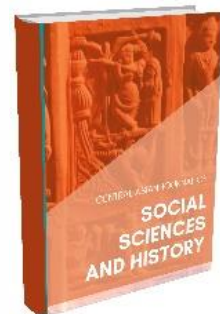




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Politics and Insecurity in Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality in Rivers State, Nigeria

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Abstract:

The reoccurring violence generated through politics gave momentum to the study on politics and insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality in Rivers State, Nigeria. In this, the work established that there is sustained insecurity due to politics. The study adopted two objectives and two research questions which served as a guide to the study. The study considered various conceptual reviews and adopted Robert Merton's anomie-strain theory as its theoretical framework to explain issues on politics and insecurity. Furthermore, the research design used for this study was the survey design. The study area is Ikwerre ethnic nationality in Rivers State. The sample size was 400 respondents, while the sampling techniques used were purposive and quota sampling techniques. The instrument for data collection was the use of a questionnaire. The findings confirmed that insecurity exists and is caused by political actors. The activities of ballot box snatching shooting of guns during the electoral process, which led to various deaths through the use of political thugs and cultists, serves as an indication of political induced insecurity. Again, the study confirms that the causes of this insecurity are due to political parties' struggle, desire, individual ambition, and feelings to be godfathers, amongst others. The study thus concluded and recommended that since politicians are contributing to insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality, the masses should rise and have an understanding towards the selection of their candidates regardless of their political party, ethnic or tribe, religion or educational qualifications.

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INTRODUCTION

The menace of politics differs from nation to nation and State to State. In Nigeria, for instance, the political culture presupposes the political process. The tussle for power and struggle for the governmental position has been the bane in the political system and has diffused in all the States. Political parties have different manifestos to control the affairs of government. Political behaviour is laughable in Nigeria; this occurs when a political party wins the election and fails to fulfil its promises. This situation is reoccurring and is not healthy for a growing democratic nation. The unfulfilled campaign promises have kept States in Nigeria in quandary, dilemma and predicament. Thus, explaining the present conditions of underdevelopment, poverty, insecurity, unemployment, Ezike (2021) asserted that the inability to develop the state has encouraged many to engage in the scramble for political office to enable them to amass wealth; as politics is seen as a panacea for wealth creation.

The fundamental nature of politics is to meet the people's basic needs, deliver the dividend of democracy, formulate policies, embark on developmental infrastructural projects, and provide necessities of life such as roads, electricity, pipe-borne waters, hospitals, schools, etc. Despite the unfulfilled promises by the political leaders, the Nigerians continue to participate in politics. Hence, political participation involves the process through which actors play a role in their society's political life and have the opportunity to take part in deciding what common goals of the organisation are and the best way to achieve these goals (Akin, 2008).

Politics in the Ikwerre ethnic nationality since 2007 till date had a different dimension because of the people involved and the nature of the political struggle. This has caused tension and panic among the people of this locality. During the electioneering period, politicians provided arms to the youths and cultists but failed to retrieve them. These boys utilise these guns and other dangerous weapons to inflict harm and violence in the community where they inhabit. The Nation Newspaper (2016) opined that the continued unrest induced by cult wars and youth restiveness has made business activities crumble, making companies relocate to other parts of the country. For instance, Leadership.ng (2007) revealed that two oil and gas servicing companies (Dean's oil and Gas services and Lustre international) threatened to relocate their operational bases from this area following the proliferation of insecurity. Dr. Samuel Onyeije (The Community Affairs Manager of Deans Oil and Gas Services), in his statement, explained that the company was considering relocating as a result of the incessant threat by cult-related activities in the area.

Politics encourages competition at the national level, state and local levels, where the people, through elections, choose who will govern or represent them. However, as many have seen the outcome of assuming political office, it brought about a struggle to do anything to emerge victoriously. These perceptions of politics are making the election a *do or die affair*, which has resulted in violent conflict between those who are vying for political offices over the years. These clashes have occurred among inter and intra political parties (Hazan and Horner, 2007). It could be said that desperation for power and political supremacy has made our political system, particularly Ikwerre ethnic nationality, ungovernable.

Insecurity as a concept connotes different meanings such as the absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and safety. In fact, to some scholars, it means lack of security, while some see it as danger or threat of danger, being open or disposed to harm or injury and being exposed to risk or anxiety (Bell and (2005; and Achumba, 2005). These definitions of insecurity underscore a significant point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would

happen, but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. To Collins (2019), insecurity is the state of being anxious or afraid, not confident or particular, and not being adequately protected. The above definitions of insecurity explain the fear and anxiety experienced by the indigenes of Ikwerre ethnic nationality by the political juggernauts who are the political leaders from the area. It is observed that politicians are in some cases behind the crises in Ikwerre ethnic nationality, which have had some people take sides. It is said that politicians have systematically attempted to boost their power and domination in the area. The activities of some unscrupulous elements or individuals have made the state ungovernable. Most recently, the 2015 and 2019 governorship elections were marred with many irregularities, riots, and political apathy. Against this backdrop, this study was undertaken to examine the influence of politics and insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality in Rivers State.

