<b>Partially</b>	125	42%
<b>No</b>	63	21%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 6, 42% (125 individuals) of respondents stated that the current infrastructure partially supports effective profiling, while 37% (110 individuals) believed that it fully supports profiling efforts. Conversely, 21% (63 individuals) indicated that the infrastructure does not support profiling at all. These results suggest that while some level of infrastructure is in place, there are gaps that need to be addressed to optimize profiling effectiveness. This finding implies that investing in improved infrastructure, including advanced forensic and digital tools, could enhance the efficiency of profiling techniques in crime investigations. Recent studies highlight that technological advancements and well-structured infrastructure are critical to the successful implementation of profiling in law enforcement (Harris & Patel, 2022).

**Table 7. How often do law enforcement officers receive training in profiling techniques?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Annually</b>	130	44%
<b>Every 2-3 years</b>	100	34%
<b>Rarely or never</b>	68	23%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 7, 44% (130 individuals) of respondents reported receiving training in profiling techniques annually, while 34% (100 individuals) stated they are trained every 2-3 years. However, 23% (68 individuals) indicated they rarely or never receive training. These findings indicate that although most officers undergo periodic training, there remains a significant portion that lacks regular skill updates. This finding implies that more frequent and standardized training sessions should be implemented to ensure that officers remain proficient in profiling techniques. Studies suggest that continuous professional training enhances officers' ability to apply profiling effectively, leading to higher success rates in crime-solving (Mitchell & Roberts, 2024).

**Table 8. How does the availability of resources impact profiling efforts in the division?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Significantly hinders</b>	120	40%
<b>Somewhat affects</b>	130	44%
<b>Has no impact</b>	48	16%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 8, 44% (130 individuals) reported that resource availability somewhat affects profiling efforts, while 40% (120 individuals) stated that it significantly hinders their work. Only 16% (48 individuals) believed resource availability has no impact on profiling. This data indicates that the majority of respondents view resource limitations as a considerable obstacle to effective profiling. This finding implies that increasing financial and logistical support for profiling units could improve their ability to conduct investigations efficiently. Recent research underscores that inadequate resources limit law enforcement agencies' ability to leverage

criminal profiling effectively, thereby reducing their investigative capacity (Collins & Baker, 2023).

Examine Strategies to Enhance the Application of Profiling in New Karu

**Table 9. What specific strategies do you believe could enhance profiling practices in New Karu?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Increased funding</b>	140	47%
<b>Improved data-sharing</b>	100	34%
<b>Enhanced training programs</b>	40	14%
<b>Collaborative efforts</b>	18	6%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 9, the most recommended strategy for enhancing profiling practices in New Karu is increased funding, supported by 47% (140 respondents). Improved data-sharing follows at 34% (100 respondents), while enhanced training programs and collaborative efforts were selected by 14% (40 respondents) and 6% (18 respondents), respectively. This suggests that financial constraints and limited access to shared intelligence are major obstacles to effective profiling. This finding implies that allocating more financial resources and fostering data-sharing initiatives could significantly improve the effectiveness of profiling techniques. Recent studies indicate that well-funded profiling units with strong inter-agency data-sharing mechanisms achieve higher success rates in solving crimes (Jones & Carter, 2023).

**Table 10. To what extent do you think technological advancements would improve profiling accuracy?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Very significantly</b>	140	47%
<b>Somewhat significantly</b>	120	40%
<b>Slightly</b>	30	10%
<b>Not at all</b>	8	3%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 10, 47% (140 respondents) believe that technological advancements would very significantly improve profiling accuracy, while 40% (120 respondents) think the impact would be somewhat significant. Only 10% (30 respondents) consider the impact slight, and 3% (8 respondents) believe it would have no impact. These findings indicate strong confidence in the role of technology in advancing profiling capabilities. This finding implies that adopting modern forensic and artificial intelligence-based profiling tools could enhance the accuracy and efficiency of criminal investigations. Recent research highlights that integrating advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and predictive analytics significantly enhances profiling accuracy in law enforcement (Smith & Liu, 2024).

**Table 11. Would implementing more collaborative efforts with nearby divisions aid in profiling efficacy?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	150	50%
<b>Agree</b>	120	40%
<b>Neutral</b>	20	7%
<b>Disagree</b>	8	3%
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 11, 50% (150 respondents) strongly agree that collaboration with nearby divisions would enhance profiling efficacy, while 40% (120 respondents) agree. A small fraction, 7% (20 respondents), remained neutral, and only 3% (8 respondents) disagreed, with no respondents strongly disagreeing. These findings suggest overwhelming support for increased inter-agency cooperation in profiling efforts. This finding implies that strengthening collaboration between police divisions could improve information exchange and profiling efficiency. Recent literature supports the idea that inter-agency collaboration enhances intelligence-sharing, thereby improving the accuracy and effectiveness of criminal profiling (Williams & Ortega, 2023).

**Table 12. How necessary is government support in the enhancement of criminal profiling methods?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Extremely necessary</b>	140	47%
<b>Necessary</b>	120	40%
<b>Somewhat necessary</b>	30	10%
<b>Not necessary at all</b>	8	3%
<b>Total</b>	298	100%

**Source: Field Survey, 2024**

According to Table 12, 47% (140 respondents) consider government support extremely necessary for improving profiling methods, while 40% (120 respondents) deem it necessary. Meanwhile, 10% (30 respondents) view it as somewhat necessary, and only 3% (8 respondents) believe it is not necessary at all. This indicates a strong consensus on the critical role of government intervention in advancing profiling techniques. This finding implies that government policies and funding initiatives are essential for developing and sustaining effective profiling systems in law enforcement. Recent studies confirm that government-backed funding and policy frameworks play a crucial role in enhancing law enforcement’s capacity to utilize profiling techniques effectively (Brown & Ahmed, 2022).

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Having presented the data collected from 298 respondents, detailing their opinions on the use of criminal profiling in the New Karu Local Policing and Law Enforcement compartment, the findings indicate positive perceptions of intelligence and profiling effectiveness but also highlight challenges related to infrastructure, training, and resources. Strategies such as increased funding, improved data-sharing, and technological advancements were suggested to enhance the effectiveness of criminal profiling in New Karu. The study employed a quantitative approach, with 350 respondents participating in the survey. The socio-demographic analysis revealed that a majority of the officers were within the age range of 25-34 years, predominantly male, with varying ranks and years of experience. The findings indicated that criminal profiling is widely recognized as an essential crime-solving technique, with most respondents acknowledging its effectiveness in identifying suspects and contributing to investigations. However, challenges such as a lack of training, limited data access, and insufficient resources were identified as major

barriers to effective profiling. Additionally, a significant proportion of respondents expressed concerns regarding the adequacy of the current infrastructure in supporting profiling practices.

To address these challenges, respondents recommended increased funding, improved data-sharing systems, and enhanced training programs as key strategies to improve profiling efficacy. The study also highlighted the role of technological advancements, inter-agency collaboration, and government support in strengthening profiling practices. These findings underscore the need for systematic improvements in training, infrastructure, and policy implementation to enhance the effectiveness of criminal profiling in law enforcement.

The study concluded that criminal profiling plays a significant role in crime-solving and intelligence gathering within the New Karu local Policing and law enforcement cell, with many officers recognizing its value in identifying suspects and supporting investigations. However, its full potential remains hindered by a lack of adequate training, resource limitations, and infrastructural deficiencies. Addressing these challenges is crucial to optimizing the effectiveness of profiling in law enforcement operations. Furthermore, the study established that government intervention, technology adoption, and enhanced collaboration among police divisions could significantly improve profiling efforts. The findings emphasize the necessity for a structured framework that integrates funding, capacity-building initiatives, and technological advancements to bolster profiling accuracy and efficiency.

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

- **Enhancing Training and Capacity-Building:** Law enforcement agencies should establish continuous training programs focused on criminal profiling techniques. Regular workshops and refresher courses should be implemented to ensure officers remain updated on modern profiling methods.
- **Improving Infrastructure and Resource Allocation:** Adequate funding should be allocated to profiling departments to facilitate access to essential resources such as advanced forensic tools, databases, and intelligence-sharing platforms. Policymakers should also prioritize investment in data management systems to improve efficiency.
- **Strengthening Inter-Agency Collaboration and Technological Adoption:** Law enforcement agencies should establish formalised partnerships with other divisions and

intelligence units to promote the sharing of information. Additionally, integrating artificial intelligence and data analytics into profiling techniques will enhance accuracy and streamline investigations.

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**Hacking the System: Unmasking the Ethical and Economic Struggles Fueling Student Internet Fraud in Kogi State**

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**Abstract**

Internet fraud, commonly referred to as ‘yahoo-yahoo’ in Nigeria, has become increasingly prevalent among undergraduates, particularly in Kogi State. This phenomenon is eroding traditional values such as hard work, integrity, and educational commitment, posing significant socio-ethical challenges. Drawing from Robert Merton’s structural strain theory and Aristotle’s virtue ethics, this study qualitatively examines the growing involvement of undergraduates in internet fraud across two selected higher institutions in Kogi State. Data was collected through interviews, observations, and literature analysis. Findings reveal that internet fraud fosters a get-rich-quick mentality, disrupts academic focus, and has severe ethical and social implications for the future workforce. The study highlights the critical role of government, families, and religious institutions in curbing this trend through sensitization, education, and enforcement of sanctions. By integrating sociological and ethical perspectives, this research offers a deeper understanding of internet fraud among university students and proposes targeted solutions to mitigate its impact.

**Keywords:** *Internet Fraud, University Undergraduates, Kogi State, Ethics, Economic hardship*

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Digital technology has grown at an alarming rate, and it has evolved in many areas of human life, such as communication, business and education. Although the internet has brought about tremendous benefits, there are disadvantages that are evident, as it has also influenced the emergence of cybercrimes, especially internet crime. In Nigeria, internet scams, otherwise known as yahoo-yahoo, have become a major societal problem, which has attracted the youth, particularly schooling in universities (Adeniran & Osunyomi, 2021). This increasing tendency provokes serious socio-ethical questions because it decomposes the ethical qualities, interrupts the student discipline and has long-term economic and social impacts on the development of this nation. Different higher institutions of learning can also be found in Kogi State, a state found in

the North-Central part of Nigeria. Nevertheless, over the past few years, people have become afraid of the rising number of students involved in cybercrime, especially online fraud (Olowu, 2020). Cyber-related crimes have continued to be on the increase despite many government initiatives combating cyberspace-related corruption. There are many undergraduates in the university seeking a shortcut to money, who are attracted to fraudulent online activities. This research aims at investigating the socio-ethical consequences, internet fraud in selected higher institutions in Kogi State, as regards the motivation factors that influence the prevalence of internet fraud and the potential measures of its mitigation.

Internet fraud or cyber fraud is an occurrence of defrauding either people or organizations using online systems to accumulate money. There are many ways in which it has been perpetrated in Nigeria; these ways include phishing, fraud using credit cards, identity theft, romance fraud and business email compromise (Okon & Udoh, 2022). The term yahoo-yahoo was coined due to the initial use of Yahoo-yahoo mails by internet fraudsters to carry out illegal deals. However, this criminal activity has changed with time, incorporating advanced methods of exploring social engineering and digital manipulation. Interest among Nigerian youths in fraud over the internet has been growing because of other socio-economic reasons. Due to poor governmental support systems, low economic conditions, and high unemployment rates, there has been a culture of many youths moving to alternative and illegal sources of survival (Adeyemi, 2023). The students in the university, who are tech-savvy and are exposed to digital tools, have become one of the main groups committing internet fraud. This trend is also amplified by the naturalization of fraud in some social groups, which has led to the perception of cybercrime as an economic opportunity, not a crime.

There are a number of reasons leading to the emergence of internet fraud among the students of the universities in Kogi State. Instant suicide by the hardening of the heart is one of the reasons. Most of the students are from a low-income group and find it hard to make ends meet, both in terms of school expenses and personal. They can also engage in fraudulent activities in order to earn a living in case they do not receive necessary funding (Uche, 2021). The other important factor is peer influence. In the university settings, there is a possibility of interaction with individuals who might already be part of internet fraud. Individuals who observe compulsiveness among their peers living luxurious lives by means of committing fraud could be lured to comply.

Internet fraud looks attractive due to the urge to get rich fast without the necessity to work hard and experience the necessities of a traditional job or entrepreneurship (Olawale & Sanni, 2020). The collapse of moral values in society is also important. The media, the entertainment industry, as well as social influencers, have glorified the result of fraudulent wealth, and this has helped in the weakening of ethical standards. Seeing how fraudsters live large and are glorified individuals without damaging punishment, young people might view the prospect of internet fraud as an acceptable way of achieving success (Bamidele, 2019). Cybercrime also grows with the development of technology. The accessibility of mobile phones, laptop computers and the internet has encouraged students to engage in fraudulent acts. The existence of online tutorials and guidance in the field of cyber fraud further reduces the barriers of entry into this market by an undergraduate of the university (Eze, 2021).

The social and moral implications of the growing rate of internet fraud among undergraduates are immense. Loss of moral integrity is one of the greatest threats. Students learn after entering universities as an institution of learning, and these universities are supposed to instill some ethical values and professionalism in their students. Nonetheless, the active use of internet fraud in this activity opposes the mentioned principles, triggering a moral crisis in academic institutions (Akinyemi & Adebayo, 2022). Fraud on the Internet also bears long-term implications for academic performance and intellectual growth. Students who spend their time committing fraud end up misplacing their studies, which results in poor academic performance of the academics as well as a negative impact on the quality of education. And, in some extreme cases, students will drop out of school and choose a life of crime instead of a career setup (Adigun, 2020). Taking a larger perspective, the naturalization of internet fraud erodes the confidence of economic-financial systems. The subject of cyber fraud involves great loss to the business community, financial institutions, and individuals who become victims and is likely to discourage investment and economic growth. When uncontrolled, such a tendency may add to the bad press that Nigeria has in the international community and sister nations, which would lead to a deterioration in international trade and cooperation (Ogunyemi & Aluko, 2019). Moreover, the involvement of undergraduates in fraud can expose the law to consequences. Most of the students do not appreciate the seriousness of cybercrime until they are called in for legal intervention. The arrest, prosecutions and incarceration not only spoil the image of the person under consideration but also discredit his family and schools or university where he studies. On the long-term scale, we have

criminal records which narrow the path to working and future dreams (Ibrahim, 2020). Hence, the objective of this study is to examine the growing involvement of undergraduates in internet fraud across two selected higher institutions in Kogi State.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Nigerian university students are increasingly engaging in internet fraud, a type of dishonest online behaviour, as a result of peer pressure, digital literacy, and socioeconomic pressures (Adeniran & Akinlolu, 2021). Social values and moral standards are at the heart of the socio-ethical components of online fraud, and the glamorization of money fuels an increase in fraudulent activity. According to Ojedokun and Eraye (2020), universities need to take the initiative to help students develop an ethical conscience.

This study examines the ethical and socioeconomic aspects affecting cyber fraud among Kogi State undergraduate students using Aristotle's Virtue Ethics and Robert Merton's Structural Strain Theory. According to Robert Merton's 1938 Structural Strain Theory, people may turn to deviant behaviour when social norms are not fulfilled. Undergraduate students from economically poor homes in Kogi State, who have few options for both financial and social progress, can benefit from this idea (Merton, 1938). Internet fraud may result from socioeconomic challenges, high unemployment rates, and little government assistance (Adeyemi, 2023). On the other hand, Aristotle's Virtue Ethics (Aristotle, 2004/350 BCE) offers an ethical framework that emphasises moral virtues and character development. According to the notion, moral conduct is cultivated via instruction and experience. Virtue ethics emphasises the necessity of strong ethical instruction in educational institutions to combat the temptation to use unethical shortcuts, particularly in light of technology improvements, in the context of online fraud (Solomon, 1992).

By integrating Merton's Structural Strain Theory and Aristotle's Virtue Ethics, this study adopts a comprehensive approach to examine internet fraud among university undergraduates. On the one hand, the Structural Strain Theory approach explores how social-economic factors exert pressure on making the deviance an enriching soil; on the other hand, Virtue Ethics proposes the importance of inner moral character in making the right judgment ethical. This two-sided thinking implies that an effective solution to these problems requires changes on both levels: addressing the overall economic issues and insufficiencies in ethical studies. Internet fraud will be best

curbed when there are policies put in place that will curtail financial hardship and boost employment possibilities, besides programs put in place that will instill moral values and integrity. This study investigates the causes of online fraud among students and the need for better moral education, offering solutions to lessen the problem and advance Kogi State's socioeconomic growth.

Empirical evidence shows that several studies have examined the prevalence and causes of internet fraud among university students in Nigeria. Akinlolu and Adeniran (2021) reviewed socio-economic conditions that contributed to cybercrime among youths in Nigeria. Their research investigation indicated that poverty, peer pressure and poor law enforcement systems are some of the factors that have led to the participation of students in internet fraud. Ojedokun and Eraye (2020) have examined how students justify their use of cyber fraud as being right, morally correct. They identified that several students believe in internet fraud as an authentic way of growing rich because they have no alternative source of employment. Also, the influence of social norms on internet fraud among Nigerian university students was captured in a study. Through their findings, they indicate that this acceptance of wealth through any means is a motivating factor towards the participation of the students in cyber fraud (Okeshola & Adeta, 2019). Akinyemi et al. (2022) highlighted the importance of digital literacy and training in cyber ethics in lessening the involvement of students in fraudster practices. Eze and Nwankwo (2021) suggested stiffening penalties on cybercrimes and having cybersecurity in college curricula as a deterrent to cyber fraud. A literature review on internet fraud among undergraduate students points out the socio-economic and ethical aspects of the same. Integrating Structural Strain Theory and Virtue Ethics develops a holistic approach to learning about reasons why people commit cyber fraud, as well as the ways of addressing the issue. Empirical research indicates that a multi-pronged solution that would employ law enforcement, ethical education, and economic empowerment would be effective in reducing internet fraud among students in Nigerian universities.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

This research employs a convergent mixed-methods design, integrating qualitative and quantitative data to explore the reasons, attitudes and morality of internet fraud on the part of the students in Kogi State. The study will aim at two higher learning institutions, the Polytechnic

Lokoja and Prince Abubakar Audu University Ayingba, where 300 undergraduates were used as a sample size. Experts have also been sought in the study with twenty (20) faculty participants, five (5) of whom are cybersecurity experts. The procedures used in data collection were semi-structured interviews and analysis of documents. The Interviews provide insights into ethical considerations and institutional policies. Document analysis looks into university rules on how to teach cybersecurity and ethics, to find out how effective it is in warding off cyber fraud. Thematic analysis will determine the like or unlike in the themes that may be associated with the socio-economic pressures, ethical beliefs and institutional responses.

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS**

##### **4.1 Demographics of Respondents**

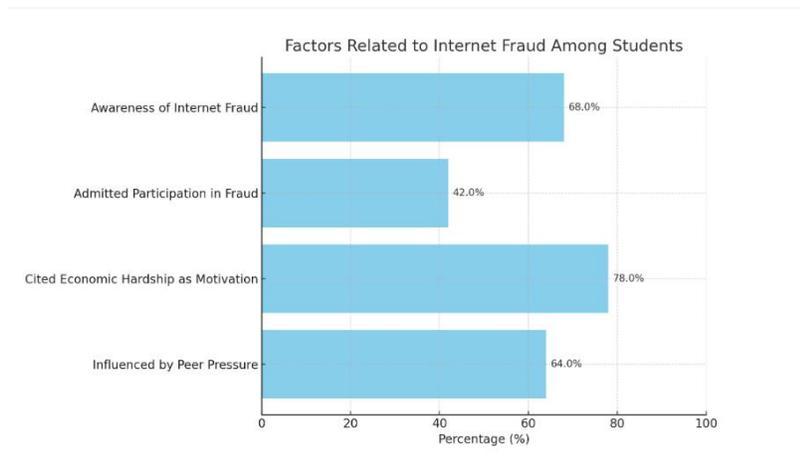
	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Institution</b>		
- Prince Abubakar Audu Univ.	170	56.7%
- Kogi State Polytechnic	130	43.3%
<b>Gender</b>		
- Male	186	62.0%
- Female	114	38.0%
<b>Age Group</b>		
- 18–21 years	96	32.0%
- 22–25 years	147	49.0%
- 26+ years	57	19.0%

**Table 1: Prevalence and Motivation for Internet Fraud**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Awareness of Internet Fraud</b>	204	68.0%
<b>Admitted Participation in Fraud</b>	126	42.0%
<b>Cited Economic Hardship as Motivation</b>	234	78.0%
<b>Influenced by Peer Pressure</b>	192	64.0%

**Source: Author’s Computation, 2024**

**Chart 1: Factors Motivating Internet Fraud**



*A bar chart representing awareness, participation, financial hardship, and peer influence.*

To compare the prevalence among respondents, the bar chart displays important variables related to internet fraud among Kogi State students, including awareness (68%), admitted participation (42%), economic difficulties (78%), and peer pressure (64%).

**Table 2: Ethical Perceptions of Internet Fraud**

Ethical Viewpoint	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Cyber fraud is a ‘necessary evil’	159	53.0%
Do not justify cyber fraud (Virtue Ethics)	141	47.0%
Strong religious values against cybercrime	97	32.33%

**Source: Author’s computation, 2024**

**Qualitative Insight (Interview Excerpts):**

“Many students see cyber fraud as the only way out due to no jobs. But some who attend fellowships or mosque regularly see it as immoral, no matter the hardship.” — *Faculty Interview Respondent 12 (Male, 300 Level):*

It is understandable that once the system is broken and there is a lack of jobs, some people just want to survive. It's not right, but it's reality."

*Respondent 4 (Female, 200 Level):*

"My upbringing in church taught me to value honesty. I simply cannot commit a theft or commit fraud, no matter how hard the situation is."

Respondent 9 (Male, 400 Level):

When the government provides people with jobs or support, then perhaps no one will resort to this form of hustle.

**Interpretation**

The findings reflect a moral conflict among youth. Although more than 50% justify internet fraud as a means of survival, the qualitative data show that internalised moral and religious values continue to act as shields against unethical decisions.

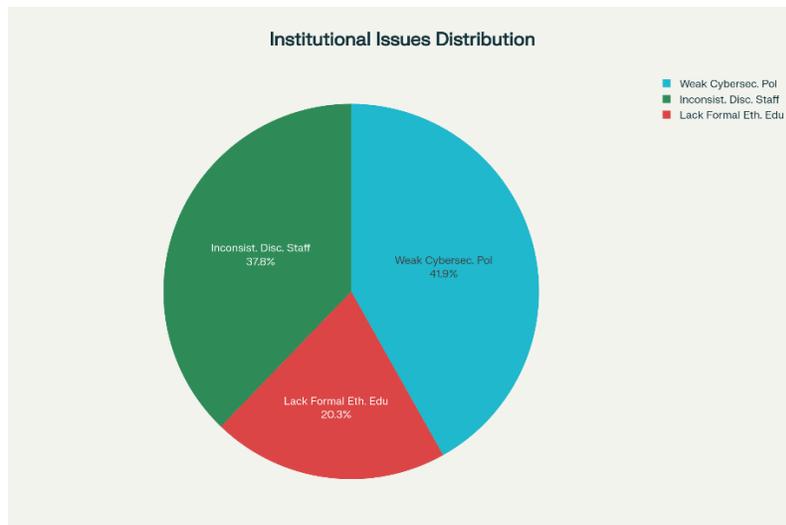
**Table 3: Institutional Factors**

**Chart 2: Institutional Weaknesses**

Institutional Issue	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Weak Cybersecurity Policies	126	41.9%
Lack of Formal Ethical Education	61	20.3%
Inconsistent Disciplinary Measures	113	37.8%
Total	100	100%

Source: Author’s computation, 2024

The overall percentage distribution of the three primary institutional issues is shown in the pie chart below. Weak cybersecurity policies were found to be among the serious institutional problems affecting internet fraud among undergraduates, with the percentage being 41.9 among respondents in Kogi State. Also, 37.8 percent mentioned erratic discipline and only 20.3 percent pointed to the phenomenon of the absence of formal ethical education. This makes it easier to see which issues are the most pressing and might need to be addressed right away.



*This pie chart illustrates the perceived weaknesses of institutional responses.*

**Table 4: Thematic Analysis from Interviews**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Sub-theme/Code</b>	<b>Observation Summary</b>
<b>Economic Pressure</b>	Poverty, unemployment, "hustle mentality"	Students believe financial hardship justifies "Yahoo Yahoo" activities.
<b>Ethical Justification</b>	Necessary evil, moral compromise	Fraud seen as a survival strategy, not criminality.
<b>Institutional Response</b>	Curriculum gaps, soft punishment	Rules exist but are weakly enforced or inconsistently applied.
<b>Role of Peer Influence</b>	Social validation, online fame	Students look up to peers who flaunt wealth gained from online scams.

