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Democracy and Security Challenges: An Expository Study of Selected Local Government Areas of Benue State Nigeria (2020-2023)

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Abstract: In the face of recent security challenges that has crippled the economy of state and nations globally. Public and private sectors have seen a decrease in productivity and effectiveness in Nigeria. The study examined the impact of democracy and security challenges: An expository study of selected Local Government Areas of Benue state Nigeria. The study was guided by three research question and three corresponding research objectives. The study adopted frustration aggression theory as fundamental theoretical framework. The target population of the study was 15,032 using indigenes of three L.G.As. The sample size of the population was 376 based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size table. Random sampling technique was employed in choosing the respondents. Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. Descriptive statistics involving frequency counts, mean and standard deviation was used in analysing data. The study findings indicated that Benue State is blessed with mineral and material resources. However, there is high level of poverty especially in the selected L.G.A. which has led the youths into engaging in social vices to make a living thereby threatening the peace and security of the state. The study also revealed unquantifiable ratio and unexplainable corruption in the study areas which has made democracy and its practice impracticable and unrealistic. The study also revealed terrorism as a major security challenge that has ravaged Nigeria as nation. The study therefore recommended among others that, Benue State government should endeavour to provide job or create an enabling atmosphere for the army of youths such that they could be gainfully employed or do something productive with their lives.

Keywords: Democracy, Security, Challenges, Impact

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1. Introduction

Last decade saw several waves of democratisation that impacted many continents worldwide, including Europe, Latin America, South-East Asia, and Africa. Following the conclusion of the Cold War, a new paradigm of democracy emerged.

Throughout this democratic era, the matter of security has always been a significant and pressing worry for both private and public citizens in the nation. In essence, the issue of security has become a crucial point in Nigeria's ongoing efforts to achieve effective government, sustained democracy, and development (Nkwede, 2011). As observed by Agbaje, Diamond, and Onwudiwe (2004), its attraction extends to all aspects of society. Although the Nigerian government has made several efforts to tackle the canker worm via public policy options such as regional and state mechanisms, federal character concept, and others, the security situation in the nation continues to be a complex and alarming issue. Onyeoziri (2002) accurately demonstrated the crucial role of the Nigerian state's character in the disastrous failure of the management techniques for the security issue in the nation.

Utilising Ake's (2000) framework, he delineated four key characteristics of the Nigerian state that have hindered its ability to adequately address security concerns. The coercive essence of the state arises from its historical trajectory as an exploitative entity. Secondly, the Nigerian state displays a notable apathy towards social welfare. Thirdly, the state is seen as a hostile and commanding entity, which may be attributed to its colonial past and further intensified by its post-colonial mistreatment. Lastly, the state lacks autonomy. Following the aforementioned, the state was not seen as a guardian of the public interest and so does not merit any respect and allegiance. Moreover, it can be confidently said that the attempts to establish a legitimate democracy in a diverse society characterised by concerns about political control, perceived instability, social injustice, and complete disregard for the principles of legal governance have led to many disturbances, dissatisfaction, deep-rooted animosity, insinuations, and acts of violence, ultimately resulting in the present security issues.

In their study, Okpata and Nwali (2013:p. 173) assert that the primary cause of insecurity in the Nigerian state is political conflicts within the political elite, politics characterised by animosity and resentment, politics based on ethnicity, and the use of state machinery to weaken opposition parties.

The aforementioned circumstances have resulted in several security issues in the country, as observed in many regions of Nigeria through the presence of Niger Delta militias, Boko Haram insurgencies in the North, kidnappings in the South East, and several instances of reckless bombings and killings of innocent individuals without any consideration for the preservation of human life, which was the primary purpose of the social contract (Hobbes, 1957).

Statement of the Research Problem

The national security of Nigeria is subject to several threats arising from social, political, economic, and other factors such as poverty, social injustice, and self-aggrandizement. Okoroafor et al. (2012) observed in their contribution that democracy and national security may mutually enhance each other and contribute to the economic prosperity and development of society when implemented effectively. Current security challenges such as banditry, instability in the South East region, herdsmen/farmer problem, communal disputes, political assassinations, clashes among cult groups, and the actions of the Boko Haram terrorist organisation have emerged as significant threats to Nigeria's peace and democracy.

