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Submission of Articles Guidelines

- Papers should not be more than 18 pages and should be accompanied with an abstract of not more than 250 words.
- The following referencing styles are allowed-APA, MLA and Chicago.
- Articles should be typed in Times New Romans, font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing.

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EMPLOYEE RETENTION STRATEGIES AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN SOUTH-SOUTH, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Some of the most pressing issues in Nigerian banks are high rate of employee turnover and poor retention strategy. Hence, this study examined the relationship between employee retention strategies and organizational sustainability of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. The study measured organizational sustainability by customer satisfaction and service delivery while compensation package and work-life balance were used as the dimensions of employee retention strategies. The study was anchored on Expectancy theory. The study adopted correlational research design. Using census sampling technique, twenty-four (24) commercial banks were drawn as the sample size for the study. The study made use of primary data, which were obtained by means of structured questionnaire. Frequencies, simple percentages, weighted mean scores and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) were the data analysis techniques adopted. Results showed that: compensation package has a positive and significant relationship with customer satisfaction and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South while work-life balance has a positive and significant relationship with customer satisfaction and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South. Based on the findings, the study concluded that employee retention strategies have a significant positive relationship with organizational sustainability in commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. It was recommended among others that the management of commercial banks should recognize and reward staff for work-related performance as well as those who achieve outstanding sales results.

Keywords: Employee retention strategies, Organizational sustainability, Customer satisfaction, Service delivery, Commercial banks

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Organizational sustainability has been identified as the life-wire of every firm in the world. In the course of labeling and translating the meaning of this concept, Munck and Souza (2016) posited that sustainability is a state in which an organization or a society exhibits a relation to economical environmental and social aspects. Every organization must build its future deliberately through conscious efforts geared towards sustainable development and this can

be achieved through ethical practices as well as improved employee and organizational performance. Hence, employee has been identified as the important element of any of organization whereby sustainability, success or otherwise of a given organization depends largely on the performance of its employees. The performance of employees in any organization is vital, not only for the growth of the organization, but also for the growth of individual employees (Meyer & Peng, 2016). Thus, employee performance is a critical

component of an organization's success. It is the productivity, effectiveness, and contributions of individual employees or teams within an organization. High levels of employee performance are essential for achieving the organization's goals, meeting customer expectations, and maintaining a competitive edge in the market. Employee performance is also very significant for the progress and success of an organization.

Consequently, many organisations have realized that promoting and retaining talented employees serves as an important part of the business management process. This increases the level of competition in all industries for continuous improvement in employee performance; therefore, all organizations (public and private) need to know the process that will help to retain quailed employees. Employee retention is defined as the ability of an organization to retain its employees. It is also seen as a process, in which employees are motivated and encouraged to stay in the organization for a long time, thereby, ensuring stability of the organization (Gorde, 2019). The main purpose of employee retention strategies is to prevent the loss of competent employees from the organization (avoid employee turnover), which could have an adverse effect on productivity, service delivery and employee commitment. Creating a retention strategy means placing the employees' needs and expectations at the centre of the organization's long-term agenda in order to ensure the professional satisfaction of the employee and to create a trusted relationship. In this stable relationship, the employee remains in the organization by personal choice based on free will and considered decision (Oguegbulam, et al., 2017).

In achieving retention in organizations, various strategies are adopted to prevent valuable employee from leaving. These strategies according to include: compensation/reward, work life balance, training and supervisory support. Specifically, Awolaja (2023) emphasized that if employees were well compensated or paid in relation to the cost of

living, they will be more committed while their performance would be good because they would concentrate on their work. When they are compensated reasonably, they are happy and they perform to the required standard without being constantly concerned about finding more money to support their living elsewhere. In support of this, Mmakwe and Ojiabo (2018) stated that work-life balance as an employee retention strategy helps employees and managers to split their time and energy wisely between work and other aspects of their lives. Work-life balance is all about adjusting organisational policies and work patterns so that every employee and manager, regardless of demographic factors – age, experience, marital status, qualification or gender, can easily combine work with his or her other responsibilities or aspirations outside the work environment. This will in turn lead to improved job performance and organizational sustainability. This study, stemming from the foregoing, aims to examine the relationship between employee retention strategies and organizational sustainability of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

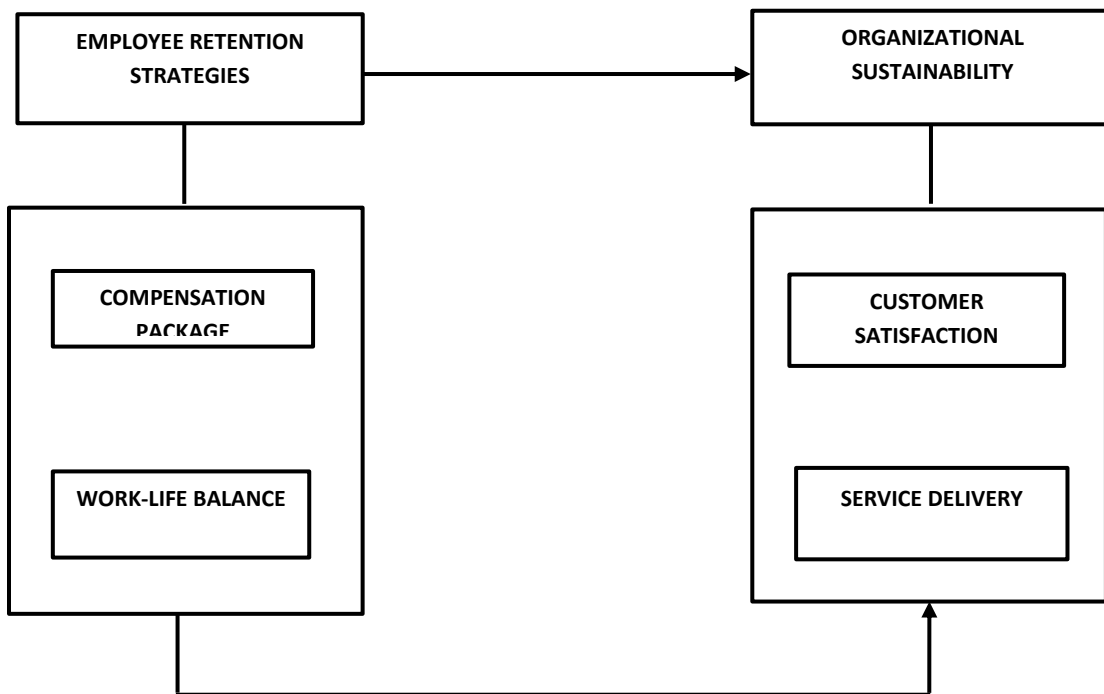
Statement of the Problem

Nigerian banks face intense competition for top talent. The banking sector in Nigeria is competitive, and banks often engage in a war for the best employees. This competition can lead to higher turnover rates as employees may be lured away by rival banks offering better compensation or benefits. Hence, one of the most pressing issues in Nigerian banks is the high rate of employee turnover. Moreover, one of the major challenges within deposit money banks is poor retention strategy. Obviously, this has direct or indirect negative impacts on these banks, in terms of employees' commitment, employees turnover and finally on performance but one paralleling argument is that poor employee retention strategies affect employees and make them perform their work in such a manner that is detrimental to the achievement of desirable ends. Also, when employees are not satisfied with their job as a result of poor retention strategies in their workplace, they

tend to react in polarizing ways. This in turn may leads to absenteeism, high turnover, low commitment, low level of performance and negatively affect organizational sustainability. Furthermore, recent studies have shown that retention of highly skilled employees has become a difficult task for bank managers, as this category of employees are being attracted by more than one bank at a time with various

kinds of incentives, leading to turnover and negatively affecting organizational sustainability. It is against this backdrop that this study is designed to bridge this gap by examining the relationship between employee retention strategies and organizational sustainability of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Conceptual Framework



Source: Research Desk (2024).

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Employee Retention Strategies and Organizational Sustainability

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between employee retention strategies and organizational sustainability of deposit money banks in South-South, Nigeria. Other specific objectives of the study were to:

1. Examine the relationship between compensation package and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.
2. Determine the relationship between compensation package and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.
3. Investigate the relationship between work-life balance and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.
4. Evaluate the relationship between work-life balance and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

In line with the objectives, the following null hypotheses were formulated and were tested in the course of this study:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between compensation package and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between compensation package and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between work-life balance and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

H₀₄: There is no significant relationship between work-life balance and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

The rest of the paper is structure into four sections. The first section reviewed of related literature, the second section discussed methodology, the third section presented data analysis and discussion of findings while the last section focused on conclusion and recommendations.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Review

Employee Retention Strategies

Employee retention refers to the means, plan or decision-making behaviour put in place by organizations to hold on to their competent workforce According to Shaikh and Zahid (2017), employee retention strategies involve adopting a holistic approach to create a positive and supportive work environment. Employee retention strategies, seen through the lens of leadership and management practices, involve cultivating effective leadership skills. This includes providing clear communication, recognizing achievements, offering career development opportunities, and creating a positive team culture. Strong leadership is essential for retaining employees by fostering a

sense of purpose and motivation (Fubara, 2019).

Dimensions of Employee Retention Strategies (Predictor/Independent Variable)

The dimensions of employee retention strategies adopted in this study include: compensation package and work-life balance and job satisfaction. These dimensions are discussed as follow:

1. Compensation Package

Compensation is the segment of transition between the employee and the owner that the outcomes employee contract. As the prospective of employee pay is the necessary of life. The payment receives from work done on the behalf of people getting the employment. Compensation is mostly equal to half of cash flow of the companies. But in the service sector it is more than half. It is the major to attract the employee and motivate employee to increases the performance. Compensation according to Dessler (2011) refers to all kinds of pay given to employees and as a result of their employment.

2. Work Life Balance

The concept of work-life conflict recognizes that most individuals have multiple roles. However, work-life balance practices help minimize the amount of work-life conflict and also target the antecedents; some of which include massive job requests and job burdens. Work-life balance is concerned with people having a measure of control over when, where and how they work. Thus, Kalliath and Brough (2008) defined work-life balance as the individual perception that work and non-work activities are compatible and promote growth in accordance with an individual's current life priorities.

Organizational Sustainability (Criterion/Dependent Variable)

The concept of sustainability originated from the 1987 report of the World Environmental and Development Commission, popularly known as the Brundtland Commission, named after its chairperson, Gro Harlem Brundtland, who

happened to be the Norwegian Prime Minister then (Nkamnebe & Nwankwo, 2010). In the course of labeling and translating the meaning of this concept, Munck and Souza (2016) posited that sustainability is a state in which an organization or a society exhibits a relation to economical environmental and social aspects.

Measures of Organizational Sustainability

The measures of organizational sustainability adopted in this study are customer satisfaction and service delivery. These measures are discussed in this section:

1. Customer Satisfaction

Customer satisfaction is a feeling of satisfaction of a product or service by the customer. It is a part of consumption evaluative judgement concerning a specific product or service. It is also the result of an evaluative process that contrasts pre purchase expectations with perceptions of performance during and after the consumption experience. According to Akram, et al (2016) customer satisfaction is one of the essential factors for the success of a company. To achieve a high customer satisfaction, companies must know when and how their customers are satisfied about the products and services.

2. Service Delivery

Service as any act or performance that one party can offer to another that is essentially intangible and does not result in the ownership of anything. A service is also defined as a valuable action, deed or effort performed to satisfy a need or fulfill a demand. Competition is one of the most important factors in running a business in the world economy today. According to Saghier and Nathan (2013) service delivery is an important concept in the service industry and is more important for financial service providers who have difficulty in showing their customers product differentiation. The definition of service delivery was further developed as "the overall evaluation of a specific service of firm that results from comparing that firm's performance with the customer's general expectations of how firms in that industry should perform.

Theoretical Review

Expectancy Theory

The Expectancy theory was propounded by Victor Vroom in 1964. This theory though focuses on the link between rewards and behaviour, emphasizes expected rewards or benefit rather than experienced rewards. In other words, it is mainly concerned with effects of incentives. Vroom's Expectancy Theory attempts to explain the motivated behaviour as goal oriented. He argues that people tend to act in a hedonistic manner (Vroom, 1964) preferring the actions that will bring the highest subjective utility. Essentially, the expectancy theory argues that the strength of a tendency to act in a certain way depends on the strength of an expectation that the act will be followed by a given outcome and on the attractiveness of that outcome to the individual (Robbins, 1993). As a consequence, behaviour could be oriented towards anticipated and individualized goals. Vroom's theory states that the 'choices made by a person among alternative courses of action are lawfully related to psychological events occurring contemporaneously with the behaviour' (Vroom, 1964). So, people choose among available alternatives in a conscious way and the choices are carefully related to psychological processes, particularly perception and the formation of beliefs and attitudes (Pinder, 1984). Motivation is determined by three factors: expectancy, instrumentality and valence. That is, $M = E \times I \times V$.

People will be motivated when they believe that effort will lead to performance, they can see a clear link between performance and certain results and the results are important for them.

Relevance of Expectancy Theory to the Study

Expectancy Theory can provide insights into how certain retention strategies influence employees' beliefs about effort, performance, and outcomes. Employees evaluate whether their efforts to engage with the organization's retention strategies will lead to improved performance. If employees believe that their

commitment to and participation in retention programs will enhance their job performance and contribute to their career growth, they are more likely to actively engage in those strategies. Expectancy Theory suggests that employees assess whether good performance will be rewarded with desired outcomes. Thus, if individuals believe that their improved performance, facilitated by the organization's retention initiatives, will result in tangible rewards (e.g., career advancement, recognition, skill development), they are more likely to be motivated to stay with the organization. Employee retention strategies, such as professional development opportunities, work-life balance, career paths, and a positive work environment, can be seen as motivational factors. When these strategies are communicated effectively, employees may perceive that their efforts to stay with the organization will lead to positive outcomes, encouraging them to invest in their work and contribute to improved performance.

Empirical Review

Awolaja (2023) examined the relationship between employee retention strategies and organizational performance of academic staff in selected private universities in Osun State, Nigeria. The study used descriptive statistics of tables and percentages as well as inferential statistics of ordinary least square (OLS). Result showed that opportunities for advancement, competitive compensation plan and good work-life balance positively affect the performance of academic staff in the selected private universities.

Sang (2021) determined the effect of employee retention strategies in the Tea industry in Kenya. Using descriptive research design, it was established that all the study variables investigated were positively correlated to the study dependent variable.

Okafor, et al (2021) investigated the relationship between employee retention and organizational performance of selected private universities in Ogun State, Nigeria. Descriptive

statistics of tables, percentages and inferential statistics of linear regression were the data analysis techniques adopted. Finding revealed that increase in training and development will result to increase in organizational performance; again, employee reward leads to increased organizational performance.

Ratemo, et al. (2021) evaluated the effects of career development practices on employee performance in Kenya Forestry Research Institute in Muguga, Kenya. Using descriptive statistics focused on frequency distribution, percentages, mean and standard deviation as well as Pearson correlation coefficient and multivariate regression analysis, the study found that career development practices have significant effect on employee performance in Kenya Forestry Research Institute. The study also found that through career development, the employees are able to improve their skills.

Ebikebina and Iteigwe (2020) examined the relationship between career development and organizational success of hospitality firms in Ahoada-West Local Government Area of Rivers State. By adopting Spearman's Rank Order Correlation Coefficient with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 23.0, the study showed that there is a significant relationship between career development and organisational success of hospitality firms in Ahoada-West Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Anekwe, et al. (2020) determined the effects of career development on employees' performance of selected banks in Anambra state. The study employed Pearson Product Moment Correlation technique. Results showed that there is a positive and significant correlation between personal development and employee competency in selected banks in Anambra state; also, career mentoring is positively correlated with employee commitment in selected banks in Anambra state.

Oginni, et al. (2019) analysed the extent to which existing employee retention strategies affect organisational survival in the private universities. Questionnaire and secondary data

were used. The study found that competitive pay, facilities, dignity and respect, job security, training support, recognition and reward were identified as the retention strategies commonly adopted as practice in the private universities in Nigeria.

Akande (2019) ascertained how retention strategies can influence employee's performance in a Nigeria Private University. By using regression and correlation techniques, the study indicated that retention strategies have positive influence on employees' performance.

Faiza (2018) examined the significant relationship between retention strategies (Compensation, Career Development-Succession Progression, Work-Life Balance (WLB), and Terminal & Other Benefits) and employee turnover (ETO). The study used questionnaires and secondary data. The result of the study showed that retention strategies such as compensation, career development, succession progression and work-life balance have significant relationship with employee turnover.

Shaikh and Zahid (2017) investigated the relationship between retention strategies and employee turnover. By adopting interpretive and deductive research, the study showed that high employee turnover is due to part time employment and high number of temporary employees or drop out from college and universities. Moreover, there is a relationship between employee turnover and organizational commitment. Higher job satisfactions leads to increase employees' commitment.

Oganezi and Lozie (2017) identified how employee retention strategy in banking institutions influence quality of service, promote customer satisfaction, and enhance public image. Using simple ratios, percentages, correlations and regression, the study revealed that developing and retaining employees significantly and positively impact on quality of service, promote customer satisfaction, and enhance public image. These impact positively on the performance of commercial banks, and give institutions a competitive edge.

Gap in Literature

This chapter has provided empirical review of the relationship between employee retention strategies and employee performance in different organizations within and outside Nigeria. However, it was observationally discovered that some studies have been carried out on employee retention strategies and employee performance across the world, Nigeria inclusive (Awolaja, 2023; Sang, 2021; Okafor, et al, 2021; Ratemo, et al, 2021; Ebikebina and Iteigwe, 2020; Anekwe, et al, 2020; Oginni, et al, 2019; Akande, 2019; Faiza, 2018; Shaikh and Zahid, 2017; Oganezi and Lozie, 2017) but these studies generated mixed findings and failed to reach a consensus; while some found that employee retention strategies have significant relationship with employee performance, others found that employee retention strategies have non-significant relationship with employee performance. Furthermore, based on the researcher's knowledge, it appears that most of the studies focused on manufacturing firms, oil and gas firms, hospitality firms and tertiary institutions while very few of them focused on commercial banks in Nigeria. Also, none of these studies considered the relationship between employee retention strategies and employee performance among commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. This created a gap which this study aims to bridge. It is against this backdrop that this study is designed to bridge this gap by examining the relationship between employee retention strategies and employee performance of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The present study is a correlational study. As a result, correlational research design was adopted. Also, the population of this study consisted of all the twenty-four (24) commercial banks in each of the South-South states in Nigeria as listed by Central Bank of Nigeria (2024). These South-South states in Nigeria include Rivers State, Akwa Ibom State, Bayelsa State, Delta State, Edo State and Cross River

State. Due to the small and manageable size of the population, all members of the population were studied. Thus, this study adopted census sampling technique to sample all 22 commercial banks in each state in South-South, Nigeria. The banks in no particular order include: First Bank Nigeria Plc, Guaranty Trust Bank Plc, Zenith Bank Plc, Access Bank Plc, Ecobank Nigeria Plc, Fidelity Bank Plc, First City Monument Bank Plc, Heritage Bank Company Limited, Keystone Bank, MainStreet Bank, Stanbic IBTC Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Limited, Sterling Bank Plc, Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, United Bank For Africa Plc, Unity Bank Plc, Wema Bank Plc, Polaris Bank Limited, Providus Bank Plc, Citibank Nigeria Limited, Titan Trust Bank Limited, SunTrust Bank Nigeria Limited, Premium Trust Bank, Paralex Bank Ltd, and Globus Bank Limited. Hence, the study sampled

marketing managers and client-service managers and from 144 deposit money banks in the six South-South states in Nigeria which totalled two hundred and eighty-eight (288) marketing managers and client-service managers.

Furthermore, Primary data were used in this study. These data were collected from the respondents through administration of structured questionnaire. Lastly, the data analysis was undertaken in two different phases starting with the analysis of univariate analysis using simple percentages, frequencies and weighted mean. secondly bivariate analysis was carried out to test previously formulated hypotheses using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC).

4.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Table 4.1: Questionnaire Administration and Retrieval

Particulars	Number of Cases	Percentage
Copies of Questionnaire Administered	288	100
Copies of Questionnaire Retrieved	255	88.5
Copies of Questionnaire Not Retrieved	33	11.5
Copies of Questionnaire Completed but Invalid	5	1.7
Copies of Questionnaire Completed and Valid	250	86.8

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

From table 4.1, it is observed that out of two hundred and eighty-eight (288) copies of questionnaire administered to the respondents (managers of the selected commercial banks in

South-South, Nigeria) two hundred and fifty (250) copies of the questionnaire representing 86.8% were correctly filled and thus suitable for the purpose of data analysis.

Univariate Analysis

Univariate Analysis of Dimensions of Employee Retention Strategies (Independent/Predictor Variable)

This section presents the univariate analysis of the dimensions of employee retention strategies (compensation package and work-life balance)

using tables, frequencies, simple percentages, and weighted mean scores as follow:

Table 4.2: Analysis of Questionnaire Items on Compensation Package

S/ N	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN \bar{X}	DECISION
Q1.	Our bank has a well-organized compensation policy that is fair and commensurable with job performance.	94 (37.6%)	102 (40.8%)	8 (3.2%)	22 (8.8%)	24 (9.6%)	3.88	Accepted
Q2.	Our bank invests a lot in training and empowering workers in form of compensation.	97 (38.8%)	111 (44.4%)	4 (1.6%)	17 (6.8%)	21 (8.4%)	3.98	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 4.2 shows the univariate analysis of items 1 and 2 on compensation package which is a dimension of employee retention strategies. The results of this analysis as shown in the table revealed that the three items on compensation package have weighted mean values of 3.88 and 3.98 respectively and each of this weighted mean value is above the criterion mean of 3.0. In addition to this, the results of this analysis as

shown in the table also revealed that greater percentages of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed to each of the questionnaire items on compensation package. Based on these results, it can therefore be statistically concluded that the respondents accepted and are in agreement with all the questionnaire items on compensation package.

Table 4.3: Analysis of Questionnaire Items on Work-Life Balance

S/ N	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN \bar{X}	DECISION
Q3.	Workers in our bank mostly get the balance they need between time allocated for work and other aspects of life.	100 (40.0%)	95 (38.0%)	10 (4.0%)	19 (7.6%)	26 (10.4%)	3.90	Accepted
Q4.	Workers in our bank do find it easy to juggle workplace stress with the daily pressures of family, friends, and self.	75 (30.0%)	131 (52.4%)	12 (4.8%)	18 (7.2%)	14 (5.6%)	3.94	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 4.3 shows the univariate analysis of items 3 and 4 on work-life balance which is a dimension of employee retention strategies. The results of this analysis as shown in the table revealed that the three items on work-life balance have weighted mean values of 3.90 and 3.94 respectively and each of this weighted mean value is above the criterion mean of 3.0. In addition to this, the results of this analysis as

shown in the table also revealed that greater percentages of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed to each of the questionnaire items on work-life balance. Based on these results, it can therefore be statistically concluded that the respondents accepted and are in agreement with all the questionnaire items on work-life balance.

Univariate Analysis of the Measures of Organizational Sustainability (Dependent/Criterion Variable)

This section presents the univariate analysis of the measures of organizational sustainability (customer satisfaction and service delivery)

using tables, frequencies, simple percentages, and weighted mean scores as follow:

Table 4.4: Analysis Of Questionnaire Items on Customer Satisfaction

N/N	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN \bar{X}	DECISION
Q5.	In our bank, our customers are satisfied with the way their complaints are addressed and resolved.	89 (35.6%)	124 (49.6%)	5 (2.0%)	20 (8.0%)	12 (4.8%)	4.03	Accepted
Q6.	Our bank consistently records lower levels of complaints from customers.	82 (32.8%)	112 (44.8%)	4 (1.6%)	32 (12.8%)	20 (8.0%)	3.82	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 4.4 shows the univariate analysis of items 5 and 6 on customer satisfaction which is a measure of organizational sustainability. The results of this analysis as shown in the table revealed that the three items on customer satisfaction have weighted mean values of 4.03 and 3.82 respectively and each of this weighted mean value is above the criterion mean of 3.0. In addition to this, the results of this analysis as

shown in the table also revealed that greater percentages of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed to each of the questionnaire items on customer satisfaction. Based on these results, it can therefore be statistically concluded that the respondents accepted and are in agreement with all the questionnaire items on customer satisfaction.

Table 4.5: Analysis Of Questionnaire Items on Service Delivery

S/N	QUESTIONNAIRE ITEMS	SA (%)	A (%)	U (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	MEAN \bar{X}	DECISION
Q7.	Service rendered in our bank consistently exceeds customers' expectations.	88 (35.2%)	101 (40.4%)	10 (4.0%)	27 (10.8%)	24 (9.6%)	3.81	Accepted
Q8.	Our bank creates special and fast service in order to enhance the level of the bank in satisfying customers and improve the quality of service delivery.	116 (46.4%)	81 (32.4%)	11 (4.4%)	23 (9.2%)	19 (7.6%)	4.01	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 4.5 shows the univariate analysis of items 7 and 8 on service delivery which is a measure of organizational sustainability. The results of this analysis as shown in the table revealed that the three items on service delivery have weighted mean values of 3.81 and 4.01 respectively and each of this weighted mean value is above the criterion mean of 3.0. In addition to this, the results of this analysis as shown in the table also revealed that greater percentages of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed to each of the questionnaire items on service delivery. Based on these results, it can therefore be statistically concluded that the respondents accepted and are in agreement with all the questionnaire items on service delivery.

Testing of the First Hypothesis

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between compensation package and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Bivariate Analysis

In this present study, our hypotheses were tested for significance using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). However, the decision rule for accepting or rejecting any of our hypotheses is stated as:

Decision Rule: *If the significant value (P-value) is less than 0.05, reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis at 5% level of significance. On the other hand, if the significant value (P-value) is greater than the 0.05, accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis at 5% level of significance.*

Table 4.6: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Analysis of Compensation Package and Customer Satisfaction

		Compensation Package	Customer Satisfaction
Compensation Package	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.844**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	250	250
Customer Satisfaction	Pearson Correlation	.844**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey (SPSS Output), 2024.