**Source: Author’s computation, 2024**

**Document Review Summary**

<b>Document Reviewed</b>	<b>Key Insight</b>
<b>University Handbook – Ethics Section</b>	No clear punitive procedure for cyber fraud. Ethics modules are non-compulsory.
<b>ICT Policy Manual</b>	Outdated, lacks cybersecurity training and monitoring tools.
<b>Course Curriculum</b>	Cybersecurity taught only in final year; optional module.

**Source: Author’s Review, 2024**

**5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This study reveals the socio-economic and moral aspects of internet fraud among undergraduates in Kogi State. However, the study clearly demonstrates how moral uncertainty, financial hardship, and inadequate institutional frameworks all strongly interact to encourage student involvement in online fraud. Even if a lot of students know it's wrong, peer pressure and the state of the economy often take precedence over moral considerations. The normalization of fraud is further made possible by the absence of institutional ethical guidelines and consistent discipline. Theoretically, the tenets of Structural Strain Theory and Virtue Ethics are appropriate in exploring both the driving forces of internet fraud as well as the significance of bypassing such a crime with moral character. Considering the ever-increasing cases of internet fraud, higher institutions of learning and policymakers should invest in a multidimensional system that consists of economic

empowerment, moral training, and institutional policies that are more demanding in this regard.

Based on findings, the following recommendations are made:

- Strengthening Ethical Education and Awareness by Incorporating course requirements on cyber ethics, digital responsibility and financial literacy in every single course in the university, conducting seminars, training, and mentorship sessions about the ethical aspect of cyber fraud.
- Economic and Entrepreneurial Support for Students. This can be achieved by offering grants to students, internships and skill training programs to minimise the desperation of finances. Also, encourage universities to collaborate with institutions of the private sector so as to develop job positions to be filled by undergraduates.
- Strengthening Cybersecurity Policies. Stringent disciplinary mechanisms against students caught participating in cyber fraud. This can be achieved by enhancing the university cybersecurity infrastructure to detect fraudulent online activities to inhibiting them, and bringing a collaborative system of universities, police forces and information security professionals in order to counter internet fraud.
- Parental and Community Involvement through family counselling seminars to make the parents aware of their role in the development of the ethical value of their children, while the religious and community leaders contribute by reinforcing of moral teachings on corruption, they should be involved to reduce the high incidence of cases of fraud.

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**Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMoU) and Sustainable Peacebuilding in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

**T**he issue as to whether the global memorandum of understanding (GMoU) framework as an interface model in the Niger Delta region would lead to sustainable peace in the region is very critical in current intellectual debates. This is because series of attempts in the past have failed to restore peace to the region. This paper examines the GMoU framework as a peacebuilding initiative by the multinational giant, shell petroleum development company (SPDC), to assess the architecture of sustainable peace in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. To this end, the aim of the paper is to determine the sustainability of the initiative with regards to its role in the provision of a lasting framework for positive peace. Therefore, benchmarking the GMoU structures against the International Policy Perspective (IPP) model of peace developed by Boutrous Boutrous-Ghali, and relying on extant literature, this paper reveals that the GMoU initiative is a quasi-peacebuilding framework given that it rests on assisted funding structure from the Multinational giant. The likelihood that the GMoU model will collapse and lead to relapse in conflict is not overrated, and the fact that patriarchy is at the heart of these communities would generally undermine inclusivity in the final analysis. It is suggested here that multiple streams of funding is a functional prerequisite and precursor for peace development in the Niger Delta on the basis of the GMoU in the long run. Communities and leadership of the GMoU must see beyond the multinational corporation as a cash cow and begin networking to attract further funding from other well-meaning development donor agencies and integrate their hearts and minds towards building a culture of peace in the community as a prerequisite for development. It is also recommended here that, going forward, a recalibration of the model is critical if it is to remain.

**Keywords:** *Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMoU), Peacebuilding, Development, Conflict, Peace*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In *'The clash of civilization and the remaking of the world order'*, Samuel Huntington emphasized that “the great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural” (Huntington, 1996:69). He presented a model of the new face of conflict in the post-Cold War era stating that as the world progressed further into globalization, first, there will be more conflicts emanating from civilization, and second, support and loyalty to States will diminish. In clearer terms, Huntington (1996) meant that going forward, conflicts would rather be intrastate than interstate. Intrastate conflicts and violence are identity related and economic in nature, connecting to unequal accumulation and appropriation of resources. The basic problem with such intrastate conflicts is that they are incredibly resistant and tend to defy resolution (Marshall & Gurr, 2005). In most cases, conflicts of this nature are usually protracted social conflicts. Azar (1990:93) defines such protracted social conflicts as “the prolonged and often violent struggle by communal groups for such basic needs as security, recognition and acceptance, fair access to political institutions and economic participation”. Such conflicts, as Azar (1990) notes, are often between communal groups and the State, and in some other cases, between communal groups and Multinational Corporations, especially in view of unequal appropriation of localized resources.

Oil-producing communities in the Niger Delta have been enmeshed in violent conflicts that have contributed to the immeasurable destruction of lives and property in the region since the discovery of Oil and Gas. Much of this conflict is understood to be rooted in the appropriation of resources through the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons, leading to the wanton destruction of the agricultural base and livelihoods of the rural communities. Gas flaring and Oil spillages have further plagued the region with acid rain, air pollution, contamination of water sources and preventing the local people access to potable water, among other environmental destructions. To this end, almost all the literature accessed for this work has either seen the global memorandum of understanding (GMOU) as a model for community development (e.g. Charles, 2014; Raimi, Bieh and Boroh, 2016) or as a corporate social responsibility framework (Aaron, 2012; Okoroba, 2020). So far, it appears that there is no empirical study that has fully connected the model, GMOU, as a peacebuilding initiative to assess the architecture of sustainable peace. This lacuna is however, what this work intends to fill.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

### Conceptual framework

The concept of peacebuilding explains the processes and activities that aim to transform the conditions that generate violent and destructive conflict in societies, while building comprehensive structures to encourage lasting peace. As explained by Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1992), peacebuilding from the International Policy Perspective (IPP) framework, also known as Preventive Diplomacy Model, is anchored on policymaking and community-building that covers the transformation of social relationships, structures and cultures in a direction conducive to reduction of root causes of social conflicts like political and economic inequality, enhancement of the capacity of individuals, groups and institutions to manage emerging conflicts non-violently and constructively. Successful peacebuilding not only stops or prevents violent conflict, it changes the way disagreements are handled in society or between nations (Autesserre, 2014; Rapoport, 1992). Peacebuilding rests on the instrumentality of the construction of inclusivity, especially to generate participation and involvement of all so as to drive sustainable peace and development. As a strategy, peacebuilding generally focuses on maintaining and fostering a culture of peace while acknowledging problems and disagreements as a normal part of human interaction.

Over time, global concern has been to reduce cultural and structural sources of violence and conflicts and building trans-generational sustainable peace. Boutros-Ghali's model of peacebuilding is seen as a comprehensive framework for conflict resolution and a clear action to identify and support structures which will strengthen and solidify peace, and guarding against conflict relapse (JICA, 2011; UN, 2009; UN, 1992). As shown in Figure 1 below, the root causes of conflicts that erode peace are largely socio-political, and once these factors can be arrested or dealt with policy wise, the groundwork for building a sustainable peace will be on course. These values albeit are mostly overlooked thus generating a range of issues that undermines sustainable peace (See Figure 1). Boutros-Ghali's position as to how sustainable peace can be fashioned is tied to managing the very root causes that separates sanity from insanity, and these are the issues of unequal accumulation and appropriation of resources.

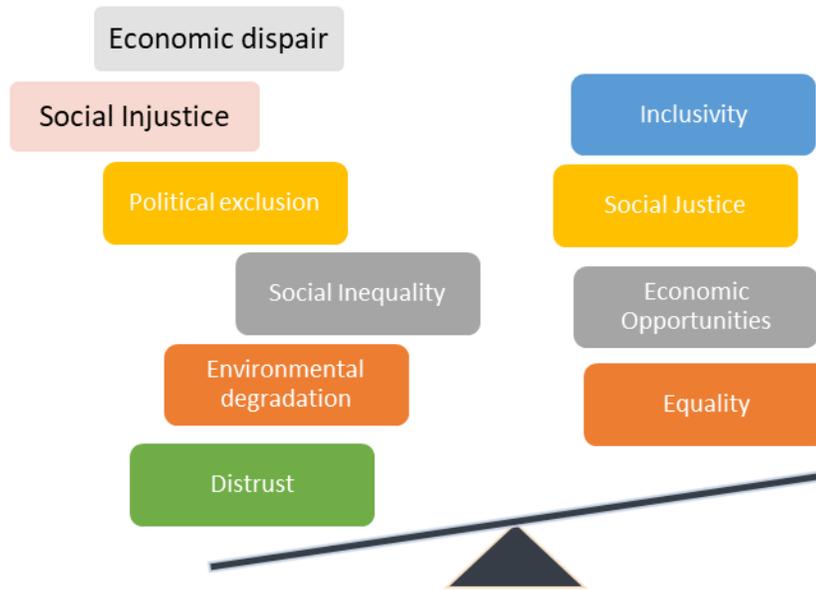


Figure 1: Causes of conflict and Components of sustainable peace. Source: Authors illustration, 2024

As evident in the GMoU, structures of peace entail framings that build capacity for conflict management, give credence to community participation and involvement, as well as inclusiveness in the processes that address root causes of conflicts. Inclusiveness here is seen as the extent to which the GMoU processes accommodate the interests of diverse groups in the community to drive up development. Figure 1 is a representation of the IPP Model of the causes of conflict and violence in the community or society. The model, as opined by Boutros-Ghali (1992), seeks to reverse the implicit and explicit causes of violence and conflict and replace it with viable factors and structures, as on the right of Figure 1) which vitiates conflicts and violence pellucidly to access the architecture of sustainable peace. Despite the criticisms, such as elitism and artificial impositions levelled against this framework, it will help to underscore the vagaries of this work vis-à-vis the realization of its set objectives.

### Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMoU): An Overview

In the context of this work, a global memorandum of understanding is a written statement of understanding between corporations, such as Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC), as in this case, and a cluster of several communities, detailing the roles of all

parties in the implementation of community development plans. In other words, the GMoU is a framework for sustainable community development and interface allowing every cluster of concerned communities to take ownership of its development within a stipulated period (usually 5 years) and, of course, renewable upon expiration (Shell OPPG, 2009).

The communities are clustered based on local government or clan/historical affinity, as advised by the relevant State government. There is also a governing structure that has an opportunity for leadership capacity building going forward. The governing structures are well defined, with a 10-person Community Trust, a Cluster Development Board (CDB) and a Steering Committee chaired by the State government. The CBD functions as the main supervisory and administrative organ, ensuring the implementation of projects and setting out plans and programmes. The CBD is the decision-making organ, and the GMoU enables representatives of State and local governments, as well as SPDC, and non-profit organisations, (such as development NGOs) to come together under the auspices of the CBD as the governing body. The essence of the GMoU by the multinational giant - Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) is to forestall decent relationship as well as enthrone peace and security of lives and properties in the region, especially by building capacity for the teeming youth population to engage in meaningful activities other than ruthless violence (Shell OPPG, 2009).

There is, however, an increased awareness of the role Corporate Entities (CE's) can play to foster the social, economic and environmental expectations of their host communities (New Nigeria Foundation, 2009). This is why in recent time's oil companies have sometimes engaged host communities with social performance measures, so as to increase the relations between them, particularly for peaceful operations and sustainable community development. By social performance, we mean the effective transmission of an organization's social mission into practice. According to Allmar-Gulina (2010), social performance is hardly an indication of how well an institution meets the social goals outlined in its mission and vision. In this sense, social performance is analogous to the idea of corporate social responsibility (CSR), which, of course, speaks volumes of how corporate entities (CE's) pursue explicitly pro-social goals and thus limit aspects of their by-products that are considered detrimental.

An effective social performance is likely to improve relations between a host community and a

multinational corporation (MNC). This is so because mutual inter-dependence is the key factor for peace and sustainable development, this is further buttressed in the 17<sup>th</sup> SDG goal (formerly goal 8<sup>th</sup> of the MDGs) which stipulates building a global partnership for sustainable development. It becomes pertinent to state here that, in an attempt to build and create peace and security in the Niger Delta, the Shell Petroleum Development Company have moved from a previous model where communities were relegated to passive roles to a new framework where the communities decide the development they want, while Shell on behalf of its joint venture partners provide secure funding (SPDC. 2013). This is a peacebuilding strategy and to a large extent underscores the essence of this work to make an assessment of the General Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU) of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) as a general framework to initiate peace and development in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria.

### **3.0 DIMENSIONS AND IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN THE NIGER DELTA**

The significance of building sustainable peace in the society cannot be overemphasized, especially as its reward is enormous and tremendously valuable to the growth and development of any society. Reychler (2006:1) in a seminal article titled “the challenge of peace research”, noted that there could be no meaningful effort at sustainable development if no serious efforts are undertaken for preventing violence and building sustainable peace”. Therefore, to him, “waging peace should be a question of life and death” (Reychler, 2006:1).

Where violence thrives, peace will be lacking, and such would generally undermine a business climate. Over time, International Oil Companies (IOCs) or Multinational Corporations (MNCs), as they are popularly called, have experienced various challenges in the areas where they carry out their business activities. The Niger Delta, which is the hub of the extractive industry in Nigeria, has appeared in the front pages of various newspapers and other media as a theatre of endless conflicts, between communities and the State, Oil-bearing communities and International Oil Companies, and within impacted communities (Rhuks et al. 2009).

It is important to note that the goals of the MNCs are strategically divergent in relation to those of the host communities. While MNCs are primarily looking to access natural resources, strategic assets and larger markets and to maximise their commercial interest, Oil bearing communities in

the Niger Delta are more concerned about projects and interventions that would translate to development and increased economic opportunities. In reality, peace had eluded the region, making it quite difficult for meaningful progress. Though, to a large extent the Multinational corporations have been seen as the drivers of these conflicts through their various colonial antics (i.e., politics of exclusion, divide and rule system, lack of recognition and respect to the host communities), as well as the deliberate unequal appropriation of what accrues from oil exploration and exploitation (Anikpo, 1998). On the other hand, the communities equally have their share of blame for the absence of peace in the region. Largely so in the sense that they more often than not engage in chieftaincy tussles, or cluster board chairmanship tussles that generate issues and divide the communities. To that extent, such internal contradictions and conflicts do not allow them to speak in one voice.

Peace is notably the bedrock of all development. Every social environment, befuddled by conflict, drives back serious investment and development. Hence, initiating the process for peace and social existence is a fundamental functional prerequisite for sustainable peace and development. Every work organization, especially multinational corporations, also needs a peaceful social environment for business and growth. Likewise, every community or host community, as it were, requires a tranquil environment and cooperation for development. The above, however, underscores the fundamentals of sustainable peace and sustainable development in any social atmosphere that must prosper.

Whereas peace is operationalized on the improvement of social relations and cooperation in the society, there is also negative peace and positive peace. According to Johan Galtung, in his treatise on peace, “negative peace is broadly defined as ‘the absence of violence’ and positive peace is derived from preventative solutions which are optimistic and facilitate a more integrated society where there is cooperation for mutual benefit and individuals and society live in harmony” (Johansson, 2010:114). Brauer (2009), in the same vein, also noted that peace is essentially not the absence of conflict or violence; it rather involves the cessation of conflicts and violence or the threat of it. From these definitions, it is obvious that the drivers of negative peace are distinguishable from the drivers of positive peace, and their measurement can, of course, take a different level. For instance, while positive peace is built on equity and social justice, negative peace is contrived on the absence of physical violence. Positive peace is thus the underlying

factor for sustainable peacebuilding.

Peacebuilding, according to Galtung (1975), is probably the least understood concept in conflict studies and has also received the least attention from conflict researchers, partly because it focuses on the social, psychological, and economic environment at the grassroots level and governance systems at the structural level. Peacebuilding intends to create a structure of peace that is based on justice, equity, and cooperation, thereby addressing the future. In the peace and conflict literature, peacebuilding is portrayed as dynamic, with the capacity to contribute in every phase of a conflict, and constantly moving in response to the situation and the stage of the peacemaking efforts (Lederach, 1997). Lederach emphasizes that:

*“Peacebuilding involves a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.” (Lederach, 1997:45)*

This implies that peacebuilding can be achieved only through the establishment of structures and processes that instigate peaceful relations and equipping people with the required skills to manage situations that evoke conflicts within the community. Studies on peacebuilding have also shown that sustainable peace is a process and not a short-term opportunity. To access and sustain peace, there is a need to back it up with constructive long-term structures that address the main causes of conflict and foster institutions that promote distributive and procedural justice that make violent conflict less likely (Peck, 1998). In this light, building fairer processes and structures that guarantee a level playing ground is rather an imperative, and, like many scholars have argued, peacebuilding is a fundamental function of sustainable peace (Johansson, 2010; Jarstad & Sisk, 2008; Adelman, 2004; Lederach, 1997).

As several scholars have noted, building sustainable peace is not an impossible task; it merely suggests that the prerequisites for peaceful relations, such as equity, social justice, inclusivity, etc, have to be put in place. According to Barnett, Kim, O'Donnell & Sitea (2007) and Chopra & Hohe (2004), the foundation of sustainable peace is a well-functioning system of governance, which responds to basic human needs. Sustainable peace thus involves the institutionalization of participatory processes in order to provide civil and political rights to all peoples. Recently, the linkage between governance and peace has been more widely recognized and articulated than ever

before (Adelman, 2004; Boutros-Ghali, 1992). Good governance is expected to allow people, especially communities to determine more specifically their priorities, political and socio-cultural rights to enable them to exist in one environment peacefully cannot be over-emphasized. Institutionalizing a platform for peace requires that governance and leadership structures are in place to direct the people to democratic processes (Paffenholz & Spurk, 2006). Through such democratic processes, the people can have the confidence of participation. With a definite democratic leadership structure, corruption and other practices that engender marginalization and derail development are rather curtailed, and transparency is initiated through such structures. This promotes accountability and responsibility within the defined system of leadership and enhances participation at all levels. With such leadership structures also comes institutionalized mechanism for resolving and settling conflicts in the community, within the leadership and amongst other social groups within the context of peace and conflict resolution.

It has also been argued that it is critical to develop and institutionalize mechanisms that can respond to the full range of psycho-political and socioeconomic communal needs (Felgenhauer, 2007; Azar, 1990; Zarman, 1989). Every peacebuilding initiative must be able to address the socio-economic dimension of the conflict environment. Creating opportunities for sustainable peace equally begins with the opportunities created to restrain frustration, leading to a relapse of violence and conflict. In the first place, many root-cause theorists have speculated that peacebuilding must address the original context of negative peace, which is particularly reducible to the political economy of the conflict environment. In their submission, Barnett et al (2007) and Marshall and Gurr (2005) suggested that for the peacebuilding process to be sustainable for more than a short interlude, relief, recovery and social and economic development must be integrated into the actual process. Securing the economic life of a people or community is fundamental to achieving sustainable peace. This may come in different ways, but what is essential is that a peacebuilding initiative must, for all practical purposes, create the social and business space that would warrant opportunities for assessing livelihood. Corcoran et al. (2005) maintain that, as a principle, building sustainable peace entails ensuring that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development equitably and sustainably.

One of the fundamental barriers to achieving peace is the structure of the peacebuilding process itself (Does, 2013; Campbell, et al, 2011). A non-inclusive process will always undermine the

goal and create a non-participatory or somewhat unrecognized system in the community or society, as it were. Every society or community has vulnerable social groups. In most cases, such category of people is marginalized and is not covered in social processes. Peacebuilding initiatives must take cognizance of this fact and bridge the gap. According to Ban Ki-Moon:

*“Inclusivity needs to be applied throughout peacebuilding, from analysis, design and planning to implementation and monitoring” (United Nations, 2012: 12).*

The inclusiveness of a peace-building initiative, however, entails that the process accommodates the interests of diverse groups in the community, and provides participatory space for women, youths and other traditionally marginalized groups. Every process that stands in contrast to the inclusion of these marginalized groups would always not have the full participation of the entire society. It becomes very pertinent to have a process that sincerely creates the political space for total participation. Inclusive strategies can be used to prevent conflict and or a relapse into violent situations that eclipse the very essence of peacebuilding. The direct participation of women in peacebuilding is fundamental; this justifies the need not to ignore them in the process (Jenkins & Reardon, 2007; Oluyemi-Kusa, 2006). As Oluyemi-Kusa (2006:206) observes, “any peace process that ignores the needs and roles of women is unnatural and therefore inherently unstable”. The contention here, however, is that the inclusion of women in the peace process is key to effective participation and the achievement of sustainable peace.

#### **4.0 GMoU AND PEACEBUILDING IN NIGER DELTA COMMUNITIES**

The history of the Niger Delta is, however, a turbulent one. Going back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a series of violence and conflict is on record. As early as 1895, the Niger delta was embroiled in a series of offences when local resentment against the monopoly of the British company – United Africa Company reached its peak among the people of Brass in modern day Bayelsa State (Maier, 2000: 121). In contemporary times, this violence and conflicts have metamorphosed in a way that it is quite obstructive to development, and if not properly managed, sustainable peace and sustainable development may also be compromised. Largely, therefore, it is pertinent to address today’s problems to create a better future via peacebuilding. This depicts the goal of the multinational giant - Shell, when they decided to lay the groundwork for the framing of the global memorandum of understanding, to serve as an initiative to drive peace in the delta region. The

GMoU as an interface model in relating with the various clusters of communities is actually to engineer development that would engender prosperity for the communities as such contributing to the economic and social dimension of creating a society that embraces peace and fosters a business climate. The question that readily comes to mind, therefore, is how the GMoU has fostered a peaceful environment in the Niger Delta region. We shall come to that, but in the interim, the priority is to comprehend the existing structures in the GMoU that align to our conceptual framework. As earlier stated, the GMoU is a written understanding meant to guide, direct and outline workable measures that would translate to an effective business climate in the region. We present here a clear view of the structures of the GMoU and how it guides compliance.

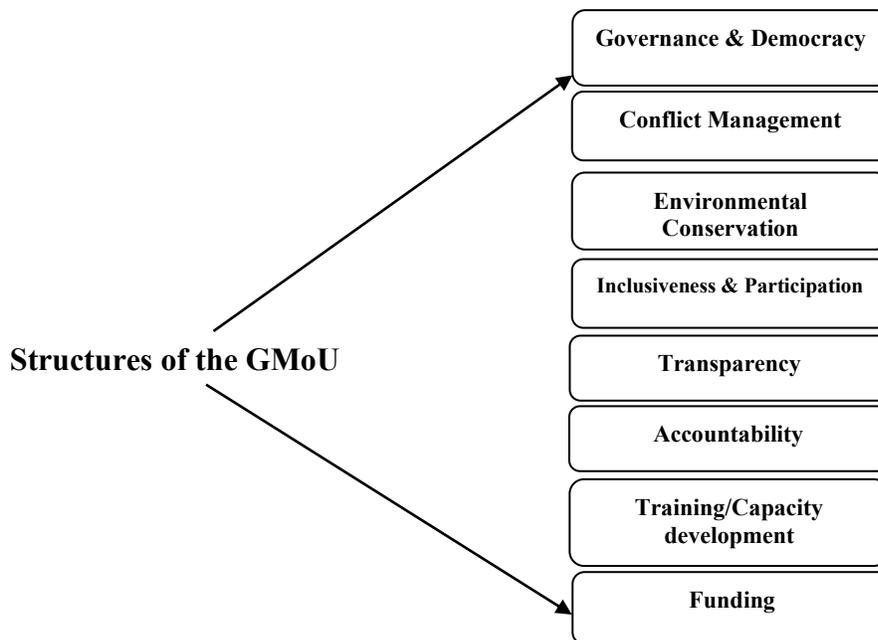


Figure 2: GMoU structure. Source: Shell OPPG, 2009.

As shown in Figure 2, the structures of the GMoU on a first pass may appear quite disparate from the expressed conceptual framework. However, on a second glance, one may not be compelled to understand the dictates of the structures. These structures are underlying elements or core value structures for the implementation of a development process that underscores peace and security in the communities.

1) Essentially, leadership is a vital component of any structure, which is why governance/democracy is primary in the structure. Governance and democracy here depicts how

power is exercised in the management of economic and social resources, as well as adherence to laid down procedures (e.g. tenure and succession, financial management). The element of governance and democracy in the structure deals with and takes care of the issue of political participation and economic empowerment as it were.