Statement of the problem

Party politics has created some level of divide among the people and created room for political instability and biased words among the political leaders in the state at large. Also, cult-related issues, kidnapping, armed robbery, and other social vices have affected the people's general well-being, which was masterminded by politicians in Ikwerre ethnic nationality and beyond. It is true that *one cannot go through the baby with the bathwater*. They are implying the role of politics and elections as processes through which government or leaders are put in place to direct and control the resources of a nation. Regrettably, false election and the quest to acquire, manage and maintain political power at all cost has affected the credibility of Nigerian politics and, as such, brought about insecurity. In giving a more detailed explanation of Nigerian politics, Dudley (1965) in Etannibi (2004) posited that Nigerian politicians perceived politics and political office as investment and as an avenue for the acquisition of extraordinary wealth by means of corruption. Which they think is not possible through other forms of legitimates attributes. He revealed that:

In Nigeria, the short cut to wealth is through politics. Politics means money and money means politics, to be a member of the government party means open avenue to government patronage, contract deals and the like Dudley (1965) in (Etannibi, 2004)

Because of this, many politicians adopted deviancy by employing violence to be declared successful; this singular attitude ushered in more insecurity. Emeodu (2019), in his study, reveals that:

Over 70 percent of the population reside in tremendous poverty; politics is seen as an escape route from the quagmire of poverty. But politicians, due to their greed and ostentatious lifestyles, not being mindful of the Nigerian masses' sufferings, contributes significantly to poverty and insecurity (Emeodu, 2019).

The above is correlated with the assertion of the great Social Scientists Ake (1964), who was privileged to assert that:

Political parties or politicians who win state power can have all the wealth they so desire even without working. In contrast, politicians or political parties who lose the struggle for state power cannot have security in the wealth they have made even by hard work (Ake, 1964).

Truthfully, this must be the reason why the feeling to capture state power by politicians is done with life or death, explaining why our politics is so intense and disorderly. In fact, Tamuno (1991), in a study that examined *peace and violence in Nigeria*, revealed that political aspirants who want to avoid frustration use any means to cause harm during the electoral period to ensure success. Frustration

comes into play when aspirants are power-hungry and possibly realises the indications that they may lose to the rival may adopt violent behaviour, hostility and brutality for their gains. Most political parties and aspirants use thugs and cultists to inflict injuries on people, snatching ballot boxes and shooting sporadically to scare voters within the Ikwerre ethnic nationality and beyond.

Insecurity is always an effect of a flawed political system as many scrambles for economic benefit. According to Marx (1849), the economic scramble has led to conflict, breeds insecurity. This is because man sees politics as means to control financial resources. Again, the rise in insecurity is due to the failure of our leaders to address the problem of underdevelopment as well as poverty in our state. Lawan (2006) contends that Nigeria, especially the oil bearing region, is characterised by a high level of illiteracy, poverty, environmental degradation, and unemployment. Good leadership is needed to address the problem of insecurity, and until we achieve this, politics cannot be free from insecurity or violence.

Aloysius and Ugwueze (2015) examined *securitisation of politics and insecurity in Nigeria: The Boko-Haram Experience* showed that politicisation has led to sporadic emergence of injurious ethnic militias who have equally become tools in the hands of the political elite group for achieving what was impossible at the polls. Justifying this assertion, it implies that the more the political actors pressure for success in the election at the detriment of others, the more it breeds insecurity.

Also, Udo (2015) examined *insecurity in Nigeria: political, religious and cultural implications*. It revealed that insecurity arising from politics affects other spheres or sectors of society. Those who propel insecurity range from illegal armed groups, ethnic militia groups, cultists, religious fundamentalists, and fanatics. As these occur, it resulted in deaths and psychological trauma for individuals and families in the country. He added that the growing insecurity challenges in Nigeria are signs of the ever-increasing popular discontent with the national political system and indications that past elections were not free and fair.

The above studies relate to Ibeanu (2013) study whose title is ‘regulating Nigeria political parties: Role of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Nigeria’, revealed that politics is synonymous with insecurity. In his findings, he observed that following the announcement of the 2011 presidential result, which was won by Goodluck Jonathan of PDP against CPC candidate Muhammadu Buhari led to severe challenges to the result. The protests degenerated into sectarian violence and killings by the Almajiri in the Northern states of Adamawa, Borno, Bauchi, Jigawa, Gombe, Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna, Niger and Yobe where more than 65,000 people were estimated to be displaced while over 800 people were killed in the electoral violence (Ibeanu, 2013).