Setting this context, the research aims to analyse the effects of democracy on national security issues, specifically focussing on certain chosen Local Government Areas (L.G.As) in Benue State.

Research Questions

Three research questions guided the study:

1. What are the challenges of democracy and security in the selected Local Government Area in Benue State?
2. What are the Nexus between Democracy and Security in the Local Government Area in Benue State?
3. What are the impacts of Democracy on the Security challenges in the selected Local Government Area in Benue State?

Objectives of the study

The broad objective of this study is to examine democracy and National security challenge: An expository study of selected Local Government Area of Benue State (2020-2023). The specific objectives are to:

1. identify the challenges of democracy and National security in the selected Local Government Area in Benue State?

2. examine the nexus between democracy and National security in the Local Government Area in Benue State?
3. determine the impacts of democracy on the security challenges in the selected Local Government Area in Benue State?

Significance of the study

The relevance of this work is derived from two distinct component. Both practical and theoretical relevance are present. In practical terms, the importance of this investigation is determined by its results. The contributions of this study are derived from the pertinence of its results to policy makers, political leaders, institutional heads, researchers, and Nigerian security services. These practical contributions will instruct the actions of political leaders, policy makers, and members of international communities in order to improve security and provide a peaceful environment for national development and economic prosperity.

The present research would theoretically enhance the current understanding of the democratic and security concerns in Nigeria. This will help future scholars in the same area of study by serving as a comprehensive guide and provide the necessary references for such research.

Conceptualizing Democracy

Since its inception in the Greek City states, the notion of democracy has been susceptible to many types of interpretation. Most of the interpretations are intrinsically contradictory. Sarabjit (2002) argues that democracy has been the focus of multitude of interpretations by academics over the years. The phenomenon has been subject to many forms of exploitation, abuse, and subjective interpretations based on individual interests. Ntalaja (2000) notes that democracy is a very appealing characteristic of modern politics. As per his perspective, a small number of individuals or nation-states in the present day assert their democratic identity, but not in the true essence. In his work published in 1989, Sartori argues that democracy is the most inclusive political system. According to Momoh (2006), democracy encompasses the principles of representational governance and the empowerment of the people. The author Sallah (2008) asserts that democracy is really about the people exercising power. Its primary emphasis should be on how individuals establish and oversee the affairs of their nations. In his 2003 work, Alani defines democracy as a form of governance that emphasises the diverse character of contemporary politics.

This approach acknowledges the wide range of social influences inside any political society. A democratic government accommodates these dynamic forces and promotes both competition and cooperation among them. Ayinde (2004) defines democracy as a political system that ensures representation, accountability, and participation within the framework of freedom upheld by the rule of law. Dahl (2002) contends that democracy encompasses not only elections that are free, fair, and competitive, but also the freedoms that attribute them genuine significance. Dahl defines these liberties as including both freedom of organisation and freedom of speech (Ibid).

Osaghae (1995) observes that all its variations, regardless of whether they are liberal, capitalist, or socialism, adhere to the basic goal of granting authority to the people. Furthermore, Sharma (2007) argues that democracy entails the active participation of the people in the management of the political, socio-economic, and cultural matters of the society. Manifestation of democratic values is a prerequisite for a state to be classified as democratic.

Newton and Van Deth (2008) enumerated the components of democracy as follows: participation of citizens in political decision-making, egalitarianism among people, a certain level of freedom bestowed upon citizens, and an election methodology based on majority rule.

Przeworski (1991) provides a concise definition of democracy as a political system where political parties are defeated in elections. Democracy, to him, is the nonviolent transition of authority achieved by periodic elections. Schumpeter (1990) contends that democracy is a mechanism through which decision-making authority is granted to those who have acquired power via a competitive contest for the electoral support of the people. Keller (1995) argues that democracy is the substitution of one form of governance by another without resorting to violence. He refutes the notion of sovereignty, asserting that the imperfection and unpredictability of elections are more desirable than the possibility of tyranny inherent in sovereignty.