2) Peace is not the absence of conflict but the cessation of violence, to the extent that the structure provides for conflict management, involving a multilateral process where communities, development NGOs, as well as the State government and representatives of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), are all involved in the resolution of conflicts. Paramount in this is the utilization of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) measures to deescalate issues and bring conflicting parties into peace.

3) The issue of environmental injustice has been an underlying cause of violence and conflict in the Niger Delta. To manage this situation, the GMoU structure provides for sustainable and environmental conservation that includes biodiversity management of the flora and fauna of the Niger Delta ecosystems. The concerns of the communities are taken seriously, and their contributions to social impact assessment during scoping workshops are irreplaceable.

4) The structure also provides for inclusiveness, considering vulnerable groups and the need for all to participate in the development process. Inclusiveness and participation here require that the process creates an equal opportunity for the entire community to get involved, and addresses marginalization and exclusion of vulnerable groups in benefit realization.

5) Peacebuilding is building capacity to manage people, processes as well as conflicts. The structure also provides for capacity building/training of leadership in the CBD and CTs. Capacity for youths to be peace ambassadors in the respective communities is also critical, as is obvious in the structure. Beyond that, since youths are mainly the executors of violence, the GMoU provides an opportunity for the capacity of young people to be built and tailored towards enterprise development, that way they can create small businesses as well as a critical mass of employment opportunities for other teeming unemployed youths.

6) Accountability and transparency are critical to forestall peace. Where leadership is unaccountable and not transparent, marginalization and oppression would thrive. A critical

component of the GMoU structure is accountability, which translates to openness to public scrutiny (especially community); availability, accessibility and disclosure of information on processes, activities and transactions; cum periodic stewardship feedback.

7) Lastly, funding in the process is vital, and the multinational giant, Shell, provides secured funding for the process. As mentioned earlier, peace is but a process, and the GMoU as an interface model is a process to drive development for the communities so as to access the architecture of sustainable peace in the region and create a viable business climate for the benefit of all.

An assessment of the GMoU in 2012 revealed that by the end of 2011, SPDC had signed and implemented agreements with 27 clusters, covering 290 communities spread across the Niger Delta. In the same year, a total of 596 projects had been completed through GMoU and over \$79 million provided in funding (Shell Briefing Notes, 2012). By 2019, these clusters had increased to about 39 active GMoUs, and SPDC reports that funds amounting to N44.3billion have been disbursed to the 39 active clusters spread across Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta and Abia states (SPDC, 2019 cited in Okoroba, 2020). The question as to whether the communities accept the GMoU initiative is quite unnecessary in that the model has served the communities for over a decade, and the prosperity of these communities, particularly in terms of infrastructural development, is clear.

Poroma (2020) is of the view that the unacceptability of projects and policies by some communities is politically motivated due to the haphazard nature of project execution by community contractors, as such is not in any way related to the rejection of the GMoU. The GMoU is on the lips of every member of the respective communities as they are all aware of the frequent discussions and development planning that takes place and are also knowledgeable as to how it has been a vehicle for the enthronement of peace in once hostile environment. According to SPDC (2013),

*“GMoUs have become very popular with communities. This is owing to the measure of democratic principles governing the process, which introduced greater community ownership, leading to better projects, sustainability and improved trust. The model ensures a high level of transparency, inclusiveness and accountability in managing development funds”. (Raimi, et al., 2016:74).*

Economic participation is critical in building for peace. The structures of the GMoU, as stated above, cover the economic empowerment and participation of these communities, especially the youth social category. In Bayelsa state, various clusters that have become development foundations have utilized their GMoU funds quite effectively to stabilize the society from violence. For instance, the Iduwini GMoU cluster made use of their GMoU funds (amounting to N27,375,000) to send about sixty youths for agro-based vocational training. Majority of these youths have become owners of their small agro-businesses and are employers of labour in their right. Also, in Tarakiri Cluster in the same Bayelsa State, as critical as education is, the cluster board decided to partner with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in 2012 for an adult literacy program where about forty-six illiterate adults were schooled and prepared to participate in the first school leaving certificate examination (FSLCE). These were adult youths who knew so much about violence and less of literacy. To that extent, the testimonial from such efforts is enormous.

Through the GMoU, the very first privately subsidized community health insurance scheme – Obio Cottage Hospital was built in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, by the industrial area (IA) cluster, costing about N24million (Shell Briefing Notes, 2012). More than a thousand people enrolled for the health insurance scheme in 2012, and to date, this centre provides access to quality healthcare services. Besides the provision of healthcare via the GMoU, communities also enjoy a quality rural water scheme. For instance, Umuokwa (a small community of about 15,000 inhabitants in Etche LGA of Rivers state) benefited from such a water scheme using their GMoU funds to activate a non-functional 33,000-litre community borehole. Other communities are currently relishing electricity provided by SPDC from their various facilities, for instance, Gbarain and adjoining communities in Bayelsa state that are host to the Gbarain central processing facility (CPF), have access to 24-hour electricity, thus, strengthening commercial life and businesses in the locality. More so, in 2019, about seventeen development projects worth N221million under the GMoU were commissioned by SPDC across communities in Etche LGA of Rivers state (Business Day, 2019). These projects, which ranged from the installation of two 500KVA transformers, a neighbourhood water system to the renovation of community schools, were said to have a positive impact in the respective communities.

Over time, community agitations that lead to restiveness on the path of the youth is a function of

the non-participation of the community youth groups in the common wealth. To assuage and manage this situation and drive peace, the company set up the Commonwealth-based pipeline surveillance contract, which is managed and funded through the GMoU. In this space, unarmed community youths are funded and supported by the Multinational Company to patrol and monitor incursions and report suspicious activities directly to the government security agencies (GSAs), who will now act from there. These surveillance contracts for community youths run in millions of naira. The point to drive home here is that the collaboration between the business and the community, in many cases, has largely reduced vandalism to a reasonable extent. Such collaboration is seen here as clear efforts towards peaceful co-existence, which was non-existent in the past before the setting up of the GMoU initiative.

Besides, over time, following the enactment of the Nigerian content law, major multinational oil companies have tended to align to such policy in their operation, however minimally. As a responsible organization, Shell Petroleum Development Company is equally in tandem with this policy in its operations and has contributed to more indigenous participation in the oil and gas sector. This participation has opened up opportunities for local contractors in the various communities to be involved in the oil and gas business. What Shell did was to include local content in her project framing and ring-fence certain contracts to the community contractors. Shell has equally gone ahead to build the capacity of local contractors so as to assist them come into space and manage bigger contracts. According to SPDC, in 2018, 92% of the total number of contracts was awarded to local contractors, amounting to a total value of \$1.3billion or N393.94billion (Shell Briefing Notes, 2019).

Most of the issues and concerns that had led to conflict in the delta region were mixed in economics and participation. To a larger extent, some of these have been bridged over time, yet more remains and SPDC has to bring its best foot forward to do the needful. Many of the oil-bearing communities' youths have become direct beneficiaries of variegated scholarships that landed them in very good institutions, either at home or abroad. These efforts, orchestrated via the interface model which SPDC uses to engage the communities, have ameliorated so much in these communities, leading to calm in commercial activities around the oil bearing space. It can be said that the GMoU has brought interim peace in the Niger Delta, as the usual craze of violence has overly diminished. Concurring, Nzeadibe (2015) noted that the GMoU model is a vehicle that has

enhanced corporate-community relations and has capacity to engender peace in the region.

Although the region has gradually become quite peaceful, devoid of consistent violence and restiveness, and has engendered prosperity for both business and the community, there are still challenges that may derail its gains and undermine sustainable peace. Benefit sharing in the GMoU is critical and is the driver of the majority of the issues causing internal rancour in the governance structure of the GMoU across respective communities in the Niger Delta. In many instances, this has led to the haphazard execution of projects and has broadened strife in terms of prolongation of tenureship. Many scholars who have contributed to the GMoU literature have adhered in one way or the other to this fact. Raimi et al. (2016) stated that,

*“benefits from the GMoU are nested within a fragile socio-cultural environment that poses risks to the long-term viability of the GMoUs as democratically framed development institutions if they are not properly managed”*  
(Raimi et al. 2016:77).

Although accountability and transparency are embedded in the structure, over time, the GMoU leadership has often not been very accountable, and transparency is lopsided (Egbon et al., 2018). This more often than not creates a rift in the leadership and between other stakeholders, leading to intra-community litigations. This, however, does not heighten or relapse the region into violence rather shifts the conflict space from SPDC versus community to internal wrangling within the community itself. In majority of cases, such litigations become acute and protracted. Such scenarios usually undermine development for these communities as access to cluster funds are usually denied and projects are delayed unduly and, in some instances, spiral to the disruption of work at SPDC’s facilities. In one instance, SPDC stalled the implementation of the GMoU with the community due to a litigation related issue that was tied to the tenureship of the CDB chairmanship in the Ojobo cluster in Burutu LGA of Delta state. Such prolongation of tenureship is inconsistent with the operating principles, procedure and guidelines (OPPG) of the GMoU. Protest erupted and led to a subsequent siege of the SPDC Beneside flow station (Vanguard, 2019). To that extent, these and more constitute factors that consistently bedevil the initiatives access to the architecture of sustainable peace.

Cultural variables or the interplay of culture and masculinity is still endemic. Isike (2016) found out in his study that women are quite involved in the governance process in the various communities occasioned by the Shell GMoU. According to him, governance improved with women's inclusion in decision-making. However, as positive as this is, the challenge is onerous as men continue to try to undermine women's involvement in the leadership of the GMoU. Many of these communities still resist the idea of a woman being in the community trust (CT) or their representation in the CDB, even as enshrined in GMoU OPPG. In clear terms, the fact that patriarchy is at the heart of these communities may derail the inclusiveness goal of the GMoU going forward.

A major problem in the GMoU observed in this work is the issue of funding. GMoUs are funded by SPDC, and the company expects a transition of the GMoU clusters to a development foundation that can relate to other organized development agencies to attract funding for sustainability purposes. It is quite discouraging that since inception, the clusters, including the ones that have metamorphosed into a development foundation, still cannot access external funding. The fact remains that the tendencies of these clusters in the light of accountability and transparency remain a showstopper to this goal. SPDC, through the implementing NGOs, have trained and mentored the cluster CDB leadership on the need to be accountable and how to attract external funding, yet the problem is there. What is even more is the idea that the GMoU's capacity to really access the architecture of sustainable peace shortly is further bedevilled by what Aaron (2012) calls "Absentee State". Where States in the Niger Delta were fully present and responsible, this framework for peace by the multinational giant would only have been support for existing state infrastructures. As it were, the Niger Delta leadership in terms of government is not conspicuous to the oil-bearing communities, which makes their focus all out on the multinational oil companies, especially SPDC, with the most footprint in the region.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The issue of whether the GMoU framework as an interface model in the Niger Delta would lead to sustainable peace in the region is very critical in current intellectual debates. This is because series of attempts in the past have failed to restore peace to the region. In this work, we examined the GMoU framework as a peacebuilding initiative by the multinational giant, SPDC to access the

architecture of sustainable peace in the delta region of Nigeria.

As we have seen from the above discussions, peace is not the absence of conflict or violence; rather, it entails the cessation of such a situation. Building trust and relationships, as well as engaging in meaningful dialogue and consultations, will always engender a peaceful climate. In this work, it has been noted that over time, the GMoU model by SPDC has, in actuality, enthroned peace in the region, although interim, and has opened up the spaces for development. However, it is also important to note that the SPDC has its shortcomings in this model, particularly as greed and lack of integration on the part of the communities pose a challenge. Furthermore, the likelihood that the GMoU model will collapse and lead to relapse in conflict is not overrated, as there are inherent gaps, coupled with the fact that patriarchy is at the heart of these communities and would generally undermine inclusivity in the final analysis. It is thus suggested here that multiple streams of funding are a functional prerequisite for the sustaining of peace based on the GMoU in the long run. Communities and leadership of the GMoU must see beyond the multinational corporation as a cash cow and begin networking to attract further funding from other well-meaning development donor agencies and integrate their hearts and minds towards building a culture of peace across every facet of the community without necessarily undermining the involvement of women in the GMoU (Nzeadibe, 2015).

Finally, SPDC and all other major stakeholders should go back to the drawing board and recalibrate the model to work and be managed like the post-WW 11 peacebuilding and infrastructural development model, the Marshall Plan, which rebuilt, in a record period, war devastated countries like Germany, Austria, Poland and even the UK. This is because in all material details, the Niger Delta is a war ravaged area that needs all necessary international and national attention. Hence, GMoU alone cannot do the desired magic, no matter its good intention.

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**Use of Communication Strategies in the Management of Diabetes by the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.**

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**Abstract**

**T**he study examined the use of communication strategies by health professionals in the management of diabetes at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. Source Credibility Theory was adopted and Survey as a design for the study, while interview and questionnaire were the instruments for the collection of data. One hundred (100) copies of questionnaire were administered to diabetic patients while three (3) medical personnel of the Centre were interviewed through Available/Convenience sampling technique. Data were analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. Research findings on communication strategies adopted indicated that messages were disseminated through mass media and interpersonal communication (face-to-face); Interpersonal communication in form of health talks and counseling with the patients. On the effectiveness of mass communication channels the result showed that mass media had a mean score of 2.8, radio had 1.9 mean, television 2.2, newspaper 1.6, internet 2.6 while poster, hand bill, bill board, combined, had a mean score of 1.7. On the influence of communication strategies on patients' attitudes towards obedience/compliance with professional's instruction, all factors examined met the 2.5 mean criteria set for acceptance of all variables: disobedience with health professionals' instruction could lead to complications (3.6 mean), 3.5 others believed that monitoring of glucose was a necessity, those agreeing that only food recommended by health professionals' should be taken accounted for (2.9 mean), physical activities a must for diabetes (3.2 mean). On the degree of patients perception of Doctors' credibility, some believed that doctors knew their job (3.38 mean), health professional had compassion for patients (3.0 mean) patient had confidence in the doctors' ability to manage diabetes (3.2 mean): doctors listened to complaints (3.4) patients attend clinic as at when due (2.8) which implied that health workers enjoyed high level credibility. The study concluded that in the management of Diabetes, both interpersonal communication and the mass media should be used by the health managers. Effort should be intensified in the use of television, radio and newspaper inform of health talk in the education of the patients.

**Keywords:** *Communication Strategies, Management of Diabetes, Mass Media*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

One of the problems confronting the human race is the management and control of diseases. The world is full of diseases for which man is susceptible, some of which were relatively unknown in the past. Indeed, man can hardly prevent some of these diseases due to environmental factors. Consequently, for human beings to survive, Health Communication is imperative and should be given more attention now than in the past. Health Communication is now a specialised discipline designed to complement the efforts of other disciplines struggling to find a solution to this global problem.

According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Communication is “the use of communication strategies to inform and influence individual and community decisions that enhance health” (CDC, 2011). Storey & Ahanda (2014) identify some key functions of Health Communication, which include the provision of relevant health information, persuasion to help, motivate behaviours that improve health outcomes, and the facilitation and maintenance of social connections and a supportive social environment for the desired health behaviour. Indeed, Health Communication can have both positive and negative effects on every aspect of disease prevention and control, if not properly managed. The National Centre for Health Statistics (2012), cited in Okoro, Nwachuku & Ajaero (2015), opine that Health Communication encompasses a wide range of activities which include:

*Interpersonal and mass mediated contexts; health professional-patient relation; individual’s exposure to, search for, and use of health information; individuals’ adherence to clinical, recommendations and regiment; the construction of public health; messages and campaign; production of appropriate message; choice of media mix or media communication channels; both international channels and mass media or a mix of both.*

In the past, Health Communication has been viewed as a one-way process, primarily targeting individual behavioural change. It was a one-way process from health workers to patients. However, according to Douglas, Ahanda, Adriana, Benjamin, Jennifer and Blayne (2014), recent theoretical models consider health communication as a social process that operates on multiple social levels. In promoting health communication, a combination of many channels might be

necessary for effective service delivery.

In the context of diabetes, communication can help people get tested and learn their results, facilitate medication access, and connect individuals with the disease to medical and psychological-social resources to lessen needless stress and psychological load. Since the diseases cannot be completely cured, appropriate strategies must be put in place to confront them. Health Communication is one of the strategies often employed to combat such diseases. The National Centre for Health Statistics (2012) highlights important areas of Health Communication, which encompasses a wide range of interpersonal and mass mediated contexts, designed for effective and successful Health Communication. It suggested the use of both mass and interpersonal communication. This view is also supported by Corcoran (2007:76), who recommends the use of mass media and interpersonal communication as the most effective strategies to promote and manage diabetes. In his words:

*The use of mass media in health promotion can be an effective method of promoting health to the wider population, as it can reach a large number of people simultaneously, which can increase knowledge and put health on the public agenda. However, mass media cannot provide face-to-face support, teach skills or change strong attitudes.*

The mass media refer to the use of technologies that are meant to reach a large audience. For the great majority of the population, mass media serve as the main channel of communication. Radio, television, newspapers, and magazines are the platforms used by mass media the most frequently. Information, concepts, and ideas can be disseminated to both broad and specialised audiences through the use of mass media. They are valuable instruments for furthering the objectives of public health. Nonetheless, it might be difficult to communicate about health issues in the media. Liana Winett & Lawrence Wallack (1996) state that "using the mass media to improve public health can be like navigating a vast network of roads without any street signs if you are not sure of where you are going and why. The chances are you will not reach your destination". Liana and colleagues claim that depending on the audience, unsuitable for the channels being used, or if the message being conveyed is too intense, frightening, or divisive, employing the mass media on its own may be detrimental. Consequently, for effective Health Communication, a combination of both Mass Communication and inter-personal skills are required.

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Diabetes is a disease which has caused many deaths, with a worrisome number of people living with it. Currently, sub-Saharan Africa has an estimated 20 million people living with diabetes. It is estimated that the prevalence of diabetes in that region is expected to reach 41.4 million by 2035, or an increase of 109.1%. (WHO 2001). In 2015, Nigeria recorded 1.7 million cases of diabetes, which varies by region from 0.65% in rural north to 11 % in urban south. In Ogun State, to be precise, 5% of the total population is diabetic (International Diabetes Federation, 2017 and World Health Organisation, 2018). Unfortunately, there has not been any known cure once a person is confirmed to have the disease. The patients only manage it for life with the use of drugs and education so as not to aggravate it. It is assumed that poor management on the part of patients has contributed to the untimely death of many patients. Effective communication is crucial in diabetes management, yet few studies explore appropriate strategies. This study addresses this gap by examining communication strategies used at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta (FMCA) for diabetic patients. It focuses on interactions between FMCA health professionals and selected diabetic patients in Ogun State, evaluating current practices to identify effective approaches. The research aims to enhance diabetes care through improved communication.

The study will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- i. Identify communication strategies adopted by the Federal Medical Centre in the management of diabetes.
- ii. Examine the communication channels that are most effective for the management of the disease used by FMC.
- iii. Investigate the extent to which communication strategies influenced the attitudes of diabetic patients in the management of the disease.
- iv. Determine the level of credibility enjoyed by the health professionals from the perception of the patients.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theory adopted for this study was the Source Credibility Theory. Source credibility theory, formulated by Hovland & Weiss (1953), cited in Anaeto & Solo-Anaeto (2010:49), states that having the right source can increase the effectiveness of a message. The theory, according to Hovland and associates, centres on the first component of the communication process, “*the*

*source*". The purpose of this study was to determine whether credible sources could influence opinion change in a message received more than non-credible sources using the same persuasive message. According to the definition of source credibility, it is a situation in which the credibility status of the sender in the minds and eyes of the recipients determines whether or not the message is believable. The study confirmed the hypothesis that credible sources tend to create the desired impact on the audience.

McCroskey, James, Jenson & Thomas (1974), cited in Umeogu (2002), submit that communication that is highly credible in the eyes of the recipients is more likely to be respected and taken more seriously. Moreover, McCroskey and associates demonstrate how variations in the attitudes of the recipients affect the trustworthiness of the source. Credibility, which is a person's perception of the truth of a piece of information, is a multi-dimensional concept that serves as a means for the receiver of the information to rate the source of transmitter of communication about the information. This rating correlates with the willingness of the receiver to attribute truth and substance to the information (Hovland, Janis & Kelly 1953, cited in Eisend, 2006). Credibility is all about the tendency to believe or trust someone with little or no doubt of being deceived or manipulated. Faith, love and objectivity are all rolled up in one word – credibility. There are several dimensions of credibility that affect how an audience will perceive the speaker. Some are competence, character, composure, sociability and so on.

### **What is Diabetes?**

Diabetes is one of the most significant and growing chronic health problems in the world, affecting approximately 415 million people (Ali, Bullard & Gregg 2013). Diabetes is marked by the body's inability to make insulin as well as the body's inability to effectively use the insulin it produces. Diagnosis of diabetes has increased sharply in recent decades and is expected to increase even more, with the largest increases in middle- and low-income countries. According to Rubin (2001), diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, stroke, and amputation. In 2015, it accounted for 5 million deaths worldwide (CDC 2011). It is estimated that its cost to society represents 12% (\$673 billion) of global health expenditures. By 2040, it is predicted that 642 million people will be diagnosed with diabetes, and costs will continue to grow as the population increases.

In the same vein, the Centres for Disease Control (2011) stated that since the disease is not curable, prevention is the ultimate goal, and for those individuals already diagnosed with diabetes, appropriate communication strategies should be adopted to reduce the risk of complications that may result in death due to poor management. Studies have shown that strict communication in the management of diabetes can prevent the progression of complications associated with diabetes (UKPDS, 1998). The study further reveals that the needs of diabetes patients are not only limited to adequate drug control but also effective communication to prevent complications. In a study carried out by Douglas, & Lawton (2007) in Scotland, it was suggested that the role of the health professional should be crucial to patients' understanding of their blood glucose fluctuations, with other appropriate self-care actions. The study found that ineffective communication has been identified as one of the barriers to effective management of diabetes. According to Engel (2003), different interpretations of medical terms, differences between the doctor's personal feelings and professional ideas conveyed to the patients, and discrepancies between what the doctor emphasises and what the patient thinks is important, can obstruct effective communication and successful management of the disease.

### **Interpersonal Communication**

Face-to-face communication is known as interpersonal communication, which entails the exchange of messages between individuals whose lives mutually influence one another in certain ways about social and cultural standards. Interpersonal communication is the combination of verbal forms such as oral and written language; nonverbal examples are: gestures, mimics, posture, movement and appearance. Interpersonal (inter-human) communication was the first human spiritual tool of the socialization process and is defined by Floyd (2013) as the communication that occurs between two people in the context of their relationship and that, as it evolves, helps to negotiate and define the relationship.

The importance of interpersonal Communication can hardly be overstressed, especially when attitude change is involved. Stewart (1995) observes that Interpersonal communication involves interdependent people. It is a form of communication in which two or more individuals are related to one another. A married couple, a boss and an intern, a doctor and his patients, and so on may have a conversation like this. Because each participant in the communication depends on the others for survival, actions taken by one have an impact on the others. Since interpersonal

communication occurs in relationships, it is relational, and how we communicate with another participant affects how we communicate as well. In this situation, communication styles can range from excessively impersonal to somewhat impersonal. In a hospital setting, for example, health workers must be skillful in the use of interpersonal communication, especially when relating to their patients.

### **Factors which enhance Interpersonal Relationships**

Some of the variables that can enhance interpersonal communication between participants, according to Lanihun in Soola (2000), include: self-disclosure, trust, interpersonal competence, non-verbal behaviour and feedback. The variables are explained below:

- i. Self-disclosure:* self-disclosure communication occurs when a person intentionally says something about himself or herself to another person.
- ii. Interpersonal competence:* Canary and Cody (1994), research findings, communication competence is an ability to communicate that is established by both dialogue partners.
- iii. Non-verbal behaviour:* Non-verbal behaviour plays a vital role in interpersonal relationships. Non-verbal cues can communicate emotions. Non-verbal communication can also help in detecting deception in others. Canary and Cody (1994:96) explained that sometimes it is difficult to read non-verbal expressions due to cultural differences. One should rely on several cues, from several channels, repeatedly over time in order to accurately judge or evaluate others.
- iv. Feedback:* Effective interpersonal communication is highly dependent on feedback. Feedback can be provided verbally and nonverbally.
- v. Trust:* Barker (1987), sees trust as an admission of dependency by all parties involved and the acceptance of an obligation not to exploit control. Trust behaviour may be appropriate or inappropriate, depending on the context or situation.