More recently, Emeodu and Enyina (2021) on *human insecurity and development crisis in Obigbema/ Ndoni and Emohua LGA* and Emeodu (2019) in his study on *insecurity and development challenges in Rivers State*, posited that political scramble (Chieftaincy tussle as one aspect) had brought about various consequences, which had led to death of many, business collapse and closure of social institutions and underdevelopment. Chukwu (2018) observed that insecurity has brought about capital flight, low productivity and low foreign direct investment.

Considering these challenges emanating from the struggle for political office with its attendant insecurity and the devastating effects on development, the need to evaluate these challenges in Ikwerre LGA becomes indispensable. Indeed, during a PDP rally at Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers state, one person was reportedly killed, and the current Chairman of Local Government Area Samuel Nwanosike, narrowly escapes death (Chukwudi, 2018). Within the Ikwerre Local Government Area,

many PDP supporters sustained injuries of varying degrees as they tried to escape being hit by the bullets of the gunmen, who disrupted the Ward-to-Ward Programme of the party to sanitise voters to the Permanent Voters Card (Chukwudi, 2018). In the same event, Chukwudi (2018) further claimed that gunmen numbering over 30 invaded the venue for the event and began to shoot, forcing supporters to scamper for safety.

Again during the 2019 election, Ikwerre was marked as one of the ethnic groups that experienced political insecurity or violence. This was reviewed by the state Police Relation Officer (PPRO), Nnamdi Omoni (DSP), who posited that in Ikwerre ethnic nationality, there was carting away of election materials, shootings and explosions, despite the presence of heavily armed security agents drawn from various security agencies in Nigeria. The result of this was insecurity or fear by the participant, which contributed to the low turnout of voters in the area. Again, violence erupted during the 2019 re-run election of ward four houses of assembly election PHALGA. This is ridiculous to democratic practices. Also, during the 2015 re-run election in Emohua LGA, there existed a series of electoral violence, manifested through destruction and snatching of ballot boxes, etc. Hence a youth who believed to be a member of All Progressive Congress (APC) was allegedly killed at ward 3, Mgbuitanwo community in Emohua LGA, who was massively supporting Andrew Uchendu of APC for the Rivers East Senatorial District (Taiwo, 2016). These account for insecurity, violence and development challenges within the Ikwerre ethnic.

However, many studies by my scholars revealed the effect of insecurity in Rivers State; some investigated the economic struggle as a reason for insecurity and others looked at death toll emanating through political violence in Nigeria. The gap for this paper is to address the nexus between politics and insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality in Rivers State since no studies by others have linked the variables in the study area. Therefore, to make this research study more meaningful and understandable, the following research questions were posed to guide this study.

- i. What ways does political induced insecurity exist and caused by political actors in Ikwerre ethnic nationality?
- ii. What are the possible solutions to insecurity induced by politics in Ikwerre ethnic nationality?

Objectives of the Study

- i. To establish ways political induced insecurity exists and is caused by political actors in Ikwerre ethnic nationality..
- ii. To proffer possible solutions to insecurity that is induced by politics in Ikwerre ethnic nationality.

Theoretical Framework

The study on politics and insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality, Rivers State of Nigeria, adopted Robert Merton's Anomie-Strain theory. Robert Merton was a significant contributor to the anomie theory in 1938 and 1957. However, Durkheim's work provided the intellectual foundation for Merton's attempt to develop a macro-level explanation of rates of norm violating behavior in American society. But, in Merton's hands, the anomie tradition advanced well beyond Durkheim's special concern with suicide to become a genuinely general sociological approach to deviance. Anomie refers to an environmental state where society fails to exercise adequate regulation or constraint over the goals and desires of its individual members (Durkheim, 1893).

In contrast to Durkheim, Merton based his theory on sociological assumptions about human nature. Merton replaces Durkheim's conception of insatiable passions and appetites with the belief that human needs and desires are primarily the product of a social process: i.e., cultural socialisation. For instance, people reared in a society where cultural values emphasise material goals will learn to strive for economic success. This explains the situation of politician in Nigeria.

Indeed, Merton focuses on the extreme emphasis on material goals that characterises the cultural environment. In this respect, Merton exposed that dominant materialistic values characterise some individuals, but that cultural belief sustain the myth that anyone can succeed in the pursuit of economic goals.