Democracy and Security

The convergence of National Security and Democracy typically manifests as a complex and tense alliance. Avner (1993) noted that the British experience in WWII showed that nothing ignites morale and instills unwavering resolve more efficiently than the profound sense of legitimacy that democracies alone can assert. However, on a deeper level of absolute principles, democracy and security evoke distinct and sometimes conflicting ideals. The concept of democracy places the individual human person as the focal point of all aspects. It encompasses the principles of privacy, human dignity, compassion, diversity, variation, divergence, and competition overseen by fair regulations. By contrast, security is a notion centred on the state. This may be justified by the aim of safeguarding a democratic lifestyle or ensuring global security for democratic principles. However, regardless of its final rationale, it places the state in a prominent position, eliciting sombre imagery of hierarchy, subdivision of tasks, organisation, mobilisation, effectiveness, focus of endeavours, commitment, bravery, and selflessness.

This intrinsically problematic relationship between democracy and national security is completely contingent on the specific circumstances. Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, as democracies operating in a stable international context, effectively balance the need of upholding the rule of law with the urgent need of safeguarding national security. National security institutions of significant size have been present in the majority of nations for many decades. Furthermore, the lack of a distinct and immediate threat has resulted in a calming and normalising effect on the security-related aspects of their social and political structures. Furthermore, every increase in the level of danger perceived by a democratic society unavoidably results in conflicts between the need for democracy and the need for security. This phenomenon was seen in wartime democracies starting from the fifth century. Pertaining to the United States in the twenty-first century. But once the winds of war subside, long-established republics are quite fast to regain their democratic sensibility. Avner, 1993.

Nigeria's population, which is derived from several ethnic backgrounds, and its historical development, classify Niger as a type four country, characterised by a fragile democracy entangled in a prolonged struggle. Over a period of fifty years after gaining independence, it has established itself as a type two democracy, characterised by a strong and resilient system of governance despite prolonged conflicts. Upon its formal establishment as a sovereign state, it was clearly a democratic framework, with institutions that were fully supported by an electorate where every person aged eighteen and older had the freedom to use their voting franchise. Its declaration of independence was a clear and precise expression of its intention to establish a free democracy. The institutions of the system were operational representative entities within a parliamentary democracy characterised by pluralism, patterned after the Western European model.

The fundamental principle of this democracy is to enable the citizens to strategically utilise the political system in order to enhance their quality of life. It entails a dynamic interplay in which the rulers exert influence on the people and the people reciprocally exert influence on the rulers. They engage in the latter by means of organising the people, showing respect and trust towards them, actively listening to them, having confidence in

their capacity to comprehend the political process, establishing relationships with them based on principles of justice, equality, and mutual advantage, and working together with them in their everyday endeavours to enhance their lives. In this interaction with the people, the rulers beyond mere consent acquisition to obtaining true permission from the people, beyond just voting without conscious choice to the people actively exerting electoral influence. Implementing such a mechanism would positively improve ethnic and religious conflicts (Nnoli, 2006).

Divergent opinions exist among scholars about the function of democracy in both peaceful and violent conflicts. Democratic philosophy, as articulated by Russett (2007:p.2), is based on the premise that democracy necessarily results in and fosters peace, as peace cannot be attained without democracy. Therefore, it can be inferred from the democratic peace hypothesis that the quantity of democratic nations directly correlates with the level of peace seen worldwide. Indeed, Moaz and Russett (1993) and Remmer (1998) contended that the likelihood of two democratised nations participating in militarised combat is very low. The prevailing domestic norms and institutions in democratic politics have been promoted to assume responsibility for fostering peaceful interactions among democratic economies. No such limitations seem to exist when they participate in disputes with non-democratic nations.

Rummel (undated) said that out of the total 34 million casualties in both international and domestic conflicts during the last century, a minimum of 119 million individuals have perished as a result of government genocide, massacres, and other forms of mass executions. Approximately 115 million individuals were subjected to extermination by totalitarian regimes, with at least 95 million of these deaths occurring in communist nations. Furthermore, there is no documented evidence of democracy systematically causing the death of its own inhabitants. The rationale for his conclusion was that democratic freedom fosters non-violence.