**Patient Health Education:** Education has been identified by scholars as an important factor that influences attitude in health communication and health interventions. Schvre (2007) sees both functional illiteracy and health illiteracy as impediments to health communication. He argues that health communicators, in making communication planning, should take into consideration the literacy level of the target audiences. This is because the literacy level may affect their capacity to understand what a disease is, its causes and its cure. Studies have shown a relationship between perceptions of diseases and literacy level. For instance, in a study by Asante, Abokyi, Zandoh &

Owusu (2010) on the relationship between literacy and perceptions of malaria and malaria treatment behaviour, in a rural district of Ghana, a high proportion of the respondents believed that malaria was caused by standing or walking in the sun or eating contaminated and oily food. The literacy level of diabetic patients may equally affect their adherence to the management of the disease.

**Doctor-Patient Communication:** According to Duffy, Gordon, & Whelan (2004), doctors' interpersonal and communication skills are critical clinical skills in the practice of medicine. Duffy and associates further view these skills as the pinnacle for attaining the best results and patient satisfaction, which are critical for the efficient delivery of healthcare. The improvement of the patient's well-being and medical treatment is the ultimate goal of any doctor-patient contact, according to Brinkman, Geraghty, and Lanphear (2007). According to numerous surveys, patients want to communicate with their doctors more effectively (Duffy and associates, 2004).

Doctor-patient communication is a major element in the process of managing diabetic patients. Doctors are in a unique position of respect and power. According to Kaplan, Greenfield and Ware (1989), effective doctor-patient communication can be a source of motivation, incentive, reassurance, and support for the patient. A good doctor-patient relationship can increase doctors' job satisfaction and reinforce patients' self-confidence, motivation, and positive view of patient health status, which may influence their health outcomes.

DiMatteo (1998), further explained that most complaints about doctors are related to issues of communication, not clinical competency. He explains that patients want doctors that can be skillfully diagnose and treat patient sicknesses as well as communicate with them effectively. Similarly, Kaplan, Greenfield & Ware (1989), argued that doctors with better communication and interpersonal skills would be in a position to detect problems earlier, able to prevent medical crises, expensive intervention, and provide better support to their patients. The result of which may be higher-quality outcomes and better satisfaction, lower costs of care, greater patient understanding of health issues, and better adherence to the treatment process.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, utilizing questionnaires and interviews for data collection. The population included all health professionals and diabetic patients at the

Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta (FMCA). A convenience sampling technique was employed due to the unavailability of many patients, as some had either passed away or relocated to other clinics. A structured questionnaire with 17 items assessed doctor-patient communication, health education, and patients' perceptions of healthcare workers' credibility. An 8-item Likert scale measured communication strategies' influence on patient attitudes (Research Question 2), while a 4-item scale evaluated the effectiveness of patient education (Research Question 3). A 5-item Likert scale assessed patients' perceptions of health professionals' competence, trust, and compassion (Research Question 4). Interviews were conducted with a consultant endocrinologist, chief nursing officer, and chief dietician to explore communication strategies.

The researchers personally administered questionnaires and conducted interviews to ensure accurate data collection. The study aimed to identify effective communication strategies in diabetes management by analyzing patient experiences and healthcare providers' approaches.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

Responses of the respondents generated through the questionnaire were transferred into scores and used in analysing the data collected from respondents. The data analysis method involved descriptive statistics, like frequency counts, percentages, and mean scores, which were used in analysing the questionnaire in response to the research questions. With a questionnaire designed on a 4 – point Likert-type scale, ranging from Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), to Strongly Disagree (SD), all positively stated items were scored 4,3,2,1 for SA, A, D, SD respectively, while negatively stated items were scored in reverse order. Such as 1,2,3,4 for SA, A, D, SD respectively. A cut-off or decision point of 2.5 and above was regarded as significant for each variable examined.

### **Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings:**

#### **Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Result of the demographic characteristics of the respondents were presented in the table below, covering respondents' age, sex, marital status, and educational qualifications.

**Table 4.1: Demographic characteristics of respondents (diabetic patients)**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	50	50.0
Female	50	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	24	24.0
Married	52	52.0
Widowed	17	17.0
Divorced	7	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Educational Qualifications</b>		
B.A	11	11.0
B.Sc	35	35.0
M.Sc	10	10.0
Others (ND, HND, NCE, etc.)	27	27.0
Pry or O’Level	17	17.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

The above presents the demographic variables of age, sex, marital status, and qualification. The sex distribution of the respondents on the table shows a total of hundred (100) respondents sampled, out of which 50% (50) were males while 50% (50) were females. This implies that the two sexes were equally represented in the study. The age distribution shows that 7% (7) of the respondents were between ages 16 and 20 years, 18% (18) between ages 21 and 25 years, while 16% (16) were between ages 26 and 30 years. It further revealed that about 6% (6) of the 100 respondents were between the ages of 31 and 35 years. Furthermore, 22% (22) were between ages 36 and 45 years, while the remaining 31% (31) accounted for those respondents that were 46 years and above. This suggests that a large percentage of the diabetic patients at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta relatively, fell under 46 years and above. The table further revealed that majority of the respondents, 52% (52), was married, 24% (24) were single, 17% (17) were

widowed, while a minority of 5% (5) were divorced. As for their educational background,, 11% (11) held a B.A degree, 35% (35) were B.Sc. holders, 10% (10) possessed M.Sc., some 27% (27) held other qualifications (ND, HND, NCE, etc), while the remaining 17% (17) had either Primary or Secondary School Certificates. This shows that many of the diabetics at Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, were sufficiently educated to follow health personnel's instructions. One may conclude that the respondents were knowledgeable people with the ability to read and provide accurate information on the subject being investigated.

### **Research Question One**

#### **What are the communication strategies adopted by the Federal Medical Centre in the management of diabetes?**

To answer the research question 1, the results of the interview conducted with a physician (doctor), a nurse and a nutritionist were used to generate answer the research question. Those interviewed include a consultant endocrinologist, who is in charge of diabetic patients at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta. Before explaining the centre’s communication strategies used in dealing with their patients, he took the pain to explain the nature of the disease. In his words:

*Diabetes comes up when the body is unable to make or produce fluid called insulin or the body is unable to effectively use the insulin or the body is unable to effectively use the insulin it produced. Diabetes has two types, type 1 and type 2. (Consultant Endocrinologist, 2023)*

He explained further that:

*Diabetes is a deadly disease which can lead to other diseases in the body if care is not taken on time or properly. Examples, kidney failure, stroke, high blood pressure, blindness, even amputation of legs if foot is not taking care properly as instructed by their instructors or communicators, etc. It is mostly caused by high blood sugar which is called glucose level, it is also hereditary.*

The consultant added that, diabetes was not curable but could be managed and prevented. ‘Once a patient is being diagnosed as a carrier of the illness, the patient has to manage it and also follow the do’s and don’ts of diabetes, he concluded.

Concerning the communication strategies employed in the management of the disease, the consultant went further to explain that:

*The truth of the matter is that we have different aspects of managing diabetes, one of which is communication, as you asked, but this is mostly handled by communicators, who are the nurses. As doctors, we handle the treatment, but we cannot do it all. Nurses will educate them because they have undergone training on how to educate diabetic patients. (Consultant Endocrinologist, 2023)*

He further explained that nurses were to educate the patients before sending their case files to doctors for treatment. The doctor added that doctors used interpersonal communication (face-to-face) with their patients. Other methods, according to the consultant, include the use of charts on types of diabetes, such as foot care, and posters on discovery, prevention and management of the disease.

Further on other strategies being employed by the Centre, a Diabetic Patient Care Nurse of the rank of Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), explained her duty in the care of diabetes' patients. According to her,

*My role as a diabetes nurse is to educate the patients about what diabetes is, how to manage it and prevention from complications. Also to let the patients know the symptoms they will be seeing as a diabetes patient. Regarding the use of communication, we engage in health talk with diabetic patients. We expose patients to what they don't know about this deadly disease, effects, management, how to monitor sugar level also what to eat. More so, we use chart, leaflet that patients can go home with for more information and care. We use posters, and other forms of communication materials to educate our diabetic patients. (Chief Nursing Officer, 2023)*

The Nurse thus presented a chart below on symptoms of diabetes which include: excessive thirst, frequent urination, dizziness, weight loss, tiredness and blurred vision as contained in the chart.

Similarly, on the role of a Nutritionist in the education of diabetics, CNO explained that their work was complementary. In her words:

*We work hand in hand with nutritionists, as you can see them over there; they are waiting for their time to educate the patients on what to do and what to run away from, CNO added.*

In the same vein, a Senior Nutritionist/Dietician from the same hospital also spoke on her role in educating diabetic patients:

*Doctors and Nurses cannot do it all; patients also need us to regulate their meals because different meals are recommended for different diseases. Nutritionists use different methods to educate the patients because they want them to understand the nature of their health and their stomach. We advised diabetic patient’s mostly on nutrition, what to eat, how to eat, when to eat (timing) etc. we also use charts and leaflet. (Senior Nutritionist, 2023)*

**Research Question Two:**

**Which of the communication channels appeared the most effective for the management of diabetes?**

To answer the research question, seven items of the questionnaire were analysed and presented on table below:

**Table 4.2: Patients source of information on Diabetes**

Items	Statement	Degree of agreement										
		Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly disagreed		Neutral		Mean
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
1	In the management of my diabetes I receive a lot of information from the mass media	35	35.0	42	42.0	5	5.0	4	4.0	14	4.0	2.8
2	Radio is the most important source of information to me on diabetes	10	10.0	30	30.0	13	13.0	29	29.0	18	18.0	1.9
3	Television has provided useful information on diabetes	18	18.0	28	28.0	18	18.0	22	22.0	14	14.0	2.2

<b>4</b>	Newspapers have educated me a lot on diabetes	11	11.0	23	23.0	13	13.0	27 27.0	26	26.0	1.6
<b>5</b>	I got some information from social media and internet	25	25.0	41	41.0	12	12.0	16 16.0	6	6.0	2.6
<b>6</b>	Hospital staff have been my main sources of information on diabetes	26	26.0	61	61.0	5	5.0	1 1.0	7	7.0	2.9
<b>7</b>	Posters, handbills and bill boards are also sources of information for diabetes patients.	7	7.0	28	28.0	13	13.0	43 43.0	9	9.0	1.7
<b>7b</b>	Any other sources of information to be stated here:										
	Source		No.								
	Mosque		2								
	Church		6								
	Diabetes club		6								
	Health talk		2								
	Ipate Isegun(African Traditional Medicine Trade fare)		1								
	Family doctors		2								

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

Concerning patient’s source of information on management of diabetic, the result generated through questionnaire and presented on above showed that majority of the respondents claimed that “In the management of my diabetes I receive a lot of information from the mass media” as in item 1 on the table above. Precisely, 42% (42) of the respondents agreed, some 35% (35) others strongly agreed, 5% (5) disagreed, another 4% (4) strongly disagreed and 14% (14) were neutral. Putting together the strongly agreed and agreed, 77% (77), one may conclude that the mass media have been a source of information to a majority of the diabetics.

For the purpose of identifying which aspect of mass media has the greatest impact, on the respondents, the statement was posed “Radio is the most important sources of information to me on diabetes”, finding as presented in the same table revealed that 40% (40) either strongly agreed or agreed, while a majority of 42% (42) disagreed; some 18% (18) of the respondents indicated neutrality.

As to whether “Television has provided useful information on diabetes”, with results in the table proved that majority agreed with the statement. Precisely, 46% either strongly agreed or agreed other 40% disagreed to the statement that “radio is the most important sources of information to me on diabetes”, while the remaining 40% (40) were neutral. To the statement, “Newspapers have educated me a lot on diabetes” as in item (4) of the table, a majority of 40% (40) of the respondents disagreed, while 34% (34) agreed, 26% (26) indicated to be neutral.

Furthermore, reacting to another statement; “I got some information from social media and internet”. As in item no (5) in the same table, majority of 66% (66) either strongly agreed or agreed, while 28% disagreed, 6% of the respondents claimed to be neutral.

Item (6) probed into the extent to which respondents agreed with the statement, “Hospital staff have been my main sources of information on diabetes”. Findings, as presented in table 4.3 above, reported that majority of the patients appeared that hospital staff had been their main source of information on diabetes, precisely, 87% (87) either strongly agreed, to indicate that hospital staff has been my main sources of information on diabetes while, less than 6% disagreeing with the statement and only 7% were neutral. The ratio between those that agreed with the statement and those disagreeing is very wide.

To another statement, item (7a) “Posters, handbill and bill board are also sources of information for diabetes patients.” The results show that majority of the respondents with 56% (56) disagreed, 35% (35) agreed, while just few of 9% were neutral.

From the additional information provided by the respondents in the space provided in the questionnaire above, 80% of the respondents claimed they did not receive information from any other sources apart from those indicated in the questionnaire. However, other minor sources of information as indicated by few of the respondents include, Church, Diabetes club, health talks Furthermore, others include family doctors, and Ipate Isegun etc.

These are insignificant sources compared with those indicated in the questionnaire

**Research Question Three**

**To what extent have the communication strategies influenced the attitudes of diabetic patients in the management of the disease?**

In answering this research question, Table below has been prepared to provide answers to the question.

**Table 4.3: Influence of Communication on Respondents’ Knowledge of Health Care**

Items	Statement	Degree of agreement											
		Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Neutral		Mean	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%

<b>9</b>	I know if I do not follow my doctor and other health professionals; instruction it can cause some complications	67	67.0	32	32.0	1	1.0	-	-	3.6
<b>10</b>	Monitoring my blood glucose regularly is necessary:	71	71.0	22	22.0	3	3.0	1	1.0	3 3.0 3.5
<b>11</b>	I take only food recommended by my nutritionist and other health professionals	45	45.0	34	34.0	6	6.0	4	4.0	11 11.0 2.9
<b>12</b>	Physical activities as directed by my physician are compulsory	29	29.0	67	67.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	2 2.0 3.2

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

From Table above the result generated through questionnaire as well on, the extent to which respondents agreed with the statement, “I know if I do not follow my doctor’s and other health professionals’ instruction it can cause some complications”. Findings on item (9) as presented in the table above, revealed that majority of the patients appeared to have knowledge of their self-care: precisely, 99% (99) of the respondents agreed that they knew if they did not follow their doctors and other health professionals’ instruction it could cause some complications, while only few, 1% disagreed with the statement.

Reacting to another statement, on knowledge of how to manage diabetes: “Monitoring my blood glucose regularly is necessary” as in item 10 of the same table, another majority of 93% (93) of the respondents also agreed either strongly or simply, that monitoring their blood glucose regularly was necessary, while only 4% disagreed, and another 3% was neutral. The ratio between those that agreed with the statement and those disagreeing only demonstrate that communication strategies as adopted by Federal Medical Centre influenced the attitudes of the patients in the management of the disease.

Another factor examined in the study which was related to the patients’ knowledge of health care was the level of compliance with eating only food recommended by their nutritionists and other health professionals. Information gathered from the above table also revealed that a majority of

the patients, 45% (45), strongly agreed they ate only what was recommended, some 34% simply agreed, an insignificant 10% disagreeing, while the remaining 11% were neutral to the statement "I take only food recommended by my nutritionist and other health professionals".

Furthermore, Item 12 was designed to determine the extent to which the statement: "physical activities as directed by my physician are compulsory" was complied with; results as presented on the same Table above indicated that a great majority of 96%, of the respondents agreed to the statement, with only 2% disagreeing, while another 2% were neutral. The ratio between those who agreed with the statement and those who disagreed was very wide.

Based on the above results, one may conclude that the majority of the respondents complied with the instructions of the health workers.

**Research Question Four**

**What is the level of credibility enjoyed by the health professionals in the perception of the patients?**

The table below provides answers to research question number 3: the table is made up of five items.

**Table 4.4: Patients' Perception of Health Professionals' Credibility**

Items	Statement	Degree of agreement										Mean
		Strongly agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly disagree		Neutral		
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
13	My doctor knows his job very well:	55	55.0	39	39.0	–	–	1	1.0	5	5.0	3.38
14	The health workers have compassion for me:	39	39.0	48	48.0	–	–	–	–	13	13.0	3.0
15	I have a lot of confidence in my doctor's ability to help me in managing the diabetes:	43	43.0	49	49.0	2	2.0	1	1.0	5	5.0	3.24
16	My doctor listens patiently to all my complaints:	44	44.0	52	52.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	2	2.0	3.35
17	I attend clinic appointment as directed by my doctor:	44	44.0	28	28.8	11	11.0	1	1.0	16	16.0	2.83

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

The assumption of this research question is to determine the extent to which the patients have confidence (trust) in the professional competence of their doctors. Experience revealed that patients did request nurses responsible for the distribution of case files to send them to doctors of their choices. Whenever a patient was sent to a doctor for whom he did not believe in, complication might arise, as prescriptions in some cases were not usually taken seriously. It is therefore in the interest of effective management of the disease that it is assumed that for effective management of the disease there must be element of trust between the doctor and the patient.

Consequently, to assess the level of trust between patients and doctors, the statement was thus made “my doctor knows his job very well”, as in item 13 of the questionnaire, majority of the respondents confirmed that their doctors knew their job very well as in Table above. 55% (55) indicated strongly agreed, 39% agreed, 5% were neutral, while the remaining percentage, 1% (1) disagreed.

To another statement, as in item 14, “the health workers have compassion for me” precisely, 87% (87), were either strongly agreed or agreed that, the health workers have compassion for them, while some 13% were neutral on the statement. Indeed a majority of the patients (87%) believed that health workers show them compassion.

Furthermore, when asked if the patients had confidence in the doctor’s ability to help in managing the diabetes, as in item 15 of the same questionnaire, majority of the respondents, 92%, either strongly agreed, or agreed, an insignificant 3% disagreed, while 5% were neutral.

In response to another statement, “My doctor listens patiently to all my complaints”, as in item (16) on the table, majority of the respondents, 96%, agreed with the statement while only 2% were of contrary view and just 2% were neutral. The ratio between those that agreed with the statement and those on the contrary was very wide indicating that doctors listened to the patients.

Furthermore, Item 17 probed into the extent to which respondents agreed with the statement “I attend clinic appointment as directed by my doctor”, findings, as presented in the same table, reported that, a majority, 72%, attended clinic appointment regularly: 44% (44) strongly agreed, 28% (28) agreed, few respondents, 11% (11), strongly disagreed, with 1% merely disagreed, while some 16% were neutral. Based on the above results as presented on the table above, it was apparent that the medical team enjoyed a high level of credibility with the diabetic patients. All

indices of credibility measured met the criteria for acceptance (2.5).

#### **4.4 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

From the results of the study, interpersonal communication, in form of health talks and counseling, were mostly used in the management of diabetes which was complemented by mass media channels such as posters, charts and leaflets which were designed to support interpersonal network. These findings support Stewart (1995), who observes that interpersonal network is more appropriate when attitude change is the objective of communication. One of the problems associated with delivery of health talk to a large number of patients, such as found at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta, is the lack of mega phone to speak to a large number of patients whose attention span are limited. From the observation made during the conduct of this research, a substantial percentage of the patients were not able to follow as a result of “noise”, an intervening variable to successful communication. In the same vein, findings showed that the mass media could only create awareness and not capable of effecting attitude change.

As could be seen from the results of the study, the hospital had in use a number of charts supplied by non-governmental organisation to provide diabetes education to the patients; such as instructions on foot care, diabetics education for every family, understanding type 2 diabetes, chart showing symptoms of diabetes and diabetes education on food to eat. On enquiry by the researchers, the management said the materials were not enough for the patients to have their copies.

Concerning the extent to which communication strategies influenced the attitudes of diabetes, findings showed that the patients indicated the danger of ignoring instructions of health professional. Specifically, majority of them were aware that regular monitoring of blood glucose was necessary to observe. Concerning patients’ compliance with food recommended by nutritionist and other health professionals a significant majority of the patients took food only recommended by the nutritionist (2.9 mean). Similarly, majority of the patient realised the compulsion of physical exercises. The above finding was consistent with the recommendation of Pharmacy Times (2018) that diabetic patients should be instructed on types of food and quantity to be consumed.

Concerning the most effective communication strategies in use by the medical practionners, although majority claimed they received information from the mass media, an insignificant

percentage got their information on diabetics through radio. The same held for television where a little over 40% agreed that they received information on diabetes through television. Only few respondents claimed that they got information on diabetes through newspaper. The study further reviewed that a significant percentage of the respondents got their information on diabetes from social media while health workers were the most potent sources of information to the patients. Posters, handbills and billboards served as sources of information for a reasonable percentage of the patient as for other sources provided in the unstructured questionnaire, only very few got their information from other sources apart from those indicated in the questionnaire.

In sum, the result of the study indicated both social media and health workers served as the effective sources of information. The findings were in line with the recommendation of UNESCO that both mass media and interpersonal networks should be combined for effective service delivery. It is important to state that other sources of information apart from those indicated above, places of worship such as mosques and churches were also important sources of information. Similarly, some respondents got their information from diabetes club, family doctors and African Traditional Medicine trade fair. The implication of the findings was that no medium of information should be ignored for effective management of diabetes.

As for the level of credibility enjoyed by the health workers based on the perception of the diabetic patients, all the items designed to measure this variable met the criteria set for acceptance. For instance, about 95% (95), of the respondents believed that their doctors knew their job well. Similarly, a majority of the respondents claimed that health workers demonstrated compassion in the cause of their duties.

In the same way, a significant percentage indicated they have confidence in the ability of the doctors to help them manage diabetes. It is no wonder that the level of credibility enjoyed was due to the doctors' attitudes to listen patiently to the patient complaints. As a result, a significant majority attended the clinic appointment as directed by their doctors. As the above findings support Syhyve (2007), the inability to listen to patients constitutes a barrier to effective communication. In the same vein, the study confirms that competence, sociability and character are the most important directions in sustaining and maintaining credibility.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The most effective communication strategy is the use of interpersonal network, which is epitomised in health talks and counselling. This is, however, supplemented by mass media,

which have minimal effects, such as radio, television, newspaper, charts, posters and leaflets, for the purpose of educating the patients.

The study then concludes that the relationship between health workers and their patients is a very cordial one. The management of the hospital is therefore called upon to sustain and improve the communication strategy adopted in the management of diabetics at the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta. With regards to the findings of the study, the following recommendations are also suggested for implementation:

- The level of awareness of the diabetes management by the patient appears very high based on the outcome of the study. It is therefore suggested that the approach should be intensified and sustained.
- There appeared to be dearth of charts on diabetes for patients. (posters and leaflets). As such, hospital management should produce these materials in abundance to regularly communicate with them.
- Based on the result of the study, it is quite evident that the patients place high level of trust on the medical personnel for which the researchers recommend should be sustained.
- The most effective communication strategies used according to the outcome of this study is interpersonal. It is therefore suggested that the hospital management should provide more effective networks for the management of this disease such as, use of mobile apps and telemedicine for remote monitoring and virtual consultation.
- A significant percentage indicated confidence in the ability of the doctors in the management of diabetes; the hospital management should always evaluate outcomes and adapt strategies based on patients needs for more confidence.

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**Global-Digitalisation, Popular Culture and the Antinomy of Nigerian Youths' Restlessness**

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**Abstract**

**A** paradox emanates as contradictory and illogical conclusion from two complimentary phenomena; global-digitalization and popular culture making, two apparent prototype of advancement in progress and development an antinomy, producing restiveness among youths in Nigeria. Communication technology is lauded as globalizing the world, engineering socioeconomic change through the use of information technology but in most cases, it has resulted in restiveness among youths. This work is position paper that examines the restiveness of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigerian youths resulting from digitalization that engenders pop-culture, turning the world into a global village but also engendering the minds of the youths into contra-culture through irresponsible use of the internet. The work employed Case study and Documentary research methods in data collection, homogenous and critical sampling techniques were adopted and content analysis to analyze the data with the aim of ascertaining the extent of youth restiveness and irreverence towards established societal norms as fall-out of global digitalization. Herbert Mead's theory of Symbolic Interactionism and Ogburn's Culture-lag are adopted as Theoretical Framework for this paper. The paper is qualitative and anchored on a descriptive research design. The paper concludes that global digitalisation has overturned the norms and values among Nigerian youths thereby producing counter-culture of cybercrime, kidnapping for ransom, homosexuality, same sex marriage, cross-dressing, surgical sex-change, pimping, prostitution, drug abuse and hedonism inculcating restiveness. The work recommends strict regulation and censorship of the social media and a reorientation of school curriculum and parental surveillance.