Merton identified a series of adaptations, but his final adaptation in his typology is rebellion. This is indicated by different notation than the other adaptations, which possess two signs. The two \pm signs show that the rebel rejects the goals and means of the established society and actively attempts to substitute new purposes and standards in their place. This adaptation refers to the role behaviour of political deviants in Rivers State, who tried significantly to modify the existing structure of society

In later work (1968), Merton uses *nonconformity* to contrast rebellion to other forms of deviant behaviour that are —aberrant. The nonconforming rebel is not secretive, as are other aberrant deviants and is not merely engaging in behaviour that violates the institutional norms of society. The rebel publicly acknowledges his or her intention to change those norms and the social structure that they support to build a better, more just society. Extrapolation from this theory, the anomie-strain theory of Robert Merton relates to the present study as it explains the rebellious ways used by our politicians to gain political power. With more interest in material gains, they refuted the culturally approved way of doing things and sought illegitimate processes. These acts or behaviours explain the crisis of political violence and insecurity in the Ikwerre ethnic nationality. Electoral violence has occurred and is perpetrated by politicians to be declared successful in the electoral marathon race.

Conceptual Clarification

Politics: Politics as a concept is pluralised with various definitions. For instance, Ake (1981) refers to politics as the system of behaviour by which a society expresses its self-determination by choosing its leaders, holding them to account and evolving and pursuing collective goals. Raphael (1990) cited in Nma (2004) emphasises that politics concerns the behaviour of groups and individuals in matters that are likely to affect the course of government, e.g. in voting, in informing and running political parties or in exerting influence in other ways on those responsible for the conduct of government. In this paper, politics involves approaches and behaviours of actors in their quest to control political offices and to have a full representation that will ignite leadership.

Insecurity: The conceptualisation of insecurity can be understood by first defining security. Traditionally, security is conceptualised within the context of the capability of governments to ensure the protection of their countries from internal insurrection or external aggression through adequate preparedness of the military to ensure the protection of lives and properties. It also involved diligence in matters of intelligence gathering and secrecy and the protection of resources and rights considered critical to the existence of states (Saliu, 2010, Nwanegbo&Odigbo, 2013; Nwozor, 2013). Thus, security is a function of the combination of the high level of military intervention and improvement in the standard of living of the citizenry (Omodia&Aliu, 2013). Therefore, on the other hand, insecurity is the direct opposite of this condition. It is the feeling of fear, anxiety, uncertainty, poverty, injustice, unemployment and unrest in the polity. Insecurity denotes the absence of protection from danger or

other bad situations. It is the prevalence of threats to human wellbeing as a result of physical and psychological abuses inflicted upon non-combatant individuals, including children, the aged and women in the environment of armed conflicts (Nnonyelu, et al, 2013). Insecurity as an antithesis of security refers to a condition that exists due to the lack of adequate measures put in place to protect individuals, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. Insecurity is simply a situation in which individuals in a given society cannot go about their daily activities as a result of the threat to and harmful disruption of their lives and property. The advanced learner's dictionary defines insecurity as inadequately guarded or protected, unsafe, lacking stability, being plagued by anxiety or the state of being subject to danger and being exposed or susceptible to harm. However, the causes of insecurity manifest through social inequalities, bad leadership/government failure, religious tolerance/ethnoreligious conflicts, malfunctioning of the security agencies or weak security system, loss of value system or devaluation of value, poverty, unemployment and underemployment, scarcity and social exclusion, terrorism/insurgency and environmental contamination (Onuoha, 2011; Igbuzor, 2011; Igbanibo, 2005; Adagba, et al., 2012; Emeodu, 2015; Azaiki, 2007; Okaba, 2005; Okonta & Oronto, 2001; Diara, 2010; Ejibunu, 2007; Enyidah-Okey Ordu, 2017; Sampson a & Onuoha, 2011).

METHODOLOGY

The design adopted a survey design. The population of the study constitutes of the entire population of Ikwerre ethnic nationality as projected are 1954100 (NPC, 2016). The sample size is 400 and was derived using the Taro Yamane formula.

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

Where n = sample size

N = the population size

e = the limit of error tolerance

1 = constant

$$\text{Thus: } n = \frac{1954100}{1 + 1954100 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1954100}{1954101 \times 0.0025}$$