Table 4.6 above shows the result of first hypothesis tested. As revealed by the table, the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) coefficient of 0.844 which is positive and greater than 0.5 indicates that there is a very strong positive relationship between compensation package and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Decision on Hypothesis One: Since the significant value (P-value) of 0.000 is less than 0.05, we therefore reject the null hypothesis one (H_{01}). The conclusion is that there is a significant relationship between compensation package and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Testing of the Second Hypothesis

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between compensation package and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Table 4.7: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Analysis of Compensation Package and Service Delivery

		Compensation Package	Service Delivery
Compensation Package	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.878**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	250	250
Service Delivery	Pearson Correlation	.878**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey (SPSS Output), 2024.

Table 4.7 above shows the result of second hypothesis tested. As revealed by the table, the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) coefficient of 0.878 which is positive and greater than 0.5 indicates that there is a very strong positive relationship between compensation package and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Decision on Hypothesis Two: Since the significant value (P-value) of 0.000 is less than 0.05, we therefore reject the null hypothesis two (H_{02}). The conclusion is that there is a significant relationship between compensation package and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Testing of the Third Hypothesis

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between work-life balance and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Table 4.8: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Analysis of Work-Life Balance and Customer Satisfaction

		Work-Life Balance	Customer Satisfaction
Work-Life Balance	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.555**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.013
	N	250	250
Customer Satisfaction	Pearson Correlation	.555**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.013	.
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey (SPSS Output), 2024.

Table 4.8 above shows the result of fourth hypothesis tested. As revealed by the table, the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) coefficient of 0.555 which is positive and greater than 0.5 indicates that there is a moderate positive relationship between work-life balance and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Decision on Hypothesis Three: Since the significant value (P-value) of 0.013 is less than 0.05, we therefore reject the null hypothesis three (H₀₃). The conclusion is that there is a significant relationship between work-life balance and customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Testing of the Fourth Hypothesis

H₀₄: There is no significant relationship between work-life balance and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Table 4.9: Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Analysis of Work-Life Balance and Service Delivery

		Work-Life Balance	Service Delivery
Work-Life Balance	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.596**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.007
	N	250	250
Service Delivery	Pearson Correlation	.596**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.007	.
	N	250	250

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey (SPSS Output), 2024.

Table 4.9 above shows the result of fifth hypothesis tested. As revealed by the table, the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) coefficient of 0.596 which is positive and greater than 0.5 indicates that there is a moderate positive relationship between work-life balance and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Decision on Hypothesis Four: Since the significant value (P-value) of 0.007 is less than 0.05, we therefore reject the null hypothesis four (H_{04}). The conclusion is that there is a significant relationship between work-life balance and service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The findings emanating from this study indicated that compensation package has a very strong positive relationship ($r = 0.844$) and significant relationship ($p = 0.000 < 0.05$) with customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. This finding aligns with findings in Fubara (2019) revealing that compensation relates positively and significantly with employee performance. Consequently, it has significant impact on job satisfaction, employee productivity and employee efficiency. Also, the findings emanating from this study indicated that compensation package has a very strong positive relationship ($r = 0.878$) and (i.e. $p = 0.000 < 0.05$) with service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. This finding is consistent with Ozah, et al. (2022) which found that non-monetary reward practices such as staff recognition, and staff development opportunities have influence on job commitment, efficiency and overall job performance of employees in Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company (PHED) in Cross River State. In addition, the findings emanating from this study indicated that work-life balance has a moderate positive relationship ($r = 0.555$) and ($p = 0.013 < 0.05$) with customer satisfaction of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. This finding is in agreement with Babatunde, et al. (2020) who established that

established that work life balance significantly affects the employees' performance through its indicators such as customer satisfaction, productivity and efficiency. Lastly, the findings emanating from this study indicated that work-life balance has a moderate positive relationship ($r = 0.596$) and ($p = 0.007 < 0.05$) with service delivery of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. This finding is supported by Bienwi-Patrick, et al. (2020) who found that there is a significant positive relationship between leave policy as a dimension of work life balance and service delivery in selected oil and gas firms in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This study has been established the relationship between employee retention strategies and organizational sustainability of commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria. The findings of the study showed that the dimensions of employee retention strategies (compensation package and work-life balance) adopted in this study contribute positively and significantly to the measures of organizational sustainability (customer satisfaction and service delivery). Based on the findings, the study concluded that employee retention strategies have a significant positive relationship with organizational sustainability in commercial banks in South-South, Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on from the findings, the following recommendations were put forward by the researcher.

1. Since compensation package has a positive and significant relationship with organizational sustainability, commercial banks should ensure that their compensation packages are competitive within the industry to attract and retain top talent. This should include offering competitive salaries, performance-based bonuses, healthcare benefits, retirement plans, and other incentives.

2. Since work-life balance has a positive and significant relationship with organizational sustainability, commercial banks should offer flexible work arrangements, such as telecommuting, flexible hours, and compressed workweeks, to accommodate employees' personal needs and preferences. Flexibility in scheduling and remote work options can help employees achieve a better work-life balance and reduce stress.

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THE PLACE OF AFRICA IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY: A REORIENTATION TO THE DECOLONIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA

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Abstract

The African continent is bedraggled by the problem of weak technological progression and improper assimilation due to the menacing drumbeat of lack of scientific drive for advancement caused by bad democratic governance and corruption. Artificial intelligence technology has become a contemporary global issue that has affected the socio-economic, cultural, political, legal, and ecological structure of an emancipated global society. The objective of this paper is to reveal that artificial intelligence is aimed at human improvement; and that the African continent must embrace scientific and technological advancement. Artificial intelligence will cause unpalatable consequences of displacement of the human work force, environmental degradation; and pressure on cultural values, psychological and ethical constraints. Artificial intelligence technology has a powerful force despite the outcry that it might cause the displacement of the human work force. This paper adopts the analytical framework and hermeneutical methodology in discussing the critical importance of artificial intelligence technology. Findings, however, show that although artificial intelligence technology has been backed by certain ethical guidelines and standards but such ethical guidelines are not strong enough in mitigating the negative consequences of artificial intelligence technology. This paper concludes that international cooperation is fundamental for global digital economy. This paper recommends that the African continent should embrace the importance of artificial intelligence in global society; that there should be a balance between the human work force and the use of artificial intelligence in our global digital economy; that there should be legal checks on the use of artificial intelligence technology in the world.

Keywords: Africa, Artificial Intelligence, Human Beings, Intelligent Machines, Technology

1. Introduction

Africa is still a colonized continent from the viewpoint of the world's technological progression and assimilation. The only way forward from this colonized mentality is for African leaders and their followers to brace up with the current technological trend that is spreading around the world. Technological

progression and assimilation is driven by the rationalization of human society. One of the problems of man and artificial intelligence is the problem of human's gullibility towards artificial intelligence technology. Technology is instrumental to human creative force and progressive outputs. For Osemwegie Wesley and Victor Jeko (2021, 240), the instrumentality of technology to humanity cannot be

overemphasized. There is no gainsaying that technology is as old as the existence of man on earth and has evolved as society begins to evolve.

Nonetheless, though technology has revolutionized how man behaves and responds to his environment, so much is left to be desired, especially with regard to the role and place of technology in human life. For Rupali Kamble and Deepali Shah (2018, 178) in agreement with Osemwegie Wesley and Victor Jeko (2021) argued that artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized information technology. Artificial intelligence technology is a necessary evil and it represents the ethics of humanism. Accordingly, Fatai Asodun (2021, 6) argues that the ethics of humanism considers the attainment of happiness and good life to be at the heart of human existence. For Fatai Asodun (2021, 15), artificial intelligence (AI) research is predicated on the philosophy of humanism. It has been argued in various quarters that artificial intelligence technology leads to misinformation, manipulation, and exploitation of eco-friendly environment because human beings blindly trust or depend on artificial intelligence technology and its heuristic outputs without critically appraising its positive and negative consequences.

In addition, artificial intelligence is meant to better human existence and human beings are not quite concern with its negative implications in our global society. We should be more concern about its negative consequences. This paper gives an in-depth analysis of the hermeneutic philosophy of artificial intelligence technology as it affects humanity. It appraises and questions the crucial importance of artificial intelligence technology in the African continent. Unfortunately, Africa is still lagging behind in terms of artificial intelligence technology.

Nevertheless, technology is a universal phenomenon and ought not to be the exclusive reserve of some continents of the world. Africa as a continent is bedraggled by the problem of poor technological and scientific progression and assimilation due to the menacing drumbeat

of lack of scientio-technological drive or advancement caused by bad democratic governance, poor leadership structure or political irresponsibility and corruption. Bad democratic governance, national insecurity, poor leadership structure and corruption are the major fundamental challenges militating against the emergence of artificial intelligence technology in Africa. Artificial intelligence technology or leap has been given prominence in humanity's scheme of things in contemporary times. Artificial intelligence technology has played a pivotal role in the socio-economic, educational, cultural, political, legal, and environmental sustainability of human beings. However, the crucial importance of artificial intelligence technology on humanity cannot be underestimated because humanity depends on it.

Nonetheless, artificial intelligence technology has caused some unpalatable consequences of human unemployment and the weapons of mass destruction. The weaponization of artificial intelligence technology could be detrimental to the human race and could cause disastrous consequences such as the emergence of nuclear weapons and job displacement. However, job displacement is a very serious problem of unemployment in any country. According to Michael Webb (2020, 1), today, one technology is causing particular anxiety about job displacement: artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence technology is said to be one of the root causes of unemployment in the world.

Moreover, unemployment has negative consequences and could lead to the increase in crimes and other social vices in human society. These unpalatable consequences of artificial intelligence technology include environmental degradation, pressure on cultural values, psychological and ethical constraint. Artificial intelligence is the emergence of intelligent machines such as the computers, robots, automated teller machines (ATMs), and other intelligent machines. According to Fatai Asodun (2021, 15), intelligent machines intelligent machines are scientific technology so designed to help humans in all their endeavours. Today,

artificial intelligence (AI) research offers the most sophisticated tools of scientific inquiry. Artificial intelligence technology has become instrumental in every facets of human society such as the education sector, sports, family life, health care delivery, banking industry, manufacturing, agricultural sector, and legal institutions.

Furthermore, the crucial importance of the hermeneutics of artificial intelligence technology to countries of the world is a unique one. However, the uniqueness of artificial intelligence technology has been backed by certain ethical guidelines and regulative standards but such ethical guidelines or regulations are not strong enough in mitigating the negative consequences of artificial intelligence technology. This paper argues that international cooperation is fundamental for global digital economy.

Broadly speaking, artificial intelligence technology has religious, metaphysical, economic and ethical implications and its adaptability could cause a serious revolt against the human race. This paper argues that the emergence of artificial intelligence technology has led to flagrant violation of fundamental human rights of people around the world; and the discovery of artificial intelligence technology and its influence on the human race has existential implications ranging from physical as well as psychological influences which may either be negative and positive effects on humanity. On the area of human rights, artificial intelligence technology has led to internet frauds such as hacking of people's bank accounts, character assassination and invasion of people's privacy.

In addition, this paper is divided into six sections. Section one is the introduction. Section two focuses on the conceptual clarification of artificial intelligence. Section three discusses historical evolution of artificial intelligence. Section four is anchored on the place of Africa in artificial intelligence technology. Section five gives insight into the way forward for Africa to attain the height of technological culture like

other climes around the world. Section six is the conclusion and recommendations.

2. Conceptual Clarification of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to perform optimal tasks and functions that typically require human intelligence. It is a broad field of scientific and technological research that encompasses various subfields, including machine learning, natural language processing, computer systems, robotics, and more. Artificial intelligence technology reveals the progress of scientific inquiry. For Maduabuchi Dukor (2010, 340), science is a method of knowing, or arriving at the truth. John McCarthy, coined the term "artificial intelligence" in 1956 as "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs" (Kristian, 2018). For Nicholas Chen (2011, 11), a baseline of computer power, internet access, mobile phone penetration, and basic robotic integration is likely necessary to allow the subsequent adoption of AI technology, and the changes that industries underwent as these previous technologies were adopted and leveraged serve as a good indication of the industries' ability to respond flexibly to futu ?? According to John McCarthy and other coauthors (1955, 2), artificial intelligence is the basis of the conjecture that every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so precisely that a machine can be made to simulate human behavior.

Nonetheless, artificial intelligence technology or intelligent machine systems are designed to analyze and interpret vast amounts of data, make decisions, and perform optimal tasks with a high level of speed, autonomy and adaptability. Artificial intelligence is the simulation of computer systems that are designed to carry out human functions. For Pei Wang (2019, 8), artificial intelligence is concerned with computer systems that are similar to the human mind in a certain sense. They are intelligent machines that are

programmed to imitate human behaviours. However, these computer systems aim to replicate or mimic human cognitive abilities such as learning, reasoning, problem solving mechanism, perceptual representation, natural language processing and critical understanding. There are two primary types of artificial intelligence: narrow or weak artificial intelligence and general or strong artificial intelligence (AGI). On the one hand, narrow artificial intelligence refers to systems that are designed to perform specific tasks and are limited to those tasks. Examples of narrow artificial intelligence include voice assistants, image recognition systems, and recommendation algorithms.

Moreover, general or strong artificial intelligence (AGI) refers to the systems that possess the ability to understand, learn, and apply knowledge across a wide range of tasks, similar to human intelligence. General artificial intelligence is still largely theoretical and not yet achieved its fullest objectives or potentials. In addition to the foregoing, artificial intelligence has numerous applications across various industries, including health care, finance, transportation, manufacturing, sports and entertainment. It can be used for tasks such as data analysis, pattern recognition, predictive modelling, autonomous vehicles, visual assistants, and more. Accordingly, Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig (2010, 127), argued that artificial intelligence is the study of agents that receive percepts from the environment and perform actions similar to that of the human beings. However, artificial intelligence technology presupposes the epistemology of humanism. Accordingly, Fatai Asodun (2021, 15) argues that artificial intelligence research is equally consistent with the epistemology of humanism. The ethics of humanism is already benefiting from artificial intelligence (AI) research. For Fatai Asodun (2021, 17) artificial intelligence (AI) offers the avenue through which humans exercise their inner uncontrollable drive for outward projection of their perfections; not in imaginary supernatural entities but in concrete realities like intelligent

machines. Fatai Asodun (2021, 14) argues that artificial intelligence (AI) becomes the available avenue through which humans actualize their longing for perfection. Fatai Asodun (2021, 1), further heightened his theoretical position by asserting that the history of artificial intelligence (AI) to date is that of a rigorous drive to build machines that exhibit human like intelligence driven behavior. The fundamental principles of humanism emphasizes the exploration of human rational capacity for actualizing human wellbeing, progress and happiness. It is worth noting that artificial intelligence technology signals what Peter Drucker (1999, 73) calls a period of rapid structural change.

Nevertheless, some merits of artificial intelligence technology include enhanced efficiency and automation, intelligent decision making, advancement in health care system, autonomous vehicles, improved speed and accuracy, advanced data analysis, predictive analytics, faster problem solving mechanism, efficient resource allocation, fraud detection, natural language processing, autonomous system, improved customer service within the banking industry through self- service otherwise known as automated teller machines, and scientific discovery. Accordingly, Derek Patridge (1998, 1) argues that:

Computers have moved us into domains of unbelievable complexity; and enable us to manage them fairly successfully- most of the time. In fact, computers don't just enable us to deal with situations of far greater complexity than we could possibly manage without them they positively lure us into these domains of excessive complexity. The modern computer is an exceedingly seductive device, it tempts us with the promise of its great power, but it also entices the unwary to overstep the bounds of manageable complexity.

Based on the above theoretical subscription, Derek Patridge (1998, 2), explains how the influence of the philosophy of artificial

intelligence on human society is multifaceted or multidimensional, requiring careful ethical considerations on human and nonhuman engagement from various stakeholders. However, artificial intelligence technology calls for responsible decision-making processes, ethical practices and guidelines, robust discussions, and international collaboration to ensure that the human race is safe and to also ensure that artificial intelligence technologies serve the betterment of humanity while upholding societal values, fostering inclusivity and navigating the complexities of our rapidly evolving technological landscape, progression and assimilation. However, artificial intelligence technology seems to be one of the greatest triumphs of mankind.

Moreover, artificial intelligence technology has elicited a series of debates about what Filippo Santani de Soi and Giulio Mecacci (2021, 1063) call moral accountability gaps. Culpability is a particularly serious form of (moral) responsibility, but it is not the only one. This simply means that intelligent machines are not morally culpable; and that artificial intelligence gadgets are not moral agents like human beings. They are not morally accountable for any injurious acts on human beings; unlike human beings who are morally responsible for their deliberate choices and actions. For Wareham C. S (2020, 4), artificial intelligence is human-centred practice. On the other hand, B. C Stahl and other coauthors (2021, 371) argued that artificial intelligence contributes to human flourishing. However, artificial intelligence technology presupposes that there are other minds. Based on this subscription, Felix Aioboman (2015, 155) argues that artificial intelligence means attributing mind or consciousness to intelligent machines.

3. Historical Evolution of Artificial Intelligence Technology

The historical evolution of artificial intelligence started from the Greek mythology. In the Greek mythology Talos was a giant constructed bronze who acted as guardian for the island of Crete. He would throw boulders at the ships of

invaders and would complete three circuits around the island's perimeters daily. According to the Wikipedia Dictionary of Philosophy (accessed July, 2024), pseudo-Appolodorus' Bibliothek Hephæetus forged Talos with the aid of a Cyclops and presented the automation as a gift to Minos. The idea of artificial intelligence and intelligent machines keyed into the minds of men as a myth brought into reality. Artificial intelligence has its roots in the works of some philosophers like Aristotle and Archytas of Tarentum who laid the theoretical foundation for logical thinking and early attempts at creating artificial beings. Archytas of Tarentum, an ancient Greek mathematician and philosopher who lived in the 4th century BCE was known for his contributions to mathematical knowledge and mechanical engineering. He built several machines, including the mechanical bird the 'Pigeon', which could flap its wings and fly for a short distance. While this can be seen as an example of automata or mechanical devices, early mechanical computing started in the 17th century. Blaise Pascal and Gottfried Leibniz were some of the philosophers that championed the course of artificial intelligence in the 17th century. For instance, Blaise Pascal, a French mathematician, physicist, and philosopher, invented the 'Pascaline' in the 17th century. The 'Pascaline' was a mechanical calculator designed to perform basic arithmetic operations like addition, and subtraction. It uses a series of gears and wheels to manipulate numbers. On the other hand, Gottfried Leibniz, a German mathematician and philosopher, independently, developed a mechanical calculator known as the 'Leibniz Wheel' in the 17th century.

Furthermore, the 'Leibniz Wheel' was an improved version of the 'Pascaline' and was capable of performing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Early mechanical computing spanned from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Charles Babbage conceived what was known as the 'Analytical Engine'. In the 19th century, the English mathematician and inventor Charles Babbage conceived designs for a mechanical general-purpose computer called

the 'Analytical Engine'. However, the 'Analytical Engine' was envisioned as a vast improvement over the early calculators with the capability to perform complex task of calculations and store up data in a memory system. Charles Babbage's design incorporated key computing concepts such as a stored program punched cards for input and output, and an arithmetic logic unit (ALU). In addition to the foregoing, the 'Analytical Engine' was never fully developed or realized due to funding issues and technological limitations of the time. Charles Babbage's the 'Analytical Engine' is regarded as a precursor to modern digital computers.

Moreover, these mechanical computing devices and concepts from Blaise Pascal, Gottfried Leibniz, and Charles Babbage played a crucial role in demonstrating the feasibility and potentiality of automating mathematical computations. They laid the foundation for subsequent development in computing machinery and the eventual emergence of modern computers in the 20th century. These mechanical calculators, including the 'Pascaline', 'Leibniz Wheel' and 'Analytical Engine' were significant precursors and milestones to modern computers. They demonstrated the feasibility of automating mechanical calculations through mechanical means.

In addition, the birth of artificial intelligence in the 1950s came out as an offshoot with the theoretical foundations of Aristotle, Archytas, Blaise Pascal, Gottfried Leibniz and Charles Babbage. For John Burr and Milton Goldinger (2008, 42-43), in the 1950s a group of scientists from various disciplines, including mathematics, psychology, engineering, economics, philosophy and political science, began discussing the possibility of creating an artificial brain. This exploration led to the establishment of the field of artificial intelligence as an academic discipline in 1956. Worthy of note is that John Burr and Milton Goldinger (2008, 43-44) argued that during this time, there were several key developments that influenced the logical thinking around creating intelligent machines. However, research in neurology revealed that the brain operates through electrical networks

of neurons that fired in all or nothing pulses. The convergence of these ideas suggested the potential for constructing an electronic brain, leading to early research into thinking machines or intelligence machines.

Nevertheless, artificial intelligence is characterized by humanistic concerns and ethical considerations. Philosophers have been fascinated with the concept of artificial intelligence since its inception in human history. Exploring the existential, moral, ethical, socio-economic, political and global implications of artificial intelligence technology in the modern world. In addition to the foregoing, artificial intelligence technology came into limelight in the 20th century and it was pioneered by John McCarthy in the 1956. However, at the forefront of this discussion are the likes of Immanuel Kant, Martin Heidegger, Aristotle, Friedrich Nietzsche, Blaise Pascal and Karl Marx whose theories can be used to analyze artificial intelligence technology, although, none of them had a direct theory of artificial intelligence but their theories can be linked to the discourse on artificial intelligence technology. For instance, Karl Marx believes that the advancement of technology such as artificial intelligence technology is essential to human progress enabling human beings to reach new levels of knowledge acquisition and critical understanding of human society. Friedrich Nietzsche takes a different theoretical approach, suggesting that artificial intelligence technology is a reflection on human desires for power and control and that development of artificial intelligence technology is a natural progression of human evolutionary movement. Accordingly, Immanuel Kant takes it from a more holistic and humanistic approach when he advocates the need for a perpetual peace and world historical order. The emergence of artificial intelligence technology has led to the manufacturing of weapons of mass destruction and the uprising of fundamentalist groups which has led to the philosophy of terror and terrorism. Our world is at crossroads due to the production of weapons of mass destruction. The world requires peaceful coexistence and should not be

destroyed by human selfish ends. Accordingly, Kant in his categorical imperative advocates that man should not be means to an end.

Nevertheless, from this philosophical approach or theoretical perspective, the fast pace at which artificial intelligence technology is advancing has significant implications for our emancipated global society and it raises important ethical considerations or moral questions. For instance, the potential for artificial intelligence technology to surpass or overwhelm human intelligence which could lead to a paradigm shift in power dynamics and an existential crisis for humanity is looming. In addition to the foregoing, due to over-reliance of human beings on artificial intelligence technology and its effects, philosophers have been forced to open a philosophical discourse on artificial intelligence technology, its advancement or progression, assimilation and how reliable it is to humanity. For Andrew Efemini (2010, 82), African countries have relied heavily on the technological advancement of the West.

4. The Place of Africa in Artificial Intelligence Technology

Africa is facing another form of colonization or imperialist tendency in terms of her inability to grapple with the current trend of artificial intelligence technology. Technology is simply the scientific application of tools to manipulate the natural environment. This scientific application of tools to manipulate our environment or ecological system has led to serious negative consequences. Unfortunately, Africa is still lagging behind in order to catch up with the rest of the world. The quest for scientific and technological advancement or artificial intelligence technology in the African continent has failed woefully due to bad leadership style or poor democratic governance structure and corruption. However, corruption has become a cankerworm that has eaten deep into every fabric of African societies. Africa is under a serious siege when it comes to artificial intelligence technology or scientific and technological advancement. Africa cannot avoid

artificial intelligence technology because artificial intelligence technology has undoubtedly changed the course of human history. Artificial intelligence technology has provided us with a vast array of socio-economic benefits and sweet ways that enhanced the quality of human life. Worthy of note is that the concept of artificial intelligence since its inception in the 1950s, has been part and parcel of human historical trajectory.

Nonetheless, the integration of artificial intelligence technology into our emancipated global society and digital economy will also require careful ethical considerations of how to balance the socio-economic benefits of increased efficiency and accuracy with the potential loss of job opportunities and its impact on human cultural values. Artificial intelligence technology in the face of cultural values also demands some ethical considerations or ethical guidelines. For instance, some women in contemporary times have resorted to sex robots and they do not see the need for having conjugal relationship with men. For instance, many African families have been faced with marriage divorce and in contemporary times many African women are now single mothers and they happily brag about it that they are single mothers and that they have nothing to do with men.

Nonetheless, they see it as a pride to fend for themselves by engaging in serious economic activities and livelihood. This poses a very serious challenge to the human race most especially African cultures. Many African families are currently in disarray due to cultural pressure caused by the emergence of artificial intelligence technology. According to Wangari Maathai (2009, 275), a critical element in promoting and sustaining development in Africa is to keep African families intact. Humanity is gradually losing its sense of rationality due to the emergence of artificial intelligence technology. Unfortunately, African cultural values are fast eroding due to the impact of artificial intelligence technology on African culture. The African person sees marriage as sacred but today the reverse is the case due to

sex robots and other negative implications of artificial intelligence technology.

Moreover, the decolonization of technology could only be feasible if African leadership takes a radical step or a new dimension of selfless service and people-oriented socio-economic, scientific, technological, educational and political programmes. One of the challenges of Africa, apart from technological drawback, is the kind of leadership the African peoples get. Africans need political leaders that can definitely revolutionize technological know-how in Africa. Based on this theoretical position, Wangari Maathai (2009, 285) argues that Africans need to stand up for the leaders they want to get and not settle for the leaders they get. Too many African leaders have been narrow heroes of their micro-nations rather than genuine statesmen for the whole macro-nations.

Nonetheless, artificial intelligence technology is anchored on utilitarian and humanistic principles and goals which is geared towards multifaceted perspective. Technological acquisition is multifaceted in outlook. For Oyekan Owomoyela (1996, 102), the acquisition of a technological culture is therefore multifaceted and fraught with implications. The ascendancy of science and technology hacks back to the Enlightenment and the subsequent success of Western societies in subjugating other peoples around the world, thanks to their more advanced technology.

Furthermore, the emergence of artificial intelligence technology reveals the modernization process of the contemporary world. Accordingly, Oyekan Owomoyela (1996, 102-103), argues that modernization thus transcends the mere development or employment of gadgets; it entails a profound transformation in being and outlook. From the theoretical perspective of Oyekan Owomoyela (1996, 101), artificial intelligence technology seeks to break through a program of technology transfer. The technology complex involves scientific knowledge. Oyekan Owomoyela (1996, 104-105) further heightened his theoretical position by arguing that

technological development, innovation and transformation reveals the scientific take-off-stage of global digital societies. Accordingly, Oyekan Owomoyela (1996, 108) asserts that the scientific take-off-stage exemplifies the nature of the truly modern man.