**Keywords:** *Global-digitalization, Youth restiveness, Nigerian youths, Contra-culture*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Global-digitalization and Popular culture are two concepts that have played key roles in growth and development of the society. Digitalization has no doubt revolutionized the way we do things stemming from the way we reason and perceive things. One may thus say, digitalization is a powerful tool of change. Powerful in the sense of Mongethau (2001) cited in Guzzini (2018) explanation of power being the ability to control the hand and the mind, which translates to influence of another's mind and actions, or Alkali (2003) definition of power as capacity to alter or influence policies, priorities and choices of others, and better still, Frankel's (1966) power as ability to impose one's wishes on others in spite of oppositions. The two concepts global-digitalization and pop-culture have shaped the events in the society in the recent time, expanding communication technology and integrated markets and this have directly impacted lives.

As technology advances, the world is shrinking every day. Better communication and transportation constantly expand the ordinary person's contact, products and ideas thus globalization and digitalization are internationalizing us. This however encompasses many trends that includes; expanding international trade, telecommunication, monetary coordination, multinational cooperation, cultural exchanges, migration and refugee flows as well as relations between the developed, developing and the underdeveloped nations. All these are supposed in the long run to benefit the global society but in essence, the youths especially in Nigeria seem the worse for it as values have gone into decadence, the youths have become restless, committing many heinous hither to unprecedented acts through their access to the digital-globalization on the internet.

The recent time has witnessed a whirlwind in ethos and ethics, overturning societal values in an unprecedented drastic transformation. The transformation has the youths mostly at the receiving end. The youths according to United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2018 are categorized and described as persons within the age range of 15 and 35. Thus, a youth, is between adolescence and adulthood; a period akin to a just blossoming flower, from innocence to responsibility, naivety to accountability. Youthfulness is also associated with vigour, strength, inquisitive, exuberance and curiosity and thus quest for freedom. However, the youthful period is the productive age of every nation and thus, a significant age bracket of any society. Both the present

and the future of every society mostly depend on the youths because that is when decisions on life's expectancy, professionalism, educational qualification are formed and consolidated. The aim of this position paper is to examine and ascertain the forms, nature and extent of restiveness among Nigerian youths as emanating through the use of the internet.

The estimated population of Nigeria as at 2025 stood at 237,527,782. Fifty-five percent of the populace in Nigeria are youths which makes youth population as 131,590,391 according to the Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics 2025 Report. Nigeria thus boasts one of the world's most youthful population.

It is reported, more than 1 in 2 people in Nigeria are under 24 years of age. More than 1 in 4 people are adolescent (age 10 – 19). However, according to the Youth policy (2019), youths in Nigeria are between ages 18 to 29 years. In Nigeria, the median age of Nigeria population was 16.9 years in 2023. Nigeria, in essence, has the highest population of youths in the world and a median age of 18.1 years. About 70% of the Nigerian population is under 30 and 40% is under the age of 15 as at 2023 according to Census Report 2023. This, therefore means the youths are inevitably significant and pivotal to Nigeria societal growth and development considering the population ratio. However, this position paper is predicated on contra-culture among youths whose attitudes, values and behavior clash, contradicts and conflicts with the attitudinal and behavioural norms of society at large that are fallout of the effects of digital-globalization. This contra-culture is the youth's involvement in widespread social experimentation with cultural alternatives. It is an irreverence towards established norms.

Extant studies have been carried out on contra-culture, deviance, criminalities and youth restlessness and these have been alluded to exuberance, unemployment and the likes, as well as, the benefits of global-digitalization in forms of technological advancement, development and growth in terms of socio-economy but attention has been very minimal on the negative impact of global digitalization more so, as precipitate of youth restiveness. This paper therefore examines the nature and extent of deviance, contra-culture and crimes resulting from global-digitalization as they affect the Nigerian society.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

### Conceptual Review: The Internet

Digitalization is based on the network of the internet. The Internet as a computer-based global information system is composed of many interconnected computer networks. Each network may link tens, hundreds, or even thousands of computers, enabling them to share information and processing power. The Internet has made it possible for people all over the world to communicate with one another effectively and inexpensively. Unlike traditional broadcasting media, such as radio and television, the Internet does not have a centralized distribution system. Instead, an individual who has Internet access can communicate directly with anyone else on the Internet, post information for general consumption, retrieve information, use distant applications and services, or buy and sell products. Many individuals use the Internet for communicating through electronic mail (e-mail), retrieving news, researching information, shopping, paying bills, banking, listening to music, watching movies, playing games, and even making telephone calls.

Educational institutions use the Internet for research and to deliver online courses and course material to students. Use of the Internet has grown tremendously since its inception. The Internet's success arises from its flexibility. Instead of restricting component networks to a particular manufacturer or particular type, Internet technology allows interconnection of any kind of computer network. No network is too large or too small, too fast or too slow to be interconnected. Thus, the Internet includes inexpensive networks that can not only connect a few computers within a single room as well as expensive networks that can span a continent and connect thousands of computers.

The Internet has doubled in size every 9 to 14 months since it began in the late 1970s. In 1981 only 213 computers were connected to the Internet. By 2000 the number had grown to more than 400 million. The current number of people who use the Internet can only be estimated. Some analysts said that the number of users was expected to top 1 billion by the end of 2005. Companies, individuals, and institutions use the Internet in many ways. Companies use the Internet for electronic commerce, also called e-commerce, including advertising, selling, buying, distributing products, and providing customer service. In addition, companies use the Internet for business-to-business transactions, such as exchanging financial information and accessing complex databases. Businesses and institutions use the Internet for voice and video conferencing

and other forms of communication that enable people to telecommute (work away from the office using a computer). Online chat allows people to carry on discussions using written text. Instant messaging enables people to exchange text messages; share digital photo, video, and audio files; and play games in real time. Scientists and scholars use the Internet to communicate with colleagues, perform research, distribute lecture notes and course materials to students, and publish papers and articles. Individuals use the Internet for communication, entertainment, finding information, and buying and selling goods and services. In essence, the internet has turned the world into a global village, connecting people from the remote end of the globe with one another, the internet has thus given the world the popular culture

**Popular culture:** John Storey (2006) analysed popular culture as culture liked by many. He refers to it as mass culture and postmodernism. To Storey, popular culture is a culture which is widely favored or well-liked by many people. Pop culture refers to the trends, beliefs, and practices prevalent in a society at a particular time. It is essential because it reflects a society's values, beliefs, and attitudes, shaping how people think, act, and communicate with one another. The primary driving forces behind popular culture, especially when speaking of Western popular cultures, are the media, mass appeal, marketing and capitalism; and it is produced by what philosopher Theodore Adorno (1966) refers to as the culture industry.

Popular culture is thus generally recognized by members of a society as a set of practices, beliefs, artistic output also known as, popular art or mass art and objects that are dominant or prevalent in a society at a given point in time. As the 'culture of the people', popular culture is determined by the interactions between people in their everyday activities: styles of dress, the use of slang, greeting rituals and the foods that people eat are all examples of popular culture. Popular culture is based on the taste of ordinary people rather than the educated elites, it is the assimilation of popular culture into the daily lives of people in the society. It is the set of practices, beliefs and objects that embody the most broadly shared meanings of a social system (Horkhemier 1993). Popular culture affects, influences and most times dictates what we do, how we behave and the trending norms in the society, among groups, students and workers. It includes media, objects, entertainment and leisure, fashion and trends, linguistics and conventions. It is the pattern of cultural experiences and attitudes that exist in mainstream society. It also includes. concert, games, television shows-BB. Naija, music genre of the now trends, pop music, fuji, Malian,

leisure trends such as smokes, shisha, drugs use like tramadol and barbiturates.

In the West it refers to cultural products as music, arts, literature, fashion, dance, film, cyber-culture, radio, television that are consumed by the majority of a society's population. Popular culture is those types of media that have mass accessibility and appeal. Popular culture is a movement that was started in order to give voice to the common masses through different forms of media, such as television shows, technology, magazines, folklore, sports, movies, contemporary books, paintings, sports, fashion, pop music, and so on.

The phrase "popular culture" was coined in the 19th century following major cultural and social changes brought by mass media innovations. The meaning of "popular culture" began to overlap with the connotations of mass culture, media culture, image culture, consumer culture, and culture for mass consumption. Popular culture is constantly evolving and occurs uniquely in place and time. It forms currents and eddies, and represents a complex of mutually interdependent perspectives and values that influence society and its institutions in various ways (Marcus Herbert 1964). For example, certain currents of pop culture may originate from, or diverge into a subculture, representing perspectives with which the mainstream popular culture has only limited familiarity. Items of popular culture most typically appeal to a broad spectrum of the public (Horkhemier 1993). Sources of popular culture include- mass media, popular music, film, television, ,radio, video games, books, internet, cell phones, Ipod, Ipad, Tiktoks, istagram, Netflix, E moji, Youtube, Meme. Agents of popular culture include; Print, books, pamphlets and periodicals that are widely available to the public. With this, the transmission of common knowledge and ideas become possible. Popular culture is thus a set of beliefs in trends that change a person's set of ideologies and create social transformation

## **Empirical Review**

### **Global-digitalization and Youths' restlessness in Cybercrime**

Nigerian youths regardless of the educational status are headlong into cybercrime. Cybercrime has eaten into the fabric of the Nigerian society that the Federal Government of Nigeria of recnet, initiated a compulsory levy through the Banking sector for every depositor to pay fund into cyber security. Bank account hacking, phone hacking, financial deceit referred to in Nigerian parlance as Yahoo Yahoo, cyber-extortion, crypto-jacking, phishing, identity theft, cyber –stalking, credit or ATM card fraud, social engineering, prohibitive content, on-line scam are some of the crimes

perpetrated on the cyber by Nigerian youths that have been observed from pilot study as fall -out from digitalization and these cybercrime falls into three major categories: individual, property and government (Ehime & Bola 2010). The types of methods used and difficulty levels vary depending on the category. Though there are many different categories and types of cybercrime; most cybercrimes are carried out with the expectation of financial gain by the attackers.

Distributed DoS attacks are often used to shut down systems and networks. This type of attack uses a network's own communications protocol against it by overwhelming its ability to respond to connection requests. DoS attacks are sometimes carried out simply for malicious reasons or as part of a cyber-extortion scheme, but they may also be used to distract the victim organization from some other attack or exploit carried out at the same time. It is often used to make an online service unavailable and take the network down by overwhelming the site with traffic from a variety of sources. Large networks of infected devices known as Botnets are created by depositing malware on users' computers. The hacker then hacks into the system once the network is down (Okoro 2010).

Cyber-extortion is crime involving an attack or threat of attack coupled with a demand for money to stop the attack. One form of cyber-extortion is the ransom ware attack, in which the attacker gains access to an organization's systems and encrypts its documents, files -- anything of potential value -- making the data inaccessible until a ransom is paid, usually in some form of crypto-currency, such as bit-coin. Ransom-ware is a form of cyber-extortion in which the victim device is infected with malware that prevents the owner from using the device or the data stored on it. To regain access to the device or data, the victim has to pay the hacker a ransom. Ransom-ware can be inadvertently downloaded by opening an infected email attachment, visiting a compromised website or clicking on a pop-up ad (Oyewole & Obata 2002).

Infecting systems and networks with malware is used to damage the system or harm users by, for example, damaging the system, software or data stored on the system. Ransom-ware attacks are similar, but the malware acts by encrypting or shutting down victim systems until a ransom is paid. Crypto-jacking attacks use scripts to mine crypto-currencies within browsers without the user's consent. Such attacks may involve loading crypto-currency mining software to the victim's system. However, many attacks depend on JavaScript code that does in-browser mining as long as the user's browser has a tab or window open on the malicious site; no malware needs to be

installed as loading the affected page executes the in-browser mining code (Arase and Obaedo2009). Credit card fraud occurs when hackers infiltrate retailers' systems to get the credit card and/or banking information of their customers. Stolen payment cards can be bought and sold in bulk on dark-net markets, where hackers who have stolen mass quantities of credit cards profit by selling to lower-level cybercriminals who profit through credit card fraud against individual accounts (Olaide & Adewole 2007).

Cyber-espionage occurs when a cybercriminal hacks into systems or networks to gain access to confidential information held by a government or other organization. Attacks may be motivated by profit or by ideology, and cyber espionage activities can include every type of cyber-attack to gather, modify or destroy data, as well as using network-connected devices, like webcams or closed-circuit TV (CCTV) cameras, to spy on a targeted individual or groups and monitoring communications, including email, text messages and instant messages. The dark web not surprisingly has given rise to the digital form of an old crime known as the "exit scam." In today's form, dark web administrators divert virtual currency held in marketplace escrow accounts to their own accounts -- essentially, criminals stealing from other criminals (Igba et.al 2006).

Cybercriminals may also attempt to hijack a website to change or delete content or to access or modify databases without authorization. For example, an attacker may use an SQL injection exploit to insert malicious code into a website, which can then be used to exploit vulnerabilities in the website's database, enabling a hacker to access and tamper with records or gain unauthorized access to data, such as customer passwords, credit card numbers, personally identifiable information (PII), trade secrets, intellectual property and other sensitive information. Cybercriminals often carry out their activities using malware and other types of software, but social engineering is often an important component for executing most types of cybercrime. Phishing email is an important component to many types of cybercrime, but especially so for targeted attacks, like business email compromise (BEC), in which the attacker attempts to impersonate, via email, a business owner in order to convince employees to pay out bogus invoices (Ehime & Bola 2010)

Cybercrime can begin wherever there is digital data, opportunity, and motive. Cybercriminals include everyone from the lone user engaged in cyberbullying to state-sponsored act like China's

intelligence services. Cybercrimes generally do not occur in a vacuum; they are, in many ways, distributed in nature. That is, cyber criminals typically rely on other actors to complete the crime, whether it's the creator of malware using the dark web to sell code, the distributor of illegal pharmaceuticals using crypto-currency brokers to hold virtual money in escrow, or state threat actors relying on technology subcontractors to steal intellectual property are networks from compromised computers that are controlled externally by remote hackers. The remote hackers then send spam or attack other computers through these botnets. Botnets can also be used to act as malware and perform malicious tasks (Olaide and Adewole 2004).

Identity Theft occurs when a criminal gains access to a user's personal information to steal funds, access confidential information, or participate in tax or health insurance fraud. They can also open a phone/internet account in your name, use your name to plan a criminal activity and claim government benefits in your name. They may do this by finding out user's passwords through hacking, retrieving personal information from social media, or sending phishing emails. Identity theft occurs when an attacker accesses a computer to glean a user's personal information that they can then use to steal that person's identity or access bank or other accounts. Cybercriminals buy and sell identity information on dark-net markets, offering financial accounts, as well as other types of accounts, like video streaming services, webmail, video and audio streaming, online auctions and more. Personal health information is another frequent target of identity thieves (Okoro 2010).

Cyber-stalking involves online harassment where the user is subjected to a plethora of online messages and emails. Typically cyber-stalkers use social media, websites and search engines to intimidate a user and instill fear. Usually, the cyber-stalker knows their victim and makes the person feel afraid or concerned for their safety, while Social engineering involves criminals making direct contact with you usually by phone or email. They want to gain your confidence and usually pose as a customer service agent so you will give the necessary information needed. This is typically a password, the company you work for, or bank information. Cybercriminals will find out what they can about you on the internet and then attempt to add you as a friend on social accounts. Once they gain access to an account, they can sell your information or secure accounts in your name.

Phishing is sending malicious email attachments or URLs to users to gain access to their accounts or computer. Cybercriminals are becoming more established and many of these emails are not flagged as spam. Users are tricked into emails claiming they need to change their password or update their billing information, giving criminals access. Hacking is also into prohibited/illegal Content where criminals share and distribute inappropriate contents that can be considered highly distressing and offensive. Offensive content can include, but is not limited to, sexual activity between adults, videos with intense violent and videos of criminal activity. Illegal content includes materials advocating terrorism-related acts and child exploitation material. This type of content exists both on the everyday internet and on the dark web, an anonymous network.

Online Scams are usually in the form of ads or spam emails that include promises of rewards or offers of unrealistic amounts of money. Online scams include enticing offers that are “too good to be true” and when clicked on can cause malware to interfere and compromise information. Exploit kits need a vulnerability (bug in the code of a software) in order to gain control of a user’s computer. They are readymade tools criminals can buy online and use against anyone with a computer (Salihu 2006).

### **Theoretical Framework**

The Symbolic Interactionist Theory propounded by Herbert Mead (2005) and William Ogburn’s Culture Lag Theory (1964) are the theoretical models employed for elucidation. Symbolic Interactionism Theory explains that society is influenced by the behavior of individuals and groups through observation, description and emulation. The theory views people’s appearances, gestures, language, mannerism and behaviours as emanating from interaction with others in social institutions, while, Culture Lag explains the differing rate of change within a society. It describes the disharmony between related parts of a single culture stating that norms and values are not changing at the same rate with technology. The rapid change in technology is not occurring at the same rate with norms and values. Technology has outran norms, values are reducing while technology is increasing.

### **3.0 RESEARCH METHOD**

The work is a position paper anchored on descriptive research design. It used Case study and

documentary research methods in data collection and employed content analysis to analyze the data. Homogenous and critical sampling technique were adopted. Study population are Nigerian youths with a population of 131,590,391.23 million. Out of this youth population, this study has as study population; estimated Internet users all over Nigeria who are 23.84 million according to the National Youth Survey 2025.

#### **4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **Impacts of digital-globalization and pop-culture on Nigerian youths' restiveness**

###### **Pop culture in Nigeria**

Popular culture among Nigerian youths is an ever-shifting mix of indigenous and foreign elements. It provides young people with role models and examples of positive behaviour, as well as teach them valuable life lessons. However, there are also negative aspects of pop culture that can be damaging to young people. It can propagate negative stereotypes, and promote unhealthy and risky behaviour. For many, popular culture is the primary way to learn about people who are different. The problem, though, is that many representations are based on cultural stereotypes, which tend to marginalize and caricature members of non-dominant groups. It affects youths cognitively (how they think), emotionally (how they feel) and behaviorally (what they do). Youths are growing every day and popular culture is helping to mold them. They are affected from almost every aspect of the life around them, from television and movies to literature, music, and even sports.

**Celebrities' influence:** As stated earlier, popular culture: is generally recognized by members of a society as a set of the practices, beliefs, and objects that are dominant or prevalent in a society at a given point in time. As celebrities, online identities are extremely important in order to create a brand to line-up sponsorships, jobs, and opportunities. As influencers, micro-celebrities, and users constantly need to find new ways to be unique or stay updated with trends, in order to maintain followers, views, and the likes. For example, comedians, comperes, disc jockeys have created their own personal branding through talk show. As they develop their brands we can see the branches created to extend their fan base.

**Social media:** Social media is interactive computer-mediated technologies that facilitate the

creation or sharing of information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks. Social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat are the most popular applications used on a daily basis for younger generations. Social media tends to be implemented into the daily routine of individuals in our current society. Social media is a vital part of our culture as it continues to impact the forms of communication used to connect with those in our communities, families, or friend groups. We often see that terms or slang is used online that is not used in face to face conversations, thus, adding to a personal users created through the screens of technology. For example, some individuals respond to situations with a hashtag or e-mojis.

Social media influencers have become trendsetters, they have followers through their direct engagement with large audience. Social Media shapes Popular Culture and Trends. Pop culture itself influences how we interact with it, therefore social media has a significant impact on this. Pop culture has migrated into online areas in various ways, including through memes, hot topics, and fandom networks. Historically, popular culture has been closely associated with mass media that introduce and encourage the adoption of certain trends. We can see these media as “tastemakers”—people or institutions that shape the way others think, eat, listen, drink, dress and more (Bandrillard 1994).

**Popular culture and social change:** Pop culture has been used to create social change and raise awareness about important issues. It has also been used to create a sense of belonging and unity among different groups. It has also been used to shape public opinion, create social change, and influence political decisions. Pop culture has a significant impact on communication and connection in our society. It provides a shared language and set of references that enable people to connect and communicate with one another, often across diverse cultural and geographical boundaries.

Popular culture has become functional in the Nigerian society among youths as it has established norms, defines social boundaries, expresses rituals that is, the usual way of doing things, promotes innovations and paves the way for social change. Popular culture consist of symbols, language, norms, values and artifacts.

Media and pop culture have the power to ignite social change. It resonates with people's emotions, creating an environment where campaigners can go in to win hearts and minds, creating a cultural shift in opinions. This then paves the way for policy change through public then political pressure. Critical theorists argue that popular culture is used to control and indoctrinate the masses by promoting ideas and values. The impact of popular culture on society is a dynamic process and it has a deep impact on the mindset and perception of people in the society. This new perception and values give new belief and opinion to the masses which are expressed as new identity.

### **Negative effects of digital-globalization and pop culture on Nigerian youths**

Negative impact of popular culture on Nigerian youths is myriad. Popular culture sometimes discourage intelligence, hard work and learning among youths. Among youth, exposure to media may affect health behaviours such as sexual activity, eating habits and substance use. It can propagate negative stereotypes, and promote unhealthy and risky behaviour. For many, popular culture is the primary way we learn about people who are different from us. The problem, though, is that many representations are based on cultural stereotypes, which tend to marginalize and caricature members of non-dominant.

Pop culture can negatively impact individuals by promoting unrealistic beauty standards, success, and relationships, leading to dissatisfaction, insecurity, and low self-esteem. It can also contribute to spreading misinformation and perpetuating harmful stereotypes or behaviors. As the 'culture of the people', popular culture is determined by the interactions between people in their everyday activities: styles of dress, the use of slang, greeting rituals and the foods that people eat are all examples of popular culture. Popular culture is also informed by the mass media. For many of us, popular culture is the primary way we learn about people who are different from us. The problem, though, is that many representations are based on cultural stereotypes, which tend to marginalize and caricature members of non-dominant groups

**Homosexuality:** Gathering specific cases on LGBTQ individuals in Nigeria particularly those accused or arrested is sensitive but yet, cases are abound of instances. Nigeria youths are now exposed to homosexuality mostly through the internet. Gay and lesbian relationship are not uncommon among Nigerian youths who emulate foreign values due to digital-globalization. Homosexuality is the sexual orientation toward people of the same sex. Homosexuality contrasts

with heterosexuality, sexual orientation toward people of the opposite sex. Nigerian youths have now formed Human Rights groups such as LGBTQ Nigeria, Gay Rights Nigeria, Cross-dressing Nigeria. The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERS) and Trans Rights Nigeria. However, cases of gay and Lesbians in Nigeria include that of an individual James Brown as reported in Guardian News, British Broadcasting Corporation and Premium Times was arrested in 2019 along with fifty-six others in a police raid. James Brown as reported by Guardian News later became an activist after his release.

**Same sex marriage:** Though this is not yet rampant in Nigeria but the social media give and provide stories and reports that incite, excite and expose the youths to same sex marriage. In 2001 the Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriages, giving same-sex couples the same rights that heterosexual couples have in areas such as inheritance, taxes, divorce, and pension benefits. Belgium legalized same-sex marriages in 2003. Spain and Canada followed suit in 2005. Canada became the fourth nation to legalize same-sex marriage and the first outside of Europe. Several other European countries recognize homosexual unions, although these unions are generally called civil unions or registered partnerships rather than marriages. Same sex marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA) often referenced arrests (Human Rights Watch). Also in the same vein, Global Citizens Rights, The Pink News as well as Human Rights Watch cited cases of same sex marriages in Nigeria and all these are influenced by globalization engendered through digitalization.

**Cross gender Surgeries:** Though this is rare in Nigeria but few cases are reported in Human Rights Watch (2021). Gender change through surgery, known as TURP- Transurethral Resection is now being perpetrated among Nigeria youths. This is gender change genital amputation surgery male to female as reported in the media. Youths have been putting themselves under surgical blades to change their gender in recent times.