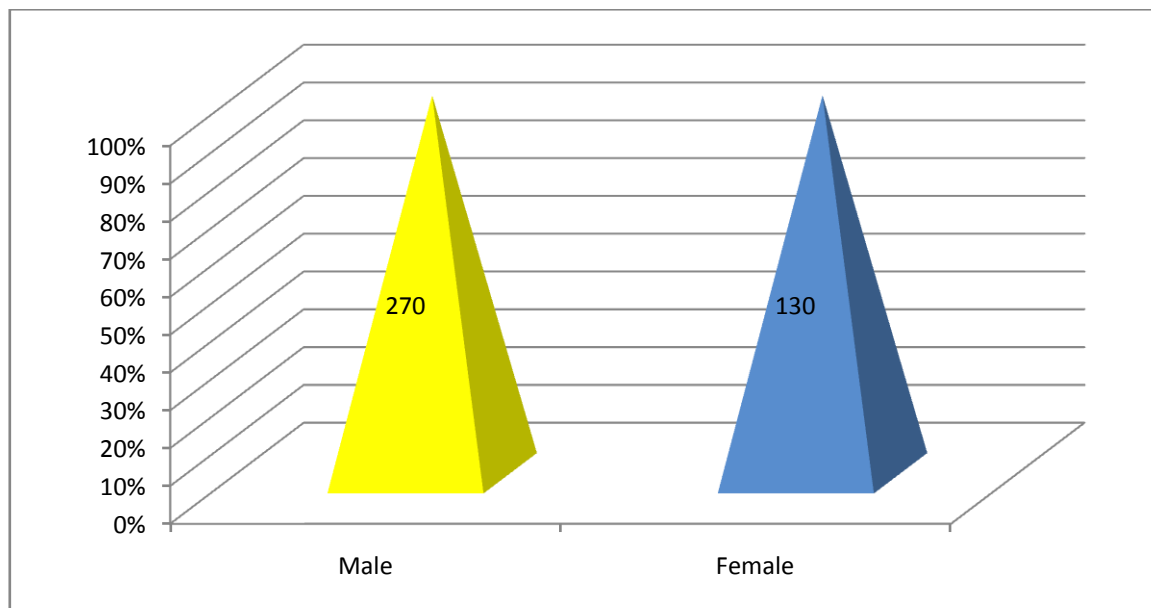
$$n = 400$$

The purposive sampling was used to select eight (8) communities out of the numerous communities that make up Ikwerre ethnic nationality in Rivers state. that had sustained a long history of political violence. These communities are Ogbunabali, Elekohia, Ubima, Isiokpo, Rumueme, Rumuodumaya, Emohua and Ibaa. Hence, through quota sampling, each of the selected communities was allocated 50 samples. The respondents are; the youths, family chiefs, political party executives, members and executives of women associations in each of the communities because they can account for the cases of violence in elections. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source or method used was a questionnaire. The questionnaire was collected from the respondents through the help of research assistance selected from each community of study. Also, the secondary sources used

included internet materials, journals, textbooks, project works, and dissertations. A statistical tool such as a chart and simple percentages were used. Thus, the chart was used for representing bio-data and simple percentages for the analysis of the research questions.

Presentation of Data

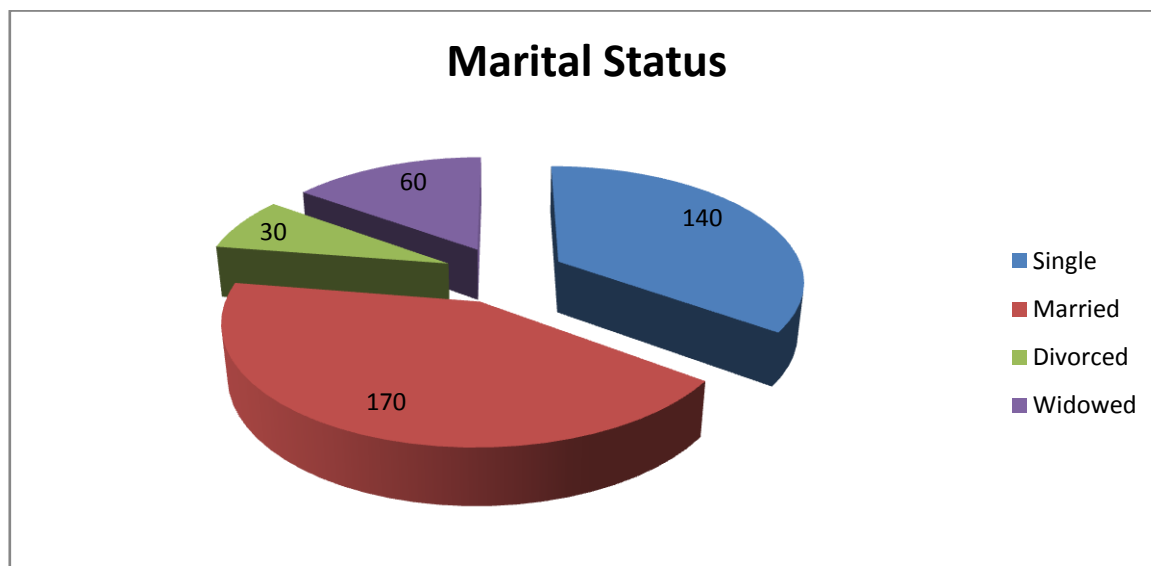
Fig. 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents



Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2022

The above figure represents the sex distribution of respondents. It implies that more males participated than females. Thus, 270 male respondents were selected, while 130 females were selected.