Nevertheless, the guarantee of African political leadership can only trigger artificial intelligence leap. African political leadership therefore should concern acting towards others in a manner that acknowledges a shared morality and a shared humanity. For Wangari Maathai (2009) African leadership has worsen because the people are not represented among the ruling elite often feel no reason to give their allegiance to the leadership. The result is a low level of civic consciousness or responsibility among the masses. For Oyekan Owomoyela (1996, 117) in agreement with Wangari Maathai (2009) argues that African societies should thrive on mutuality, cooperation and accommodation rather than conflict in order for artificial intelligence technology to evolve in the African continent. In addition to the foregoing, the African continent is currently experiencing a serious drawback socially, educationally, economically, politically, culturally, scientifically and technologically. Accordingly, Oyekan Owomoyela (1996, 119) asserts that human beings are alarmed at the realization of how hard technology is and has been on humanity and the human environment.

5. Africa in the Face of Artificial Intelligence Technology

Africa as a continent must begin to chart a new course in terms of her quest for technologically driven African societies. African children should begin to learn the rudiments of technology at their formative stage. It will amaze you to know that many young African children are quick to learn at their formative stage and technological or technical education ought not to be jettisoned by African governments. Technical knowledge is one of the necessary steps for African societies to realize its full potentials. For Balogun Olagunju and Michael Ibiezugbe (2018, 70), the acquisition of technical knowledge and skills will

help the youths to contribute their own little quota to sustainable socio-economic development of Nigeria as a developing economy. Accordingly, Balogun Olagunju and Michael Ibiezugbe (2018, 69) argued that, fundamentally, youth skill acquisition empowerment strategy helps to equip the youths with relevant knowledge and skills that will enable them to address the challenges of life in the contemporary society. Unfortunately, technical education at the primary and secondary levels has gradually faded away due to lack of the political will of African governments in revolutionizing technologically driven African societies. For instance, agricultural activities in many African countries are still at the subsistent level. There should be the mechanization of agriculture through a policy framework that is geared towards an eco-friendly environment. On the other hand, artificial intelligence technology should be eco-friendly. Artificial intelligence technology should encourage the need for environmental sustainability.

Nevertheless, artificial intelligence has utilitarian value because it aids human happiness. According to Osemwegie Wesley and Jeko Victor (2021, 248), every technological creation has a utilitarian value. It either maximizes or promotes human happiness or pains. African leadership structure should be redefined by a good leadership trait that is people oriented and this could serve as a catalyst to artificial intelligent technology in Africa. African leadership structure should be characterized by goodwill and selflessness. This will drive technological advancement faster than we can ever imagine. For Kelly Imafidon and Uyi Edegbe (2018, 76), the central and overriding tenets and principles of Nigerian youths becoming good leaders and not selfish, questionable, and corrupt and benefit of ideal development-oriented leadership are dependent on the leadership traits being manifested by the leaders in the nation. In contemporary Nigerian society, we have very terrible political leaders who do not care about the Nigerian masses. Africans need technological expertise for the

clear objective of robust economy or economic liberalization. Iain Cockburn, Rebecca Henderson and Scott Stern (2019, 115) argued that rapid advances in the field of artificial intelligence have profound implications for the economy as well as society at large. Based on this subscription by Iain Cockburn, Rebecca Henderson and Scott Stern (2019) African societies must not relent in their effort to revamp the poor technological architecture.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

So far, we have articulated that Africa is still under the grip of colonization from the perspective of technological progression and assimilation of the western countries. We have presented arguments that artificial intelligence technology could only thrive in Africa through the eradication of the fundamental challenge of poverty, corruption and poor leadership structure. From the foregoing, artificial intelligence technology is aimed at human betterment and it has utilitarian value. This paper, therefore, recommends the following below:

1. That the African continent should embrace the critical importance of artificial intelligence in our global society.
2. That there should be a balance between the human work force and the use of artificial intelligence in global digital economy.
3. That there should be legal checks and framework on the regulation of the use of artificial intelligence devices and its infringements on the fundamental rights of human beings.
4. That there should be governance structure and ethical guidelines through international cooperation in regulating the use of artificial intelligence devices.
5. That international community or the international regulating body on artificial intelligence should place a sanction on countries that tend to violate fundamental human rights through the use of artificial intelligence devices in their respective countries.

6. That artificial intelligence devices should be eco-friendly and should not serve as a source of environmental degradation in our contemporary times.

7. That the use of artificial intelligence devices should not lead to the displacement of the human work force.

8. That the convenience we enjoy from the use of artificial intelligence devices should serve as an obstacle to the need for hard work. Many people are becoming very lazy due to the convenience they enjoy from the use of artificial intelligence devices.

9. That adequate compensation should be given to people who are grossly violated by the use of artificial intelligence devices.

10. That artificial intelligence technology is knowledge driven and the African continent ought to build up its knowledge base in advancing the use of artificial intelligence devices.

11. That there should be complementarity between artificial intelligence technology and cultural values in global society.

12. That artificial intelligence devices should be used to advance higher productivity level in the African continent.

13. That the African continent should not be lagging behind and to join the rest of the world in advancing scientific and technological progression in our global society.

14. That artificial intelligence devices should be improved upon to avoid unnecessary theft or internet frauds in the global financial institutions.

16. That married people in conjugal relationships should exercise caution in their use of artificial intelligence devices such as sex robots because some persons are becoming addicted to these sex robots and this has led to divorce in many homes around the world.

17. That the African continent and other continents of the world should not see artificial intelligence devices as complete good or completely bad but both its positive and negative implications should be well managed by humanity because our humanity is at a cross road.

18. That artificial intelligence has come to stay and our humanity must begin to embrace its good side and avoids its negative influence on our emancipated global society.

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INTERROGATING THE IMPACT OF 13% DERIVATION ON NIGER DELTA HOST COMMUNITIES: A STUDY OF EGBEMA KINGDOM, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

As a reflection of her resource wealth, a significant provision of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution is the principle of derivation concerning revenue allocation from natural resources. The paper examines the impact of 13% derivation allocation by the Federal Government of Nigeria on oil producing and facility host communities in Delta State, focusing on Egbema Kingdom. The purpose of the study is to investigate the utilization of 13% derivation funds in the development of oil producing communities in Delta State. The 13% derivation fund was created by the Nigerian government to ameliorate the negative consequences of oil mineral exploitation in the oil-producing communities. Accordingly, the Delta State government established the Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission, DESOPADEC, in 2006, with 50% of monthly 13% derivation fund by the federal government to address developmental issues in oil-producing communities in the state. The paper adopts systems theory as framework of analysis suggesting that organic parts can be better understood and explained relative to their relationship with the larger environment. The paper identifies underfunding, mismanagement, corruption, and leadership deficiency as factors responsible for inefficiency of the commission. It concludes that failure of DESOPADEC to effectively implement derivation funds renders oil-producing communities continually impoverished and underdeveloped with the negative consequences of oil exploitation and production. The paper, therefore, recommends that 13% derivation should be released directly to the oil-producing communities, rather than through the state government.

Keywords: Delta State, Derivation fund, Egbema Kingdom, Host communities.

1. Introduction

Delta State is the one of the oil-producing states in the Niger Delta region. Crude oil is found in most of the local government areas, except in the northeast of the state. The state produces about 29.98 per cent of the total oil production in Nigeria (NDEBUMOG, 2023). Despite this, the

communities where the crude oil is extracted remain poor, marginalized and restive (Azaiki, 2003). Delta State is located in the South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria. Delta State was created out of the former Bendel State on 27 August 1991. The state is bordered on the north by Edo State, the east by Anambra and the

south by Bayelsa State while to the west is the Bight of Benin. The state was initially created with 12 local government areas in 1991 which was later extended to 19 and now has 25 local government areas. The capital of Delta State is Asaba. while the state's economic centre is Warri. Delta State is made up of different ethnic groups, including the Urhobos, Ukwanis, Ika (Igbo), Ijaws, Itsekiris, and Isokos

According to the Ad Coelum Doctrine, the owners of the land own the resources found therein. This principle is in tune with the spirit of true federation, where the federating units have adequate control of its resources (Okolo & Akpokighe, 2014). While this is the case in other parts of the country where gold and other mineral resources are found, the vexatious Petroleum Act of 1966, which is embedded in the 1999 Constitution, deprives the host communities of their resources. This contrasts with countries that practice fiscal federalism, where host communities, states or regions own the resources and pay taxes to the government. Petroleum industry has brought untold miseries to the people of Niger Delta to the extent that even basic agricultural and fishery activities which provide livelihood for the people have declined overtime due not only to environmental degradation but continuous acquisition and allocation of their territories as oil blocks by government through forceful acquisition (Owhoko, 2020).

The principle of derivation was developed in the context of the Federal Government of Nigeria's efforts to eliminate disparities and inequities in the revenue distribution system in which revenue collected by the Federal Government from natural resources is redistributed to the component units. The 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended) provides for the payment of 13 per cent of oil revenue from the Federation Account to the states as a derivation fund. Section 162, Sub-section 2 of the constitution stipulates that the fund is for the exclusive use of oil/gas producing communities as compensation for loss of fishing rights and productive farmlands as a result of oil and gas exploration and production activities (Akpan &

Akpabio, 2009). According to the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), derivation refers to "the financial incentive enshrined in the constitution for oil-producing communities, based on their production input, to serve as benefits and encourage the community to create an enabling environment for more production of crude oil and gas" (Olaniyi, 2020).

While the principle of derivation is not exclusive to the Niger Delta, it is associated with the region since the 1970s due to Nigeria's reliance on oil and gas production. (Adangor, 2015). Between 1946 and mid-1960s, Nigeria's revenue sharing system was based on three competing principles: the principle of derivation, the principle of need and the principle of fiscal autonomy. The principle of derivation was however, the most prominent of the three. The derivative principle is based on the understanding that the communities from where revenues are derived must have suffered one way or the other from external costs, such as pollution, social and economic degradation of communities and other adverse effects resulting from certain economic activities, such as manufacturing or oil drilling (Adesopo, 2011). Abubakar (1986, in Adesopo (op cit) argues that "Such people must be compensated by enabling them to benefit from the revenues generated in their community".

Before the discovery of oil in 1958, derivation in the 1950s was 100% when revenues from cocoa (in the West) and groundnut (in the North) were the mainstay of the Nigerian economy. Though derivation suffered severe drop to 50% at independence in 1960, the constituent regions enjoyed semi-financial autonomy based on revenues accrued from cocoa (Western region), groundnut (Northern region), and palm oil (Eastern region). This was the case until the military struck in 1966. With the military intervention, federalism suffered in Nigeria, the revenue sharing system changed. Under the various military regimes in Nigeria the derivation principle suffered progressive decline from 50% in 1960, 45% in 1969, 20% in 1975 (Gen. Yakubu Gowon), 1.5% in 1982 (President Shehu

Shagari), 1.0% in 1990, 3.0% in 1992 (Gen. Ibrahim Babangida), and currently 13% in 1999 (President Olusegun Obasanjo) Babalola, (2014).

Twenty-four years later, attempts have not been made for upward review of the derivation principle to the oil-producing states of the Niger Delta region in spite of the fact that Section 162(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, (as amended) permits an upward review of the 13% payable. Since Nigeria's Fourth Republic began in 1999, the eight oil and gas producing states have received over N9 trillion under the derivation principle sanctioned by the nation's constitution (Adebowale, 2021). However, Adangor (op cit) argues that when the current 13% rate is compared to the 100% and later 50% that was paid to the solid mineral-producing areas of the federation prior to the commercial exploitation of oil in the Niger Delta, the situation of the Niger Delta communities becomes very clear.

Okilo (1980) argues that that derivation as a principle of revenue allocation has continued to be deliberately suppressed since crude oil became the mainstay of Nigeria's wealth simply because the main contributors of the oil wealth are the minorities. The lack of statutory review of the 13% derivation principle over two decades later has been attributed by many to vested interests in a conspiracy of silence by the three dominance tribes of Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo, respectively, to the detriment of the oil-producing ethnic minorities of the Niger Delta (Adesopo, 2011). However, conjunctures are that with the recent drilling of crude oil in some parts of the North including Nasarawa, Bauchi, Kogi and Gombe States, it would be interesting to see how stakeholders in the region align forces to demand for constitutional amendment of 13% derivation for more revenue. Experts suggest that the enthusiasm of northern elites about oil discovery is mainly due to the expectation of receiving a share of the revenue generated from the derivation fund (Anyago, 2022). Since 1999, the eight oil and gas producing states have received over N9 trillion under the derivation principle enshrined in the

constitution. However, he argues that though oil producing states receive derivation fund monthly, the impact is not felt in many oil producing communities.

Problem Statement

The derivation principle is aimed at compensating and mitigating the social and environmental implications of the extraction industry in oil producing and facility host communities of the Niger Delta. This makes states in the region among the top recipients of federal allocation by virtue of their oil and gas producing status in the country. Consequently, some states that managed their derivation funds through commissions fund the commissions with a percentage of the derivation funds received from the federation government. The percentage ranges from 40-50 percent, yet the oil-producing and host communities in the region live in squalor, impoverished, and marginalised by corrupt and inefficient state governors, contributing to perennial frustration, agitation, and instability in the Niger Delta region.

The paper is guided by the following objectives:

- i. Ascertain the purpose of derivation funds;
- ii. Appraise how derivation has benefited host communities of Delta State;
- iii. Examine factors responsible for ineffective implementation of derivation in Delta State; and,
- iv. Evaluate how derivation can be effectively applied to benefit host communities of Delta State.

This paper is structured into six sections as follows: section 2 is the methodology while section 3 clarifies concepts. Section 4 presents a review of relevant literature, and section 5 discusses findings. Finally, section 6 concludes and makes recommendations.

2. Methodology

This study is desk research using qualitative and exploratory in approach. Secondary data formed the basis of data collection, interpretation and analysis. Data was collected through a

comprehensive review of relevant literature on the subject. The thrust of analysis was systematically prosecuted under select themes and sub-themes designed to address the salient aspects of the objectives.

3. Conceptual Clarification

Host community

In this context, host community refers to a community that produces oil or has petroleum facilities/installations in their land. Under the 2021 Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), host community implies not only oil-producing community but that which has oil pipelines passing through it. However, Braide (2013) defines host community as a community where the oil is extracted from, and houses the facilities for the exploration and extraction of oil. On the other hand, Eke (2013) defines host community to mean a community that is impoverished as a result of exploration of petroleum products.

Significantly, host communities are those locations in whose territory oil is discovered and exploited (Bebeteidoh, 2020). The Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 however, expanded this resource-focused definition to describe host communities as communities that host petroleum operations. Chapter 3 of the Act defines host communities as:

- i. Communities situated in or appurtenant to the area of operations (territories which host operational or integrated facilities) of a licensee or lessee of an upstream oil and gas asset (settlor);
- ii. Any other community as the settler may determine under Chapter 3 of the Act;
- iii. Littoral communities to a deep area of operations along the Gulf of Guinea of the Nigerian shoreline up to 500m provided such community is gazetted by the National Boundary Commission;
- iv. Littoral communities to shallow water area of operations within Nigeria's shallow water identified as a host community prior to

enactment of the Act, and any other community identified and determined by the settler; and,

- v. Littoral communities to shallow water and deep-water areas of operations, which include any other community selected by the settler pursuant to Section 235(3) of the Act.

4. Literature Review

Adangor (2015) argues that the Niger Delta has not benefited from the oil wealth generated from the region. According to him, derivation principle is an attempt to placate the people of the oil-rich Niger Delta region who have agitated socioeconomic and environmental justice over the years. The author notes that though not exclusively designed for the Niger Delta, its association with the region derives from the dependence of the Nigerian economy on oil and gas. Again, Emmanuel & Sofiri (2020) opine that the essence of derivation allocation is for host governments and oil-bearing communities to be able to utilize these funds to reduce the social, economic, and environmental challenges created by the extraction of these minerals.

Interrogating the derivation funds utilization, Dike in Amaize (2020 p4) observes that "While we blame the Federal Government for not developing the host communities, we will also not exonerate the State Governors of the Niger Delta oil-rich region, who have over the years misappropriated the 13 per cent derivation fund meant for the development of the oil-producing communities" Adedigba (2021) argues that states that created oil-producing area development commissions to execute development projects in their oil-producing and impacted areas have not performed better as many of the communities have not been feeling the impact of the commissions. Specifically, the author mentioned DESOPADEC as one of such commissions with poor performance record. According to him, the commission is plagued with mismanagement, inadequate funding, and political interference, among others. Dagogo in Edozie (2024 p10) alleges that successive

governors from the region have not been able to better the lots of the host communities as the people still live in "squalor, diseases and reeking with the worst and highest form of poverty."

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopts systems theory for its theoretical framework. Systems theory, also known as social systems theory in social science, is the study of society as a complex arrangement of elements, including people and their beliefs, as they relate to the whole (McClelland, 1996). It states that the system itself is more significant than all of the individual parts that comprise it. Systems theory was first introduced in the 1940s by biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy (1968) and furthered by W. Ross Ashby (1958) and George Bateson (1979). The thrust of systems theory is the idea that, rather than being best understood in isolation, the individual parts of a system are best understood in the context of their interactions with one another and with other systems (Wilkinson, 2011). In other words, the systems perspective suggests that we cannot fully understand a phenomenon by merely analyzing the elements in order to reform it without having a global view of how it functions. Therefore, systems theory is a paradigm shift from the part to the whole (Mele, Pels & Polese, 2010). Though not diametrically against closed systems, open systems refer to systems that are interactive and flexible, while closed systems appear to be rigid and restrictive (Wilkinson (2011).

From the foregoing, it is obvious that the systems theory is most suitable in explaining the problem of DESOPADEC due to its deductive approach. This is because the moribund state of the agency cannot be understood without having a holistic perspective of the problem. The fact that the agency is dysfunctional is a reflection of the general governance deficit experienced at all levels of society. The agency's failure to deliver on its mandate to the oil-producing communities is a sad reminder of moribund past and present commissions of the Niger Delta such as the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC),

Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA). All these agencies which have been created to bring succor to the oil-producing communities have disappointingly performed below expectations, tainted with inefficiency, corruption, and mismanagement. The DESOPADEC is therefore not an exception.

DESOPADEC

The Delta State Oil Producing Area Development Commission (DESOPADEC) is an agency established by the Delta State Government in Nigeria to develop the economic and social infrastructure of oil producing communities. It was established in 2006 by an act of the Delta State parliament to tackling underdevelopment and ecological problems arising from the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas producing areas of Delta State. By this gesture, the commission receives and administers 50% of the 13% of the oil derivation funds accruing to the Delta State government for rehabilitation and development of oil-producing communities of the state (Ifaka & Odigie, 2021). Like Delta most of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) states have all created oil-producing area development commissions to execute development projects in their oil-producing and impacted areas. These include Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC), Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission (EDSOGPADEC), Abia State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (ASOPADEC) and Imo State Oil-Producing Area Development Commission (ISOPADEC). But analysts believe very little of these funds flows to these commissions. The constitutional provision for 13 per cent derivation states that the fund should be used for the development of the oil-producing communities. However, the constitutional lacuna is that it makes the money pass through the state.

Section 162, sub-section 2 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) stipulates that the fund is for the exclusive use of oil/gas producing communities as compensation for loss of fishing

rights and productive farmlands as a result of oil and gas exploration and production activities. Instead, the state governors, government officials and politicians take advantage of vulnerability and gullibility of these host communities to divert these benefits to their preferred locations, leaving the core oil communities to fate (Saharareporters, 2012). The communities have no voice or representatives in government. In response to allegations of misappropriation of 13% funds, the Ifeanyi Okowa administration claimed that while Delta state received a total of N416 billion that accrued as 13% derivation to it, DESOPADEC got a total of N208 billion in the eight years of his administration (Owhoko, *ibid*). However, despite this huge revenue available to the state oil-producing communities have remained a model for impoverishment. This has worsened agitations in the Niger Delta, leading to sabotage of oil and gas facilities and rising spate of crude theft. Contradicting the administration's claim, Host Communities of Nigeria (HOSTCOM) contends that the highest amount given to DESOPADEC is 30 per cent (Tribune, 2023).

Supporting the above assertions is a recent statement by Edwin Clark, the convener of the Pan-African Delta Forum (PANDEF), where he alleged that Okowa misappropriated the state's derivation fund amounting to N1.760 trillion. Pa Clark claims were followed by a protest staged in Abuja by representatives of the Delta State oil and gas host communities, calling on the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to investigate the Okowa administration for allegedly misappropriating over N1 trillion oil derivation fund belonging to the state during his tenure (Umoru, 2023). What has happened to this 13 per cent derivation is what has happened to the local government fund paid to the joint account of state and local governments. This explains why oil producing communities are the least developed in each of the oil producing states with pitiable infrastructural deficit, as typified by Egbema communities. While state capital and other preferred cities of the governor take the spotlight for infrastructural

development, these oil-producing communities have nothing but; heavily armed military personnel deployed to protect the oil facilities. Youths in these communities no longer live freely, dress freely or walk freely as these armed officers see them as miscreants. Some of these youths have become victims of extra-judicial killing by military personnel (HRW, 2000).

Egbema kingdom

Egbema also called Egbema Kingdom are Ijaw people who live in the Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State, Ovia South West LGA and Ovia North East LGA of Edo State, Nigeria. The Kingdom is split politically into two different states due to the creation of states (Alagoa, Tamuno & Clark, 2009). Egbema Kingdom is made up of nine original settlements (clans) called the Egbema-Isenabiri. These include Ofiniama, Ajakurama, Opuama, Ogbudugbudu, Gbeoba, Abere, Abadigbene (Bolou-Jamagie), Jamagie, and Ogbinbiri. Egbema Kingdom in Warri North LGA Nigeria Egbema is one of the major oil and gas producing communities in Delta State. However, despite the 13% derivation fund allocation to oil-producing communities, the people of Egbema Kingdom have suffered continuous adverse consequences of oil and gas production in their communities (Onabu, 2020).

The Egbema people have faced numerous challenges over the years; including environmental degradation caused by oil exploration and exploitation activities in their region, which has led to the destruction of their fishing grounds and farmlands. They have also experienced social and political marginalization, which has resulted in poverty and underdevelopment in their communities. Egbema kingdom is host to Chevron Nigeria Ltd in Opuekeba, Olero Fields and Offshore flow stations; NPDC/Elcrest Joint Venture, operators of Opuama Flow Station (OML 40), Tsekelewu/Polobubor Marginal Field with about 15 oil wells to be operated by Sahara Energy Ltd; and Tsekelewu/Polobubor Marginal Field OML 130 concession to be operated by Conoil

Nigeria Ltd. In spite of living on the rivers, Egbema communities such as Opuama, Polobubor / Tsekelewu, Ogbinbiri, Ogbudugbudu, Ofunama, Abere, Gbeoba, Gboukangan and Ajakurama communities in Egbema Kingdom in Warri North LGA could hardly get good water to drink. They suffer greatly to source for potable water for domestic use, as their only source of water is from the river-accessible Flow Station which is kilometers away from the communities. Across the Egbema kingdom, the experience is same. They are all oil and gas host communities, home to large crude oil platforms operated by Multinational Oil Companies (MOCs), yet there is nothing to show for it (Utomi, *ibid*). It's instructive to note that the deplorable condition of Egbema exemplifies the general situation in most oil-producing communities across the state, especially the coastal oil-producing communities.

Reasons for Non-Performance of DESOPADEC

Several reasons advanced for the abysmal performance of DESOPADEC are discussed as follows:

Underfunding: Stakeholders accused past governors, especially the immediate past government of deliberately starving the commission of funds since the inception of his administration in 2015. The enabling law in Section 17 subsection 1 (a) provides for the allocation of 50% of the 13% oil derivation fund accruing to the Delta State Government from the Federation Account to the commission. It is believed that the funds were being used for the development of non-oil producing areas (Amaize, 2022).

Mismanagement: The agency has also been accused of breaching the statutory process in the disbursement of its funds, with a large part of the funds committed to recurrent expenditure, including payment for office spaces rented mostly outside the oil-producing areas.

Lack of transparency: The commission is not transparent with their finances and

appointments into them are treated as political compensation. The interventions of the agency have been without consultations and needs assessment with the recipient communities. The top-bottom approach of project implementation denies the communities the benefits of such assistance.

Corruption: The agency as a framework of social intervention in oil-producing communities is moribund because politicians see it as drainpipe to drain the commonwealth of the people. Board members are accused of lavishing whatever paltry sum that is released to them for personal gains (Otto et al, 2018).

Impunity: The past administration has been blamed for embarking on illegality by failing to constitute a substantive board of the commission since the expiration of the current board since 2022. Rather the agency has been turned into a compensatory agency for political patronage for politicians and their conies, instead of competence and public interest.

5. Discussion of Findings

The derivation principle in Nigeria serves as a mechanism for revenue allocation from the federal government to the states, particularly those that produce natural resources, such as oil and gas. The primary purpose of this is to address the inequities and injustices inherent in the revenue distribution system, where states, particularly in the Niger Delta that contribute significantly to national revenue often do not receive a fair share of the benefits derived from their resources. Nonetheless, the Niger Delta States are the main beneficiaries of the derivation sharing arrangement guaranteed because crude oil and natural gas that are mainly sourced from these states, contributes about 80 per cent of Nigeria's revenue (Emmanuel & Sofiri, 2020). Agreeing, Adangor (2015) states that though not originally designed for the Niger Delta, the derivation principle is association with the region based on the total dependence of the Nigerian economy on oil and gas industry.

Despite the significant financial resources from the derivation principle to states in the Niger Delta, the oil-producing and host communities like Egbema Kingdom have remained impoverished and neglected. The focus is more on the development of urban areas, which are rarely oil-producing areas. DESOPADEC, the Delta State commission for development projects, empowerment of local economies, and addressing social impacts relating to oil extraction is ineffective, leading to increasing poverty, frustration, and agitation in the host communities. A study conducted on the utilisation of the 13 percent derivation funds allocated to the Niger Delta States, revealed that the utilisation process of the funds in these states is plagued by several issues, which diminish the positive impact of the 13 percent derivation fund in the Niger Delta (ACIOE, 2021). Stakeholders have consistently accused state governors in the region of corruption and poor leadership in the management of 13% derivation funds. According to former Senator Enang, the governors of the Niger Delta had been unkind to the residents in the region by consistently diverting the 13 per cent derivation funds meant for the development of the area to unjustifiable ventures **(Nnodim, 2020)**.