**Drug abuse and addiction:** This are common features with youths especially in the urban settings. Drug abuse is characterized by taking drugs outside the recommended dose of prescription such as barbiturates without medical supervision, or using government-controlled substances such as marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or other illegal substances. Legal substances, such as alcohol and nicotine, are also abused by many people as corroborated by Eze and Omeje

(2017). Drug addiction is marked by a compulsive craving for a substance. Today, however, people from all economic levels, in both cities and suburbs, abuse drugs. Some people use drugs to relieve stress and to forget about their problems. Genetic factors may predispose other individuals to drug addiction. Environmental factors such as peer pressure, especially in young people, and the availability of drugs, also influence people to abuse drugs this correlates with Fatima (2017). Also, Obiagu and Onele (2024), see drug abuse as irresponsible use of alcohol, smoking and other psychoactive mind altering drugs such as cannabis, heroin, cocaine and pharmaceutical opioids such as codeine. In 2018, specifically in Nigeria it is reported by WHO/UNODC that 14.4% of people aged 15-64 are involved in drug abuse, this is affirmed by

Sahu and Sahu (2012) study that reported that youths in Nigeria often pattern their drug abuse preferences after their role model who expose and lure them to the experience under the deception of social satisfaction. In addition, modern media are sources by which the youths in Nigeria see drug abuse as every day routine going by the way the media portray drug abuse in movies, music and television shows as exemplified by a notorious musician Naira Marley. In a similar vein, Babafemi (2024) in his work mentioned the arrest of a youth by the NDLEA-Nigerian Drugs and Law Enforcement Agency with 100 and 80 litres of codeine syrup in Coker area of Lagos in Nigeria., Equally reported in the work is a youth aged 25 arrested with opioids of 59,106 pills of tramadol, codeine syrup and Rohypnol from Mubi to Garua in Nigeria. In Ovia North Local Government it is reported by Babafemi (2024) that 11,636,185 kilograms of cannabis were destroyed on 4.654 hectares of farmland. Youths in Nigeria are being exposed to drug use and abuse through globalization believing it is hype to be indulged in.

**Cross dressing:** A malaise has recently become rife among youths in Nigeria with male dressing like ladies with all the accessories and appurtenances. The most popular and celebrated case of cross dressing among others is that of a Nigerian youth by name; Idris also known as Bobrisky, reported by the British Broadcasting Corporation, Punch Newspaper, Vanguard News and The Guardian Nigeria.

**Prostitution:** Prostitution is the performance of sexual acts solely for the purpose of material gain. Persons prostitute themselves when they grant sexual favors to others in exchange for money, gifts, or other payment and in so doing use their bodies as commodities. In legal terms,

the word *prostitute* refers only to those who engage overtly in such sexual-economic transactions, usually for a specified sum of money. It has been observed that Nigerian ladies are engaged in prostitution and are seen on highways, nightclubs and the likes soliciting for sex with men in exchange for money, Some do it for money while others see it as fun seeking but prostitution in the recent times has become brazen even in the public space with the influence of globalization that reduces values and renders social norms valueless.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This paper concludes that, though digital globalization is pivotal to development of every nation especially a developing nation like Nigerian yet the harm and the negative effects are alarming and destructive. Globalization despite the positive effects, influenced and engendered through digitalization that has turned the world into a global village has been harbinger to iconoclasm and anomie within the Nigerian nation. Cultural values are being eroded in culture attrition; the pace of growth in technology as out-paced cultural norms and values in correlation with Ogburn's (1964) theory of Culture Lag.

Based on findings, the study recommends that-

- A monitoring unit in the Ministry of Science and Technology be established.
- The social media need to be curtailed and censored by the Nigerian Government.
- Parents and guidance need to step up their acts in monitoring and guiding their children and wards.
- Schools need to add into their curriculum and workshops; the negative influences of the social media.

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## Intelligence Driven Policing and the Monster of Criminal Profiling in Law Enforcement

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### Abstract

There is growing debate on the efficiency of analogue policing and law enforcement and digital option using ICT Gadget to engage online criminals and criminalities. While existing research suggest more focus on conventional ICT gadget-free policing and law enforcement, little attention is known to be given to paradigm shifts from analogue policing to digital Law enforcement using ICT gadgets. Hence, the focus of this study is to examine a paradigm shifts from analogue policing to digital Law enforcement using ICT gadgets. Using the theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) as framework descriptive survey research design was iemployed in the gathering, treatment, and analysing of primary in the processes and procedures engaged in this quantitative research due to the deliberate involvement of large number of respondents to strengthen reliability. Major outcome of the research confirmed that ICT based policing is mor effective though capital intensive and knowledge driven. Therefore, the paper recommends more funding, training and retraining to accommodate ICT involvement and evolution in policing and law enforcement.

**Keywords:** *Paradigm shifts, Analogue, Digital, Policing, Law enforcement, ICT gadgets*

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The global surge in criminality across regional and national borders have left no aspect of human endeavours untouched pointing to globalism and globalization networks that create virtual space and online learning, unlearning, that blends digital and analogue criminality, policing and law enforcement activities. At the centre of digitalization and digital network is the driving force of information and communication technology (ICT) gadgets. Online space policing is more complicated than physical policing because of its virtual nature. Police is the major player to give greatest security to the public by controlling the crimes, enforcing and maintaining law and order.

However, media propaganda political strategy has popularized public attention on air wave and by extension social media have got people attention glued to online conversation and

altercations. Online social interaction and the increasing traffic of conflict entrepreneurs and organized criminal has made inevitable need to police the air/online space so as to be able to enforce the law using ICT gadget. While existing research suggest more focus on analogue conventional policing and law enforcement gadgets, little attention is known to be given to digital ICT gadgets-based policing and law enforcement. Hence, the focus of this study is to examine a paradigm shifts from analogue policing to digital Law enforcement using ICT gadgets. It is against this background, that this study seeks to interrogate the following including the various ICT gadgets that has aided online operations of the police in Nigeria, examine the negative effects of online ICT gadget on the physical operations of the police, and explore alternative ICT gadget in the online maintenance of law and order.

In the ancient times the major job of the police personnel was to enforce and maintain law and order that establish and not compromise the sovereignty of the state physically (Adewale, 2021). Policing belongs to the executive arm the of the State charge with the execution of the laws of the land as promulgated by parliament just like the third arm of the rear judiciary interprets the laws of the land. Police functions are virtually or physically executed subject to the approval from national Assembly and judiciary. In modern times due to the process of liberalization, privatization and globalization the police force is facing the new challenges.

There is no doubt that the need for technologies to help the police fight crime can never be over-emphasized as the relationship between both the police and technologies goes a long way in the determination of the achievement and sustainability of their ultimate goals, and also, the success and well-being of the nation at large. The role of technology in police institutions and police practices has long been recognized as relevant and ambivalent (Agar, 2013).

Technological advances are particularly relevant for policing because they are seen to influence the organization and practices of police in the ways that intimately connect to the police function of crime control (Agre, 2014). New and more efficient means of crime detection, communication among police, and police transportation, all these influence how successful police is doing its job as a group of crime fighters, and additionally affecting the level of legitimacy police receive from the public and relevant bodies of governments (Braga. 2017).

We are in the era of law enforcement where ICT and other advanced technologies are becoming a powerful tool for responding to criminals, engaging in hotspots policing, solving violent crimes, monitoring employees' performance and many other functions. The introduction of this new method of technology has been a blessing and a curse to the police and other security agencies in performing their protection of life and property. Because the so-called law committers are also indulging in the usage of the technology to boycott the hands of the law through the manipulation of the security officials (Simon. 2014) Technologies, such as video cameras, data mining systems, heat sensors, biometrics, GPS tracking, Internet and telecommunication systems are being used for the detection, investigation, prosecution and prevention of crime in the law enforcement community.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **History of Nigeria Police**

In the 1980s, serious crime grew to nearly epidemic proportions, particularly in Lagos and other urbanized areas characterized by rapid growth and change, by stark economic inequality and deprivation, by social disorganization, and by inadequate government service and law enforcement capabilities. Published crime statistics were probably grossly understated, because most of the country was virtually unpoliced the police were concentrated in urban areas where only about 25 percent of the population lived--and public distrust of the police contributed to under-reporting of crimes. In the late 1980s, the crime wave was exacerbated by worsening economic conditions and by the ineffectiveness, inefficiency, and corruption of police, military, and customs personnel who colluded and conspired with criminals or actually engaged in criminal conduct.

Violent crime affecting foreigners is an extremely serious problem, especially in Lagos and the southern half of the country. Visitors, as well as resident Americans, report widespread armed muggings, assaults, burglary, carjackings and extortion, often involving violence. Carjackings, roadblock robberies and armed break-ins occur often, with victims sometimes shot by assailants for no apparent reason. Reports of armed robberies in broad daylight on rural roads in the northern half of the country appear to be increasing. Law enforcement authorities usually respond to crimes slowly, if at all, and provide little or no investigative support to victims.

A major and continuing problem is the commercial scam or sting that targets foreigners, including many US citizens. Such scams may involve U.S. citizens in illegal activity, resulting in arrest, extortion or bodily harm. The scams generally involve phony offers of either outright money transfers or lucrative sales or contracts with promises of large commissions or up-front payments. Alleged deals frequently invoke the authority of one or more ministries or offices of the Nigerian government and may even cite by name the support of a Nigerian government official. The apparent use in some scams of actual government stationery, seals, and offices is grounds for concern that some individual Nigerian officials may be involved in these activities.

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is designated by Section 194 of the 1979 constitution as the national police with exclusive jurisdiction throughout the country. Constitutional provision also exists, however, for the establishment of separate NPF branches "forming part of the armed forces of the Federation or for their protection of harbours, waterways, railways and airfields." One such branch, the Port Security Police, was reported by different sources to have a strength in 1990 of between 1,500 and 12,000.

Nigeria's police began with a thirty-member consular guard formed in Lagos Colony in 1861. In 1879 a 1,200-member armed paramilitary Hausa Constabulary was formed. In 1896 the Lagos Police was established. A similar force, the Niger Coast Constabulary, was formed in Calabar in 1894 under the newly proclaimed Niger Coast Protectorate. Likewise, in the north, the Royal Niger Company set up the Royal Niger Company Constabulary in 1888 with headquarters at Lokoja. When the protectorates of Northern and Southern Nigeria were proclaimed in the early 1900s, part of the Royal Niger Company Constabulary became the Northern Nigeria Police, and part of the Niger Coast Constabulary became the Southern Nigeria Police. Northern and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914, but their police forces were not merged until 1930, forming the NPF, headquartered in Lagos. During the colonial period, most police were associated with local governments (native authorities). In the 1960s, under the First Republic, these forces were first regionalized and then nationalized.

### **Communication gadgets for policing and Usability**

Collier (2016) defined information as organized data without any assessment. Broadly, communication gadgets for policing consists of three important structures: hardware, software,

and systems. Based on existing technological development, any software, hardware, or combination of systems that allow users to access or process the information constitute communication gadgets for policing. It can be utilized by organizations for different purposes, such as data handling, cataloging, communications, quality enhancement, cost reduction, providing statistical data, and finding strategic innovations (Chu, 2021).

As with any other technology implementation, communication gadgets for policing systems depend significantly on the individual's capacity for usage, i.e., how individuals use the functions of the system (Money, 2004). Lewis (2015) stressed that a usable system can be delineated by the competence of users ease in handling the system and quickly recovering from errors. Nielsen (1993) stated that individual characteristics and task differences are the two main determining factors for usability of technology (as cited in Hauck & Weisband, 2020).

#### **Characteristics of Law Enforcement Communication gadgets for policing Tasks.**

Overall, the usage of communication gadgets for policing is affected by the characteristics of police work and organization, types of information, the form of police intelligence and various operational strategies (Flanagin, 2020). Although new information technologies promoting better performance are implemented often in law enforcement agencies, the expected improvements may not be observed every time (Nunn & Quinet, 2020). Generally, in law enforcement agencies with paramilitary organizations, deploying new communication gadgets for policing may not stem from the needs of that particular police agency; rather, it may be a general implementation of new policy decided earlier by the police executives or policy makers (Nunn & Quinet, 2020).

There is no difference between policing and business either commercial or non-profit in terms of usage of communication gadgets for policing. Organizational response of police organizations to the communication gadgets for policing consists of several stages including familiarity, adoption, resistance, and reformation. These stages include several dynamics similar to the ones observed in organizational change process in business setting. Technological capacities, such as memory capacity, software capabilities, and fittingness for demanding job also play critical role in these stages (Manning, 20030).

However, comparing to business sector, law enforcement agencies have fallen behind the business sector in utilizing new information technologies. Although there seems to be significant

improvements in using computers, commitment to paper based traditional policing needs to be replaced totally in this pre-digital era (Chu, 2021).

### **User Characteristics of Police Officers**

Although there are clear and certain rules for police behavior, the events that the police encounter are mostly irregular, uncertain, and unstable in nature. Thus, police officers use their discretionary power based on the situational rationality in light of the information they get beforehand and at the crime scene. The information that the police deal with is very contextual and related to the officer's ability and evaluation (Flanagin, 2020). Manning (1992) claimed that traditional policing and the traditional role of the police can contradict ICT gadgets for policing usage (as cited in Colvin and Goh, 2015). Officers may resist using communication gadgets for policing if they believe that this method changes or disturbs their accustomed social structure, such as preventing them from engaging in social relationships with other colleagues (Colvin and Goh, 2015).

Resistance is the main problem of usability. Saade and Kira (in press) stated that the user resistance of communication gadgets for policing may stem from computer-phobia which is rooted on computer anxiety. This physiological condition becomes more critical in non-voluntary environments in law enforcement. Manning (2003) asserted that as an indicator of resistance, officers may re-designate the communication gadgets for policing by redescribing the situations where communication gadgets for policing does not exist. For instance, they may claim that the reports are better gathered by using paperwork. In Michigan City, senior police officers complain about the young officers for not interacting with the citizens, but relying on computers, which cause them to lose some policing skills.

### **Communication gadgets for policing Developments in Law Enforcements**

Manning (2003) categorized communication gadgets for policing developments accrued in law enforcement in the USA in five stages: pre-World War II, post-World War II, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LAEE) stage, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) policy, and the Crime Control Bills (COPS) period. His categorization stems from the significant impacts of communication gadgets for policing on police practices. For instance, pre-WW II, police had used the telegraph, the call box, the telephone, and the two-way radios which changed

the structure of policing in those times by providing coordination within agencies. Unified Crime Reports under the FBI were developed during this stage.

Policymakers were trying to depict crime fighting, scientific, and professional image during this period. Especially after the 1930s, two-way radios met the need for responding to citizens' calls. After World War II and till 1967, the telephone was used widely to decrease police response time to citizens' calls. After the 1960s, computers were used to collect and organise citizens' calls (Byrne & Buzawa, 2015).

### **Data Integration Programs in Law Enforcement**

Several different information management systems used by law enforcement organisations exist. As mentioned earlier, the Knowledge-Based Community Oriented Policing System (KBCOPS) has been implemented in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) in the USA. This system is based on a mobile information system using wireless data sharing and transfer. The main aims of this system are to reduce the amount of paperwork, increase data integrity, promote information sharing within this police department and between other police departments, and support problem solving. This system is designed to support information sources encountered by police officers, including incident reports, crime management, arrests of criminals, crime investigation, and crime analysis. In doing so, the processes of reporting and investigating incidents are linked by communication gadgets for policing. This linkage created a precise, timely, and complete information system for police officers in Charlotte (Williams & Aasheim, 2015).

The KBCOPS also has search capabilities that allow users to search for any type of crime, date ranges, patrol divisions, operation methods, suspect features, type of weapons used in the crime, or any other variables that officers want to identify. The KBCOPS database includes information that can be used to determine and arrest criminals and to find, track and plot criminal behaviour patterns and trends (Williams & Aasheim, 2015). A study interviewed the law enforcement users of KBCOPS systems to determine their perceptions about this system by utilising questions from the TAM (Davis, 1989) and the information systems implementation literature (Burns, Turnipseed & Riggs, 1991). The researchers found that the overall perceptions of the officers

were positive, although some older officers had resisted the system initially. They claimed that the resistance stemmed from involuntary changes in the daily routine activities of officers.

### 3.0 METHODS AND MATERIALS

#### Theoretical perspective

The theory of Reasoned Action (TRA) was adopted to framework the discussions the concerned variables in the topic. The Theory of Reasoned Action (TRA), a widely studied model in social psychology, was established on several dynamics including relations between beliefs, attitudes, intentions, and behaviours (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975). The basic goal was to understand what and how motives that change people’s beliefs and attitudes affect behaviour in general. While proposing this theory, Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) assumed that human beings make rational choices and also make systematic use of the information that they have in their decision-making process. TRA hypothesizes that people’s beliefs influence their attitude, which joins with subjective norms in shaping the behavioural intention that eventually guides or dictates the actual behaviour (Lin *et al.*, 2004). Figure 2 shows the schematic design of TRA:

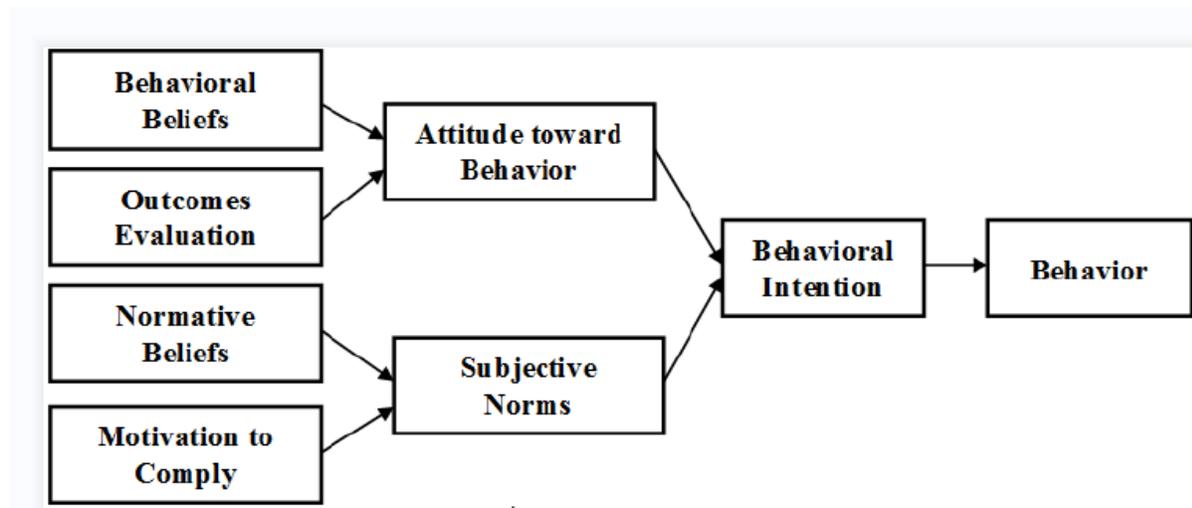


Figure 3.1. Graphical view of Theory of Reasoned Action (Adapted from: Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975; Legris *et al.*, 2003).

However, Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) pointed out that their observation was based on self-reports of individuals and not an actual and direct observation. Fourth, this theory also has a limitation for individuals who perceive that they have little power over their behaviours, as it does not

clearly explain the behaviours of these individuals. Thus, to overcome these problems, Ajzen developed and presented the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) (Schifter & Ajzen, 1985).

While descriptive survey research design was used a methodological design social-scientifically informed by the need to elicit quantitative data from large number of respondents on television's roles in fighting crimes (Nwaoboli, 2022) at the research area, Etete Divisional Police Station in Benin City from where target population is the Nigeria Police Service in Etete Divisional Police Station, from where a sample size of (100) male/female respondents. Data were gathered using one hundred (100) self-administered questionnaires. Raw data were analysed using descriptive statistics, such as frequency, percentage, and cross-tabulation analysis, to explore the data. Throughout the inquiry, the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) statistical software was employed.

#### **4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The major findings connected to the existing literature review is as follows:

**Information and Communication Technology in Policing:** Numerous scholars have emphasized the significance of information and communication technology (ICT) in modern policing, highlighting its role in enhancing operational efficiency, crime prevention, and community engagement (Smith et al., 2017; Maguire & Uchida, 2019). Our study findings align with these assertions, as the majority of respondents reported using ICT gadgets daily and rated them as very effective in improving police operations.

**Challenges and Limitations:** However, the literature also acknowledges challenges associated with the adoption and use of ICT in policing, including technical issues, connectivity problems, and security concerns (Liang et al., 2018; Vollaard & Dijkgraaf, 2019). Our survey results corroborate these findings, with respondents citing connectivity problems as the most prevalent challenge in using ICT gadgets at the Etete Divisional Police Station. This suggests that while ICT can enhance policing capabilities, addressing technical and infrastructure-related challenges is crucial for maximizing its benefits.

**Training and Proficiency:** Training plays a pivotal role in ensuring the effective use of ICT gadgets by police personnel. Studies have emphasized the importance of providing comprehensive training programs to enhance officers' proficiency and confidence in utilizing

these technologies (Hodgkinson et al., 2016; Ressler et al., 2018). Our findings reflect this perspective, with the majority of respondents indicating that they have received specific training on the proper use of ICT gadgets. However, the existence of a minority who have not undergone such training underscores the need for ongoing training initiatives to ensure all officers are adequately equipped to utilize ICT tools effectively.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion, the literature review highlights the transformative potential of information and communication technology in policing, while also acknowledging the challenges and limitations associated with its implementation. By contextualizing our study findings within the broader literature, we gain valuable insights into the opportunities and obstacles facing law enforcement agencies like the Etete Divisional Police Station in leveraging ICT for improved operational outcomes.

### **Recommendations**

**Investment in Technology Infrastructure:** The police station should allocate resources to upgrade its technology infrastructure, including network connectivity and hardware systems, to ensure seamless operation of information and communication gadgets.

**Comprehensive Training and retraining Programs:** Develop and implement comprehensive training programs for police officers to enhance their proficiency in using information and communication gadgets effectively. Training should cover technical aspects, operational procedures, and best practices for maximizing the utility of these devices.

**Regular Maintenance and Technical Support:** Establish a system for regular maintenance and technical support to address issues such as connectivity problems and device malfunctions promptly. This will minimize downtime and ensure uninterrupted access to essential communication tools.

**Embracing Emerging Technologies:** Stay abreast of emerging technologies and trends in law enforcement to identify opportunities for enhancing policing capabilities further. Consider adopting innovative solutions such as body-worn cameras, drones, and advanced analytics tools to augment existing communication gadgets.

**Collaboration with Technology Partners:** Forge partnerships with technology vendors, academic institutions, and other stakeholders to leverage expertise and resources for implementing and optimizing information and communication gadgets. Collaborative initiatives can facilitate access to cutting-edge technologies and foster knowledge exchange among law enforcement agencies.

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**Food Security, Conflict, and National Cohesion: The Impact of Persistent Herder–Farmer Clashes in Nigeria**

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**Abstract**

**P**ersistent herder–farmer conflicts in Nigeria have escalated into one of the nation’s most pressing security and development challenges, with profound implications for food security and national cohesion. This study examines Food Security, Conflict, and National Cohesion: The Impact of Persistent Herder–Farmer Clashes in Nigeria resources, exacerbated by climate change, population growth, and governance failures. Adopting a qualitative–descriptive approach, the research synthesizes evidence from secondary sources, official reports, and conflict analysis frameworks to assess the intersection between resource-based violence and socio-political integration. Findings reveal that recurring violence disrupts agricultural production, displaces rural populations, deepens ethnic and regional divides, and fuels the proliferation of small arms. The absence of effective conflict resolution mechanisms and policy coordination further entrenches insecurity. The study recommends integrated strategies, including climate adaptation measures, revitalization of grazing reserves, strengthened regional cooperation, and the enactment of comprehensive grazing legislation, to safeguard food security and foster national unity.

**Keywords:** *Food Security, Herder–Farmer Conflict, National Integration, Nigeria, Climate Change, Resource Competition*

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Food security and national integration represent two interdependent pillars of sustainable development, socio-political stability, and economic resilience. Food security, as defined by the

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2023), exists when all individuals have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. National integration, on the other hand, refers to the process of creating unity, solidarity, and a shared sense of belonging among diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious groups within a state (Chege, 2016). In the Nigerian context, these pillars are under severe strain due to the persistence of violent herder–farmer clashes, which have escalated over the past three decades and now constitute one of the most serious threats to the country’s food production systems, social cohesion, and political stability (International Crisis Group, 2018; Okoli & Atelhe, 2014). These conflicts have evolved from localized disputes over grazing land into protracted, often militarized confrontations involving large-scale displacement, destruction of livelihoods, and deepening ethnic and regional divisions.

Globally, the relationship between natural resource scarcity and violent conflict is well documented. Homer-Dixon’s (1998) environmental scarcity theory posits that when essential resources such as arable land, water, or pasture decline in quantity or quality, competition among groups intensifies, potentially leading to violent conflict. Comparative examples reinforce this perspective: in Pakistan, recurrent disputes over water allocation have triggered violent protests (Rashid, 2021), while in Mexico’s Chiapas region, land scarcity has fueled prolonged disputes between indigenous communities, settlers, and state authorities (Bello, 2020). In sub-Saharan Africa, similar patterns are evident in Kenya and Niger, where drought-induced pastoralist migration has intensified resource competition, often resulting in deadly clashes with farming communities (Kaimba et al., 2011; Yoon, 2022). These patterns suggest that Nigeria’s herder–farmer crisis is not an isolated occurrence but part of a broader global and continental trend where environmental change intersects with governance deficits to generate insecurity.