Nevertheless, democracy has a negative aspect that supports the phenomenon of political violence, often referred to as the "devils of democracy" (Keane, 2010:2). The presence of violence is intrinsic in all attempts to develop and sustain democracy. Foundational acts of violence underpin the practice of democracy worldwide (Keane, 2010). Reynal-Querol (2004) contended that partially democratic nations are more susceptible to civil conflict than both complete democracies and complete autocracies. Hence, it seems that the avoidance or decrease of violence is not just dependent on the democratic condition of a nation. Furthermore, it has been noted that although democratic nations may not engage in warfare with other democratic nations, they often find themselves entangled in internal strife, typically triggered by election competition.

Cervellati and Sunde (2011) argue that the process of democratisation might potentially incite political violence. This is because the circumstances in which democratisation occurs, particularly during transitions to democracy, provide appropriate conditions for violent disputes, particularly among different factions within a political system. Keane (2010) coined the term "democratisation of violence." He said that the concept of democratic nations participating in conflicts with undemocratic nations, such as the American war in Afghanistan and other countries, with the intention of imposing democratic government after subjugating them, is almost equivalent to the democratisation of violence.

The perspectives of Hoglund (2006) and Horowitz (1985) align in their assertion that competitive elections lead to the ethnicization of the voting population. Rather of touting their shared qualities, political parties prioritise highlighting their contrasts in order to secure votes (Weinberg 2001 quoted in Hoglund, 2006). Therefore, in diverse cultures, voters have a tendency to cast their votes based on their ethnic identity, resulting in election outcomes that closely resemble those shown in the ethnic census. This condition has the

potential to disrupt the political landscape of a nation after elections, thereby leading to ethnic tensions (Taleski, 2011).

According to Rapoport and Weinberg (2001), the period immediately after elections is typically very delicate because the acceptance or rejection of the election results by candidates may lead to outbreaks of violence, as was the case in East Timor following the 1999 independence vote. It may be deduced from the foregoing that although democracy is often believed to promote peace, it is not sufficient on its own to achieve peace, as seen in several nations undergoing democratisation, such as Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, and old Sudan. Elections, which are fundamental aspects of democratisation, can give rise to disputes in nations that have only partly adopted democratic systems.

An overview of the security state of the Nation (2015 – 2020)

As Roth (2009) pointed out, inter-communal violence has resulted in the deaths of over 12,000 Nigerians in lethal confrontations across Nigeria. Most recent occurrences are the murders in plateau state, Kano, and Kaduna. In November 2008, there was a resurgence of conflicts between Muslim and Christian mobs after the contentious local government elections in Jos, Plateau State. The hostilities resulted in the deaths of hundreds and are considered Nigeria's most severe episode of inter-communal violence since 2004.

In his 2011 study, Omede noted that Nigeria has consistently faced a daily increase in activities that pose a threat to its national security since 2010. The hazards include kidnappings, weapons proliferation, armed robberies, drug and people trafficking, and violence linked to ethnic, religious, and political disputes. Recently, a new phase of explosive detonations, happening everyday, has become a significant area of concern in Nigeria's security analysis. In 2011, Omede noted that there have been many instances of violent politically driven ethno-religious unrest, particularly in and around Jos (Plateau State), Nassarawa, and Benue States. Additionally, there have been a series of bomb explosions aimed at state institutions and innocent bystanders in the North-eastern region of the country. In addition, the whole southeast and Niger-Delta area saw an unparalleled surge in kidnappings, armed robberies, cultism, politically motivated assassinations, and other criminal activities that posed significant risks to human lives and property. Significantly more frightening are the many explosions that took place on October 1, 2010, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Independence Day. The explosive device, strategically placed in close proximity to Eagle square, the designated location for the festivities in Abuja, the capital of the country, resulted in the unfortunate loss of about 14 lives and caused injuries to almost 20 others. In its report published in Nation Newspaper on May 17, 2011, Amnesty International, a human rights organisation, estimated that around 800 individuals lost their lives and 65,000 others were forced to leave their homes in twelve states in the North during the violence that occurred after the Presidential election on April 16th, 2011. According to the Amnesty group's study (The Nation May 17, 2011 p.3), religious and ethnic violence in Jos, the capital of Plateau State, between January 17th and 20th, 2011, resulted in the deaths of over 300 individuals. Additionally, more than 10,000 people were forced to leave their homes and thousands of places of business and residence were demolished. On March 7, 2011, the Boko-Haram group launched an assault on the hamlet of Dogo Nachawa, Zot, and Tatsat, resulting in the deaths of over 200 unarmed individuals, including men, women, and children. The bombing of the police headquarters in Abuja on July 16, 2011 resulted in the deaths of two individuals and caused serious damage to seventy cars. On August 27, 2011, Abdullahi Sa'ad Bashir, a BBC News Reporter, documented that a vehicle bomb struck the headquarters of the United Nations building in Abuja, Nigeria. An alleged suicide vehicle bombing has resulted in the deaths of at least 18 individuals and has caused severe injuries to many more.