The issue of ineffective implementation of derivation in Delta State can be attributed to a multitude of interrelated factors such as political interference, corruption, poor leadership, social disconnect with local communities, inadequate funding, etc. This is exacerbated by absence of development plan and the lack of political will to transform the host communities in the state. Describing the tenure of the immediate past government of Delta State as "reign of unaccountability", the governor was dragged to court by elder statesman, Chief EK. Clark, for alleged mismanagement of 13% derivation funds (Aborisade, 2023; Daramola, 2023). In the same vein, Oil Producing Communities in Delta State, Oil Producing Areas Association of Nigeria (OPAAN), and Traditional Ruler of Oil Minerals Producing Communities of Nigeria (TROMPCON), in a joint petition, demanded that the governor account for 13% derivation fund

amounting to N1.07 trillion received from the federal government (Taiwo-Obalonye, 2023}.

In light of the aforementioned, indigenes of the oil-producing communities across the state have called for transparency and accountability in the utilization of the 13% derivation funds. For example, the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) urged the governors of oil-producing states to always declare the amount received as 13% per cent derivation funds from the Federal Government (Egodo-Michael, 2023).

Additionally, stakeholders have also demanded that the derivation funds be paid directly to oil-producing communities for effective management by local committees as the facilities that exist, are not reflective of the resources taken from them or the damages done to their environment (Sorokwu, 2017). This participatory approach would help to align projects with the actual needs of the communities and ensure for effective fund utilization and transparency. Furthermore, legislative reforms that mandate specific allocation from derivation funds towards community development projects can create a more structured approach to fund distribution within host communities (Ugwu, 2023). Investing in capacity-building programmes for local leaders and community members would empower them with the skills necessary to effectively manage projects funded by derivation. In some cases, funds allocated to communities have led to conflict in such communities due to mismanagement.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The 13 percent derivation funds allocation to oil-producing states in the Niger Delta is intended to support the development of host communities, which are significantly impacted by oil extraction activities. However, the host communities in the Niger Delta, particularly Delta State have been short-changed over the years in the utilization of the 13% derivation funds by successive state governments. Despite the establishment of state development commission, many of the oil-producing

communities think that the utilization of the fund cannot be justified as they do not feel the impact of DESOPADEC in Delta State. As a result of many financial leakages and leadership deficiency plaguing the commission, many oil-producing communities remain impoverished, underdeveloped, and continually suffered from the negative consequences of oil exploration and production, while the non-oil producing urban cities flourished with modernity.

Consequently, it is suggested that the derivation fund be allocated directly to local community development committees would significantly benefit the oil-producing and host communities

than the current practice where the states cannot be held accountable. By implementing such strategy thoughtfully and collaboratively with host communities, it is possible to considerably enhance the positive impact of derivation funds on host communities in Delta State. Additionally, to ensure that the derivation funds are used effectively and efficiently, there is a need for robust governance structure that guarantees transparency and accountability in the management of the 13% derivation funds by state governors, active community participation in the decision-making process, focused rural development strategies, among others.

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**IMPACT OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATION ON BANK WORKERS' PERFORMANCE IN
OYO STATE, NIGERIA.
(A Study of Wema Bank Plc, Igboora Branch, Oyo State)**

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Abstract

This article explores the effects of performance evaluation on the overall performance of workers with reference to Wema bank Plc. Igboora branch, Oyo state. Through a review of existing literature and analysis of empirical data, the study examines how performance evaluation practices influence employee motivation, productivity, and job satisfaction in the Nigerian context. The sample size of this study was (20) twenty employees. Expectancy Theory and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory was used for the study. The study found that out of the performance evaluation indices, managerial review and peer review have significant effect and enhanced employee productivity. However, it was noted that banks almost operate a special way of appraisal (by setting deposit target for their employees) and that mere meeting the targets often guarantee employee movement to the next level. It is therefore recommended that the performance expectations of the employees need to be clearly stated and determinants of performance identified. This would reduce the impression that they were not sure of the methods that were to be used to measure their productivity.

Keywords: Evaluation, Performance, Productivity, Workers

1. Introduction

Performance evaluation is a critical aspect of human resource management that plays a significant role in shaping employee behavior and performance. In the Nigerian context, performance evaluation practices are often seen as key drivers of employee motivation,

productivity, and job satisfaction. Workers productivity has piqued the curiosity of researchers around the world, as well as company stakeholders. Workers have long been seen as essential contributors to an organization's growth and productivity. Their productivity is crucial in ensuring that

businesses progress from one level to the next. Despite this important contribution, staff productivity has recently been dropping in several organizations. Workers in Nigerian banks exhibit low levels of satisfaction, declining performance, low efficiency, and poor service quality as a result of this. As a result, these factors influenced the study's design. Workers productivity has piqued the curiosity of researchers around the world, as well as company stakeholders. As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, worker's productivity has decreased in the United States (Quade, McLarty, & Bonner, 2020). As a result of the lockdown, which has damaged practically every industry in the United States, including the financial sector, workers are no longer displaying passion and vitality on the job, which has become a subject of concern. Before the resumption of a national (partial) lockdown in early November 2020, unemployment in Europe, particularly Germany, had soared by 25% from the previous year (Eichhorst, Marx, & Rinne, 2020). As evidenced by the banking sector, Germany experienced issues with workers efficiency prior to the Covid 19 concerns (Eichhorst, Marx, & Rinne, 2020). However, this increase has not been accompanied by a commensurate fall in pay, which is certainly due to the considerable expansion of short-term jobs. In Nigeria, there has been a drop in staff productivity resulted in an 85 percent turnover rate among bank workers (Eromafuru & Aigboimian, 2020), and work discontent among bank staff have been blame for poorer productivity and profitability (Madu, 2019). Banks in Nigeria are attempting to achieve a balance between worker's satisfaction and corporate social responsibility. As a result, unwholesome attitudes among bank personnel and poor customer relations are common problems in Nigerian banks (John, & Kelechi, 2020).

Studies have been carried out on performance evaluation and worker's productivity in different organisations, countries and also in different contexts but it has not been established the extent to which performance evaluation improve workers productivity in the banking

sector of the country (Mwema & Gachunga, 2014; Qamar & Asif, 2016, Chang, & Tsai, 2016).

The issue of workers' productivity has suffered from a high level of neglect because of poor workers' output, workers' efficiency and workers' commitment and this is as a result of the lack of performance evaluation of workers in the organizations (Gerhart & Milkovich, 2016). The level of workers' productivity in Nigerian banking sector has been on the decline over the years and this could be ascribed to poor performance evaluation strategies put in place by these deposit money banks. Also, there is a lack of universally accepted evaluation system applied by every firm and that is a problem in itself. This research is, however, conducted to fill this gap by examining the extent to which performance evaluation impacts workers' productivity in Nigeria.

The main objective of the study was to investigate effects of performance evaluation on workers' performance in Nigeria with reference to WEMA Bank PLC, Igboora branch. While specific objective is to:

- i. determine how performance evaluation feedback affect workers' performance at WEMA Bank PLC, Igboora branch.
- ii. establish how performance evaluation process affects workers' performance at WEMA Bank PLC, Igboora branch.
- iii. determine how performance evaluation goals affect workers' performance at WEMA Bank PLC, Igboora branch.
- iv. find out how performance evaluation methods affect workers' performance at WEMA Bank PLC, Igboora branch.

However, there is limited research on how performance evaluation impacts workers' performance in Nigeria. This study aims to fill this gap by examining the effects of performance evaluation on workers' performance in Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

Concept of Performance Evaluation

Performance is the matter of what employees can achieve and how they achieve it. Performance means the effective use of the needed skills. Performance is the ability of an organization to reach its goals and optimize results.

Evaluation is the structured interpretation and giving of meaning to predicted or actual impacts of proposals or results. It looks at original objectives and at what is either predicted or what was accomplished and how it was accomplished.

Performance evaluation is a method for assessing and conveying how people execute their duties and coming up with a strategy for improving the way work responsibilities are carried out. The process of evaluating employee performance is also known as a technique for assessing the performance of employees according to Muchtar (2016).

Performance appraisal is critical since it provides information on workers' progress, identifies training requirements, and develops strategies for employee improvement. Employee motivation is often linked to the effectiveness of a company's performance assessment system. Improved, more accurate, and more cost-effective methods of measuring work performance and employee motivation are essential goals for the performance appraisal system (PAS). A performance appraisal system is a critical tool for improving organizational staff productivity (Siddiqui & Rida, 2019). A successful performance assessment and management system is crucial for an organization's human resource management efficacy. It is typically regarded as one of the most critical human resource management responsibilities (Siddiqui & Rida, 2019). These systems include a way to measure and compare individual performance versus standards and an assessment tool that uses the results to make a final determination. First, performance standards are established by defining the tasks

that workers are expected to do in their positions. Worker performance is used to develop job criteria

Performance Evaluation Feedback and Workers Performance

In 2017 Emerald publishing limited conducted a study on positive outcomes of negative feedback: succeeding with performance evaluations, the main objective of the paper was to review the latest trends and management development across the globe and pinpoint the practical implications from cutting edge case studies and research studies. The methodology approach was a preparation by independent writers who added their own impartial comments and placed the articles in context. The findings indicate that organizations which endeavour to constantly improve are best placed to gain competitive edge over their competition and performance evaluation and performance evaluation feedback are critically important because the process offers organizations a valuable opportunity to measure how each staff in relations to previously established standards and expectations.

But until evaluation feedback becomes a reality some staff will always underperform therefore organizations must be able to address the issues to avoid alienating those workers who are willing to pull their weight. And negative feedback remains an important part of evaluation mix (Emerald Publishing Limited, 2017). The methodology used for this study was biased because the approach was a preparation by independent writers who added their own impartial comments and placed the articles in context.

Kuvaas (2011) carried a research on the interactive role of performance evaluation reactions and regular feedback and his intentions were to test the relationship between performance evaluation reactions and staff outcomes in terms of affective organizational commitment and workplace performance.

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey of 803 from three organizations located in Norway.

His study established that perceived helpfulness of performance evaluation was directly related to affective commitment and the relations between performance evaluation and work performance was significant only for workers reporting higher levels of perceived regular feedback. At the same time the relationship between performance evaluation reactions and work performance was moderated by regular feedback that suggest formal performance evaluation cannot compensate for low levels of regular feedback (Kuvaas, 2011).

Robinson and Fink (2009) established that there are a number of flaws in the evaluation process. However, formal performance evaluation programmes have often yielded disappointing and unsatisfactory results. According to Robinson and Fink (2009) performance evaluation should be abandoned as the last hope as they outline pitfalls and problems as evidence and at the same time consider the potentials of performance evaluation programmes. The issues should not dwell on whether to scrap but rather it should be to make them better. The irony is that time becomes an enemy when performance evaluation feedbacks are not dealt with openly. In order to prevent the larger problem continuous feedback and documentation are very important. One reason for failure is that firms often select extensively from the wide battery of available performance evaluation techniques without really thinking about which particular technique is best suited to a particular evaluation objective.

Theoretically reviewed, the study used two theories.

Expectancy Theory

This theory was proposed by Victor Vroom in 1964 and it stress and focuses on outcomes. According to Lucas and Diener (2007) expectance theory is a set of decision theories of work of motivation and performance. Perception plays a vital role in this theory because it emphasizes on cognitive ability to anticipate likely consequences that result from behavioural action (Krentner & Kinicki, 2011). As explained by Vroom (1964) the expectancy

theory has two major assumptions that is individuals have a perception about the concerns that result from their interactive engagements and casual relations among the outcomes and second assumption is individual has effective reactions to certain outcomes that is both positive and negative value (Lucas & Diener, 2007).

Maslow's Hierarchy of needs theory

Maslow's Hierarchy of needs theory places workers' needs into five categories which include basic physical needs, needs for personal growth and career growth and development. According Maslow employers should meet each level of workers' needs, for the workers to fully commit to organizational goals. Employers who fail to meet workers' need at any level of the hierarchy can easily create lack of fulfilment in staff professional lives which cause them to eventually try to fill these needs on their own way which is possibly finding a new employer who can provide better opportunities to satisfy their needs (Juan, 2010).

Empirical studies show that effective performance evaluation lead to important outcomes such as job satisfaction, workers' productivity, quality work and workers trust and commitment. A study conducted by Pettijohn and Taylor (2009) examined the relationship between performance evaluation and sales performance and they established that if performance evaluation are properly conducted the outcome have positive impacts a similar study was conducted by Daley (2003) conducted an investigation on general performance evaluation practices focusing on the use of explicit performance standards and the study established that there is a strong relationship between performance evaluation system that have been adopted as means of implementing pay for performance schemes and the productivity incentives that these system provided. In another study by Omusebe, Gabriel and Douglas (2013) found out that there was a positive and significant effect between workers' efficiency and performance evaluation in mumias sugar company.

Another study conducted by Nyaoga (2010) on the effectiveness of performance evaluation system in private universities in Kenya with reference to Kabarak University. He established that performance evaluation tool that performance evaluation is the only tangible metric way an organization can know the level of staff performance of its diverse workers. The respondents indicated that they were aware that the type of performance evaluation system used in the organizations was not based on any serious formal purpose for which they were designed for. According to Nyaoga (2010) the effectiveness of performance evaluation in private universities were only based on training on the staff involved in the rating process and are multi rating system. He concluded by saying that because the performance evaluation system in this universities were not effective and they exist just as a matter of formalities, the organizations could not measure workers' performance hence making it difficult to achieve the organization objective.

Mackenzie (2008) also investigated the performance evaluation system for organization success. The objective of his study was to examine the issues associated with performance evaluation and to identify proven and suitable methodologies that will result to a process that is suitable, equitable, and credible and the one that reinforces the desired organization directions. This was attained by evaluating the need for performance evaluation, problems associated with various methodologies and

4. Results and Discussion

Hypotheses

H₀₁: Performance evaluation feedback does not affect workers' performance at Wema Bank Plc, Igboora, Oyo state.

H₀₂: Performance evaluation not the only method of affecting workers' performance at Wema Bank Plc, Igboora, Oyo state.

examining the qualities that need to be measured in both terms of organization and individual and finally identifies the means of improving organization performance. The study established that current process within the study organization focused on dealing with diminished performance issues and subsequently the efforts of the individual are not necessarily aligned with the desired organizational direction and little incentive exists amongst managers to challenge the current process and encourage risk taking to improve service delivery.

3. Methodology

This study employed a mixed-methods approach to investigate the effects of performance evaluation on workers' performance in Nigeria using Wema bank Plc, Igboora Branch, Oyo State, as a case study. The population of this study was made up of (20) twenty. The sample size of this study was 20 and was selected from different units in the bank. The type of research design used in conduct of this work was survey research as it deals with getting detailed and factual information direct from the respondent, for presentation analyzing and interpretation of data through Linear Regression analysis, thus in describing the impact of performance evaluation on workers' productivity Data was collected through surveys with employees from Wema bank Plc, Igboora Branch, Oyo State.

H₀₃: Performance evaluation goal does not affect workers' performance at Wema Bank Plc, Igboora, Oyo state.

Table 1 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin Watson
1	.551 ^a	0.453	.0.196	0.591	1.958

Source: SPSS version 21

- a. Predictors: (Constant), performance evaluation
- b. Dependent Variable: workers' productivity

The table shows that all the independent variables explain 55% to the dependent variable and the model is best fitted up to 55%. It also shows that 45% are the other variables that did not explain this model. It might be the other variables which didn't consider due to the

limitations. In the table 45% can be adjusted by adding the independent variables. It gives us an idea of the scatter of the points around the line of regression. The table shows that 1.958 scattered.

Table 2 ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
1 Regression	9.957	1	9.957	28.549	.000 ^a
Residual	39.061	112	0.349		
Total	49.018	113			

Source: SPSS version 21

- a. Predictors: (Constant), performance evaluation
- b. Dependent Variable: workers' productivity

The value of F is statistically significant at a level of 0.05 or less, and this suggests a linear relationship between the variables. Statistical significance at a .05 level means there is a 95 percent chance that the relationship between the variables is not due to chance. On the other hand, the value of the P is less than the 0.05

then it will be significant, and the hypothesis which you stated will be accepted. The significance level must be less than .05, and it shows that independent variables how much explain the effect of the dependent variable. After that F=28.549 and P=0.001 is statistically significant.

Table 3 Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1. (Constant)					
		0.806	0.18	.555	.000
		0.692	0.129	.549	.034
	Feedback	0.567	0.345	.455	.001
	Process	0.547	0.323	.422	.003
	Method	0.456	0.342	.234	.004
Goals					

Source: SPSS version 21

- a. Predictors: (Constant), evaluation feedback, goal, method and process
- b. Dependent Variable: workers' productivity

Multiple Regression: $Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + B_3X_3 + \dots + B_tX_t$

Job satisfaction = 0.806 + F (.692) + P (.456) + M (.54) + (0.45)

In terms of the p values of 0,000, PE variable was explained by the variable of performance evaluation. As a result, the equation of the model is: workers' productivity = 0,806+ 0,692* Feedback, Process, Method and Goals are significantly and positively related to workers' productivity. In order to attain the relation between the performance evaluation and workers' productivity, regression analyses were conducted. The results in the Model Summary table showed that the explanatory power of the constructed model (R Square) were ,551. That means 55% variation of the workers' productivity variable was explained by performance evaluation variable and 45% variation of the workers' productivity variable was explained by performance evaluation. According to F values of 28.549 and p values of both 0,000 (sig.) in ANOVA table, it is decided to reject Ho hypothesis that means there is no significantly relationship between contribution of performance evaluation and workers' productivity in Wema Bank Plc., Igboora Oyo State. After finding the model statistically significant, regression equation was conducted.

The tables demonstrate the result produced by multiple linear regression on the data collected from 20 respondents through questionnaires. After applying the linear regression on the collected data to check the effective relationship between the performance evaluation (independent variable) and workers' productivity (dependent variable) the above-mentioned result has been drawn. The probability of f-statistic shows the significance of the research. According to the standard if the p value is < 0.05 so than it is significant. In this study the above given table demonstrates the p value is 0.000 which is < 0.05 thus the model of the research is statistically significant. So, the independent variable of the study, performance evaluation, has significant relationship with dependent variable of the study, workers' productivity. The un-standardized value of the mentioned table illustrates obviously that independent variable performance evaluation has a positive impact on workers' productivity in this study. Therefore, the study rejects the null

hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis. Therefore, performance evaluation has effect on workers' productivity. One major limitation of this study was that it was based only on Wema Bank Plc., Igboora Oyo State and other branches were not included.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this journal article demonstrates the importance of performance evaluation in shaping workers' performance in Wema Bank Plc., Igboora, Oyo State, Nigeria. By understanding the impact of performance evaluation practices on employee motivation, productivity, and job satisfaction, organizations can enhance their performance management systems and improve overall employee performance. The study found that out of the performance evaluation indices, managerial review and peer review have significant effect and enhanced employee productivity. The findings of this study have significant implications for human resource management practices in Nigeria and offer a roadmap for future research in this area.

6. Recommendations

From the findings and subsequent conclusion of the study, it is important that organizations that wish to improve performance evaluation on workers' productivity should channel their focus and strategies towards the following recommendation;

- a. the management of Wema Bank Plc., Igboora, Oyo State should adopt successful management styles which involve building teams, networks of relationships, and developing and motivating others which would instill skills to the employees and which have a critical role in improving the level of productivity of the employees.
- b. In addition, the performance expectations of the employees need to be clearly stated and determinants of performance identified. This would reduce the impression that they were not sure of the methods that were to be used to measure their productivity.

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A STUDY OF THE CORRELATION BETWEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PROPERTY CRIME IN PAIKORO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This research is an investigation into the correlation between Substance Abuse and Property Crime among Youths in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger state. The objective of the study is to identify the causes of substance abuse and property crime among youths and some of the common crime committed by the youth who abuse drugs. The study used descriptive survey design, combining both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. The sample size of four hundred (400) was drawn from the entire population using Taro Yamane's statistical formula. But cluster, snow bowling and simple random sampling techniques were employed to reach respondents. Questionnaire and interview were used to obtain data from selected respondents. The study revealed that there is a strong relationship between substance abuse and property crime among youth in the study area. The study found that poverty, unemployment, poor parental control, peer influence, and desire for merry-making to be the common causes of drug abuse and property crime. The study recommended that government and community should establish strong mechanisms for curbing the menace.

Keywords: Correlation, Drug, Substance abuse, Property crime, Youth

1. Introduction

According to World Health Organization (WHO, 2017), substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs this range from substances that should not be taken without medical prescription such as cocaine, amphetamine, opiate, heroin, marijuana and Less Sedative Drug (LSD) to their socially acceptable beverages like, whisky, local gin, beer and other plants toxic substance.

According the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC, 2018) report, one in seven persons aged 15-64 years had used a drug (other than tobacco and alcohol) in the past year. The past year prevalence of any drug use is estimated at 14.4% (range 14.0 per cent - 14.8 %), corresponding to 14.3 million people aged 15-64 years who had used a psychoactive substance in the past year for non-medical purposes. The non-medical use of cough syrups containing codeine and dextromethorphan is estimated at 2.4 percent of the adult population.

Several factors have been identified to be the causes of drug abuse and property crime. Peer pressure, poor parental control, environmental factor, availability and easy access to drug, corruption, trans-border crimes, economic reasons amongst several others gave rise to illicit drug use and substance abuse and property crime (Adejo, Bashir and Biola, 2023).

Like substance abuse, the phenomenon of crime is serious and intractable. As a result many researchers have over the years devoted great deal of energy and time to understanding of drug abuse and crime. While the relationship between drug abuse and crime is complex and can differ from different types of drugs offences; one of the commonly observed associations between drug abuse and crime is in the context of property crime (Bradford and Payne, 2012). As the two social problems (drug abuse and property crime) seem to be in the increase in Nigeria, the need for more research in that area becomes very necessary. This research is therefore a response to the need to examine substance abuse property crime among youths in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Substance abuse and crime are among the numerous problems afflicting Nigeria today. As the country gradually transits from the status of a drug consuming nation to that of producing one, more Nigerian youths are becoming drug dependent (Usman, 2015). UNODC (2003), multiple drug abuse happens nationwide with 7.88% at varying degrees. From the record of drug abuse in Nigeria, the North-West has a statistic of 37.47% of drug victims, while the South-West has been rated second with 17.32%. Also, the South-East has been rated third with 13.5% North central has 11.71%, North-east zone has 8.53% of the drug users Country (Akaama, 2008). Of the statistics estimated above, it is said that cannabis and marijuana is mostly consumed among the youth population by 10.8%, followed by psychotropic substances like benzodiazepines and amphetamine stimulants by 10.6%, heroin

1.6%and cocaine by 1.4%. It is also asserted that drug abuse and crime appear to be common among males with 94.2% that female which is 5.8% and the ages of first use is between 10-29 years (Usman, 2015). UNODC (2021) estimated in its recent world drug report that approximately 275 million people, or 5.5% of the population aged between 15 and 64 years, had used drugs in the year 2020, while over 36.3 million people, or 13% of the sum total of drug users, suffer from substance abuse disorders (UNODC, 2021). United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) (2021) reported that 14.4% of Nigerians are presently engaged in drug abuse. This portends a negative trend to the future of the country. It further stated that 27.7% of the 14.4% of Nigerian addicts were youths.

Regrettably, in Paikoro Local Government, the problem of substance abuse and property crime is on the increase day by day among youth. This issue hampers the socio-economic growth and development of the area. Of those individuals who do commit crimes in Paikoro LGA, there is a link between drug use and crime. It is against this background that this research seeks to assess the correlation between substance abuse and property crime in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State.

Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to: examine the correlation between substance and property crime among the youth in Paikoro Local Government Area. Other objectives include:

- i. Examine the causes of substance abuse and Property crime among youth in Paikoro Local Government Area.
- ii. Identify the common drugs abused by the youth in Paikoro Local Government Area.
- iii. Recommend preventive strategies for curbing the menace in Paikoro Local Government.

The paper is organized into five parts. Part 1- of this paper consists of introduction; statement of the problem and the research objectives. Part 2- consists of literature review, where concepts are

clarified; theoretical framework, and empirical review. The 3rd part consists of methodology. Part 4 consists of data presentation and analysis. The 5th part consists of conclusion, recommendations and references.

2. Literature Review

Conceptual clarifications

Drug/ Substance

Wolmer (2009) define drug as any substance which when taken into the body will have impact on the body system particularly the central nervous system. Substance, according to (Otieno, 2006) does not only encompass drugs but other chemicals not classified as drugs such as house hold detergent, paints, and industrial solvent and prescriptive drugs are among the substances commonly abused by youths world over. Prescription drugs are drugs drawn over the counter; and they are also abused. They are abused when a person uses them without any given medical condition and accurate prescription from the physician. Some of these drugs would be painkillers, mode elevator or antidepressants. These prescription drugs may comprise; valium, codeine, piriton, and other sleep control tablets (Nyanya, 2009). From the foregoing therefore, drugs can be described as any substance produced for the treatment of physiological and psychological challenges which hamper the wellbeing of individual.

Drug/ Substance Abuse

The term "drug abuse" is derived from the phrase "abnormal use." It is the self-administration of pharmaceuticals without medical advice or the rejection of medical advice for the use of a prescribed drug or substance (WHO, 2020). WHO also submits that substance abuse is the continued or sporadic use of drugs in a large amount that is not related or consistent with authorized medical use (Akiniyi and Adejo, 2023). According to Johnston (2009) refers to over indulgence in, and dependence on a variety of addictive substances including cigarettes, alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs and smokeless tobacco and other

substances. Some of these drugs are not socially accepted and if one is found with them or using any of them will constitute a criminal offence under the constitution and this will include drugs like cannabis, heroin, ecstasy, and lysergic acid diethylamide (NACADAA, 2004 in David, 2012). Abuse of drug is a disease that negatively affects your emotion, thinking and behavior. Abused of drug/substances produce some form of intoxication that alter judgment, perception, attention and physical control.