In Nigeria, the crisis is most pronounced in the Benue Trough region, encompassing Plateau, Benue, Taraba, and Bauchi states, where pastoralist incursions into farming territories have resulted in the deaths of over 20,000 people and the displacement of hundreds of thousands (Fagbemi et al., 2014; Amnesty International, 2021). These violent encounters have destroyed crops, killed livestock, and driven rural communities into prolonged displacement, further weakening local economies. Beyond the immediate human and economic costs, these clashes

have eroded interethnic trust, fueling ethnic stereotyping and regional polarization (Akinwotu, 2022). This deterioration in social cohesion undermines Nigeria's long-standing efforts to promote national unity, including state-driven initiatives such as the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and the Federal Character Principle (Ugoh & Ekpere, 2013).

A critical aspect of the Nigerian herder–farmer conflict is its entanglement with broader structural drivers, including climate change, demographic pressure, governance weaknesses, and insecurity. Climate change has reduced rainfall and shortened the growing season in Nigeria's northern regions (Nigerian Meteorological Agency [NIMET], 2023), pushing pastoralists southward in search of greener pastures. Simultaneously, Nigeria's population has grown from 73 million in 1980 to over 220 million in 2023 (United Nations, 2023), intensifying competition over land and water. Weak governance, manifested in inadequate land-use regulation, poor enforcement of grazing policies, and corruption, has allowed disputes to fester and escalate (Adelakun et al., 2021). Furthermore, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) has militarized local disputes, increasing the lethality of clashes (Small Arms Survey, 2022).

Despite the magnitude of the crisis, state responses have been fragmented and often reactive rather than preventive. Measures such as anti-open grazing laws in Benue and Ekiti states have been implemented without comprehensive national consensus, leading to perceptions of ethnic targeting among Fulani pastoralists and further deepening mistrust (Olayoku, 2021). Similarly, federal-level initiatives to create grazing reserves and promote ranching have been inconsistently funded and poorly coordinated across states (Ogunbode & Olaniyan, 2020). These policy shortcomings underscore the need for an integrated, evidence-based strategy that addresses both the environmental and socio-political dimensions of the conflict.

This study addresses a significant research gap by systematically examining the nexus between persistent herder–farmer clashes, food security deterioration, and the erosion of national integration in Nigeria. While prior studies have explored these issues in isolation, few have provided a holistic analysis linking resource competition to both economic and socio-political outcomes. By adopting a qualitative–descriptive approach grounded in conflict analysis

frameworks, this paper seeks to unpack the drivers, impacts, and policy implications of the herder–farmer crisis. The findings contribute to ongoing debates on conflict management, climate adaptation, and rural development policy in Nigeria and comparable African contexts. Ultimately, the paper aims to inform policymakers, scholars, and practitioners on sustainable pathways for safeguarding food security while fostering national cohesion in the face of deepening environmental and socio-political challenges.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

The academic literature on resource-based conflict demonstrates a consistent link between environmental scarcity and violent confrontations, particularly in agrarian and pastoral economies. Homer-Dixon’s (1998) environmental scarcity theory remains foundational, asserting that when essential renewable resources such as arable land, freshwater, or grazing pasture become scarce due to overuse, degradation, or climatic shifts, competition between social groups intensifies and may escalate into violent conflict. This framework has been reinforced by empirical studies across multiple regions. In Pakistan, chronic disputes over irrigation water in Sindh and Punjab provinces have led to recurrent violent protests and deepened interprovincial tensions (Rashid, 2021). In Latin America, the land scarcity in Mexico’s Chiapas region has triggered decades-long disputes between indigenous communities, settlers, and the state, with violence often intertwined with ethnic identity and political exclusion (Bello, 2020). Across Africa, the Sahel region provides a particularly stark example: recurrent droughts, desertification, and fluctuating rainfall patterns have eroded pastoralists’ traditional grazing routes, compelling seasonal migrations that heighten competition with settled agricultural communities (Yoon, 2022; Tounkara et al., 2023). These global cases demonstrate that Nigeria’s herder–farmer conflict is embedded in broader transnational dynamics where environmental change intersects with demographic pressures, governance failures, and socio-cultural fault lines.

In African contexts, herder–farmer relations historically oscillated between cooperation and contestation, with customary institutions mediating disputes over shared resources. For centuries, pastoralists and sedentary farmers maintained reciprocal arrangements, whereby herders gained access to post-harvest crop residues for grazing, and farmers benefited from manure fertilization of their fields (Moritz, 2010). However, over the past five decades, the resilience of such systems

has been undermined by climate variability, land-use changes, and governance breakdowns. In Kenya, for example, the degradation of rangelands in arid and semi-arid counties such as Turkana and Isiolo has intensified pastoralist incursions into cropland, leading to violent clashes and the proliferation of armed militia groups (Mkutu, 2019). In Niger, recurrent droughts in the Sahelian zone have shortened transhumance routes and brought herders into more frequent contact — and conflict — with farmers in fertile southern districts (Turner et al., 2022). These experiences mirror Nigeria's situation, where desertification in the northern belt, combined with population growth and weak enforcement of grazing regulations, has sharply increased the incidence of conflict. Recent African Union reports (African Union Commission, 2024) emphasize that regional cooperation and integrated land-use planning are crucial in mitigating such disputes, yet implementation remains limited

In Nigeria, herder–farmer clashes have transformed from sporadic local disputes into protracted, widespread, and highly politicized conflicts. Historically, grazing reserves established in the 1960s under the Northern Regional Government's pastoral development strategy provided a buffer against land-use disputes (Blench, 2010). At their peak, there were 415 such reserves, of which 114 were formally demarcated; today, the vast majority have been encroached upon by urban settlements and farmlands, reflecting the absence of legislative protection and coordinated management (Odjugo, 2013). Environmental stressors compound this institutional neglect. The shrinkage of Lake Chad by over 90% since the 1960s — from 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> to about 1,350 km<sup>2</sup> — has displaced millions of pastoralists and farmers, forcing migration deeper into Nigeria's Middle Belt (International Crisis Group, 2017; UN Environment Programme, 2023). This environmental displacement converges with socio-political drivers: the proliferation of small arms, the weakening of traditional dispute resolution systems, and the manipulation of conflict narratives by political elites (Akinwotu, 2022; Small Arms Survey, 2022). The result is a conflict system that is at once environmental, economic, and ethno-political, with national integration and food security as collateral casualties.

The link between food security and national integration is particularly salient in Nigeria's herder–farmer crisis. Food security, according to the FAO (2023), encompasses not only the availability and accessibility of food but also its stability and utilization over time. Herdsmen–farmer clashes directly undermine all four pillars. In terms of availability, recurring violence

disrupts planting and harvesting cycles, leading to reduced crop output in major producing states such as Benue, Plateau, and Nasarawa (Umar, 2015; Adelokun et al., 2021). Accessibility is compromised as displaced farming communities lose access to their land, and rural markets are disrupted by insecurity. Stability suffers when seasonal migration patterns of herders become unpredictable due to climate and security conditions, creating recurrent shocks to local food systems. Utilization is indirectly affected as displacement and poverty lead to reduced dietary diversity and malnutrition (World Food Programme, 2024). On the national integration side, these clashes deepen ethnic and regional polarization, eroding the trust necessary for social cohesion (Chege, 2016). Studies by Ugoh and Ekpere (2013) and recent surveys by Afrobarometer (2023) reveal that perceptions of ethnic bias in state security responses exacerbate mistrust, further fragmenting the national identity.

Existing research on Nigeria's herder–farmer conflict tends to silo its analysis, focusing either on environmental drivers, food security implications, or ethnic relations, but rarely integrating these dimensions into a single analytical framework. For example, Okoli and Atelhe (2014) focus primarily on the ethno-religious framing of the conflict, while Adelokun et al. (2021) analyze its agricultural impacts without systematically engaging with questions of national cohesion. Similarly, policy documents such as the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) acknowledge the link between pastoral mobility and rural development but do not explicitly address the role of social trust and intergroup relations. This fragmented scholarship leaves a gap in understanding the conflict as a complex system where ecological, economic, and socio-political dynamics reinforce one another. The present study addresses this gap by adopting a holistic lens, examining the interplay between persistent herder–farmer clashes, declining food security, and weakening national integration, while drawing comparative insights from similar conflicts across Africa and beyond. By doing so, it contributes to both the theoretical literature on resource-based conflict and the practical discourse on peacebuilding and rural development in fragile contexts.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

This study employs a qualitative–descriptive research design to explore the complex interplay between persistent herder–farmer clashes, food security, and national integration in Nigeria. The qualitative approach was deemed appropriate because the phenomenon under investigation

involves deep-rooted socio-political, environmental, and cultural dynamics that cannot be adequately captured through purely quantitative measures (Creswell & Poth, 2018). By focusing on rich, narrative data, the research captures the lived experiences of affected communities, the perspectives of key stakeholders, and the multi-scalar factors that sustain the crisis (Moritz, 2010; Turner et al., 2022).

The study draws on three primary categories of data: (1) secondary literature, (2) official statistics and reports, and (3) key informant perspectives. The secondary literature includes peer-reviewed journal articles, policy briefs, and books on environmental scarcity, conflict theory, pastoralism, food security, and national integration. Core sources include international policy reports by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2023), the International Crisis Group (2017, 2018), and the World Food Programme (2024), alongside Nigerian government documents such as the National Livestock Transformation Plan (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2019). Official statistics were obtained from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET, 2023) on rainfall patterns, the Zamfara State Emergency Management Agency (ZEMA, 2021) on conflict casualties and displacement, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2023) on demographic trends. Key informant insights were drawn from transcribed interviews, press statements, and public testimonies by community leaders, pastoralist association representatives, and policymakers. These diverse data sources were selected to enable triangulation — a process that enhances the credibility and reliability of findings by cross-verifying evidence from multiple perspectives (Patton, 2015).

Given the vast geographic spread of herder–farmer clashes in Nigeria, purposive sampling was employed to focus on regions with the highest intensity and recurrence of conflict. The Benue Trough — encompassing Benue, Plateau, Taraba, and Nasarawa states — was prioritized due to its status as Nigeria’s “food basket” and its persistent vulnerability to pastoral incursions (Fagbemi et al., 2014). These states have recorded some of the highest casualty and displacement figures, as well as extensive destruction of agricultural land (Amnesty International, 2021). The selection was also informed by the availability of reliable data, access to stakeholder testimony, and the presence of varied conflict dynamics, from localized skirmishes to large-scale attacks.

This regional focus allows for in-depth analysis while ensuring that findings remain relevant to the broader Nigerian context, given the structural similarities between conflicts in the Middle Belt and those in other hotspots such as Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara (Olayoku, 2021).

The analysis employed thematic content analysis, a qualitative method suited for identifying, analyzing, and interpreting patterns within textual data (Braun & Clarke, 2019). Following data collection, all sources were systematically coded using NVivo 14 software to categorize information under key themes: (1) drivers of conflict, (2) impacts on food security, (3) effects on national integration, and (4) policy and peacebuilding responses. Coding was iterative, allowing themes to emerge inductively from the data while also being informed by deductive categories derived from the environmental scarcity theory (Homer-Dixon, 1998) and social cohesion frameworks (Chan et al., 2006). Data credibility was enhanced through source triangulation — comparing narratives from different stakeholders — and methodological triangulation, combining documentary analysis with stakeholder accounts. To address potential researcher bias, reflexive memo-writing was maintained throughout the analysis, documenting analytic decisions and interpretive shifts.

Although this study relied predominantly on secondary and publicly available sources, ethical considerations were taken into account in the handling and representation of sensitive conflict data. When citing interviews or public statements, attribution was given only when the speaker's identity was already part of the public record, in order to minimize risks to personal security. All secondary data were sourced from reputable outlets, and cross-checked to avoid propagating misinformation — a crucial step in contexts where conflict narratives are often politicized and ethnically charged (Adelakun et al., 2021). The study also adhered to the ethical principle of beneficence by ensuring that findings are oriented toward practical solutions that can benefit affected communities, thereby aligning research outcomes with the public interest (Resnik, 2020).

#### **4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The findings from this study are organized into three interconnected themes: (1) drivers of herder–farmer conflicts, (2) impacts on food security, and (3) implications for national

integration. Each theme reflects patterns that emerged from triangulating official reports, academic literature, and stakeholder testimonies. The discussion draws on relevant theoretical frameworks, comparative African experiences, and the Nigerian case to explain these patterns in depth.

#### **4.1 Drivers of Herder–Farmer Conflicts**

The herder–farmer crisis in Nigeria is the product of multiple interrelated drivers, each reinforcing the others. Climate change is a critical factor, with long-term meteorological data from NIMET (2023) indicating a steady decline in annual rainfall in northern Nigeria, alongside shortened wet seasons and rising average temperatures. These shifts have accelerated desertification, degraded pasturelands, and reduced water availability, forcing pastoralists to migrate southwards earlier and for longer periods each year (Odjugo, 2013; Adalakun et al., 2021). The environmental scarcity theory (Homer-Dixon, 1998) predicts such outcomes, noting that resource scarcity not only increases competition but also undermines the adaptive capacity of traditional conflict management systems.

Loss of grazing reserves has compounded this ecological pressure. Of the 415 reserves established in the 1960s, fewer than 30% remain partially functional, and most lack legislative protection against encroachment (Blench, 2010). Population growth — from 73 million in 1980 to over 220 million in 2023 (United Nations, 2023) — has intensified competition for arable land, leading farmers to expand cultivation into cattle routes and dry-season grazing areas. This overlap increases the likelihood of crop damage by migrating herds, which often triggers retaliatory violence.

Insecurity has further escalated the conflict. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons, facilitated by Nigeria’s porous borders and regional instability, has militarized disputes that were once resolved through negotiation (Small Arms Survey, 2022). Testimonies from community leaders in Benue and Nasarawa suggest that some herder groups are now accompanied by armed escorts, while farming communities have formed vigilante militias in response. This arms race magnifies the lethality of clashes and entrenches cycles of revenge (Amnesty International, 2021). Additionally, political manipulation of the conflict — where elites frame disputes in

ethno-religious terms to mobilize support — deepens mistrust and hinders cooperative solutions (Olayoku, 2021). Together, these drivers form a conflict system that is ecological, economic, and political in nature.

#### **4.2 Impact on Food Security**

The impact of herder–farmer clashes on Nigeria’s food security is severe and multifaceted. Using the FAO’s four-pillar framework — availability, access, stability, and utilization — the findings reveal that each dimension is adversely affected. Availability is reduced when farmland is abandoned due to insecurity, as has occurred in large areas of Benue, Plateau, and Nasarawa states. Data from the Zamfara State Emergency Management Agency (2021) indicate that over 530,000 livestock were rustled between 2011 and 2021, representing a significant loss in animal protein sources. Access is constrained when rural markets shut down during conflict or when displaced farmers lose their livelihoods. For instance, WFP (2024) reports that households in affected areas face a 35–50% reduction in market participation during peak conflict periods.

Stability is undermined by the unpredictability of pastoralist migration routes, which disrupt planting and harvesting schedules. Farmers often resort to premature harvesting to avoid losing crops to cattle incursions, leading to post-harvest losses and reduced yields (Adelakun et al., 2021). Utilization suffers indirectly, as displacement and poverty limit dietary diversity and increase reliance on less nutritious staple foods. The Millennium Development Goals Report (2014) already indicated a rising proportion of Nigerians living below the hunger threshold, and current trends suggest this has worsened under the combined pressures of conflict, inflation, and climate change (FAO, 2023).

These findings echo patterns observed in other African contexts. In Mali and Burkina Faso, resource-based conflicts have similarly disrupted agricultural production, leading to localized famine conditions (Toukara et al., 2023). The Nigerian case, however, is compounded by the scale of displacement — often tens of thousands in a single incident — and by the strategic targeting of food production infrastructure, including irrigation systems and storage facilities. The cumulative effect is a structural weakening of Nigeria’s capacity to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger).

### 4.3 Implications for National Integration

Beyond its economic and nutritional consequences, the herder–farmer conflict poses an existential threat to Nigeria’s national integration. National integration depends on mutual trust, shared civic identity, and equitable access to opportunities across ethnic and regional lines (Chege, 2016; Ugoh & Ekpere, 2013). The findings reveal that the conflict erodes these foundations in multiple ways. First, it fuels ethnic polarization, with pastoralists — predominantly Fulani — and farming communities often framing each other in hostile, essentialist terms. This reinforces stereotypes and deepens intergroup suspicion, as seen in the backlash against anti-open grazing laws in Benue and Ekiti states, which some pastoralists perceive as ethnically discriminatory (Olayoku, 2021).

Second, the conflict undermines state legitimacy. When security forces fail to respond promptly to attacks or are perceived as biased, affected communities lose confidence in state institutions, turning instead to ethnic militias or self-help strategies. This dynamic mirrors patterns in Nigeria’s Niger Delta militancy and Boko Haram insurgency, where governance deficits contributed to the persistence of violence (Akinwotu, 2022). Third, the conflict disrupts integrative state programs such as the NYSC, as insecurity in conflict-prone areas limits the deployment of youth corps members and reduces cross-cultural interaction.

Comparatively, Nigeria’s challenges resemble those of Sudan’s Darfur region, where resource-based conflict intertwined with ethnic identity politics has led to long-term fragmentation and weakened national unity (Young et al., 2021). In both contexts, environmental stress interacts with historical grievances, economic marginalization, and political manipulation to undermine social cohesion. Unless addressed holistically, the Nigerian herder–farmer crisis risks entrenching patterns of division that could persist for generations, weakening the country’s capacity to function as a unified political entity.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this study make it clear that the persistent herder–farmer clashes in Nigeria are not merely isolated incidents of rural violence but rather the manifestation of deep-seated structural, environmental, and socio-political challenges. The interplay between climate change, population growth, environmental degradation, governance deficits, and the proliferation of small arms has transformed what were once seasonal disputes over pasture and water into

chronic, militarized conflicts with national repercussions (Homer-Dixon, 1998; NIMET, 2023). The evidence from the Benue Trough and other high-incidence regions demonstrates that the immediate impacts of these clashes — destruction of crops, livestock losses, market disruption, and displacement — directly undermine the four pillars of food security: availability, access, stability, and utilization (FAO, 2023).

Equally significant are the socio-political consequences. The erosion of intergroup trust, the politicization of ethnic identities, and the perception of state bias weaken the social fabric that holds Nigeria together as a multi-ethnic federation (Chege, 2016; Ugoh & Ekpere, 2013). The findings indicate that national integration — already fragile due to historical grievances and uneven development — is being further strained by this conflict. Without effective interventions, the current trajectory suggests not only worsening food insecurity but also a progressive entrenchment of ethnic polarization, which could make cooperative governance and peacebuilding increasingly difficult in the coming decades (Akinwotu, 2022).

Furthermore, the Nigerian case has broader implications for understanding the relationship between environmental change and national cohesion in multi-ethnic states. It reinforces the view that environmental scarcity does not operate in isolation but interacts with governance weaknesses and socio-economic inequality to produce conflict systems that are resistant to piecemeal solutions (Tounkara et al., 2023). This complexity underscores the necessity of adopting integrated, multi-level interventions that address both the ecological and socio-political dimensions of the crisis. By situating the Nigerian experience within comparative African and global contexts, this study contributes to the literature on environmental conflict, peacebuilding, and rural development, offering lessons that extend beyond national borders.

Based on findings, the study recommends restoring and legally protecting grazing reserves, strengthening climate adaptation measures, and controlling desertification. It calls for integrated rural security teams, modernization of livestock practices toward ranching, and expansion of community-based conflict resolution.

Curbing small arms proliferation and enhancing national integration programs like the NYSC are

also emphasized to improve food security and cohesion.

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**Exploring the Role of Economic Development Diplomacy in Nigeria's Growth: A Case Study of Nigeria-China Relations (1982-2022)**

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**Abstract**

**T**his study examines the economic diplomacy between Nigeria and China from 1982 to 2022, employing a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative analysis with the dependency theory framework. Using Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression on secondary data from Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics, UN Comtrade, and Chinese investment trackers, the study examines trade patterns, GDP growth, and foreign direct investment flows. Findings reveal a fundamentally asymmetric relationship: while bilateral trade volume. The results demonstrate that China's economic engagement produces contradictory effects. While contributing to GDP growth (coefficient: 0.81 for exports), Chinese imports show strong negative impacts (-0.67,  $p < 0.05$ ) and FDI presents risks (0.86,  $p < 0.05$ ). Infrastructure investments, though substantial, exhibit limited technology transfer and problematic labour practices. The currency swap agreement further entrenches imbalances by favouring Chinese imports. The study identifies three structural challenges: Nigeria's reliance on raw material exports, weak manufacturing capacity, and inconsistent policy implementation. The study recommends export diversification through incentives for value-added manufacturing, local content requirements for Chinese firms operating in Nigeria, structured technology transfer programs in key sectors and strengthened trade policies through African Union frameworks

**Keywords:** *Economic Diplomacy, Nigeria-China Relations, Trade Imbalance, Dependency Theory, OLS*

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Economic Development Diplomacy plays a critical role in fostering international relationships that contribute to a nation's growth. This is especially evident in the case of Nigeria's evolving relationship with China from 1982 to 2022, which serves as a significant case study in understanding the broader impacts of economic development diplomacy. Historically, diplomacy by its very nature has been a key tool for states to manage their international relations, with economic, political, and social interactions forming the foundations for global growth and cooperation. Theoretical perspectives like South-South Cooperation (Alden & Alves, 2009) frame such relationships as mutualistic, though critics highlight power asymmetries (Adebajo,

2020). No country can progress in isolation; hence, diplomatic engagement is crucial for sustainable development.

Diplomacy, defined as the profession and practice of managing International Relations, is driven by a state's interests, often articulated through foreign policies aimed at securing economic advantages. This is evident in Nigeria's diplomatic efforts with China, where economic diplomacy has been central to their bilateral relations. While China was once one of the poorest nations in the world, it has, over the past few decades, emerged as a global economic powerhouse through strategic reforms and global integration. By 2022, China accounted for 28.7% of Nigeria's total imports (UN Comtrade, 2023), underscoring its dominance as a trade partner. This transformation has made China a valuable economic partner for Nigeria.

The Nigeria-China relationship began to gain significant traction circa three decades ago, particularly following Nigeria's shift towards a more China-centric foreign policy under President Obasanjo. The "oil for infrastructure" policy became a hallmark of this relationship, where Nigeria exchanged oil for much-needed infrastructure development, with China providing technical expertise and investments. For instance, Chinese firms constructed the Lagos-Ibadan Railway (2016–2021) and Abuja International Airport Terminal (2018), funded by \$5.6B in Chinese loans (CARI, 2022). This strategic partnership has only grown stronger, especially as China continues to expand its global influence and economic reach.

China's foreign policy towards Nigeria, established in 2006, emphasizes mutual benefits, non-interference in internal affairs, and equality. While some studies suggest that China's primary interests in Nigeria lie in its energy and mineral resources (Taylor, 2018), the broader scope of their economic diplomacy indicates a deeper, multifaceted engagement. However, Nigeria's trade deficit with China (\$18.4B in 2022) and debt servicing pressures (World Bank, 2023) reveal structural imbalances. China's involvement in Nigeria has been marked by significant contributions to infrastructural development, including the construction of airports, railways, and other critical projects, often financed through Chinese loans.

As China continues to rise as a global economic superpower, its relationship with Nigeria has increasingly sidelined traditional Western partners like the United States and the United Kingdom. Nigeria, facing challenges in keeping pace with globalization, has benefited from China's willingness to invest in its development. Yet, concerns persist about Nigeria's reliance on raw material exports and limited technology transfer (Ajakaiye & Kaplinsky, 2021). This relationship underscores the importance of economic development diplomacy as a tool for achieving national interests, particularly in the context of a rapidly changing global economic landscape. The Nigeria-China relationship from the period for which this research work dwells on (1982–2022) exemplifies how strategic diplomacy can significantly influence a nation's development trajectory.