Undoubtedly, the year 2014 stands out as the most sorrowful episode in the annals of Nigeria's Boko Haram terrorist operations. According to the 2014. Country Reports on Terrorism in Nigeria, published by the United States Department of States, In 2014, Boko-

Haram deliberately expanded its terrorist activities, mainly targeting 10 states in the Northern region. One of the most alarming aspects was the increased use of a larger population of young female suicide bombers.

Theoretical Framework

This work adopts the Frustration and Aggression Theory as its theoretical framework. Prominent advocates of this hypothesis include John Dollard and Neal Miller. To elucidate aggressiveness, it is important to consider the disparity between individuals' perceived desires or entitlements and the real outcomes they get, as well as the anticipated fulfilment of their needs and the actual satisfaction of those needs. Davies, 1962. This hypothesis posits that aggression arises from frustration. When an individual's legitimate desires are denied, either directly or indirectly due to societal structures, feelings of disappointment may prompt the person to manifest their anger through violence against those responsible or those directly or indirectly associated with them. Faleti (2007). The manifestation of violence in Nigeria, which poses a threat to the national security of Nigeria's democratic government, is evident in the Niger Delta crisis. After enduring a period of peaceful negotiation and protest for what the people perceive as their just portion of the oil riches extracted from their land, they resort to vandalising oil pipelines and abducting oil workers for ransoms. The northeastern region of Nigeria is not exempt from the ongoing acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Boko Haram group, which include bombings, kidnappings, and widespread destruction. The democratic government of Nigeria should enhance its efforts in safeguarding national security to prevent the emergence of these adverse circumstances. The frustration experienced by these groups presents challenges for the Nigerian government, whom they see as accountable for their circumstances. Consequently, innocent persons are adversely affected since they lack access to government services.

2. Materials and Methods

The collection, analysis, and discussion of results in this study were conducted using a survey research design approach. One reason why survey research design is advantageous is that it enables the collection of data from a large population, thereby allowing for broader applicability. The research population consisted of 15,032 indigenous individuals residing in three Local Government Areas of Benue State: Kwandi, Guma, and Apa, which correspond to zones A, B, and C accordingly. The research sample size was 376, determined using the sample size chart developed by Krejcie and Morgan in 1970. The researcher used a random sample approach to randomly choose 376 individuals from a target group of 15,032 indigenes. A questionnaire served as the tool for data gathering. Data analysis included the use of descriptive statistics including frequency distribution, mean, and percentages.

3. Results

Table 3.1 questionnaires administered and retrieved

S/N	Response rate	Frequency	Percentage
1	Questionnaire Administered	376	100
2	Number retrieved and used	313	83
3	Number not retrieved	63	17
4	Total	376	100

Source: Field survey 2024

According to Table 3.1, a total of 376 questionnaires were distributed, based on the calculated sample size of the study. The response rate, which was determined by the compliance and availability of respondents, was 83%. This success rate serves as the representative model for the review. Significantly, a total of 313 questionnaires were obtained and used.

Table 3.1.1 Demography of Respondents

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	229	73
	Female	84	27
	Total	313	100
Age Bracket	Less than 30 years	173	55
	30 – 40 years	78	25
	41 – 50 years	41	13
	51 – 60 years	21	7
	Total	313	100
Marital Status	Single	125	40
	Married	98	31
	Separated / Divorced	76	24
	Widowed	14	5
	Total	313	100
Qualification	SSCE/ND/NCE	167	53
	HND/BSC	101	32
	Post Graduate	45	15
	Total	313	100
Occupation	Farmers	173	55
	Business	76	24
	Civil servants	64	21
	Others (please specify)	0	0
	Total	313	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024,