Crime

Crime usually is defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment and/or fine. For instance, murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving, child neglect, tax aversion, homicide, robbery, rape, burglary, embezzlement, banditry, kidnapping terrorism, vandalism, cultism, and drug abuse, all are common examples (Dambazau, 2011). Much past research on crime has been confounded by its focus on these politico-legal rather than behavioral definitions. However, in recent times, crime is categorized according to certain groups as victimless crime, organized crime, blue and white collar crimes, trans-border crime, international crime and property crime and so on.

Property crime

Property crime is a complex concept as it enjoys scholarly definitions from various fields of studies like Sociology, Criminology and Law respectively. However, According to Mazzoni and Karam (2023), property crime is one where someone's property is damaged, destroyed, or stolen without the use of force against the victim. Property Crime is a form of crime committed by individual(s) with the aim of destruction or denying individual, groups and organization of their legitimate property. According to Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR, 2016), property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. However, Schmalleger, (2014) reported that property crime generally includes taking money, burglary, shoplifting, motor vehicle theft

or larceny, Arson, shoplifting theft, Pilferage, vandalism, pilferage, pillage, robbery, shoplifting, pick pocket, arson, petty theft and grand theft pocket-picking and Purse snatching (Bureau of Justice Statistics (**Crime** BJS, 2017; Ashley, 2021; Dambazau, 2011; FBI, 2010; Siegel, 2013, Reid, 2009; Richard and Scott, 2019; Adewumi, 2022). From the foregoing therefore, the term 'property-related crime' refers to crimes in which property is stolen with or without the use of violence or force with the intention to permanently deprive the owner of possession of his/her property or valuables, which could render the victim permanent loss.

Correlation between Substance Abuse and Property Crime

Goldstein (1985) was one of the first to explain that substance abuse leads to crime via his tripartite framework. To explain why this was the case, he offered three theoretical models which include; psychopharmacological model, economic compulsive model and systemic violence model (Michael, 2011).

1. **The psychopharmacological model** proposes that the effects can range from neurochemical changes within one's body to alter one's judgment.
2. **The economic compulsive model**, also known as economic motivation model suggests that drug users engage in specific economic driven crime to support their drug habits. These may be violent crimes as in robbery and murder or non-violent crimes such as burglary, theft, snatching, shoplifting and other related property crimes.
3. **The systemic model** suggests that the world of drug dealing is inherently violent. This violence refers to "The traditionally aggressive patterns of interactions within the system of drug distribution and use (Goldstein, 1985 cited in Michael, 2011). Although, Siegel (2015) identifies three forms of drug-crime relations. Viz:

The Drug use leads to Crime Model: This model suggests that illicit drug used can lead to individual to commit other forms of crime as a

result of some disinheriting effects of some drugs, or to provide money to buy more drugs to support their drug habit.

Crime Leads to Drug use Models: This model suggests that crime leads to drug abuse to serve as a palliative for coping with the stress of chaotic, criminal lifestyle. This implies that youth commit property crime to support their drug life style.

Drug-crime relationship is explained by a set of common causes: This model suggests more complex interaction, in which drugs use, and other social factors prompt criminality. Thus, this model suggests different risk factors of incidents of drug related crimes. Moore, *e, a/*, as cited in Dambazau (2011), provide four (4) hypothesis models to explain the phenomenon of drug-crime relationship. These are:

- a) **Stimulation licensing model:** This theory states that physiological effects stimulate the person to commit crimes.
- b) **Dependence or Addiction Model:** this argues that dependence or addiction forces abuser to spend money on purchase of drugs, and they turn to crime in a desperate effort to maintain their habits.
- c) **Demoralization Model:** This model maintains that drug use gradually demoralizes people by putting them in the wrong side of the law; bringing them into contact with criminals and gradually weakening their commitment to the obligations of a civil society.
- d) **Vulnerability Model:** This model argues that intoxicated persons make particularly good victim of crime. In other words, drug abuser is vulnerable and prone to committing crimes (Dambazau, 2011, Pp. 18).

3. Empirical review

Recent reviews of the drug-crime literature point out that empirical supports exist for all these three explanations (MacCount, Kilmer, and Reuter, 2003; white and Gorman, 2000). Several other research have provided support

for a “drug crime” causal relationship. For instance research conducted after 25 years in UCLA’S Drug Research Centre, Angline and Perrochet (1998) concluded that, crime is an inherent part of illegal drugs use, and that the commission of property crimes almost always increased to support dependence level on herring, opiate, cocaine, cracks, amphetamine, even marijuana. In a similar review of 30years of research in Baltimore, Norco, (1998 cited in Denise, 2008) noted that during that period of narcotic addiction, individual crime rates were six time higher during non-addiction periods. Wabala, (2013) reported that the NDLEA has long recognized the link between illegal drug use and violent crime, both as a cause of violent acts and as a source of funding for violent operations.

Akinyi and Adejo (2023) presented that the 2019 World Drug Report emphasizes the relationship between drug abuse and aggressive behaviour and violent crime. These reports call into question the nature, efficacy, and resiliency of the present legal and institutional framework for addressing drug problems in Nigeria, and the rising levels of drug usage in the country indicate a detrimental influence on national security (Wabala, 2013). In Nigeria, the NDLEA has long recognized the link between illegal drug use and violent crime, both as a cause of violent acts and as a source of funding for violent operations (Ayodele and Oladipo, 2023). Aning & Pokoo (2022) contributions focuses on the nexus between drugs, crime and terrorism in West Africa and showed that the financial benefits from criminal activities contribute to the development of opportunistic relationships between criminals and extremist groups that threatens humanity which gives credence to the strain theorization. Uzuegbu-Wilson (2019) comparatively investigated the linkage between drug trafficking, insecurity and conflict dimensions in Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry and Nigeria, they found that drug trafficking is linked to security threats and conflict like terrorism, arms trafficking, money laundering, human trafficking, small arms and light weapons.

Ibrahim (2022) examined the escalating issue of illicit/hard drug abuse and its negative impact on the rising security challenges in this Nigeria and revealed that the increasing cases of rape especially of women and minors, violent crimes, riots and social upheavals being experienced in Northern Nigeria and the Northwest Geopolitical zone in particular, cannot be disassociated from the increasing rate of drug abuse. Ibrahim reported that criminal activities of Boko Haram and violent clashes are linked to hard drugs. Dambazau, (2011) observed that substance abuse is a major factor that leads to property crime. In his book titled crime and criminology, he said that “there is a Causal connection between drug abuse and property crime. He also found that in the last decades, there has been a remarkable growth of evidence depicting the links between substance abuse, violent and property crime which can neither be dismissed nor ignored.

In the United State of American Statistics on drug abuse and crime, shows that 90%, a high percentage of adult arrestees 2010 in some cities have been tested positive of illicit drugs. It has been estimated that at least 70% of the American prison inmates; and 60% British inmates (McMurren, 2003, as cited in Reid, 2009) are alcohol and/or drug addicted. This interprets that many more people drink alcohol than illicit drugs to commit crimes in the United State. Thus, the reciprocal (feedback) nature of drug-crime connection is supported in a large body of literature. In a U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Survey of crime victimization, victims were asked about their perception of the offenders’ use of alcohol and/or drugs, and in 30% of violent crime victimization of in 1992, the victims reported the belief that their assailants were under the influence of alcohol. (Dambazau, 2011, pp., 82). From the above analysis therefore, the study found that there is a strong between drug abuse and property crime in many societies in the world including Nigeria.

Richard (2011) conducted a research on Violent Crime and Drug Use: The Relationship between Drugs and Types of Crime. Data used for the

study was the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA). These data were obtained through the University of Northern Iowa's subscription to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). The data were processed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) on University-owned computer hardware. The study found that there was a positive relationship between drugs and substance abuse and violent property crime.

Anande, Alfred, Fanen (2024) examined the Relationship between Drug Abuse and Crime in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State, Nigeria, with the objective to find out if the two have a relationship, as well as how they are related. The study was a cross-sectional survey. The multi-stage sampling technique was used to select locations and respondents for the study. Questionnaires, in-depth interview and focus group guides were used to collect quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data were collected from a sample of 384 respondents; twenty-one in-depth interviews and sixteen focus group discussions were conducted for the research. The study revealed that there is strong relationship between drug abuse and crime in Jos North Local Government Area. The study concluded that drug abuse and crime in the study is a Siamese twin, thus, recommended that to tackle the problem of crime the issue of drug abuse must be addressed, and vice versa.

Ashraf, Mohammed and Moustafa (2016) studied Drug Abuse and Related Crimes. The study reviewed issues on drug abuse and crime as regards the effects of drug abuse on different crimes with emphasis on the issues of the topic in Egypt. It found that drug abuse leads to crime and crime leads to drug abuse. It also found that individual commits economic or property related crimes in order to fund a drug crimes habit. That serious drug abuse can amplify and perpetuate pre-existing criminal activity.

Marco (2006) studied the effect of hard drugs addiction on property crimes and hard drugs selling in the USA. The paper used a model

framed in both a rational addiction and a rational crime participation environment. It exploits information on drug use in the American population environment. It obtained information from the National Household Survey on Drugs Abuse, the Surveys of Inmates and the Uniform Crime Reports of the FBI, respectively. The equilibrium features of the model allow to pin down the response of hard drugs consumers to changes in prices, as well as to compute the revenues from drug selling, variables which are not available in the existing data. The results shows that a substantial part of property crimes, approximately 26%, is accounted for by predatory crime to finance addiction. The paper study recommended a compulsory drug treatment scheme for all arrested felons.

4. Theoretical Framework

This study adopts Strain/Anomie and Social Learning theories.

Strain/Anomie Theory

The concept "Anomie" is driven from the Greek word which means, "Without norm or normlessness". Robert K. Merton (1968) was one of founding fathers of the theory. The strain theory of deviance and criminality has been largely applied to explain reasons why people engaged in criminalized offences. The theory was first developed by Robert K. Merton in the 1940s to explain the rising crime rates. However, the theory has become popular with contemporary sociologists (Thompson, 2016, as cited in Shuaibu, and Anum, 2023). The theory argues that crime occurs when there are not enough legitimate opportunities for people to achieve the normal success goals in a society. In such a situation there is a 'strain' between the goals and the means to achieve those goals, and some people turn to crime in order to achieve success. Merton argued that when individuals are faced with this gap between their goals (usually finances/money related) and their current status, strain occurs. When faced with strain, people have five ways to adapt (Thompson, 2016, as cite in Shuaibu, and Anum, 2023).

Merton argued that the failure of individuals to meet the cultural goals of the society compels them to engage in criminal behaviour in order to realise their goals. The desire of any society is to see her citizens excel, but not all citizens have access to equal socioeconomic prospect to meet societal demand. This disagreement creates a strong sense of strain on citizens. This is responsible for all manner of deviant and

criminal behaviour such as drug crime among citizens. Merton developed five methods of adaptation to the ends-means dilemma among citizens. They are conformity, Innovation, Ritualists, Retreatists, and Rebellion. The different modes adaptation were based on either accepting or rejecting the means and/or the goals:

ADAPTATION	MEANS	GOAL	CRIME
Conformity	+	+	-
Innovation	-	+	+
Retreatism	-	+	+
Ritualism	+	-	-
Rebellion	+ -	+ -	+

Source: Carrabine, Cox, Lee, Ken and Nigel, 2009

Conformity: This mean that acceptance of the society's goals and it's approved means for achieving those goals.

Innovation: the model represents acceptance of the goals but rejection of the means for obtaining them. This means that individuals devised alternative means, which may include illegal ones, of reaching the goals.

Ritualism: this model of adaptation refers to rejection of the goals but acceptance of the means. Such individuals like the imams go to mosques seeking for socially approved methods thus, making invocations or ritual out of the method.

Retreatism: This mode of adaptation occurs after a person has accepted both the goals and the means but has failed repeatedly to achieve the goals by legitimate means. When this happens individuals becomes psychotics, vagrants, and vagabonds (Reid, 2009).

Rebellion: In this mode of adaptation, individuals reject both the cultural goals and the traditional means of achieving them but try to replace both the elements of the society with different or new social order. In this case, individual substitute or fashion out their own goals and means of attaining success in the

society. However, the relevant category to be considered in the research is the "innovation" as most youths who commit drug-related especially "property crime" are only trying to innovate and fashion a new way of adaption. However, critics argued that Social Strain Theory has simply over simple social structures, values and the relationship between individuals and social values. By this mindset, the assumption is that the conditions that create criminality are "fixable" and as such, crime can be tinkered and manipulated by appropriate social engineering (Shuaibu and Anum, 2023).

Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory holds that all human behavior is learnt within the social content. This theory was initiated by one of the first criminologists, Gabriel Tarde, when he established his theory of imitation. He argued that people become criminals by the process of learning. He argued that like all other behavior, criminal behavior is learnt through interaction with criminal groups or peers (Philomena, 2010).

According to the social learning perspective, the experiences and lessons the youths learnt from important figures in the society have a significant impact on them (Brook & Tseng,

1996, as cited in Anchovur and Timothy, 2023; Mohasoa, 2010). This means that the youths are found to learn the drug-related crimes from either their peer groups within their family. The theory argued that in an environment characterized by low economic class neighborhoods, poor structures and poor security system, weak social institutions provide the youth broader opportunity to learn any form of social deviation such as substance abuse, and criminal activities like property crime.

5. Methodology

This research adopted the descriptive survey research method as is research design. It was conducted in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria. Paikoro Local Government

was created in September, 1991 by the military regime of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. The L.G.A has five (5) districts, namely; i.Paiko district-The headquarters. ii. Kaffin-koro district. iii. Kwakuti district. iv. Adunu district. v. Ishau district. The population of the study was 400 (four hundred). The sample size was obtained using the popular Taro Yamane’s formula of social science. Cluster, Snow bowling and simple random sampling techniques were used for the study. Data was obtained through primary and secondary sources. Data was analyzed using tables, frequencies and simple percentages. Alternative (s) with highest response is adopted as widely accepted opinion on the question or issue raised.

Data analysis and discussion of findings

Table 1. Respondents views on common crimes committed by the youth in Paikoro

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Theft	80	22.86%
Burglary	70	20.00%
Shoplifting	65	18.57%
Kidnapping	50	15.29%
Banditry	31	8.86%
Assault	20	5.71%
Cattle rustling	15	4.29%
Armed robbery	10	2.86%
Homicide	5	1.43%
Suicide	2	0.57%
Arson	2	0.57%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table above shows that 22.86% of the respondents said that the common crimes committed by the youth is “theft” followed by “burglary” with 20.00% while 18.57% of the respondents said shoplifting were the common crime committed by the youth in their area; 15.29% said Kidnapping; 8.86% said Banditry.

Also 5.71% of the respondents said Assault. While 4.29% of the respondents said, cattle rustling followed by armed robbery with 2.86%. However, 1.43% of the respondents said Homicide, and 0.57% of the respondents said suicide and arson were common crimes in their area.

Table 2. Respondents views on the factors responsible for drug abuse and property crimes among youth

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	80	22.86%
Unemployment	70	20.00%
Peer influence	60	17.14%
Poor parental influence	50	14.29%
Environmental	40	11.43%
Biological	30	8.57%
Political	10	2.86%
Societal norms	10	2.86%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table above show that 2.86% of the respondents said that “poverty” is a factor that influence drug related crimes; 20.00% of the respondents said “Unemployment” is a factor that leads to drug abuse and property crime while 17.14% said “peer influence” is the contributing factor that leads to drug related crime. Also 14.29 said “Poor parental influence is a factors that influence drug related crime. And 11.43% said “Environmental” is also a factor that influence drugs related crime; 8.57%

said “Biological” is the contributing factor that leads to drug related crime, while 2.86% said “Political” and “Societal norms” is the contributing factor that leads to drug related crime. This indicates that poverty is the major factor that influences drug abuse and property crimes among youth. It is indicated that most of the respondent agreed that poverty was the common cause of drug abuse and property crime in the study area.

Table 3. Respondents views on the type of drugs abused in the community by the youths

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Marijuana	90	25.7%
Opioids	30	8.6%
Tranquilizer	15	4.3%
Solvent	25	7.1%
Syrup Codeine	90	25.7%
Burukutu	10	2.8%
Alcohol/Jin	80	22.8%
Others	10	2.8%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table above shows that 25.7% of the respondents said, Marijuana and Codeine syrup

were the common substance abused. 8.6% said, Opioids; 4.3% took tranquilizers, 7.1%

solvent; 2.8% depended on Burukutu, while 80% abused Alcohol and Jin; and 2.8% of the respondents said abused other drugs. It is

indicated that most of the respondents were of the view that marijuana was the type of drug abused by the youth in Paikoro LGA.

Table 4. Respondents views on the relationship between drug abuse and property crime

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	190	54.3%
No	25	7.17%
Partially	105	30%
Don't know	30	8.5%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table above shows that 54.3% of the respondents said "Yes" there is a relationship between drug abuse and property crime while 7.17% said, "No" there is no relationship between 30% said that the relationship is partial and 8.5% said, they don't know whether there is a relationship between drugs abuse and

property. It is indicated that most of the respondents were of the believed that there was a relationship between substance abuse and property crime in the study area.

Table 5. Respondents views on the consequences of substance abuse and property crime in Paikoro

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Acute disease	80	22.86%
Death	65	18.57%
Mental disorder	60	17.14%
Imprisonment	20	5.71%
Psychopharmacological effect	20	5.71%
All of the above	10	2.86%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table above shows that 22.86%of the respondent said that the effect of substance abuse and property crime is acute disease; 18.57%of the respondents said that the effect of substance abuse and property crime is loss of life; also 17.14% of the respondents said that the effect of substance abuse and property crime is mental disorder. And 5.71% of the respondent said that the effect of substance abuse and property crime is

"Imprisonment" and Psychopharmacological" while 2.86% of the respondent said that the effect of substance abuse and property crime is All of the above. It is indicated most of the respondents agreed that acute disease and death were the consequences of substance abuse and property crime in the study area.

Table 6. Respondents views on the strategy be used to stop drug related crimes

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Create job opportunity	101	28.9%
Illegal drugs should be banned	105	30%
Stiff punishment should be mated on offenders	60	17.1%
Enlightenment campaign against drug abuse and its negative effect	71	20.3%
Some drugs should be legalized	13	3.7%
Total	350	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table above shows that 30% of the respondents suggested that illicit drug should be banned while 28.9%of the respondents suggested that job opportunities should be created for the teaming youths. And 20.3% of the respondents suggested that enlightenment campaign should be championed to discourage the youths from drug related crimes. This indicates that significant majority of the respondent’s suggestion that illicit drugs should be banned completely.

Conclusion

The abuse of drugs and other substances constitutes one of the most important risk behaviour among our youths and adolescents in Nigeria. All Nigerians have accepted that drug abuse and property crime are undesirable feature of our society, and it is also important to emphasize the fact that majority of our youths and adolescents come from different backgrounds and that the drug use and addiction is not restricted to any one social class. Thus, research concludes that both the government and community should provide the necessary mechanism for controlling the menace of substance abuse and property crime among youths in Nigeria. Also, all kinds of illicit drugs should be banned in order to save the youth, and future of Nigerian society.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it recommended that:

- i The government and community should establish a pragmatic strategy to stop the menace of drug abuse and property crime in the society.
- ii Parents should handle the issue of their children seriously and instill good moral behavior in their children to make them good ambassadors of the community and Nigeria.
- iii Parents whose drinking or smoking behavior cannot be controlled should keep away from their children while on their habit.
- iv Government should prescribe stiff puncture measures on anybody caught selling illicit drugs to the youths and drug dealers /peddlers should be forced to leave the community or force to change their business in other to avoid exposing the youths into drug-related crimes.
- v Awareness campaign on the dangers of drugs abuse and property crime should be done to enlighten the youths of the community. vi. Government should ban the sale of all illicit drugs in the country and launch an awareness campaign on the dangers of drugs abuse and property crime.
- vi Government should create functional job opportunities to the teaming youth to engage them to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Nigerian communities.

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CHALLENGES CONFRONTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IN ATTAINING GOOD GOVERNANCE: EVIDENCE FROM EKITI STATE, NIGERIA.

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Abstract

Local government was created in Nigeria as the third level of government to engender concrete development for the populace and to ensure citizens-centred governance at the grassroots. However, the government at the grassroots faces several challenges in delivering public goods to the intended populace. This study examined the challenges facing local government administration in the attainment of good governance. This study adopts developmental theory as the theoretical framework. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 358 respondents. Primary and secondary sources of data were relied upon, and data collected were analysed descriptively. Findings of the study revealed that inadequate autonomy, absence of security of life and property, and embezzlement of public funds among others are the challenges limiting the third level of government. The study concluded that the local government is adequately positioned for development at the grassroots level if well managed. The study recommends among others financial autonomy for the local government to be effective in the delivery of public goods.

Keywords: Local Government Administration, Good Governance, Challenges

Introduction

The local government is recognised as the third level of government in Nigeria's federal system. It is the government at the doorstep of the rural dwellers. The essence of local government administration in Nigeria in line with the 1976 local government reforms is to delegate the provision of social services to local representatives; facilitate the exercise of democratic self-government and serve as a training ground for leadership potential; mobilisation of human and material resources by the community members in the development of the grassroots; and to serve as a two-way communication channel between the federal and state governments in national development (FGN, 1976). Obembe *et al.*, (2019) attest that the local government is created to ensure

national development and every part of the country whether urban or rural belongs to a particular local government area. The local government is an integral part of national development through the bottom-to-top development approach. The local government is said to be developed when it is positioned to alleviate the standard of living of the rural populace and provide welfare services (Shiyanbade *et al.*, 2024).

The local government is designed to ensure citizens-centred governance at the grassroots level which involves community participation in the development process. The local government was created to bring governance to the rural populace's doorstep because most Nigerians live in rural areas (Olawoyin & Obembe, 2019). The local government play an imperative role in the

socio-economic development of rural areas and as such it should be given the needed constitutional backing and financial support for the provision of basic social amenities and welfare services (Awojuyigbe & Akande, 2024). However, the local government in Nigeria is confronted with several challenges that have undermined its creation's essence.

The challenges confronting the third level of government have limited its capacity to deliver public goods and good governance at the grassroots. Some of the challenges confronting local government administration in Nigeria are the lack of financial autonomy, state inspectorial service and constitutional contains among others has hindered the essence of its creation. Local governments in developed countries such as the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom enjoyed constitutional backing to deliver public goods to its populace, thereby attaining a considerate level of goods governance however, local government administration in Nigeria does not measure to the attainment of good governance though the country practised a federal system of government. It is based on this backdrop that this study examined the challenges confronting local government in the attainment of good governance using Ekiti State local governments hence this study.

The study reviewed literature on the concept of local government and good governance. It also reviewed empirical studies on the challenges confronting local government administration and adopted a theoretical framework. A multi-stage sampling technique was adopted as the methodology. It also discussed the analysis, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for the study.

Literature Review

Local Government

Local government is a form of self-government in which a group of community representatives manage public affairs in each locality. They have significant authority, but they are still

accountable to the federal government. Despite variances in legal status, cultural traditions, composition, funding, and management, as well as in the scope of their delegated, assigned, and legislative roles and functions, local government councils are present in every nation in the world. Everyone agrees that local governments are the branches of government closest to the people (Obembe *et al.*, 2019). They thus act as genuine intermediaries for the distribution of amenities, coordinators of community resources, and staff members and planners of community creativity in response to the requirements of its residents.

Local government, according to David and Adepaju (2020), is the lowest level of government that enacts laws and regulations for a group of people who share social and political ties and reside in a specific geographic area. This indicates that the people's social and political connections at the local level influence the laws that govern that community. According to Yerima (2017), local government is the branch of government that is closest to the people and has the authority to regulate the affairs of those who live under its jurisdiction. The purpose of establishing grassroots government is to address the needs and desires of the general public. According to Olatunji (2021), local governments should have significant autonomy through guided or relative autonomy rather than being sovereign governments.

According to the UN, a local government is a legally recognised political subdivision of a country (or, in the case of a federal system or state, a state) that has significant authority over local affairs, including the authority to levy taxes and employ people for designated purposes. Such an entity's governing body is chosen locally, either through elections or another method. Comparably, a local government council is regarded as a sub-national government that is governed by an entity (elected or appointed) that is established by law over a specific territory and has the power to produce and employ resources for the betterment of the community and its residents (Odewale, 2021). According to this dimension,

it is defined by the International Encyclopaedia of Social Sciences as a political subdivision of a national or regional government that carries out tasks for which the national or regional government has the legal authority, but it also typically has some taxing authority and a certain amount of discretion in decision-making (Shafritz, 2019).

The ability to generate revenue, the ability to engage in contractual agreements with others, the ability to control expenditures and initiatives, the ability to act as agents of other levels of government or as substitutes of federal, central, or state governments, the authority to engage in public activities, the ability to be sued, and more are some of the characteristics shared by grassroots governments worldwide (Abe & Omotoso, 2021). A defined population, a defined territory, a unique legal identity, legislative and administrative responsibilities, a legislative organisational framework, and a range of functions and powers delegated from the intermediate or relevant legislative council are all necessary for local government to function as grassroots administration (Manes-Rossi *et al.*, 2023).

It is widely acknowledged that, in any type of government, whether it be a federal or unitary system, grassroots government is an indispensable and unavoidable unit. According to Atukunda *et al.*, (2024), grassroots administration is especially designed to promote growth at the grassroots level for the benefit of rural residents. In Nigeria's federal system, grassroots administration is the third tier of government. Any political system's fundamental goal is to maintain social amenities for its citizens without invading them; this is what it means to be an accessible government, or even better, a people's government. Local governments play a crucial role in providing services to the general public. The efficacy of the grassroots government is determined by how well it uses the resources at its disposal to achieve its declared goals, like giving the public access to necessities. Under a grassroots administration system, the general public is vital

in choosing the factors that determine policy and is acknowledged as a necessary branch of government for progress.