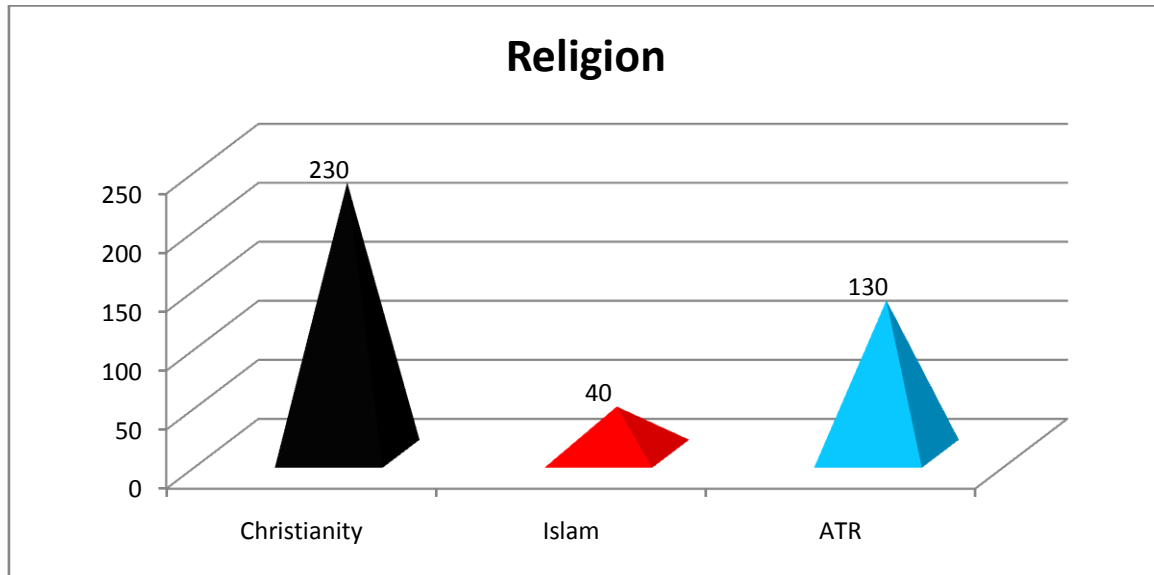
Fig 2: Marital Status of Respondents



Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2022

The figure represents the marital status of respondents. First, the single is 140 respondents. Married respondents are 170 and constitute the majority of respondents. Divorced are 30 respondents, while 60 respondents are widowed.

Fig 3: Religion of Respondents



Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2022

The above figs 3 represent the religious belief of respondents. Christianity is 230 respondents, Islam is 40, being the least among all, while African Traditional Religion is 130 respondents.

Research Question 1: How does political induced insecurity exist and caused by political actors in Ikwerre ethnic nationality?

Table 1: Showing if political actors from Ikwerre ethnic are responsible for insecurity in the area.

S/N	ITEMS	SA%	A%	D%	SD%	Total
1	Snatching of Ballot Boxes	200 (50%)	150 (37.5%)	40 (10%)	10 (2.5%)	400 (100%)
2	Shooting of Guns	250 (62.25%)	140 (35%)	10 (2.5%)	- -	400 (100%)
3	Death/Murder of voters	180 (45%)	150 (37.5%)	20 (5%)	30 (7.5%)	400 (100%)
4	Use of thugs/cultists	225 (56.25%)	100 (25%)	40 (10%)	35 (8.75%)	400 (100%)
5	Failure to provide quality leadership	200 50%	110 27.5%	50 12.5%	40 10%	400 (100%)
6	Politicians use thugs and cultists to destroy the electoral process	225 56.25%	120 30%	40 10%	15 3.75%	400 (100%)
7	The desire of politicians to be declared successful in the election	210 52.5%	180 45%	- -	10 2.5%	400 (100%)

8	Desire to protect the interest of their political party.	190 47.5%	150 (37.5%)	20 (5%)	30 (7.5%)	400 (100%)
9	Politicians desire to control and act as god Father.	200 50%	170 2.5%	10 2.5%	20 2.5%	400 (100%)

Source: Researcher's Field work, 2022.