Presented in Table 3.1.1 above are the demographic statistics of the participants. Pertaining to gender, there were 229 men (73%), and 84 girls (27%). The survey findings indicate that 173 respondents, accounting for 55% of the total, were under the age of 30. 78 respondents, representing 25%, were between the ages of 30 and 40. 41 respondents, representing 13%, were between the ages of 41 and 50. The remaining 21 respondents, reflecting 7%, were between the ages of 51 and 60 and above. The respondents categorised by marital status were as follows: 125 individuals (40%) were single, 98 individuals (31%) were married, 76 individuals (24%) were divorced or separated, and 14 individuals (5%) were widowed. Within the category of educational qualifications, 167 respondents (53%) had SSCE/OND/NCE, 101 respondents (32%) had HND/Bachelors, and 45 respondents (15%) had postgraduate degrees. The data shown in the table indicates that out of the respondents, 173 individuals (55%) are farmers, 76 individuals (24%) are businessmen and women, 64 individuals (21%) are public servants, and 0 individuals (0%) are classified as others.

Research question one: What are the challenges of democracy and security in the selected Local Government Area in Benue State?

Table 3.2.1: Descriptive statistics on the challenges of democracy and security in the selected LGA's in Benue state.

S/n	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Std	Decision
1	Bad governance	202	71	18	22	313	3.44	0.94	Agreed
2	political instability	107	98	43	65	313	2.78	0.28	Agreed
3	Weak state institutions	123	111	40	39	313	3.01	0.51	Agreed

4	Ethno-religious and communal conflicts	105	99	55	54	313	2.81	0.31	Agreed
5	Intense poverty	137	93	34	49	313	3.01	0.51	Agreed

Source: Field survey 2024,

Analysis of the table reveals that item 1 (Bad governance) earned the highest average score of 3.44, suggesting a widespread consensus among participants that bad governance is a significant obstacle to democracy and security. Item 2 (political instability) received the lowest average score of 2.78, suggesting that participants were less inclined to acknowledge political instability as a challenge to democracy and security in the chosen Local Government Areas (LGAs). Item 3 (weak state institutions) had a mean score of 3.01, item 4 (Ethno-religious and communal conflicts) had a mean score of 2.81, and item 5 (intense poverty) also had a mean score of 3.01, indicating that the respondents agreed that these issues are indeed factors that pose challenges to democracy and security. The standard deviation numbers quantify the extent of variation in replies for each question, where smaller values suggest less variation and larger values depict more variation.

Research question two: What are the nexus between democracy and security in the selected Local Government Area in Benue State?

Table 3.2.2: Descriptive statistics on the nexus between democracy and security in the selected LGA's

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Std	Decision
6	Democracy leads to engender peace	132	79	49	53	313	2.92	0.42	Agreed
7	protection of lives and properties	109	100	51	53	313	2.84	0.34	Agreed
8	Development	167	77	32	36	313	3.19	0.69	Agreed
9	Structure interaction	122	87	55	49	313	2.90	0.40	Agreed
10	Democratic freedom promotes non violence	152	79	47	35	313	3.11	0.61	Agreed

Source: Field survey 2024,

Analysis of the data reveals that item 8 (Development) earned the highest average score of 3.19, suggesting a widespread consensus among respondents that development is a significant focal point between democracy and security. Item 7, which pertains to the safeguarding of lives and possessions, had the lowest average score of 2.84. This suggests that the respondents were less inclined to affirm that the protection of lives and properties is a crucial connection between democracy and security. The mean scores for item 6 (democracy leads to engender peace), item 9 (Structure interaction), and item 10 (Democratic freedom promotes non-violence) were 2.92, 2.90, and 3.11, respectively. These scores indicate that respondents generally accept and recognise the connection between democracy and security. The standard deviation numbers quantify the extent of variation in replies for each question, where smaller values suggest less variation and larger values suggest more variation.

Research question three: What are the impacts of democracy on the security challenges in the selected Local Government Area in Benue State?