Across the board, local governments should make an effort to efficiently satisfy the needs of the populace for goods and services, especially at the local level of government (Demir, 2023). Their points of view are clearly stated: if local governments work towards globalisation, the population will benefit from faster local development as long as basic services are provided. The fundamental goal of developing grassroots administration, according to Mbah and Obiagu (2020), is to guarantee that the populace is involved in their governance in accordance with their current expectations and desires; to provide an internal mechanism for grassroots growth to organise and ensure general enthusiasm; to provide a buffer against the absence of decentralisation of authority at the national level and to encourage the devolution of power; to act as a conduit for communication between the local populace and the national government; to serve as a test ground for novel ideas about government organisation and social and economic policies; and to act as a platform for future leaders.

Good Governance

What is beneficial to one individual may not be beneficial to another, the definition of good governance can be complicated. Different definitions, conditions, and meanings have emerged from the conceptualisation of good governance. It is vital to define governance to have a precise and practical definition of good governance. Governance is the management and control of the state's affairs as well as the way its citizens are ruled. It can be defined as the decision-making process and the method by which decisions are carried out or not. The definition of governance is the use of political authority to run a country's affairs.

As previously stated, if governance satisfies certain fundamental requirements, it can be considered good (Acharya, 2018). The World Bank included good governance in the plan, according to Thanh and Canh (2019), because

it wanted to know why some nations had trouble developing after implementing the neoliberal reform measures that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund imposed. The culprit was bad governance, which is defined as nepotism and corruption, self-serving public officials, and poor policies that seriously impede development.

An Italian artist named Lorenzetti first used the term good governance in the middle of the fourteenth century in one of his well-known frescos that portrayed the sharp contrast between good and bad governance. One of the frescos depicts a lovely city where men are employed, children are playing, and justice is upheld. It also features young people dancing. While some are planting, others are harvesting. Justice is bound to the ground by a satanic tyrant in one of the frescos that portrays poor governance. Men are being killed and women are being raped; there are no fields to cultivate, no jobs, and nothing (Teles *et al.*, 2020). According to the above illustration, good governance is the process of managing state affairs effectively and efficiently for the benefit of the populace. What matters more is a system's capacity to create and carry out policies while adhering to the fundamentals of good governance. According to Mullen (2017), poor governance is thought to be the primary source of all evil in our societies.

According to Addink (2019), the World Bank report on governance initiated a discourse within the international development community concerning the definition of good governance, strategies for promoting it, and the viability and practicality of exporting the transparency that is associated with the West. Large donors and international financial institutions are gradually tying loans and other forms of financial support to the passage of laws and the upkeep of sound governance.

In addition to the World Bank, a number of other multilateral organisations and institutions have also thought about the introduction of good governance and how it relates to developments. These include the United Nations

Development Program (UNDP), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Asian Development Bank (ASDB), the African Development Bank (AFDB), the International Development Association (IDA), and others. These institutions differ in their ethos and experiences, and consequently, so do their interpretations of what makes for good governance. The challenge for all societies is to create a system of governance that implies, supports, and sustains human development, especially for the poorest, as there is no universally agreed-upon definition of what good governance looks like.

According to Nanda (2006), good governance is about achieving desired results in the most effective or appropriate way possible; the appropriate way is largely determined by the cultural norms and values of the organisation or society. Each has to develop an idea based on their own requirements and principles. Among other things, accountable, transparent, and participatory governance is. In addition, it supports the rule of law and is equitable and successful. It guarantees that social, political, and economic priorities are determined by a wide societal consensus and that the voices of the most vulnerable and impoverished people are heard when decisions are being made about how best to allocate resources for development. According to Nag (2018), good governance is a style or model of government that benefits the social and economic well-being of the populace. The term good governance refers to the exercise of political will to ensure the material welfare of society and sustainable development with social justice. It is based on the principles of efficiency, legitimacy, and consensus and promotes the rights of individual citizens and the public interest.

Effective political frameworks that support economic action, stability, the rule of law, effective state administration that is tailored to the functions that governments can carry out, and a robust civil society that is independent of the state are all components of good governance, according to Pomeranz and Stedman (2020). Using authority or power

economic, political, administrative, or otherwise to manage a country's resources in a way that permits citizens to voice their concerns, address inequalities, and uphold their legal rights is the essence of good governance (Weiss, 2000). According to the United Nations Development Programme, using political, economic, and administrative authority to effectively manage a nation's affairs at all levels is considered good governance. The article continued by stating that good governance has three components: political, economic, and administrative. Political governance encompasses all aspects of the process, from formulating policies to making decisions.

The process of making decisions that influence a nation's economic activities and its relationships with other economies is known as economic governance. It has important ramifications for poverty, equity, and quality of life. Policy implementation is referred to as administrative governance. The administrative class carries out the decisions and policy formulations made by the political class. Good governance, which encompasses all three, is characterised by the systems and procedures that direct the interactions between the political and socioeconomic classes.

Good governance is the process by which organisations oversee and manage operations, manage public finances, and guarantee the realisation of human rights. The rate at which the government fulfils its commitments to citizens, particularly about their social, economic, cultural, and legal rights, is the method used to evaluate effective governance. The United Nations Human Development, according to Sari (2023), noted that good governance has two facets: first, the leadership, whose duties are derived from the fundamentals of successful governmental organisations. Second, it is the citizens, who constitute the governed, who must contribute appropriately to the political and socioeconomic life of their society.

To sustain and maintain relative peace, citizens must contribute appropriately to governmental

organisations and hold the leadership accountable for managing government affairs in a way that makes life easier for the people. Kofi Annan, a former UN Secretary-General, is quoted as saying that good governance is a crucial step towards national development and the eradication of poverty (Addink, 2017). The provision of infrastructure and the provision of social services are examples of good governance.

When government operations are conducted effectively, openly, and transparently, this is known as good governance. Good governance encompasses transparency, involvement, and accountability (Meyer, 2018). It encourages effectiveness, equity, and the rule of law. A strong political, economic, and social consensus is ensured by good governance, elevating the people's will in decisions about the distribution of resources (Hope, 2017). A system that upholds due process, accountability, the rule of law, good leadership, and transparency in government operations is known as good governance (Keping, 2018).

Effective leadership is the foundation of good governance, and the degree to which the tenets of good governance are applied is another way to measure effective leadership. According to Davis (2017), good governance is the equitable, transparent, accountable, and people-centred management of a nation's resources. It is clear from the foregoing that governance is an alliance between the state and society, as well as between the rulers and the ruled. Suppose the relationship between the ruler and the governed is indeed good governance it would improve the socio-economic condition. In that case, the state's instrumentality is focused on the general community's agreement and the impoverisher's consideration when allocating resources.

Empirical Review

Boris (2015) looked at the difficulties local government management faces in providing effective and efficient social services. The study's findings showed insufficient revenue generation, a dependency on the state

government for financial resources, and political meddling. The survey also identified financial insufficiency, corruption, and embezzlement of public funds as barriers to grassroots social service delivery. The study concluded that, given the necessary autonomy, grassroots government is well-positioned to promote development in tangible terms.

Osuebi *et al.*, (2019) investigated competing concerns and future directions for political accountability in local government administration in Nigeria. The results of the study showed that the Nigerian government did not intentionally carry out the goals of the 1976 local government reform to the latter in order to set up grassroots government for effective governance. The study also showed that because of a contradiction in the local government constitution that gave other levels of government undue influence in local government administration, accountability and good governance have not yet occurred at the grassroots level. The study came to the conclusion that political will from other tiers of the Nigerian government is necessary for good governance to take hold at the local level. Among other things, the study suggests amending the constitution to guarantee local governments have

Ogunnubi (2022) investigated the problems, obstacles, and opportunities associated with decentralising local governance in Nigeria. The study's findings showed that because the state government controls the funding for its operations and functions, it prevented the policy of decentralisation of function from occurring at the local level. The study also showed that political unpredictability, constitutional issues, corruption, insufficient funding, and state inspection services over local government operations are the main obstacles preventing local governments from providing good governance. The study came to the conclusion that while the Nigerian constitution recognises local government as the third tier of government, in actuality, it has evolved into an agent of the state government, whose meddling compromises local government effectiveness.

To guarantee local governments' financial independence, the study suggests, among other things, doing away with the state-local government joint account.

Nigerian local government administration and governance were examined by Anayochukwu and Ani (2021). The study's findings demonstrated that the state government's unethical inspectorial role over local government administration is motivated by constitutional contradictions and loopholes. The study also showed that grassroots good governance is hampered by the absence of political will at higher levels of government. According to the study's findings, local government is viewed as an agent by both the federal and state governments, as opposed to a tier of government. Among other things, the study suggests reviewing the constitution to ensure that local government has a proper place in the ideal federal government.

Theoretical Framework

This study is hinged on developmental theory, according to this school of thought, local government is a critical tool for promoting national integration and good governance. According to the school, local government is a medium for nation-building and national unity. It acts as a tool for growth, and national integration, and to engender development in concrete terms at the grassroots level by dismantling the barriers to development and fostering an awareness of life beyond local and national integration. The school also emphasizes political development, which transfers the primal loyalties of the people at the grassroots to the central and state governments to promote national unity.

According to the school, local government has the potential to improve citizens' lives by raising the standard of living, developing manpower capital, promoting social and economic growth, and, in the end, resulting in national development and good governance. This approach has made concise relevancy in the journey of local government to develop their citizens and environment. The theory further

explains that the contribution of local government in Nigeria in the areas of the building of hospitals, health care, schools, roads, markets, etc., also makes a significant contribution to national growth. The efforts of each local government to provide these services to the people living in their jurisdiction will undoubtedly result in good governance at the grassroots and ensure citizen participation in the development.

Methodology

In this study, a descriptive research design was used. Primary and secondary sources of data were used. Interviews and the distribution of a structured questionnaire were the methods used to gather primary data. The study was carried out in Ekiti Southwest, Ikole and Efon Local Government Areas of Ekiti State representing the three senatorial districts of the State. The heads of three carefully chosen civil society organisations were interviewed for data triangulation. Employees of local governments and members of selected civil society organisations in the state's three senatorial districts make up the study's population. Owing to the sizable study population, a sample size of (358) was determined for the purpose of administering the questionnaire using the Taro Yemane formula. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the data gathered.

Analysis and Discussion of Findings

The general difficulties local government administration in Nigeria's Ekiti State faces in achieving good governance are listed in this section. To accomplish this goal, the respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement that the local government in the study area found challenging. On each of the investigative assertions, Table 1 displayed the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents. The responses were arranged using Likert scale measurements, which included Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree. The

mean value and standard deviation of each investigated variable were also provided.

The respondents were asked to respond to the claim that good governance is hampered by the lack of security of life property at the local level in the distribution shown in Table 1. 109 (31.9%) and 131 (38.4%) of the respondents said they agreed with the statement in their responses. However, 40 (11.8%) of the respondents strongly disagreed with the assertion, and 61 (17.9%) disagreed with it. The standard deviation and mean value ($\bar{X} = 3.51$, $SD = 1.014$) supported this. According to this data, 240 respondents (70.3%) agreed that one obstacle to good governance in the study area is the lack of grassroots security for people's lives and property.

With respect to the second assertion, embezzlement of public funds via inflation of contract sums at the grassroots level in the study area. In their response, 121 (35.5%) strongly agreed, and 106 (31%) of the respondents agreed with the assertion. It was contrary to the view of 48 (14%) who disagreed and 66 (19.4%) of the respondents who strongly disagreed with the statement. This data representation shows that the majority of the respondents, 227 agreed that embezzlement of public funds via inflation of contract sum at the grassroots is a constraint confronting good governance in the study area. The mean value and standard deviation for this variable were ($\bar{X} = 3.54$, $SD = 1.213$).

With respect to the third claim, 99 respondents (29.1%) and 113 (33.1%) strongly agreed. On the other hand, 71 (20.8%) strongly disagreed and 58 (17%) disagreed that the Joint Allocation Account (JAAC) is still a major obstacle to grassroots good governance. This result demonstrated a noteworthy degree of agreement with the assertion, with 62.2% of the respondents. Based on the data's analytical implications, the majority of respondents agreed that the Joint Allocation Account (JAAC) is still a major obstacle to grassroots good governance and limits it in the study area. The data's mean

value and standard deviation are ($\bar{X} = 3.64$, $SD = 1.034$).

Insufficient autonomy has been identified as a significant obstacle impeding effective grassroots governance, according to the fourth claim in Table 1. 128 respondents (37.6%) strongly agreed with the statement, while 126 respondents (36.9%) agreed, revealing this finding. 46 (13.5%) respondents disagreed with the statement, and 41 (12%) respondents strongly disagreed. The standard deviation and mean values for this assertion were ($\bar{X} = 3.53$, $SD = 1.635$). According to this data, the majority of respondents (254 in total) indicated that a significant obstacle to good governance at the local level in the study area has been insufficient autonomy.

It was, however, asserted that the respondents either agree or disagree with the statement that inadequate capacity and insufficient resources undermine good governance at the grassroots level. Responding to the fifth assertion, 49 (14.4%) strongly agreed, and 52 (15.2%) of the respondents agreed to the statement. It was contrary to the view of 147 (43.1%) who disagreed and 93 (27.3%) who strongly disagreed with the assertion. However, the disagreement level of 70.4% of the respondents was substantial to accredit the assertion. This data representation showed that inadequate capacity and insufficient resources have no significant effect on good governance in the study area. The mean value and standard deviation for this variable were ($\bar{X} = 3.18$, $SD = 1.760$).

Additionally, it was made clear to the respondents that low internal revenue generation by the local government had an

adverse impact on grassroots good governance in the research area. Regarding the sixth assertion, 68 (19.9%) and 53 (15.5%) of the participants expressed agreement. 115 (33.8%) strongly disagreed with the statement, while 105 (30.8%) disagreed. The data's analytical implication indicates that, with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{X} = 3.34$, $SD = 1.604$), the majority of respondents 64.6% did not agree with the claim that low internally generated revenue by the local government negatively impacts good governance at the grassroots level in the study area.

Regarding the seventh assertion, 60 (17.6%) strongly agreed, and 42 (12.4%) of the respondents agreed. However, 109 (31.9%) disagreed, and 130 (38.1%) strongly disagreed with the assertion that the absence of maintenance culture at the grassroots level constrains good governance. In this respect, this result showed a remarkable disagreement level with 70% of the respondents on the assertion. The analytical implication of the data shows that most respondents disagreed that the absence of maintenance culture at the grassroots level was a constraint to good governance in the study area with a mean value and standard deviation of ($\bar{X} = 3.52$, $SD = 1.024$).

Table 1: Challenges confronting local government administration in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Variables	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Descriptive Statistics N= 341	
	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	Mean Value	Standard Deviation
1. Absence of security of life and property	109 (31.9%)	131 (38.4%)	61 (17.9%)	40 (11.8%)	3.51	1.014
2. Embezzlement of public funds via	121 (35.5%)	106 (31%)	48 (14%)	66 (19.4%)	3.54	1.213
3. Joint Allocation Account (JAAC)	113 (33.1%)	99 (29.1%)	58 (17%)	71 (20.8%)	3.64	1.034
4. Inadequate autonomy	126 (36.9%)	128 (37.6%)	41 (12%)	46 (13.5%)	3.53	1.635
5. Inadequate capacity and insufficient resources	49 (14.4%)	52 (15.2%)	147 (43.1%)	93 (27.3%)	3.18	1.760
6. Poor internally generated revenue	53 (15.5%)	68 (19.9%)	105 (30.8%)	115 (33.8%)	3.34	1.604
7. Absence of maintenance culture at the grassroots level	60 (17.6%)	42 (12.4%)	109 (31.9%)	130 (38.1%)	3.52	1.024

Field Survey, 2024.

Analysis of interview with respondents

An interview session was conducted among key stakeholders to complement the quantitative data. The interviewees provided stated divergent opinions on the challenges facing local government administration and good governance in Nigeria. According to the Chairman of the Landlord Association in Ekiti South-West Local Government Area of Ekiti State revealed that one of the major challenges of local government in Nigeria in the attainment of good governance is the lack of democratic participation at the grassroots level.

To collaborate with the above statement the Chairman Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) opined that in most states of Nigeria, only a few states have conducted elections for council officials. According to the Chairman Muslim

Association of Nigeria (MAN), he stated that the major problem confronting local council administration is the provision of the constitution which subjects the staffing, control, and functions of the grassroots government to the control of the states via the state house of assembly.

The Chairman Landlord Association Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti State stated that most state governors see local government administration as an agency of the state governments. The opinion of the Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) revealed that the constitution undermines local government autonomy, unlike the federal and state governments.

In the words of the Chairman Muslim Association of Nigeria (MAN) of the local

government, council revealed that the legislative arm at the local government level are not functional as those at the other levels. For instance, the ministry of local government is responsible for approving the budget of local government, which is the legislative function at the state and federal levels.

The Chairman Landlord Association of Efon Local Government Area of Ekiti State revealed that embezzlement of public funds, inflation of contract sum, poor internally generated revenue, excessive control from the state government, and absence of security of lives and property. In the words of the Chairman Muslim Association of Nigeria (MAN) of the local government council, he revealed that one of the major problems confronting the local government in the attainment of good governance in Nigeria is the operation of a Joint Allocation Account (JAAC) between the local government and the state government.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concluded that Nigeria's local government administration would attain good governance if the country practised an ideal federal system where power, function and resources are shared within the levels of government rather than the master-servant relationship that exist within the Nigerian system.

Based on the findings of the study, these policy recommendations are presented to enhance local government administration, tackle the aforementioned challenges, and ensure good governance in all local governments of Nigeria.

The joint state-local government account system should be abolished. Since local government is the closest to the people and they are best positioned to meet their needs, its revenue allocation percentage should be increased and received directly from the federation account.

It is established that local government will deliver more good governance when it is democratic. There is an urgent need for a constitutional amendment to grant local government-defined autonomy to enable it to operate as a full tier of government.

It is established that public accountability and transparency would enhance good governance at the grassroots. The citizens should hold public officers accountable for their actions and inaction any public officer found guilty of embezzling public funds should face the wroght of the law.

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EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MEDIATORS IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINE CONFLICT: A CASE OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) AND EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

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Abstract

Israeli-Palestine conflict is an age-long issue that persistently denies the Middle East of peace. Several attempts at mediation have resulted in questioning the peace process. A major problem, however, is incessant breakdown in the mediation process and re-emergence of conflicts. This tends to question the effectiveness of mediators. The current paper examines the role of mediators and whether they are effective in resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict. The paper probes into the mediation initiatives of the United Nations and the European Union. The paper is essentially qualitative in nature, adopting historical approach, and using primary and secondary sources of data. It is underpinned with psycho-cultural theory of conflict, which perceptibly explores ethnicity and fear of domination. Part of the findings reveals that mediators have failed to permanently address and resolve the original ownership of the disputed land between Israel and Palestine. Conclusively, the United Nations and its agents have played significant roles in settling the dispute between Israel and Palestine but with trepidation. Though relative peace has been maintained, escalation of conflicts and war in the Middle East at intervals only confirms that mediating efforts have not been enduring. Failure of the United Nations and the European Union to foster peace and security in the contested area demonstrates the degree to which sovereign states believe that international organizations only pursue self-interests. By recommendation therefore, mediators could influence both parties to give up their ambition to govern the whole region under the umbrella of a two-state solution.

Keywords: Conflict, Evaluating, Mediator, Negotiation, Israeli-Palestine, Peace

1. Introduction

The polarity and complexity of conflict resolution at both internal and external levels make it cumbersome for two parties in conflict to negotiate seamlessly. Consequently, it becomes imperative to introduce a third party (mediator) to facilitate negotiation. Once a conflict occurs between two parties, it could be managed, for instance, by bilateral negotiation or by the involvement of a third party acting as a mediator between the two parties.¹ However,

the role of a third party in conflict resolution is geared towards helping the actors to mitigate the problem threatening their bargaining relationship.² Unlike judges or arbitrators, the mediator has no authority to decide the dispute between the parties. Rather, the parties in conflict empower the mediator to help them resolve the conflict. Mediation is essential in the process of abating a conflict, and it can make positive, and direct contribution by pointing the parties to how to end the conflict, thereby

providing an agenda and/or manipulating the timing of the negotiation process.

Given that the mediator has no authoritative decision-making power and cannot enforce the outcome of a mediation meeting, the mediator's role has become expedient with the growing complexities of conflict resolution, and the continual emergence of conflicts at the local, state, regional and international levels. The Israeli-Palestine conflict is a case in point, considering that it is one of the longest political conflicts in the history of mankind. The Israeli-Palestine conflict can be traced to the declaration by Arthur Balfour in 1917, which granted the Jews the right of settlement in the Palestinian territory³. This development resulted in the emergence of Israel as a nation, thus aggrieving the Palestinians who felt their land had been encroached upon by the Jews. The Palestinians have consistently laid claim to the region as their traditional possession⁴.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has assumed diverse dimensions over the years despite the roles played by mediators, international bodies and groups to bring about peace between the two parties⁵. Continued waves of attack on both sides have raised concerns, discussions and analysis among scholars, political leaders, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and civil society groups. Sincerity of mediators who have taken the responsibility to intervene in the conflict is more of a ruse than commitment to peace. Repeated occurrence of conflicts and failed attempts by the various mediating groups and organizations motivate a probe into the efficacy of mediation in the Israeli-Palestine conflict. Various negotiations between the two actors have further intensified the conflict, based on the perceptions of the actors involved. There is claim that the Israelis are the original owners of the region.⁶ Because of contentions by both parties, it has become difficult to broker peace between both parties. Consequently, various peace accords signed by both parties, diplomatic efforts and negotiation attempts have failed.⁷ It is against this backdrop that the paper examines the effectiveness of the role of

the United Nations and European Union in finding a resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

International relations researchers have continued to explore theoretical, empirical and diplomatic means of advancing a balance in any conflict situation, and the Israeli-Palestine issue is no less. The current paper is a contribution in that direction by attempting an evaluation of the effectiveness of the mediation strategy. The direction of thought in the paper should therefore impact future mediation process in the Israeli-Palestine conflict. The rest of the paper is structured as follows: Section 2 explores conceptual review and establishes a theoretical basis. Section 3 dwells on major mediators and their impact. In section 4 is evaluation of mediators' impact. Section 5 concludes the paper and offers recommendations.

2. Literature

Conceptual Review: Conflict

Conflict is inevitable in human society due to differences in ideas, desires, perceptions, and needs. In general, conflict is seen as a state of antagonism, which is characteristic of incompatibility⁸. Comrad⁹ has argued that conflict occurs in the interaction among interdependent people who perceive that their interests are at variance. Further, Robbins¹⁰ defined conflict as a process that begins when one party perceives that another party is negatively affected or is about to influence, to the contrary, something that the first party cares about. This definition emphasizes that among individuals, ideas, goals, and competition for resources lead to conflict¹¹. In addition, conflict is conceived as the struggle between at least two independent parties who pursue incompatible goals and perceive interference from each other in the drive to attain group, personal, or self-goals.¹² Doran, McGrill, and Spence¹³ have posited that conflict occurs from personal and environmental influences. From Opatha's¹⁴ view, conflict is a disagreement between at least two persons or parties over something of relevance to either

party. In consonance, some other scholars have contended that conflict has a divisional effect.

Psycho-Cultural Theory of Conflict

Of relevance to the paper is the psycho-cultural conflict theory. According to this theory, identification is the most important need in the hierarchy of human needs and, when denied, it could result in conflict. The satisfaction of an individual's basic needs is intricately related to identity. This is similar to the primordial approach to ethnicity, which emphasizes that people's ethnicity (identity) is deeply rooted in their past. Psycho-cultural theorists argue that memories of past trauma can magnify people's anxiety. This occurs from ethnic identity, which produces fear, hatred, and consequently, ethnicity among two or more ethnic groups that have a history of hegemonic discrimination and stratification. It is posited that when an ethnic group has a history of stereotypes and discrimination, resulting from wrong perception of its ethnic identity by another group, it inevitably ends in conflict. Groups that experience discrimination and biased stratification harbour a feeling of marginalization, and this could result further in a strong feeling of hatred and resentment against the opposing or domineering group. It is also observed that ethnicity is an ingrained feature individual's or group's identity. Therefore, discrimination against any group, based on ethnicity tends to attract strong resistance.

Psycho-cultural theorists subscribe to the view that conflicts caused by identity are usually dangerous, violent, intractable, highly protracted, and difficult to resolve. This is because identity, which is at the centre of conflict, is an unwavering sense of worth that makes life meaningful as it involves the feeling that the individual is physically, socially, psychologically, and spiritually safe. When the feeling of safety is threatened, defensive reaction is aimed at protecting it at all costs, and the result is conflict, which becomes a matter of life and death. This tends to affect development since violence is perpetually continued, affecting

productive sectors of the local economy. It is further argued that resolving this type of conflict is difficult, and tends to defy resolution mechanisms. There is always an outbreak of uprisings, despite attempts to quell the situation. The resolution to such conflicts takes a long period of time, and sometimes it is not possible to engage in any talk of resolution, but to find ways of managing such conflicts. This is because the issue of ethnic identity is uncompromising, and its denial is a complete affront to group's existence. The outcome of such conflict is insecurity of lives and property, hunger, and starvation, thereby affecting quality of life and development. Therefore, the causes of conflict must be first identified, and not undermined when attempting to find resolutions. Similarly, the origin of conflict must be traced and understood. This gives insight into the underlying internal as well as external dimensions of conflict.

An effective resolution of conflict can bring about the growth and development of society. The society in which people feel secure will develop at its own pace. The people can also unite to pursue economic and other development objectives. In solving conflict, focus must be on satisfying the basic needs that have been deprived, creating proportional equality in deep-rooted cultures, and identifying issues using third-party intervention and intergroup cooperation.

3. Major Mediators and their Roles

The United Nations

The United Nations' involvement in resolving the Israeli-Palestine conflict started with the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 181/1947(14). The United Nations Security Council also issued resolutions to resolve the conflict with Resolution 388/973, Resolution 1276, Resolution 1042, and Resolution 2334 among others. The United Nations General Assembly has also issued Resolution A/RES/ES-10/21, Resolution A/RES/77/208, Resolution A/RES/77/247 and several others.