The table above presents if insecurity exists and if it is caused by political actors in Ikwerre ethnic nationality. Thus, item 1 on snatching of Ballot Boxes had the percentage score of (SA=50%, A=37.5%, D=10% and SD=2.5%). Again, item 2 on shooting of guns had a score of (SA=62.25%, A=35%, D=2.5%, SD=0%). Item 3 on death/murder of voters had a percentage score of (SA=45%, A=37.5%, D=5% and SD=7.5%). Item 4 had a score of (SA=56.25%, A=25%, D=10% and SD=8.75%). Item 5 on Failure to provide quality leadership had a percentage score of (SA=50%, A=27.5%, D=12.5%, and SD=10%). Item 6 on politicians using thugs and cultist to destroy electoral process had a percentage score of (SA=56.25%, A=30%, D=10% and SD=3.75%). Item 7 on politicians' desire to be declared successful in the election had a percentage score of (SA=52.5%, A=45%, SD=2.5%). Also, item 8 on desire to protect the interest of their political party had the following percentage score such as (SA=47.5%, A=37.5%, D=5% and SD=7.5%). Finally, item 9 on politicians desire to control and act as Godfather, had a percentage score of (SA=50%, A=42.5%, D=2.5% and SD=5%). By implication, it means that all the items are homogenous, hence showing that insecurity exists and that it is caused by political actors from Ikwerre ethnic nationality, Rivers State.

Research Question 2: What are the possible solutions to insecurity induced by politics in Ikwerre ethnic nationality?

Table 2: Present possible solutions to insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality

S/N	ITEMS	SA%	A%	D%	SD%	Total
1	Effective political orientation	190 47.5%	180 45%	40 10%	10 2.5%	400 (100%)
2	Punishment of political/electoral offenders	100 25%	210 52.5%	40 10%	50 12.5%	400 (100%)
3	Generation of employment to the people.	200 50%	150 (37.5%)	20 (5%)	40 10%	400 (100%)
4	Effective poverty alleviation programme	140 35%	190 47.5%	50 12.5%	20 2.5%	400 (100%)
5	I am sponsoring skill acquisition among the youth.	230 57.5%	150 37.5%	15 3.75%	5 1.25%	400 (100%)

Source: Researcher's Field work, 2022.

The table above indicate possible solutions to insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality. Item 1 on effective political orientation had a percentage score of (SA=47.5%, A=45%, D=10% and SD=2.5%). Item 2 on punishment of political or electoral offenders had a percentage score of (SA=25%, A=52.5%, D=10% and SD=12.5%). Item 3 on generation of employment to the people had a percentage score of (SA=50%, A=37.5%, D=5% and SD=10%). Item 4 on effective poverty alleviation had a percentage score of (SA=35%, A=47.5%, D=12.5% and SD=5%). Item 5 on sponsoring skill acquisition among the youth had a percentage score of the following (SA=57.5%, A=37.5%, D=3.75% and SD=1.25%). Therefore, the respondents are homogeneous as all the items were supported by the (respondents), which shows the items are possible solution that can reduce insecurity.

Discussion of Findings

Insecurity induced by Political Actors in Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality, Rivers State

Considering the study on politics and insecurity in Rivers State Nigeria, precisely in Ikwerre ethnic nationality, confirmed it is true that insecurity exists which is induced by political actors. This was confirmed as there existed the activities of ballot box snatching shooting of guns during the electoral process, which led to various deaths through the use of political thugs and cultists are an indication of political violence and insecurity. Furthermore, it is essential to point out that insecurity is ever more prevalent in Ikwerre ethnic nationality than before, and this is more often politically motivated. According to The Fund for Peace (2016), cult groups reportedly depend on the goodwill and patronage of politicians who employ them as informal security or agents of intimidation to influence the outcome of elections during election periods to inflict harm to any who oppose their emergence. This inconsequential approach has instigated insecurity in the human environment.

This unsecured condition made discouraged some voters not to have participated massively in the 2019 presidential and governorship election in Ikwerre ethnic nationality, Rivers State. Supported by Beland (2015), who found that insecurity entails a lack of protection from crime and harm. Hence, the identified activities create tension fear, consequently leading to a low turnout of voters. Across the various wards in the Ikwerre ethnic many ballot boxes were snatched by cultists and thugs who were working with some politicians. Observably, in Ward six Ibaa community in Emohua LGA, during the 2019 general election, most of the ballot boxes were snatched and votes were not returned for the coalition. To achieve this, thugs in some parts of Ikwerre started shooting on-air to scare voters. To this end, insecurity induced by politics were evident in the study area.

The findings revealed that the politicians are responsible for insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality because they are the ones that employ the usage of cultists/thugs to destroy the electoral process. They also do this to be declared successful in the election. Also, there is a desire to protect the interest of the party and, finally, their desire to control and act as Godfathers to enable them to Lord it over to whom they desire and take away political power to anyone who seems not to be loyal to their platform. Thomas (2013) pointed out that the desire of politicians to assume political power made them resort to the use of force or violence in order to intimidate their populace and opposition into acceptance or submission. On lack of failure to provide quality leadership to the people, politicians are aware that they have lost people's support, hence leading to frustration. Emeodu (2019), citing Dollard et al. (1939) posited that when politicians are frustrated, they adopt vehemently or any available means to cover up. This explains the continuous effort of politicians in Ikwerre in perpetrating insecurity in Ikwerre ethnic nationality and beyond.