Therefore, this study will seek to ascertain the nature and structure of economic development diplomacy between Nigeria and China from 1982 to 2022, evaluate the role of economic

diplomacy in Nigeria's industrial development, addressing gaps in local value addition (OECD, 2021); determine the benefits Nigeria has gained from the trade relations in the area of industrial development; identify the challenges of mutually beneficial economic diplomacy between Nigeria and China and propose a balanced diplomacy model leveraging Nigeria's market size (IMF, 2023) to negotiate technology transfers.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Conceptual Clarification**

#### **Historical Background of Nigeria-China Relations**

The foundation of diplomatic relations between Nigeria and China can be traced back to what may be termed the "Diplo-genesis" of Sino-Nigerian ties. For over five decades, the political and economic relations between these two nations have intensified, offering a rich context for examining their development trajectory (Utomi, 2008). This relationship has evolved significantly since the post-Cold War era, during which time China sought to forge new external alliances. The shift from a communist-socialist system to one that emphasized trade liberalization and economic cooperation redefined China's approach to international relations, particularly with countries like Nigeria.

Historically, Nigeria's first formal contact with China occurred in 1960, when a Chinese delegation attended Nigeria's independence celebrations at the invitation of the Nigerian government. This delegation conveyed a message from Chinese leaders, congratulating Nigeria on its successful struggle against colonialism. In 1961, the first republic finance minister, Festus Okotie Eboh visited Beijing. However, it wasn't until February 1971 that Nigeria officially established diplomatic ties with China, more than a decade after independence. Both countries opened embassies in each other's capitals within the same year, marking the beginning of a relationship that the Chinese government has consistently described as a "win-win" situation (European Scientific Journal, 2014).

Sino-Nigerian relations have progressed gradually over the years but have gained significant momentum in recent decades. Gen. Yakubu Gowon was the first Nigerian Head of State to visit China officially in 1972, shortly after the Nigerian Civil War. Subsequent visits, e.g., by Gen. Sani Abacha during his military regime, further solidified the relationship during periods of international isolation for both nations, such as following the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 (Agubamah, 2014). China's trade with Nigeria, which saw fluctuations in the 1980s, began to recover in the 1990s, with trade volumes increasing from \$35 million in 1993 to \$327 million by 1997. By 2013, non-financial direct investments by China in Nigeria were estimated at \$1.79 billion (Nigeria Tribune, 2014).

#### **China-Nigeria Cooperation Arrangements**

China's remarkable economic transformation from one of the world's poorest countries to a global economic powerhouse is one of modern history's greatest success stories (Ayoola, 2013). This

transformation has significantly impacted China's foreign policy, particularly in its approach to Nigeria. Over the years, numerous high-level visits by Chinese and Nigerian leaders have underscored the importance of this bilateral relationship. Chinese leaders who visited Nigeria include Vice Premier Geng Biao (1978), Premier Li Peng (1997), and President Hu Jintao (2006), among others. Nigerian leaders reciprocated these visits, with figures like Gen. Yakubu Gowon (1974), Gen. Sani Abacha (1997, his government visited China) and President Olusegun Obasanjo (1999, 2001, 2005) playing key roles in strengthening Nigerian-Chinese ties (Ogunkola et al., 2008).

The diplomatic exchanges between the two nations have led to the signing of numerous agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), covering a wide range of areas including consular affairs, military cooperation, education, health, infrastructure and technology. For instance, in 2008, China provided Nigeria with an aid package worth 46 million Yuan for the purchase of anti-malaria medicines and the training of Nigerian health personnel in malaria control and prevention (Ogunkola et al., 2008). Moreover, the scientific cooperation between China and Nigeria has flourished, evidenced by the launch of NIGCOMSAT-1, Nigeria's first communication satellite, in 2007, and the signing of an MOU between the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and Huawei Technologies for the provision of a National Information Communication Technology Infrastructure Backbone (Ogunkola et al., 2008).

### **Investment Relations**

China's investments in Nigeria have seen substantial growth, particularly in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Chinese FDI in Nigeria increased from \$3 billion in 2003 to over \$6 billion in 2005, with the oil and gas sector accounting for approximately 75% of this investment (Ogunkola et al., 2008). This growth can be attributed to several factors, including changes in Nigeria's FDI regime, the government's privatization program, and an aggressive campaign to attract foreign investment. The non-oil FDI also saw significant growth, rising from \$0.3 billion in 2003 to \$1.7 billion in 2005.

Despite these positive developments, Nigeria continues to face an investment gap that needs to be bridged to achieve its economic goals. The composition and sectoral distribution of Chinese FDI in Nigeria reveal a preference for extractive/resource-seeking investments, particularly in the oil and gas, as well as mining sectors. However, there is also significant investment in infrastructure, manufacturing, and communications (Ogunkola et al., 2008). The involvement of indigenous entrepreneurs in joint ventures with Chinese firms has the potential to maximize the benefits of FDI by facilitating technology transfer and capacity building within Nigeria (Ogunkola et al., 2008).

### **China-Nigeria Trade Relations**

China has become Africa's largest trading partner, surpassing traditional partners such as Europe and the United States. The trade between Africa and China grew from \$10.6 billion in 2011 to

over \$200 billion by 2012, with projections surpassing \$300 billion by 2015 (Taylor, 2012; Moyo, 2014; China Daily, 2015). Nigeria has been a significant part of this trend, with trade between the two countries growing from \$17.7 billion in 2010 to \$23.5 billion by the first quarter of 2015 (Okafor, 2015). As of 2010, Nigeria had become China's fourth-largest African trading partner and its second-largest export destination in Africa (Egbula and Zheng, 2011).

Nigeria's exports to China encompass a diverse range of products, including food, animals, crude materials, oils, chemical products, and manufactured goods. In 2000, Nigeria's exports to China totalled \$307.3 million, with mineral fuels and lubricants accounting for the largest share at \$273.7 million. Crude materials excluding food and fuel were the second-largest category, totalling \$33.3 million. Although Nigeria's exports to China constituted only a small fraction of its total global exports, the relationship has continued to grow, with both countries benefiting from the trade (Egbula and Zheng, 2011).

### **Nigeria's Foreign Policy with Emphasis on Asian Countries**

Nigeria's foreign policy has increasingly focused on fostering stronger relations with Asian countries, particularly China. The inflow of FDI from China to Nigeria has shown a general upward trend, with FDI from Asia-Pacific countries increasing significantly between 1999 and 2006. China, in particular, has become an important source of FDI for Nigeria, with Chinese investments increasing tenfold from \$0.55 million in 1999-2000 to \$5.5 million in 2006 (Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, 2006).

This growing relationship is indicative of China's increasing importance in Nigeria's economic landscape. Although China ranked fifth in terms of FDI inflows from the Asia-Pacific region to Nigeria, behind India, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan, the rapid growth of Chinese investments suggests that it is poised to overtake these countries (Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, 2006). This trend reflects China's broader strategy of deepening its economic ties with Africa, a strategy that has been mutually beneficial for both China and Nigeria.

### **Composition of Chinese FDI in Nigeria**

Foreign aid and technical assistance are key components of China-Nigeria relations, complementing the trade and investment activities between the two countries. Since 2002, China has made significant aid commitments to Nigeria, including a \$3 billion loan agreement and various preferential loans and grants aimed at supporting Nigeria's economic development goals, such as Vision 20/2020 (Ogunkola et al., 2008).

Chinese aid to Nigeria has been instrumental in financing major projects, including infrastructure development, technology transfer, and capacity building. By 2007, China's Export-Import Bank had financed over 300 projects in Angola, Nigeria, and Sudan, with Nigeria receiving substantial support for its infrastructure and economic growth initiatives. The composition of Chinese FDI in Nigeria is diverse, spanning various sectors such as construction, oil and gas, technology,

services, and education (Ogunkola et al., 2008).

To maximize the benefits of Chinese FDI, Nigeria must implement policies that ensure macroeconomic stability and provide a favourable investment climate. Joint ventures between Chinese and Nigerian firms offer a promising avenue for enhancing the positive impact of FDI, particularly in terms of technology transfer and the development of local expertise (Ogunkola et al., 2008). As Nigeria continues to deepen its diplomatic and economic ties with China, it is crucial to address any deficiencies in the relationship to ensure that the long-standing partnership remains mutually beneficial.

### **Nature and Structure of Economic Diplomacy between Nigeria and China**

The Literature review section of this study presents an extensive review of the literature on the nature and structure of economic diplomacy between Nigeria and China. The focus of their diplomatic relationship is primarily economic, involving trade, investment, loans, and the enhancement of economic activities. This economic collaboration was initiated due to Nigeria's difficulties in its dealings with Western nations, including issues related to structural adjustment policies, corruption within Western companies, colonial legacies, and resource conflicts. As a developing nation seeking a more favourable economic partnership, Nigeria turned to China, which presented itself as a viable alternative. Unlike the exploitative tendencies often associated with the West, China presumably offers “diplomacy” built on mutual benefits, shared values, and a "win-win" cooperation model. This has led to Nigeria welcoming more Chinese investments into its markets. China's programs are framed by principles of equity and mutual gain, something the West has struggled to establish since the late 19th century (Lyman, 2019).

According to Biggeri (2009), economic diplomacy between Nigeria and China involves 3 principal instruments, which are

- i. Trade (Import and export)
- ii. Economic cooperation
- iii. Loans and Foreign Direct Investments.

In addition, studies have also shown that there is an existing trade imbalance between the two countries. Reviewed literature has also shown that in spite of the increasing economic relations between Nigeria and China, it also goes on to show that even though there is an obvious increase in trade between the two countries, but there is ostensibly no positive impact on Nigerian economic development. Studies conclude that the relationship with China will not necessarily wipe out poverty in Nigeria, and that the trade imbalance will continue to pose more challenges for achieving development goals.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **Dependency Theory**

The premise upon which this research work is based is centred on Dependency theory, “World-system” theory, theory of “unequal exchange”, Imperialism and other related theories and their

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usefulness in the study of economic development diplomacy. More recently, the influence of politics on international trade has gained acceptance in country-to-country relations. The arguments of this research are largely theoretically framed on the dependency approach, drawing on the works of scholars like Amin, Frank, Emmanuel, Lenin, Hobson and others.

Dependency theory has been the guiding light in Latin America and, indeed, the developing countries as well as a major opposition to the modernization theory. Basically, the dependency approach is a general analysis of the process of capitalist development of these peripheral economies and the characteristic mode of analysis has been to focus on the relationship between internal and external structures, with emphasis on the asymmetric interplay depicted in many different ways. A common strand in these ways is the identification, recognition and acceptance of imperialism as the principal adversary (Ndu 1999). Moreover, dependency theorists (Frank 1976; Sunkel 1979; Furtado 1964; Dos Santos 1970; Emmanuel 1972; Ake 1981; Onimode 1982), argue that the dependence of the South on the North is the main cause of the underdevelopment of the former. They hold that the present economic and socio-political conditions prevailing in the periphery are essentially a result of a historical international process. This development emerged as a global historical phenomenon consequent on the formation, expansion, and consolidation of the capitalist system, known as dependent capitalism.

At the first level, many countries in the periphery have been incorporated into the “World-system” economy since the early days of capitalism. At the second level, many countries have become capitalist economies through incorporation into the “World-system” economy. At the third level, the “World-system” economy has led to a “Metropolis-Satellite” chain in which the surplus generated at each level in the periphery is successively drawn off the centre. As a result, the periphery is impoverished and the centre is enriched (Jhingan 1966). Baran (1957) argues that the advanced capitalist countries of today have managed accumulation of capital by exploiting the colonial territories.

Similarly, Frank (1967) maintains that national capitalism and national bourgeoisie, unlike their counterparts in the advanced capitalist countries, cannot promote development in Latin America. In Western countries, capitalism played a different role because it was rooted in Imperialism. Frank advances a “Centre-Periphery” model to enunciate the role of imperialism. He likens “Metropolis” to “Centre” and “Satellite” to “Periphery”. They are linked in such a way that the development of the “Centre” leads to corresponding underdevelopment in the “Periphery”. This relationship continued even when the “Satellites” had gained political independence. Frank suggests that the way to stop the underdevelopment of the new nations is to delink them from the capitalist economies. Nkrumah (1971) argues that states that rely heavily on foreign countries are, in theory, independent and have all the outward trappings of international sovereignty; but in reality, their economic system and political policies are directed from outside the shores of such countries.

In Nigeria, for instance, one of the major sources of its national income is crude oil. But regrettably, the bulk of refined and even non-refined materials are being imported at very high costs, smuggled and controlled outside the shores of the country, and this has led to increase in price of fuel, kerosene, diesel and even cooking gas; which ordinarily are supposed to be cheap, available and affordable to local market and consumers in Nigeria.

According to Mac-Ogonor (1999), flag independence in the developing countries could not break the yoke of economic dependence on colonial countries. The result of this heavy reliance on colonial institutions is that foreign capital is used for exploitation rather than the development of the developing countries.

The theory of “unequal exchange” advanced by Classical Marxist scholars is used to explain the unequal economic relations between a developing economy like Nigeria and a developed economy like China. The theory of “unequal exchange” in the sphere of international trade between developed and underdeveloped countries asserts that the developed countries get higher value of the labor inputs of their products (because they use superior technology and produce at a large scale) whereas the developing countries get lower value of the labor inputs of their products (because they use inferior technology and produce at a small scale).

Furthermore, Emmanuel (1970) propounded the theory of “unequal exchange” in international trade between the “Centre” (Developed Countries (DCs) and the “Peripheries” Less Developed Countries LCDs), which has led to the exploitation of the latter by the former. According to Emmanuel (1970) “unequal exchange” (relationship) occurs when two unequal countries produce two different commodities so that they are not in direct competition with each other. Since wages are low in LCDs, the costs of production are also low, and so are prices.

On the other hand, with wages being higher in DC, the costs of production of commodities are essentially higher, so are prices. Thus, the commodities of LCDs being cheaper than those of DCs, engenders unequal exchange in trade, say for example between Nigeria and China. Take, for instance, in Nigeria, the Aba Market in the South-East region is not only the economic hub of the Eastern part of Nigeria but also the entire nation. Goods produced in Aba are often referred to as “Aba-Made” in the utmost sense of derision because many people consider them inferior compared to products produced in China, Dubai, Malaysia and other Asian markets. In some cases, some products being produced by the “Aba boys” can be said to be of relatively good quality and durable, but the notion of “foreign-made” often knocks their products down and renders them as cheap and inferior.

Emmanuel’s theory of “unequal exchange” is in tandem with such other classical writers on Imperialism as Hobson, Lenin and Schumpeter who assert that the impetus for imperialism comes from economic interests related to the process of capitalist accumulation. Emmanuel’s theory is based on Marx’s theory of ‘prices of production’ for the determination of international prices and

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technological changes in production. He believes that the main reasons for economic inequality between the Southern hemisphere and the North hemisphere lie in the differences in technologies, as well as techniques of production and differences in wages, which lead to unequal exchange in trade.

The relevance of the dependency theory and, to a large extent, the development theory to this study is that the defining features of the developing countries are their dependency and underdevelopment, which derive from the unequal manner in which they have been incorporated into the periphery of world capitalism. The relationship between periphery and the center is sustained and perpetuated through certain structures, agencies and institutions. Since dependency is an organic feature of world capitalism, whenever there is a general crisis it spreads to peripheries with varying degrees of intensity, depending on the extent of control the capitalists have over the peripheral economies (Mac-Ogonor 1999; Badejo 1990).

Focusing on Nigeria's bilateral economic relations, dependency theory enables scholars to explore how Nigerian leaders should consciously and effectively use the nation's foreign policy to construct a self-reliant and just society. The failure of the leadership to conduct foreign policy for economic development and the inappropriate development path pursued by them in the past decades are blamed for the country's continued state of dependence and underdevelopment.

It is noteworthy however, to highlight that the problem with Nigeria's economic diplomacy and dependence on China and other Western countries is not as a result of her inability to frame up diplomatic policies and form economic ties with the various countries so concerned, but the issue of implementation and required follow up actions to harness the potentialities of this connection remains a leviathan to be defeated in Nigeria's social, economic and political struggles.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

This study employs a quantitative research design utilizing secondary data from 1982-2022 sourced from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), UNDP, and Chinese Tracker to analyze Nigeria-China economic relations. The research applies Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression to examine the relationship between Nigeria's GDP (dependent variable) and economic diplomacy indicators (imports, exports, Chinese loans/investments as independent variables), supported by content analysis to systematically code and quantify qualitative data from official reports. The temporal analysis focuses on four decades of bilateral economic engagement, with clearly defined boundaries measuring how trade and investment flows impact Nigeria's economic development, while addressing data limitations through rigorous statistical validation of the specified econometric model.

The model was specified as follows:

$$GDP = f (EXP, IMP, LNS, FDI) \text{ --- --- --- (1)}$$

From the model above, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a function of the amount of Imports, Exports, Loans, and Foreign Direct Investment from China.

Converting equation 1 into a regression model:

$$\text{LogGDP} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{LogIMP} + \beta_2 \text{LogEXP} + \beta_3 \text{LogLNS} + \beta_4 \text{LogFDIFC} + U_t \text{ --- (2)}$$

Where:

GDP = Gross Domestic Product

$\beta_0 - \beta_4$  = Intercept

IMP = Imports from China

EXP = Exports to China

LNS = Loans from China

FDI = Foreign Direct Investment from China

$U_t$  = Error Term

The model formulation is based on the theoretical framework as presented. It investigates the impact of economic diplomacy on economic development by analysing the relationship between Nigeria's economic diplomacy indicators (imports, exports, loans, and investments) and GDP, which serves as a proxy for economic development in Nigeria.

The apriori expectations are derived from the principles of Dependency Theory, which inform the economic relationships among the variables being studied. For the model in question, the anticipated expectations are:

$$\beta_1 < 0, \beta_2 > 0, \beta_3 < 0, \beta_4 > 0$$

The method used in estimating the parameters of the specified model is the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimation method.

**4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:**

**4.1 Unit Root Test Result**

**Table 4.1 Augmented Dickey-Fuller Unit Root Test Result**

Variables	ADF-Statistic	Critical Value			Order of integration
		1%	5%	10%	
<b>LogGDP</b>	-1.112973	-2.278665	-3.566391	-4.689324	1(1)
<b>LogEXPTC</b>	-2.411965	-3.511897	-4.598873	-5.766891	1(1)

<b>LogIMPFC</b>	-3.433297	-4.489216	-5.511896	-5.652896	1(1)
<b>LogFDIFC</b>	-4.564892	-5.721984	-5.778964	-6.556349	1(1)

**Source: Author’s Computation (2024)**

The results presented are from the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) unit root test, which is used to determine whether a time series variable has a unit root, indicating it is non-stationary. The goal is to assess the order of integration of the variables to decide if they need differencing to achieve ‘stationarity’. From the result below, the T calculated (critical value) is -1.113, which is greater than the T values tabulated of -3.56; it was concluded that the GDP data is stationary. Also, T calculated value at 10% of -2.4, -3.43 and -4.56 is greater than the T value tabulated of -5.766, -5.65 and -6.55, respectively, which indicates that the data on imports, exports, loans and foreign direct investment are stationary.

## 4.2 Cointegration Test

**Table 4.2 Johansen Cointegration Test Result**

Sample Period: 1982-2022

Lag Interval: 1 (based on AIC/SIC criteria)

Trend Assumption: Linear deterministic trend

Variables: LogGDP, LogEXP, LogIMP, LogFDI

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Eigenvalue	Trace Statistic	5% Critical Value	Max-Eigen Statistic	5% Critical Value
None *	0.742	128.34**	95.753	45.21**	40.077
At most 1	0.521	83.13	69.818	32.56	33.876
At most 2	0.318	50.57	47.856	18.43	27.584
At most 3	0.194	22.14	29.797	10.12	21.131

The Johansen test reveals one cointegrating vector (Trace = 128.34,  $p < 0.05$ ), confirming a long-run relationship between Nigeria's GDP and China-related trade/FDI flows. This supports the hypothesis that bilateral economic diplomacy has structurally linked these variables."

### 4.3 Long Run Estimate

#### Result of Multiple Regression

Dependent variable: GDP

Method: least squares

Time: 18:15

Year of analysis: 1982-2022

Included observations: 40

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistics	Prob.
C	0.566794	0.211230	2.683302	0.447
LogEXP	0.810095	0.889724	0.910501	0.001
LogIMP	-0.671168	0.211005	3.180815	0.447
LogLNS	0.783169	0.847130	0.924496	0.003
LogFDI	0.861586	0.793199	1.086216	0.002
R-squared	0.770154	Mean dependent var		11.78662
Adjusted R-squared	0.687453	S.D. dependent var		0.89763
S.E. of regression	0.453981	Akaike info criterion		4.44328
Sum squared resid	0.887964	Schwarz criterion		7.66513
Log likelihood	22.889721	F-statistic		44.84532
Durbin-Watson stat	2.112261	Prob (F-statistic)		0.0001

#### Source: Author's Computation (2024)

The regression results reveal significant relationships between Nigeria's GDP and China-related economic variables. While exports to China (0.81%) and Chinese FDI (0.86%) show positive GDP impacts, imports exhibit negative effects (-0.67%). Hypothesis testing at  $\alpha=0.05$  yields mixed results: we accept  $H_0$  for exports ( $t=0.91 < 2.021$ ) and loans ( $t=0.92 < 2.021$ ), indicating no significant economic threat, but reject  $H_0$  for imports ( $t=3.18 > 2.021$ ) and FDI ( $t=1.08 > 2.021$ ), confirming these pose economic risks. The model demonstrates strong explanatory power ( $R^2=0.77$ , Adj.  $R^2=0.68$ ), with 77% of GDP variation explained by China-related variables. The highly significant F-statistic ( $44.84 > 2.69$ ) rejects the overall null hypothesis, affirming that China's economic presence threatens Nigeria's economy, aligning with dependency theory. Diagnostic metrics (Akaike=4.41, Schwarz=7.66, DW=2.11) suggest model robustness, though some coefficients show statistical insignificance (export  $p=0.44$ , loan  $p=0.45$ ). The results imply Nigeria's economic diplomacy with China creates dependency risks through import dominance and FDI control, despite export benefits. This dual effect underscores the need for balanced bilateral policies that mitigate threats while harnessing growth opportunities from the relationship. The findings particularly highlight how import penetration and foreign capital inflows may

undermine domestic economic sovereignty, warranting strategic policy interventions.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This study reveals that Nigeria-China relations (1982-2022) have grown significantly, driven by China's demand for energy resources and Nigeria's need for manufactured goods. While framed as mutually beneficial, trade data shows a severe imbalance - 90% of transactions are Chinese imports versus 10% Nigerian crude exports. Regression analysis confirms China's economic presence threatens Nigeria's economy, particularly through import dominance (coefficient: -0.67) and FDI (0.86), despite GDP growth. The dependency theory explains this core-periphery dynamic, though China distinguishes itself from Western powers through infrastructure investments and flexible debt terms. Statistical tests reject null hypotheses for imports ( $t=3.18$ ) and FDI ( $t=1.08$ ), indicating significant economic risks, while exports (0.81%) and loans show neutral impacts. Chinese investments in railways, airports and telecoms create jobs but lack technology transfer, with workers often underpaid. Though bilateral trade volume increases, Nigeria's reliance on raw material exports and manufactured imports stifles local industries. The currency swap agreement risks exacerbating trade deficits by favouring Chinese imports. Policy failures in loan utilization and a weak industrial base hinder potential benefits. While China provides development financing, Nigeria's structural weaknesses - including poor diversification and policy inconsistency - prevent meaningful economic transformation.

Based on findings, the study recommends that:

- To address the trade imbalance between Nigeria and China, the study proposes several strategic interventions. First, both governments should establish frameworks to boost Nigeria's export of manufactured goods to China. This could involve incentivizing Chinese businesses to source Nigerian products, thereby correcting the current lopsided trade dynamics.
- A second approach involves expanding the role of Chinese companies operating in Nigeria. Rather than focusing solely on importing finished goods, these firms should invest in local manufacturing, enabling Nigeria to export value-added products. This shift would not only balance trade but also generate employment and stimulate economic growth in both nations.
- Technology transfer and capacity building are equally critical. Nigeria should leverage China's industrial expertise by fostering partnerships that enable knowledge sharing. The Chinese government could establish human resource development programs in Nigeria,

training locals in advanced technical skills while safeguarding mutual interests. Such initiatives would help Nigeria build self-reliant industries, mirroring China's path to technological independence.

- The private sectors in both countries must also play an active role. By identifying collaborative opportunities—such as joint ventures in agriculture, renewable energy, or digital infrastructure—businesses can drive mutually beneficial trade. Existing platforms like the Nigeria-China Friendship Association (NICFA) could be expanded to facilitate these partnerships.
- Finally, Nigeria must adopt a proactive, policy-driven approach. The government should develop clear strategies to harness complementary economic strengths, possibly leveraging African Union mechanisms to negotiate favourable terms. Without robust policies, Nigeria risks exploitation and missed opportunities for sustainable development. A structured, long-term vision is essential to ensure Sino-Nigerian relations translate into equitable growth.

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