However, from 1947 till date, the United Nations has played some role in attempting to resolve the conflict. It started after the end of the British mandate when the United Nations nursed the idea of dividing Palestine into two regions¹⁵. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the plan as Resolution 181(II). The resolution recommended the creation of the independent Arab and Jewish states linked economically and a special international regime for the city of Jerusalem and its surroundings. The Arab State was to have a territory of 11,100 square kilometers while the Jewish State was to have a territory of 14,000 square kilometers. The remaining two percent comprising the cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and the adjoining area would become an international area¹⁶. However, the outcome of the resolution was seen as betrayal by the Arab nations. In 1967, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 242, which acknowledged the inadmissibility of the acquisition of the territory by force, and demanded Israel's withdrawal from land seized in the war and the right of all States in the area to peaceful existence within secure and recognized boundaries.

The grammatical construction of the French version of the Resolution 242 puts it that Israel should withdraw from the territories. English and French are official languages of the United Nations. Israel and the United Nations used the English version to argue that Israel should not withdraw entirely from the region but some, and that the resolution satisfies their requirements. Over the years, the Palestinians have rejected Resolution 242 because it does not acknowledge their right to national self-determination¹⁷. In 1973, the United Nations Security Council called both parties to a ceasefire and end all military activities immediately, not later than 12 hours after adoption of the Resolution.

Implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) immediately and concurrently with the ceasefire, and negotiations were to start between the parties concern under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and

endurable peace. In 1996, the United Nations Security Council by Resolution 1042 again reiterated its commitment to holding a referendum on self-determination for the people of Western Sahara as accepted by both Morocco and the Polisario Front¹⁸. There was concern about the lack of progress towards completion of the settlement plan, and both parties were urged to co-operate with MINURSO and the Secretary-General, Boutros Ghali in resuming the identification process and to identify ways of creating confidence in the opposing parties. The resolution supported the intention of the Secretary-General to bring the situation to the immediate attention of the Council if no progress was made and would therefore consider plans to withdraw MINURSO¹⁹. In the nutshell, the United Nations and its agent had played significant roles in settling the dispute between Israel and Palestine from the beginning till date.

The European Union (EU)

The European Union has facilitated negotiations between Palestine and Israel through diplomatic efforts. It endorses the terms of a two-state solution, based on the boundaries of 1967, with Jerusalem serving as the capital of both states. The European Union has repeatedly demanded an end to Israeli settlement in the occupied territories and decried acts of violence committed by both sides. Various peace initiatives, including the Middle East Quartet (consisting of the EU, United Nations, United States and Russia) and the Middle East Quartet representative office, have shown the demonstration of the EU to see peace in the disputed region. These collaborations largely seek to mediate disputes between the parties and promote communication for peaceful conflict resolution.

One of the highest financial donors to both Israel and Palestine is the European Union. The EU, through its European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), and other funding mechanism have contributed significantly to development initiatives, humanitarian aids and institution building efforts in Palestine. The

assistance is aimed at increasing the standard of living for Palestinians, encourage economic growth, fortify governance institutions and strengthen security cooperation. They have also provided financial support to Israeli civil society groups that work to promote peace and reconciliation.

Humanitarian aid is being actively provided by the European Union to relieve the suffering of the Palestine subjects who are victims of the conflict. It has supported numerous international and United Nations Organization staff, working in Palestine to provide access to clean water, health care services and emergency relief. The European Union has also supported initiatives that address the needs of vulnerable groups like refugees, women, children and people with disabilities as well as projects that help to rebuild infrastructure that has been destroyed as a result of conflict. The European Union's humanitarian assistance is designed to cushion the current suffering while also addressing the root causes of the conflict.

In order to promote peace and stability, and adherence to international law, the European Union holds political discussions with both Israeli and Palestinian authorities. It meets with representatives from both sides frequently to talk about conflict related topics like settlement growth, security coordination and the status of Jerusalem. They have consistently demanded a negotiated settlement to the conflict, based on pertinent United Nations Resolutions and international law. It promotes upholding human rights, including the Palestinians' right to self-determination, and initiatives to resolve pressing matters like borders, refugees, security, and other status of Jerusalem through amicable negotiations.

4. Evaluation of the Mediators' Impact

A measure of the impact of mediators and their mechanism would be to appraise mediators' standing on the application of rules of warfare and their enforcement of same. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 on International Humanitarian Law, the Universal Rules on

Warfare prohibit punitive siege and collective punishment, hostage taking, torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, and displacement of civilians. All parties are required to ensure civilians have food, water and other essential commodities to survive during conflict and guarantee that they can safely leave conflict areas and return home. Violation of these prohibitions and obligations is a war crime and can also be considered crime against humanity, depending on the gravity and the intent of perpetrators. A core international humanitarian law principle is that all parties must distinguish at all times between combatants and civilians and refrain from causing disproportionate harm to the latter. The law also recognizes the right of occupied people to use armed resistance against their occupiers in pursuit of self-determination and territorial sovereignty. Some rules apply to those using armed force to resist occupation as to state armed forces. However, the United Nations appears powerless to limit the methods of warfare, implement a ceasefire, call up its forces to protect civilians in Gaza, or ensure accountability²⁰. Moreover, the current conflict illustrates structural failure of the United Nations, imbalance of power between the most powerful states and majority of the states which are less powerful.

Impact of The United Nations

Since its inception, the United Nations has been fundamentally concerned with the problems faced by the Middle East. In its efforts to deal with the problem, it has employed mechanisms ranging from primary principles for peaceful settlement of the conflict and the deployment of peacekeeping operations. The main challenge of the United Nations in the Middle East is the status of Palestine. Root of the Middle East problem can be traced to when the United Nations General Assembly recommended division of Palestine, mandating separate Arab and Jewish states.

The United Nations which serve as an advocate of global peace and security has tried to maintain and mediate on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. In February 1947, the

British government turned the Palestinian question over to the United Nations. Britain requested that the United Nations form a committee to discuss the future of a Mandatory Palestine. In response, the United Nations General Assembly agreed to the request by establishing a special committee on Palestine. The committee suggested two proposals: one was to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, and the other was to form an independent federal structure consisting of Arab and Jewish entities with Jerusalem as its capital.

After the first phase of the Arab countries and Israeli war that broke out on May 14, 1948, the United Nations declared a truce on May 29, which lasted for 28 days. The truce was overseen by the United Nations' observers, army officers from Belgium, United States of America, Sweden and France. Bemadotte was voted by the General Assembly to ensure the safety of the holy places, safeguard the wellbeing of the population, and promote peaceful adjustment of the future situation of Palestinian. He spoke of "Peace by Christmas" but discovered the Arab countries notably Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon continued to reject the existence of the Jewish State, whatever its borders. An arms embargo was then declared with the intention that neither side would make gains from the agreement. However, neither side respected the terms of the agreement, as both parties found ways for pretext. Both the Israelis and the Arab nations used it as an opportunity to improve their position, which could be interpreted as a direct violation of the terms of the ceasefire.

On July 18, 1948 - March 10, 1949, another phase of war occurred between the Israeli's and the Arab nations. This led to the formation of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and Mixed Armistice Commission to monitor Ceasefire and supervise the armistice to prevent further conflict escalation, and to assist the United Nations' peace-keeping operation in the region. However, the Israelis finally signed a peace agreement with Egypt on February 24, Trans Jordon on April 3, and Syria on July 20, 1949. This agreement saw Israel

hold a substantive portion of the land that the United Nations had allocated. Despite this agreement, fighting still continued in the region which eventually escalated into the 1967 war.

After the failure of the Arab nations in the 1967 war, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 242, which recognised the "inadmissibility" of the acquired territory by "force," and called for Israeli withdrawal from the land seized. The Resolution also acknowledged the right of all states in the area to peaceful co-existence within recognized boundaries. The grammatical interpretation of the French version of the Resolution renders it that Israel should withdraw from a part, and not all. However, the Palestinians rejected Resolution 242 because it did not acknowledge their rights to national self-determination, and return to their land. The resolution only demanded recognition of every state in the area, which the Palestinians considered a flaw.

After the 1973 war between the Israeli and the Arab nations, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat decided to sue for a peaceful resolution with the Israelis. His visit to Jerusalem on November 19th, 1977, formed the Camp David I accord. This accord was signed in the United States of America in Maryland under the leadership of President Jimmy Carter. After inviting the Prime Minister of Israel, Menachem Begin and Egyptian Anwar Sadat to Camp David, they worked out modalities to foster peace between Egypt and Israel. The first agreement formed the basis of the Egyptian and Israeli peace treaty signed in 1979. This second agreement proposed to grant autonomy to the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza strip and to install a local administration for a five-year term, after which the final status of the territories would be negotiated. However, only the Egyptian and Israeli part of the accord was implemented. The Palestinians and other Arab nations rejected the autonomy because it did not guarantee full Israeli withdrawal from the territories captured by the Israelis during the 1967 war. Nevertheless, the Israelis sabotaged the negotiation by continuing to confiscate

Palestinian land and build new settlements in violation of the Camp David I Accord.

The Geneva Conference of 1973 was an attempt to negotiate a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as envisioned in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 388, following the call for ceasefire to end the Yom Kippur War. After a considerable shuttle diplomacy, and negotiations by Henry Kissinger, the conference started on December 21, 1973 under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General, with the United States and the Soviet Union co-presiding. The foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan and Israel were in attendance, but Syria was absent. Each foreign minister was given the opportunity to speak mainly on issue of peace in the region. The essence of the conference was to work out modalities for peaceful resolution, and to ensure the disengagement of forces as a first step towards the implementation of United Nations Resolution 242, of which much was not achieved.

In the subsequent conference that followed which was the Madrid Conference held from October to November in Spain, co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, the main purpose was to revive the Israeli and Palestinian peace process through negotiations, involving other Arab nations such as Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. The conference started with bilateral registration between Israel and the joint Palestinian and Jordanian delegations, Lebanon and Syria. Subsequent bilateral meetings took place in Washington starting in December 9, 1991. On January 28, 1992, multilateral negotiations about regional cooperation were hosted in Moscow, attended by Israel, Jordan and Palestinian delegates with the international community but Lebanon and Syria were not present.

While the Madrid talks were taking place, a series of secret meetings between Israel and Palestinian negotiation negotiators were being held in Oslo, Norway, which resulted in the 1995 Oslo Peace Accords between Palestine and Israel. It was a plan to fashion out the necessary

elements and conditions for a future Palestinian State on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 388. However, the accord could not yield lasting peace in the region. Further accord such as Camp David II of July 2000 in the United States of America, which sought for Israeli withdrawal, did not also yield any fruitful result because Arafat refused to bow to pressure from both Israeli and America. Other conferences aimed at bringing lasting peace to the disputed region are the Annapolis Conference of 2007, the settlement freeze during Barrack Obama's administration between 2009 and 2010, and the peace to prosperity plan in 2020 under the administration of Donald Trump, Former President of the United States of America.

Impact of the European Union (EU)

The European Union's approach towards Israeli and Palestinian conflict has attracted scholarly attention in European Union studies, mainly within the context of the Union's peace building capacity and capabilities. Most academic studies agreed that the European Union could employ a wide variety of foreign policy tools at its disposal, yet its action remains limited due to many factors. For example, as Patrick Miller rightly states, while the European Union has "succeeded in strengthening its effectiveness in global affairs and developing a common vision of resolving the Israeli Palestine conflict, the Union still finds it difficult to transform its foreign policy instruments into a cohesive and effective tool"²¹. In an attempt to explain this ineffectiveness, many scholars have criticized the European Union for its inability to convince Israel to end its violations of international law²², and more generally to positively influence domestic politics in Israel and Palestine²³. The union has proved unable to condemn Israeli's illegal annexations, its settlement policies and violent acts, despite its discourse promoting democracy as a fundamental value. Democratic values are frequently downgraded in the region in favour of economic and security concerns²⁴. It is also argued that the incapacity of the European Union to condemn Israel undermines

its normative power claim in the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)²⁵.

The European Union has also been criticized for its inability to encourage Palestinians to pursue state building rigorously. Nonetheless, European Union's financial support for the Palestinians and its direct impact in state building²⁶ suggest its commitment and interest in the region. Shayma Bawatneh's study on the impact of foreign aid on Palestinian local development within the Palestinian territories²⁷ is instructive. The paper underlines how the European Union is essentially financially ineffective in the broader context of Palestinian state building. One reason for this failure is associated with its unwillingness to use drastic measures against the actors due to its own internal division²⁸. In addition, the European Union's inactivity is explained by limitations of intergovernmental framework of security policy, which is subject to the unanimity rule²⁹. Some member countries diverge from policies ostensibly agreed upon at the European Union level and follow their own path in dealing with Israeli-Palestine conflict due to domestic concern. Moreover, "the alliance the Israelis are establishing with Einosceptic actors" where "each side hopes to benefit from the alliance to advance particular interest" is another limitation³⁰. Raffaella Del Sarto maintained that European policies remain wedded to the outdated Oslo framework for a two-state solution, hindered by the European Union's decision-making process, international consensus challenges and the prioritization of regional stability³¹. Ineffectiveness of the European Union is also acknowledged in Palestine and Israel, where the Israelis are "depicted a world of hard power and the European Union cannot act assertively"³². Thus, the European Union presents a conspicuous capabilities gap in dealing with the conflict, as perceived by the people of Israel and Palestine³³.

Findings and Observations

The United Nations is solely responsible for global peace and security, and is committed to

making life meaningful for people through its agencies³⁴. This is seen through its numerous resolutions and conferences held in order to promote peace between Israel and the Arab nations. It is also observed that the major challenge facing the mediating groups is lack of will to broker peace between Israel and Palestine, particularly the United Nations and the Security Council. They have failed to address the major issue which is the original ownership of the disputed land, which has resulted in suffering, loss of lives and economic hardship in the region.

The Security Council with its resolutions has not created any significant atmosphere of enduring peace and partnership for the opposing parties in the Middle East as a result of the influence of America. It is also observed that some of the conferences are politically motivated. The hegemony of the United States of America with its influence in the Middle East, particularly its affiliation with Israel has affected the process over the years, and as viewed, the conflict may assume new dimensions. The only way to promote peace and security particularly between Palestine and Israel is to recognize the state of the Palestine and its agitation for self-determination, while Israeli should withdraw from areas perennially claimed by the Palestinians.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Since the inception of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, the United Nations has adopted several resolutions to promote peace and security in the Middle East and the World at large. Other groups that have also put up initiatives for peace and security in the region are the Arab League, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and nations like America and the Soviet Union. However, these advocates of peace and security have done much to mediate the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Unfortunately, the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council have not been effectively implemented to meet the aspirations of parties in conflict.

On several occasions, the Israeli flouted all the resolutions of the United Nations despite serious warning from the United Nations Security Council. This has led to public outcry and criticism of the United Nations and other mediators. The United Nations has failed to take drastic steps to caution the activities of America, as she always frustrates the progress of the United Nations. America has succeeded severally in manipulating the policy of the United Nations against the desires of Palestine. Israel has used the United States to influence the United Nations to act in its interest, and to bar Palestine from being declared a self-governing state. The failure of the United Nations and other mediators to foster peace and security in Palestine and Israel demonstrates the degree to which sovereign states believe that international organizations only pursue their own national interests.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict may be resolved in different ways. Either option would necessitate significant concessions on both sides. On the concept of "One State", it would see Israel's land and the Palestinians territories being merged into a single entity. For the

Israelis, their country would no longer be a Jewish state, but rather, it would be one with equal proportion of Palestinian Christians and Muslims. As for the Palestinians, they would have full citizenship rights.

The "two state solution" would see Israel and Palestine co-exist in the West Bank and Gaza. Either a partitioning of Jerusalem, shared Israeli-Palestinian rule of the city, or acknowledgement of Jerusalem as an open, international city could be part of this solution. Both parties should give up their ambition to govern the whole region and resort to a two-state solution. Israel would have to relinquish sovereignty of the occupied territories and remove all its inhabitants from the region it has occupied since 1967. Though either option would be difficult to implement since it would need a strong leadership from both sides. However, as international crises and human rights violation worsen, failure to find a solution is becoming less of an option. A just and equitable resolution to dispute would therefore be extremely beneficial to world peace and stability.

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THE JUDICIARY, LEGISLATURE AND ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA: ROLE IN THE 2019 ELECTIONS

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Abstract

The restoration of democratic rule in Africa's largest country in May 1999 should have brought a significant level of change in the politics of this vast nation. The transformation of the judiciary is amply demonstrated by the large number of judicial pronouncements that have overturned the results of several flawed elections. Whether sponsored or spontaneous, election-related conflicts signify discontent around tightly interwoven social and economic concerns. Fresh anger at election injustices under the aegis of a government still perceived as promising only modest accountability for electoral crimes is a worrisome factor. The legislature is to revitalize reformist laws and the judiciary is to actualize such laws in order to create a balance in the nation. This might help in mitigating all forms of electoral violence. The paper methodology is historical and descriptive with adoption of the theory of violence and peace. It therefore concludes that the role of the courts in election matters call into question the legitimacy and desirability of judicial review of elections. The judiciary being the hope of the common man must continue to play an active role in our electoral system so as to ensure that justice is not subverted. The judiciary must continue to maintain the balance in the interest of justice between conflicting interests and proffers recommendations for an accountable electoral system.

Keywords: Judiciary, Legislature, Electoral Violence, Election-related conflicts, Fourth republic.

Introduction

African countries reintroduced multiparty politics in the early 1990s as the curtains came down on the Cold War era. By 1997, 75% of countries in sub-Saharan Africa had adopted multiparty elections, with the exception of Eritrea, which has not conducted presidential or national assembly elections since its independence referendum in 1993 (Human Rights Watch 2007). Many sub-Saharan African countries have made significant strides towards democratic development, but election-related violence has also increasingly become a common feature of the politics of alternation of power in Africa. Thus, while elections in sub-

Saharan Africa have become ubiquitous, challenges around election management, particularly related to electoral violence, still remain. Nigeria has earned itself a reputation for 'muddled elections' (Suberu 2007), 'criminal politics' and 'garrison democracy' (Omotola 2009). Since the democratic transition in 1999 all the elections held in the country – in 1999, 2003, 2007 and 2011, 2015, 2019 – have been accompanied by reports of widespread electoral fraud. After the 1999 elections, for instance, the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) – a coalition of local civil society groups – reported that 'the trend of awarding high votes, or votes in excess of the number of accredited voters, which had

been observed during the National Assembly elections assumed much greater proportions during the Presidential elections' (TMG 1999).

The presence of an autonomous judiciary is widely seen as an essential component of a democratic system. The power of the legal spirit can be attributed to the influential legacy of British idea of justice, which has shaped the unique characteristics of English institutions. Simultaneously, the functionality of democratic institutions in Nigeria, such as the cabinet, parliament, and political parties, exhibited significant deficiencies and encountered substantial challenges under both direct and indirect governance (Ikram: 2011). The judiciary has been accorded a certain degree of respect even by the military authorities. Similarly, numerous justices of the Supreme Court and High Court have exhibited bravery and resolute commitment in upholding the principles of the legal system. The presence of an autonomous judiciary is vital in safeguarding the constitution, upholding the principles of the rule of law, and so promoting societal order and democratic governance. The lack of an independent judiciary ultimately results in societal chaos. The Nigerian judiciary has demonstrated commendable performance in challenging conditions. The establishment of a legal framework has been crucial in upholding the principles of justice, safeguarding the fundamental rights of individuals, and enabling their active participation in the democratic process by means of political party affiliation and engagement (Nwokodo and Ubani, 2023:226). The paper, from the introduction to the conclusion is divided into eight sections. The relationship between the judiciary and democracy is a fundamental aspect of any democratic political system.

Conceptualizing Elections

The founding pillars of any democratic political system, whether considered fragile or established, remain undoubtedly elections which can simply be taken as the most critical and visible means through which all citizens can peacefully choose or remove their leaders, and

which are evidently costly affairs (Anglin 1998:474). Thus, elections require the existence of a multiparty system so that citizens make a political decision by voting for the competing candidates fielded by various political parties holding divergent views and presenting different alternatives (Mesfin, 2008:1).

In a democracy, elections serve as an important mechanism and viable means that ensure orderliness in the process of leadership succession and change. It gives legitimacy and political authority to every administration. Elections play dominant roles in a democracy and these roles are hugely circumscribed in terms of portraying the popular will, inculcating political changes and actualization of regimes legitimacy (Osinakachukwu and Jawan, 2011:130). Schumpeter (1947) notes that democracy ensures that the people have the opportunity of accepting or refusing the men who are to rule them, this means that democracy is all about conducting elections and choosing political leaders. Elections ensure how popular a government is and it reveals the social pact that exist between the govern and the governed and this illustrates the basis of political authority, legitimacy and citizens' obligations. It also helps to shape and sharpened political accountability between the governors and governed via reciprocity and exchange. As Sandbrook (1988) posit: Elections and the struggle for power are essential because it gives the oppressed classes the chance to put the question of alternative ideologies on the agenda and therefore constitute an important stage in the socialist quest to extend democratic control to the social and economic as well as political sphere.

Elections have facilitated the emergence of democratic governments in Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, and South Africa. Following autocratic regimes and protracted civil wars, more stable societies have emerged in Guinea, Liberia, Niger, and Sierra Leone. In some cases, however, elections have been manipulated to legitimate autocratic regimes or to ensure dynastic successions on the continent. Violence still plagues approximately 20 to 25

percent of elections in Africa in these periods, high-profile electoral crises in Kenya (2007-2008), Zimbabwe (2000 and 2008), and Côte d'Ivoire (2010-2011) have led to violence. Electoral violence can erode a people's faith in the democratic processes. Additionally, countries with a history of electoral violence often experience a recurrence of such violence, as has been witnessed in Kenya, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe (International Peace Institute, 2011:1).

Electoral Violence in Nigeria's Elections

Elections in Nigeria continue to elicit more than casual interest by Nigerian scholars due to the fact that despite the appreciation that only credible election can consolidate and sustain the country's democracy, over the years, Nigeria continues to witness with growing disappointments and apprehension the inability to conduct peaceful, free, fair and open elections whose results are widely accepted and respected across the country (Osumah and Aghemelo, 2010).

The nation's political history is replete with instances of electoral violence. We cannot discuss all in one paper like this. To this end, some of them would be discussed here. Since Nigeria became independent on October 1, 1960, the history of elections has been written in violence and the nation's post-independence history has been overshadowed by the depredations of a series of corrupt, abusive, and unaccountable governments. This description is apt because it appeared that Nigerians seem to have acquired a culture of electoral violence in most of the general elections conducted since independence in 1960:1964/1965, 1979, 1983, 1999, 2003 and 2007 (Malu, 2009) and 2011. Elections are said to be characterized by widespread complaints of fraud, violence, competitive rigging and intimidation (Osaghae,1998).

Election rigging has taken many dimensions in Nigeria. This has foisted electoral violence. In his observation, Ibrahim (2011) identifies some forms of electoral fraud as follow: 1. Illegal printing of voter's cards; 2. Illegal possession of

ballot boxes; 3. Stuffing of ballot boxes; 4. Falsification of election results; 5. Illegal thumb-printing of ballot papers; 6. Infant voting 7.Compilation of fictitious names on voters' lists; 8.Illegal compilation of separate voters' lists; 9.Illegal printing of forms used for collection and declaration of election results; 10. Deliberate refusal to supply election materials to certain areas; 11. Announcing results in places where no elections were held; 12. Unauthorized announcement of election results; 13. Harassment of candidates, agents, and voters; 14. Change of list of electoral officials; 15. Box-switching and inflation of figures. Added to the above, some politicians who have an upper-hand in the government, in an attempt to win an election by all means may call for an illegal arrest and detention of their opponents on or before the election day. This, as a result, might render mobilization of votes by his opponents very limited. Influential politicians sometimes hire thugs who will rigmarole the streets shooting sporadically in the air at polling centres to scare away genuine electorates who will in return run for their dear lives allowing these thugs to take away the stuffed ballot boxes and replace it with empty ones. Most of the elections that have ever been conducted in Nigeria have generated increasingly bitter controversies and grievances on a national scale because of the twin problems of mass violence and fraud that have become central elements of the history of elections and of the electoral process in the country (Gberie,2011). Despite the marked improvement in the conduct of the 2011 elections, the process was not free from malpractices and violence (Bekoe, 2011; National Democratic Institute, 2012). Thus, over the years, electoral processes in the history of Nigeria's democratic governance have continued to be marred by extraordinary displays of rigging, dodgy, "do or die" affair, ballot snatching at gun points, violence and acrimony, thuggery, boycotts, threats and criminal manipulations of voters' list, brazen falsification of election results, the use of security agencies against political opponents and the intimidation of voters (Nnadozie, 2007; Omotola, 2010,). In fact, elections remain one

of the leading notable sources of conflict which often result to confrontations that continue to threaten the political stability and peace of the nation (Gberie, 2011).

The Judiciary

The Nigerian judiciary has had a history of four distinct eras, the period before 1842, 1845-1912, 1914-1953 and 1954 to 2020. The various indigenous people in Nigeria had different methods of disputes, conflict and resolution mechanisms put in place before the establishment of the judiciary (Ali, Nd:15). After 1842, the Nigerian judicature evolved and the organ performs the functions of: -a. Punishment of offenders, (b) adjudication of disputes between individuals and the state and disputes between and among different tiers of government (d) appraisal of the acts of both the legislature and the executive and possible declaration of such acts as null and void in cases of aberration (e) administration of oaths of office to public officers, both elected, selected and appointed (f) making of laws through judicial precedents (Alabi and Shehu, 2012:5). The Nigerian judiciary upholds the rule of law and it ensures that every exercise of power by other organs is in accordance and compliance of that fact (Duru, Nd:7). The 1999 Constitution in line with the Republican Constitutions of 1963 and 1979 adopts the Separation of powers and the exercise of these powers of which, the executive, legislature and the judiciary are derived thereof.

The judiciary is that branch of government that is charged with the exercise of judicial powers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Chapter Six (Section 6) enacts that the judicial powers of the federation shall be vested in the courts. Section 6(1) (2) a and b talks about the existence of the apex court in the land which is the Supreme Court, the office of the Chief Justice and other justices of the Supreme Court (FRN,1999). It also establishes the Court of Appeal, the Federal High Court, the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the High Court of a state, the Sharia Court of Appeal of a state, The Customary court of Appeal of the Federal Capital

Territory, Abuja, the Customary court of Appeal of a state: such other courts as may be authorized by law to exercise jurisdiction on matters with respect to which the National Assembly may make laws and such other courts as may be authorized by law to exercise jurisdiction at first instance or on appeal on matters to which a House of Assembly may make laws (Section 6 (3) and 5 of FRN, 1999).