For instance, a typical scenario of how cult groups and gangs are employed during electioneering periods by politicians is as follows:

The moment politicians discover that there is a prevailing cult group within his/her constituency and are utilised by his antagonist, immediately, they will in turn engage a rival cult group and authorise them to subvert the monopoly of his challenger in order to increase or expand his/her control and establish himself over that area. Having achieved that, politicians can then dictate the happenings within his domain. When the election eventually comes, his equipped cult group will be used to stir up votes in his or her favour and strangle any opposition. However, when elections is over, the tools

(political thugs) used during election do not go away, they remain but are not longer of any use to the now victorious politicians who is concerned to make more wealth.

Therefore, the story is usually that after the elections, many of the young men in Ikwerre ethnic nationality who participated in politically sponsored violence becomes useless and no longer gets financial inducements as promised by the politicians, rendering them once more unemployed with little or no income. Because they are now more formidable with arms in their possession, they resort to other means of getting money, such as kidnapping, armed robbery, etc. It was at this juncture that the study was justified the existence of insecurity induced by politics in Ikwerre ethnic nationality. Also, other adversary cult groups who were formerly displaced, may become aggressive and later unit and strike back. This also explains the incidences of cult war or battle for supremacy between rival cult groups, further deepening the insecurity in the Ikwerre ethnic nationality.

The Possible Solutions to Political Induced Insecurity in Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality

The researcher agreed with the respondent's acceptability of all the items which revealed that possible solutions toward reducing political induced insecurity are effective political orientation, punishment of political/electoral offenders as this will serve as deterrents to others, generation of employment to the people, effective poverty alleviation programme and sponsoring of skill acquisition among the youths. To buttress further, Berkowitz (1970) and Dollard et al. (1939) posited that frustration leads to aggression; hence to avoid aggressive behaviour, there is a need to look at the factors that brought about frustration. Most youths who are into electoral violence, such as snatching ballot boxes, shooting to scare voters and others, does this because they are poor and unemployed. Therefore if the government and political leaders should tackle unemployment and poverty, insecurity will be reduced. This can also be achieved through programmes like rural agricultural development that can reduce poverty and give skills to the youths to enable them to become productive to their people.

Conclusion

Insecurity is a social problem and has hampered societal growth and development. It has affected the socio-economic and political structures of the nation, therefore, contributing to the underdevelopment of our country. Democracy was supposed to be the best form of government, but the nature of politics played in our area is indeed disastrous and have made people see Nigeria's democracy to be pseudo. The more reason for practising a pseudo-political system that ushers in insecurity are due to the interest of the political class. These factors have been responsible for the problem of development and, at the same time profligate efforts to ensure sustainable development. The paper concludes by wondering how the youths got their arms used during the election and crisis period. This is connected to the electioneering period where most political thugs are given arms which later are used for their operation, such as kidnapping, communal crisis, armed robbery, etc. In light of these, people's lives and properties are not safe. Migration takes place to ensure security. This also generates the problem of workforce shortage. Until proper orientation is given and frustrating factors are taken care of, political induced insecurity cannot be controlled and development will always be unrealistic in Ikwerre ethnic nationality.

Recommendations

Base on the challenges given so far, it is evident that political induced insecurity is an enemy of development and democracy. Therefore, the following recommendations are given:

(i) Understanding the insecurity caused by violent politics, the government should do the needful to implement some electoral laws against snatching of ballot boxes and electoral violence. This ranges from prosecution of electoral offenders as it will serve as deterrents to orders. To achieve a reduction in electoral violence, the government should intensify efforts to make use of more conventional and indigenous security outfitson the polling units. If this measure is effectively implemented, it will reduce electoral violence and insecurity during the election. This implies that as more security personnel are used, the more scared the electoral violator becomes.

(ii) Since politicians are contributing to insecurity in our society, the masses should rise and understand the selection of their candidates regardless of their political party, ethnicity, religion, or educational qualifications. The groups should neglect the influence of godfathers and hence demand their constitutional rights. When this is applied, it will help the people to reduce control of the polity by a few people, and the masses will have an active part in choosing who governs them. When their constitutional right is achieved, it will reduce political induced insecurity.

(iii) Finally, there isa need to carry out practical political orientation. Such orientation should be structured to provide a framework for good leadership, especially to political aspirants. Such exposure should direct their awareness to accountability and transparency. If this can be achieved, they can guarantee good leadership that will provide some societal needs, which lack to it, led many to resort to political violence as a means for survival.

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