Table 3.2.3. Descriptive statistics on the impacts of democracy on the security challenges in the selected LGA's

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Mean	Std	Decision
11	Improvement on protection of lives and properties	142	86	43	42	313	3.04	0.54	Agreed
12	Job creation	164	92	23	34	313	3.23	0.73	Agreed
13	Human right protection	121	109	42	41	313	2.99	0.49	Agreed
14	Freedom of expression	172	60	49	32	313	3.18	0.68	Agreed
15	Equitable distribution of resources	115	92	52	52	313	2.84	0.34	Agreed

Source: Field survey 2024,

Analysis of the table reveals that item 12 (Job creation) got the highest average score of 3.23, suggesting a widespread consensus among respondents that job creation is a significant effect of democracy on security. With a mean score of 2.84, Item 15 (Equitable distribution of resources) had the lowest score, suggesting that respondents were less inclined to agree that equitable distribution of resources is one of the positive effects of democracy on security. The mean scores for item 11 (an enhancement in the safeguarding of lives and possessions), item 13 (the preservation of human rights), and item 14 (the freedom of expression) were 3.04, 2.99, and 3.18, respectively. These scores indicate a widespread acceptance of the effects of democracy on security among the respondents. The standard deviation numbers quantify the extent of variation in replies for each question, where smaller values suggest less variation and larger values suggest more variation.

4. Discussion

The results obtained from Table 1 indicate that the respondents firmly reached a consensus on the difficulties associated with democracy and security. The respondents identified poor governance, political instability, inadequate state institutions, ethno-religious and communal conflicts, and severe poverty as the obstacles to democracy and security in the examined regions. In accordance with the conclusions of Omede (2011), it has been observed that the Nigerian country has consistently seen a spike in activities that pose a threat to and jeopardise its national security since 2010. The hazards include kidnappings, weapons proliferation, armed robberies, drug and people trafficking, and violence linked to ethnic, religious, and political disputes.

The analysis of Table 2 showing the relationship between democracy and security indicated a high level of agreement. Development, protection of lives and assets, structural interaction, and democratic freedom were identified by the respondents as factors that encourage non-violence. The results obtained from Table 3 indicate that the positive effects of democracy on security issues include enhanced safeguarding of lives and properties, generation of employment opportunities, protection of human rights, promotion of freedom of speech, and facilitating fair allocation of resources. This is consistent with Ayinde's (2004) perspective on

democracy, which defines it as a political system that ensures representation, accountability, and participation within the framework of freedom granted by the rule of law. Furthermore, this supports the conclusions of Dahl (2002) who also contended that democracy encompasses not only elections that are free, fair, and competitive, but also the liberties that give them genuine significance.

5. Conclusion

Security is a constantly changing phenomena and an enduring social issue greatly affecting the nation. It is intricately linked to the stability, survival, expansion, and progress of any nation. The presence of a genuine and viable danger to democratic governance necessitates ongoing examination and debate, with the goal of developing suitable methods to eradicate it inside the nation. Devoid of feasible alternative measures to address the problem of insecurity in the nation, it is improbable that democracy can flourish and human rights cannot be ensured. The reason why a democratic state feels more safe than a non-democratic one is due to the existence of efficient mechanisms that guarantee the provision of higher shared goods. An analysis of the deteriorating patterns of insecurity and development malaise in modern Nigeria indicates that the state of democracy in the nation has not met expectations. The proper approach to address this issue is to rejuvenate the implementation of democracy in the country in a way that would exploit the possibilities for effective governance and long-term viability of the nation. This is the greatest obstacle to the democratic system in Nigeria.

Recommendations

1. The government should consistently endeavour to achieve excellent governance, effective policies, and programs that have a beneficial influence on institutions and the lives of the constituents. Significantly, this will mitigate the rage and discontent among the populace, which are often expressed via violent protests against the government and its agencies, as well as acts of sabotage against public objects and institutions.
2. Effective involvement of stakeholders in governance and officers in the internal security arrangements is essential. It is imperative that the military, customs, immigration, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for Food, Drug, Administration and Control (NAFDAC), and other agencies maintain their effective performance in carrying out their individual duties, as internal security is a collaborative endeavour rather than solely the responsibility of the police. Best assurance of this may be achieved when each agency fulfils its designated function without any apprehension or bias.
3. The Nigerian government should strive to provide additional employment opportunities or establish a conducive environment for the working-age population, therefore allowing them to get meaningful employment or engage in constructive activities. Furthermore, public infrastructure amenities for the whole population. As this is the only means by which the people have a sense of belonging and see the fundamental purpose of having a functioning government

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