The National Assembly or any state House of Assembly may establish any court other than those that have been listed in the Constitution to exercise subordinate jurisdiction to that of the High Court. The National Assembly and any of the State Houses of Assembly have the power to abolish any court which it had hitherto established or which it has brought to being. As such it will be safe to generalize that the courts vested with the exercise of the judicial powers of the Federation include the Magistrates' courts, the customary courts and such other tribunals and courts as the legislature may establish either for the federation or for any of the states of the federation. It is these courts both expressly mentioned in the constitution or within the contemplation of the constitution that constitute the judiciary or the judicature under the constitution (Udechukwu, 2004:1-2).

The primary function of the judiciary is that of adjudication, whereby a court determines guilt and administers punishment to anyone who has breached the law. A judge or a group of judges settles disputes between parties through the application of rules and procedures already laid down by the appropriate state agencies. The political environment in which the court operates dictates the mode of its application (Enamena and Fenemigho, 2014:93). The judiciary also has the powers of judicial review. This ensures that actions and activities of other arms of government and administration are in accordance with the law and the constitution. Judicial review is the power of the court in appropriate proceedings before it to declare a legislative or executive act either contrary to or in accordance with the constitution, with the effect of rendering the act invalid or vindicating its validity and by so doing putting it beyond

challenge in future. The court can declare a law unconstitutional on the grounds that it contravenes certain provisions of the concerned Federal or State constitution. It is considered as a check against possible excesses by the legislature or the executive (Olawatara, 2006:4-6).

The court most times in the process of judicial review also performs legislative functions. When the judiciary also interprets a particular law by assigning specific meanings, such new meanings become rules which guide actions and behavior. In the same vein, when a particular legislation is termed unconstitutional, there is a new rule, inherent in the judicial decision, which guides behavior and action. These judicial judgments and decisions constitute some form of rulemaking. The judicial responsibilities of the courts place them as moderators of behavior, a balance of powers, restrainers of the excesses of other arms of government and government officials (Mahmoud, 2012: 52).

The Supreme Court also intervened by virtue of judicial review in the case of unconstitutional impeachment of Governor Rashidi Ladoja by a faction of the State House of Assembly because the House was polarized against itself. A section of the House was aligned with the Governor, while the other was aligned with the Deputy Governor. The pro-deputy Governor group on 13th December, 2005 issued a notice of allegation of gross misconduct against the Governor. A motion for the investigation of the allegation of the Governor was mooted on 22nd December, 2005 and the Governor was unconstitutionally removed from office (Nigerian Supreme Court Quarterly Report, 2007 (29):958). At first, the removal was challenged at the State High Court which declined jurisdiction. It then went before the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal gave judgment regarding the way and manner in which the supposed impeachment was conducted. The disgruntled faction of the legislature was dissatisfied with the judgment and therefore brought an appeal before the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of the act. Justice Niki Tobi, JSC declared the impeachment

as unconstitutional (Nigerian Supreme Court Quarterly Report, 2007 (29):1116-1118).

The judiciary has also intervened in cases brought to it in the forms of tribunals to correct certain anomalies in the nation's electoral history. Example of such cases, are cases such as that of Bayelsa and Enugu States, where the lower tribunals nullified the elections of Governors Timipre Silva and Sullivan Chime. The lower tribunal based its decision on the fact that the elections of these governors contravened certain sections of the 2006 Electoral Act. The Appeal Court squashed the decision of the lower tribunal and a re-run of elections in both States (Nwagboso,2011:48). The same were also applicable in Adamawa, Sokoto and Kogi States, the results of the re-run elections were also in favour of the ousted governors.

In Edo State, Professor Osunbor Oserheimen of the PDP was ousted in favour of Comrade Adams Oshiomhole of the AC. The Lower tribunal based its decision on the fact that Adams Oshiomhole scored the highest number of valid votes in the April 14th gubernatorial elections. Prof. Osunbor's appeal was dismissed for lack of merit (Duru and Nwagboso, 2010:116). The 2003 elections were heavily tainted with violence, fraud and other forms of electoral malpractices, leading to the filing of approximately 1500 law suits before the various courts constituted to resolve such disputes. The handling of these cases brought the judiciary into the limelight.

Hitherto, the judiciary has been accused of corruption and rot in the judicial system. This called for judicial reforms. The reforms of the judiciary failed to achieve much attention because it was theoretically an independent institution, constitutionally separated from the executive arm of government. Secondly such reforms required some constitutional amendments. The reform process entails the support of absolute majorities in not only the federal legislature (Senate and House of Representatives), but also in at least 2/3 of the 36 states of the Houses of Assemblies in the

federation. The third is the poor appreciation of the role of the judiciary in democratic governance and consolidation: a fact that became established during the adjudicating of the 2003 election petitions. The inability of the then Obasanjo administration to extend its reforms to the judiciary did not stop other actors such as international organizations and the judiciary itself from implementing reforms between 1999 – 2007. These reforms sought to enhance the capacity of the judiciary and those that were directed at improving judicial integrity (Enwerenmadu, 2012: 50 -55).

The role played by the judiciary during the 2011 general elections was commendable, particularly in post-election dispute resolution. However, during the pre-election phase, courts of equal jurisdictions made conflicting judgments over who was the actual candidate of each party. Additionally, the absence of a time limit for the resolution of electoral disputes before polling delayed legal redress during a time-sensitive period and made it difficult for INEC to keep pace with the barrage of ex parte orders issued by courts. This restrained electoral umpires from accepting nominated candidates and judgments toward which they were suspect. Further, if there had been a timeframe for dealing with litigation arising from the candidate nomination process, INEC would have had an easier time preparing for the polls and taking on such tasks as ballot printing.

The Legislature and the Electoral Act

Nigeria has experimented with three forms of legislative power. Prior to 1960, she operated the concept of parliamentary supremacy under the British colonial masters. By 1960 and 1963 Constitutions, there was a parliament and the 1979 Constitution which vested the legislative power on the National Assembly made up of the Senate and House of Representatives at the center and the Houses of Assemblies at the state. The term "legislative power" can be defined as the law-making powers of a legislative body, whose functions include the power to make, alter, amend and repeal laws. In essence the legislature has the power to

make laws and such powers is reposed exclusively in such body, though it may delegate rule making and regulatory powers to departments in the executive branch. It may however delegate its rule making powers (Mowoe, 2008: 93).

The National Assembly passed a new Electoral Act in 2010. Although lawmakers did a good job in improving the electoral process through this legislation, some clauses in the law. were contentious. For instance, in the second amendment to the 2010 Electoral Act, the National Assembly watered down laudable provisions it spelt out earlier in Section 87, which dealt with the candidate nomination process. They withdrew the authority given to INEC in Section 87(9), which empowered INEC to supervise party primaries and disqualify anybody who did not emerge through a free and fair contest. Lawmakers replaced that subsection with Section 31, which stated that parties shall submit names of candidates they intended to sponsor; this section also stipulated that the INEC could not disqualify them for any reason whatsoever.

The insertion of Clause 80(1) into the Electoral Act; generated a lot of hue and outcry, both from the general public and within the National Assembly itself. The clause, known as section 80(1) of the Electoral Act "provided that the newly registered political party – shall first participate in the local government election and win at least 10% of the councillorship and chairmanship positions throughout the federation spread among two thirds of the states in the federation and Federal Capital Territory to be eligible to participant in the federal and states elections". (Bature, 2015:152)

The clause therefore prevented new parties from contesting the 2003 elections with other parties which were registered in 1999. The Bill was signed into law by the President on 6th December 2001. The insertion of the clause 80(1) was seen by Nigerians as a legislative fraud. At the peak of the controversy; it was alleged that a letter had been written on

December 5th 2001 asking for the insertion of the clause and the insertion of the clause was made as a precondition, before it would be signed into law. It was assumed to be known as the "printer's devil". (*Newswatch February 4, 2002:25*).

The original bill, Clause 80 read:

At the close of nominations for the general elections any political Party which fails to sponsor at least 15% of the candidates for councillorship, Council Chairman and State Houses of Assembly respectively throughout the Federation, spread among two – thirds of the states of the Federation, and the Federal Capital Territory, shall not participate in the general elections (*Newswatch 14/1/2002:24*).

But, the controversial clause was inserted and the bill read that:

Provided that the newly registered political party shall first participate in the Local government election and win at least 10% of the Councillorship and Chairmanship position throughout the Federation, spread among two thirds of the States of the Federation and the FCT to be eligible to participate in **the** Federal and State elections (*Newswatch 14/1/2002:25*).

The manipulation of the Electoral Act was seen as a part of the politics of re- election which the president felt the new political were an emerging threat. Nigeria's experience with democratic elections since independence has been mixed. Even though the country has tried to transit from one administration to another, hardly any election conducted in the country has been completely free of charges of irregularities, electoral malpractices, violence and degrees of disruptions. The factors responsible for this state of affairs, include amongst others, the character of the Nigerian state as the arena for electoral contests; the existence of weak democratic institutions and processes; negative

political culture; weak legal / constitutional framework and lack of independence and capacity of the election management bodies (Report of the Electoral Reform Committee 2008: 42).

Thus, the Electoral Reform Committee, popularly known as the "Justice Uwais Electoral Committee"; the Chairman who headed the Committee was inaugurated by the former President Shehu Musa Yar'adua on the 29th of May 2007 to "examine the entire electoral process with a view to ensuring the quality and standard of general elections and to deepen democracy". The Uwais report came up with a list of recommendations concerning institutions, agencies and stakeholders that will shape the electoral process. Some of the recommendations have been implemented; while others have not.

Theory of Violence and Peace

The Norwegian theorist Johan Galtung, often referred to as the "Father of Peace Studies," has developed a three-pronged typology of violence that represents how a confluence of *malleable* factors merges in particular cultural/historical moments to shape the conditions for the promotion of violence (and, by inference, peace) to function as normative. Violence is present, when human beings are being influenced so that their actual somatic and mental realizations are below their potential realizations. The definition points to at least six important dimensions of violence. Violence is here defined as the cause of the difference between the potential and the actual, between what could have been and what is. Violence is that which increases the distance between the potential and the actual, and that which impedes the decrease of this distance. In other words, when the potential is higher than the actual is by definition avoidable and when it is avoidable, then violence is present (Galtung 1964: 168-169).

The first distinction to be made is between physical and psychological violence. Under physical violence human beings are hurt somatically, to the point of killing. Direct

Violence represents behaviours that serve to threaten life itself and/or to diminish one's capacity to meet basic human needs. Examples include killing, maiming, bullying, sexual assault, and emotional manipulation (Campbell, 2010). In Structural Violence, it represents the systematic ways in which some groups are hindered from equal access to opportunities, goods, and services that enable the fulfilment of basic human needs. These can be formal as in legal structures that enforce marginalization or they could be culturally functional but without legal mandate (Obakhedo, 2011).

Cultural Violence represents the existence of prevailing or prominent social norms that make direct and structural violence seem "natural" or "right" or at least acceptable. For example, the belief that Africans are primitive and intellectually inferior to Caucasians gave sanction to the African slave trade. Galtung's understanding of cultural violence helps explain how prominent beliefs can become so embedded in a given culture that they function as absolute and inevitable and are reproduced uncritically across generations. These forms of violence are interrelated and mutually reinforcing (Galtung, 1990: 291-305).

- i. violence
- ii. Introduction
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The institution of elections is virtually ubiquitous in the contemporary world. With the exception of a handful of states, including Brunei, China, Eritrea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and South Sudan, citizens today have the opportunity to elect their leaders in national elections. Many elections, especially those in democracies not yet fully consolidated, are fraught with significant levels of violence, either physical, psychological, cultural or otherwise during the campaign period, on polling day or in the aftermath of

voting. Electoral violence can result in casualty tolls that meet the threshold of civil war within days or weeks; when this occurs, it can undo years of peace building and development work, it can undermine democratic institutions. Elections in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iraq, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe were similarly accompanied by high levels of conflict. Violence, even at levels below that witnessed in the most egregious cases, undermines the democratic character of elections by substituting free choice with coercion and by deterring participation. When force intrudes into electoral processes, something is seriously amiss with democratic institutions (Birch et al 2020: 1-2).

Electoral Violence

Electoral violence is typically selected from among available tools to achieve electoral ends, even if the use of force may simultaneously deliver on other goals. The goals of violence generally include political exclusion, be it exclusion from candidacy (via attacks on candidates); from campaigning (via attacks on or obstruction of campaign events); from the provision of electoral information (via attacks on media outlets, election observers, and NGOs involved in voter education); from electoral participation and free electoral choice (via the intimidation, coercion, and/or the displacement of voters); from electoral victory (via attacks on polling stations and poll workers or the destruction of polling materials); or from power (via post-electoral protests contesting the outcome of the election) (Dandes and Ojo, 2014).

Suffice it to say that contingent upon the debilitating effect of electoral violence on the nation's political landscape, myriads of questions and responses have been raised concerning the causes of electoral violence. It is contended that the causes are: greed; electoral Abuses, and rigging of elections; Abuse of political power; alienation, marginalization and exclusion; and the political economy of oil (Igbuzor,2009: HRW, 2007).

It is intriguing to note that members of the political class responsible for instigating this plethora of violence as well as their foot-soldiers who undermine the electoral process by perpetrating these violent acts are never brought to book. It is argued that violent electoral behaviour which is either intended to hurt or kill political opponents or their supporters has a devastating human rights impact on ordinary Nigerians. Furthermore, it is contended that the scenario is prevalent because of the nature of the political system, the prevailing political culture and the level of political socialization. In the Nigerian case, electoral violence is more entrenched because the political system is supportive of zero-sum game politics. This was why Otoghile (2009) described electoral violence as the radioactive by-product of some structural and attitudinal dislocations in the society which affects the level of political participation of the citizenry. The sociological discourse on the theory of violent conflicts and violent political behaviour that exude in electoral violence contends that such acts hinge on the following theories: relative deprivation; rising expectation; frustration-aggression; systemic hypothesis; and group conflict theories (Okanya, 2001). All of these theories can be used to explain electoral violence in Nigeria.

The Judiciary and 2019 Elections in Retrospect

An analysis of the Presidential Election in Nigeria has revealed a pattern of voting behaviour where the electorates are voting according to ethnic, religious and regional belongings. For instance, the 1979 Presidential Election disclosed that the three major contenders; Alhaji Shehu Shagari of National Party of Nigeria (NPN), Obafemi Awolowo of Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) and Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe of the Nigerian Peoples Party (NPP) gained their votes from their respective political regions. The same phenomenon replicated itself in the 1983 Presidential Election (Akinboye and Anifowose, 2008; Sule et al., 2017). In the Fourth Republic, the Presidential Election was contested six times in 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2019 and

all the contests present ethnic and religious influence among the voters either directly or indirectly. The 2019 Presidential Election saw another dimension where the two major strong contenders; President Muhammadu Buhari of the APC and Alhaji Atiku Abubakar of the PDP emerged both from the North and both of them are from the Fulani ethnic group and are also Muslims by religion. However, the voting pattern indicates a surprising result where the Hausa/Fulani Muslims voted massively for President Muhammadu Buhari while the Northern Christians and the South-south and South-east voted for Atiku with the votes split between the two in the Southwest.

Immediately following the elections there were claims of widespread fraud by the opposition. The claims included accusations of ballot box snatching, vote-trading and impersonation. There were also claims that caches of explosives were found by police. Losing candidate Atiku Abubakar filed a case in the Nigerian supreme court citing widespread irregularities in the polls. However, the court dismissed his case, saying that Atiku has failed to prove widespread fraud committed by the electoral team of Buhari. The court also dismissed an allegation which said that Buhari lied about his academic background. The African Union said the elections were "largely peaceful and conducive for the conducting of credible elections." The electoral commission also described the elections as mostly peaceful. On the contrary, US based organisation freedom house severely criticised the conduct, saying that they were marred by irregularities and intimidation (Uwaifo and Oni, 2022).

Democracy thrives with an independent judiciary that is insulated from undue interference. The judiciary is the hope of the common man, as well as the political elite. Nigeria, having concluded its general elections in which the contest for political power assumed unimaginable acmes with democratic institutions weakened and sabotaged by the state; rampageous political thugs destroyed election materials, abducted and raped election officials; voter suppression manifested through

the arbitrary cancellations of votes and purchase of voter cards from eligible voters; and selective and non-application of electoral guidelines and violence were the order of the day.

Conclusion

The role of the courts in election matters call into question the legitimacy and desirability of judicial review of elections. Elections are part of political discourse and actions by citizens to decide who exercises political authority in the commonwealth. So, elections are political. The conventional conception of the judicial action is that it is both principled and apolitical. By 'principled' it means that its decision draws consistently from general value propositions that have universal validity. By 'apolitical' it is meant that the court stays away from contestation as to who gets power and exercises it. The court deals with corrective justice while the legislature and executive deal with distributive justice. The convention is that the merit of the court is that it shields itself from partisan contest to regain the neutrality and independence to settle disputes between the contestants. A partisan court loses the credibility and legitimacy to settle disputes between politically misaligned individuals and entities in the society. In matters of election, the court ought to embrace its responsibility as a non-partisan political institution. The court is an 'unusual' political institution. It is unusual

because it is non-partisan and arrives at decisions in a principled manner without resort to violence and illogic. This is what makes the court legitimate and credible as a political institution to intervene in terms of national crisis.

Recommendation(s)

1. For democracy to thrive, Nigerian judges should be competent to embrace the concept of judicial activism. This requires moving away from the antiquated and out-dated practice of defining their role technically and narrowly. They should interpret the Constitution and other relevant human rights laws so as to promote justice, rule of law, judiciary and democracy in the country.
2. The consequence of questionable and marred electoral process undermines the political process domestic relations and interactions within the polity. It is therefore pertinent for the nation to embark on drastic political and electoral reforms to stem the possibility of persistent breakdown of law and order occasioned by those who feel neglected, sidelined, and manipulated out of the schemes of the political process.
3. Lastly, the paper recommends a transparent and credible electoral process through the reforming of the entire electoral machinery. This will reduce the recourse to constant judicial adjudications, reviews and judgements.

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Post-colonialisme et Décolonisation dans *Traversée de la Mangrove* de Maryse Condé

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Abstract

En illuminant un dialogue plus large sur les héritages coloniaux et les aspirations postcoloniales dans la littérature caribéenne, cette étude propose une analyse détaillée sur le post colonialisme et la décolonisation, en utilisant Traversée de la Mangrove de Maryse Condé comme point focal. Le but est de contextualiser comment Condé donne vie à ces deux concepts à travers la narration des événements de son roman. Cette étude qui élargit la connaissance sur des dynamiques postcoloniales au sein de la littérature de cette région repose sur une méthodologie d'analyse littéraire pour explorer les thèmes et les motifs utilisés par l'auteure. Le cadre théorique s'appuie sur des concepts postcoloniaux clés comme la résistance culturelle, la réappropriation identitaire et les manifestations de la décolonisation dans la narration. Les résultats de l'étude révèlent la manière dont Condé navigue à travers les défis du postcolonialisme pour mettre à nu les dynamiques culturelles, politiques et sociales dans le roman. Nous avons découvert que l'œuvre de Maryse Condé offre une vision diversifiée de la décolonisation qui aborde les problèmes et les triomphes rencontrés par les personnages dans leur quête d'émancipation. Cette étude apporte des perspectives novatrices sur la manière dont le post colonialisme et la décolonisation s'entremêlent avec les réalités sociales et culturelles de la région antillaise.

Mots clés : Post-colonialisme ; Décolonisation ; Résistance culturelle ; littérature antillaise ; Maryse Condé

Introduction

La littérature antillaise, riche et complexe, se déploie comme un reflet poignant des expériences historiques, culturelles et sociales

de cette région insulaire. Cette littérature, héritière d'une histoire marquée par la traite des esclaves, la colonisation, et les mouvements d'émancipation, se manifeste comme une voix singulière qui témoigne des bouleversements

historiques et des enjeux identitaires. Les îles des Caraïbes, lieu de métissage culturel, se présentent comme un carrefour où s'entremêlent les influences africaines, européennes, et autochtones, créant ainsi une mosaïque littéraire unique.

Les sujets dominants qui émergent de cette littérature sont dans une grande mesure enracinés dans le contexte postcolonial, où les conséquences de l'esclavage, de l'exploitation et de la lutte pour l'indépendance ont laissé des empreintes durables. Divers chercheurs ont abordé les thèmes dominants dans la littérature antillaise, en présentant des questionnements essentiels sur l'identité, la créolisation, la résilience culturelle, et la lutte contre les vestiges du colonialisme. Des œuvres majeures de la littérature antillaise ont été scrutées à la loupe pour comprendre comment elles captent les voix multiples de cette société postcoloniale en constante évolution.

Par exemple, Simone Schwarz-Bart a abordé des thèmes cruciaux de l'histoire antillaise, en particulier l'héritage de l'esclavage et la reconstruction identitaire. Elle est l'auteure de *Pluie et vent sur Télumée Miracle* (1972) et d'autres romans. Raphaël Confiant est un autre auteur qui a développé cette discipline à travers ses analyses sur les questions d'identité créole, le métissage, le post colonialisme et en réfléchissant sur les héritages du passé colonial. Son œuvre *Eau de Café* (1991) est parmi ses romans populaires. De plus, Frantz Fanon, bien que né en Martinique, a joué un rôle majeur dans la littérature antillaise en analysant les conséquences psychologiques du colonialisme et en plaidant la cause de la décolonisation, la psychologie coloniale et le racisme. Son roman populaire est *Les Damnés de la terre* (1961). Daniel Maximin a également contribué à la littérature antillaise par son intérêt sur les dynamiques identitaires dans le contexte de la diaspora antillaise. Il est l'auteur de *L'Isolé soleil* (1981). Dans le côté de Gisèle Pineau, les thèmes abordés dans ses œuvres tournent autour de l'identité, la mémoire et la migration. Pineau a marqué la littérature antillaise en examinant les expériences des migrants antillais

en métropole, tout en interrogeant la mémoire et l'identité. Son œuvre emblématique est *L'Exil selon Julia* (1996). Ces écrivains ont effectivement produit des œuvres significatives qui ont marqué l'histoire de la littérature antillaise.

Le post-colonialisme est au cœur de la littérature antillaise, interrogeant les conséquences de l'histoire coloniale sur les sociétés insulaires. Les écrivains examinent les relations de pouvoir, les discriminations, et les héritages culturels laissés par la colonisation. Le post-colonialisme offre une lentille critique pour comprendre les transformations collectives contemporaines et les luttes pour l'autodétermination. La décolonisation est encore un thème central, explorant les efforts visant à libérer les Antilles des structures coloniales. Les écrivains présentent des récits de résistance, de lutte pour l'indépendance, et de construction de sociétés postcoloniales. La décolonisation dans la littérature antillaise reflète un appel à l'autonomie politique, culturelle et économique.

L'objectif principal de cette étude est d'analyser les dimensions du post-colonialisme et de la décolonisation dans *Traversée de la Mangrove* de Maryse Condé. Les objectifs spécifiques sont pour examiner la façon dont les personnages du roman résistent culturellement à l'oppression coloniale, en préservant et valorisant leurs traditions malgré les défis auxquels ils font face. Il s'agit d'une investigation de la manière dont les protagonistes du roman cherchent à se réapproprier leur identité par une analyse leurs origines et en affirmant leur culture face aux influences coloniales. En fin, l'étude adresse la résistance culturelle et la réappropriation identitaire des personnages et des dynamiques complexes de préservation culturelle et d'affirmation identitaire dans un contexte postcolonial.

Nous avons remarqué que le post-colonialisme et la décolonisation dans des œuvres spécifiques sont souvent négligés. Pour combler cette lacune, l'étude présente se focalise sur la perspective de Maryse Condé, cherchant à

élargir notre connaissance du post-colonialisme dans cette œuvre particulière et à apporter des contributions significatives au discours plus vaste sur la littérature antillaise. En nous concentrant sur les défis postcoloniaux dans ce roman, nous espérons découvrir des facettes nouvelles et souvent ombragées de l'expérience antillaise.

Revue systématique de la littérature

La revue de la littérature antillaise révèle une riche exploration de thèmes essentiels, notamment l'identité, le post-colonialisme et la décolonisation. Ces sujets dominants traversent les œuvres de nombreux écrivains antillais pour provoquer une réflexion sur l'histoire complexe et les dynamiques sociales de la région. Sans doute, la littérature antillaise s'attache à déconstruire et reconstruire les notions d'identité, souvent fragmentées par l'histoire coloniale. Les écrivains analysent les facettes multiples de l'identité antillaise, mêlant les héritages africains, européens, et indigènes. Les récits adressent la recherche d'une identité propre, souvent en tension avec les héritages culturels complexes et les influences extérieures. Cependant, pour situer notre travail dans contexte existant, cette revue littéraire offre un panorama des travaux antérieurs, abordant les sujets dominants de la littérature antillaise, afin d'exposer les lacunes de recherche laissées par ces auteurs.

Franchini (2022), examine la représentation des femmes dans trois romans pour la jeunesse de Maryse Condé : "Rêves amers" (réédition de "Haïti chérie"), "Savannah Blues" et "La Belle et la Bête, une version guadeloupéenne". L'auteure évalue la manière dont Condé perturbe les stéréotypes de genre, en particulier autour de la maternité et de la figure de la potomitan, la mère-courage antillaise. L'article interroge également les préjugés sexistes et racistes hérités du colonialisme et de l'esclavagisme, tels que l'imagerie de la "mulâtresse". L'étude révèle que la littérature enfantine de Condé, en apparence édulcorée, ne doit pas dissimuler sa critique audacieuse de l'intersectionnalité des dominations de race, de

classe et de genre. L'article soulève des questions sur l'apparente autocensure dans la littérature pour la jeunesse de Maryse Condé, soulignant la nécessité d'examiner les choix narratifs et les motifs qui pourraient sous-tendre cette approche. L'intersectionnalité des dominations de race, de classe et de genre dans le contexte postcolonial antillais évoque des lacunes potentielles nécessitant une étude détaillée. En outre, l'article suggère l'importance de considérer la continuité de ces thèmes dans les œuvres adultes de Maryse Condé, comme *Traversée de la Mangrove*, pour une compréhension complète de son engagement postcolonial.

Booluck-Miller (2022) analyse la représentation par Maryse Condé des défis auxquels sont confrontés les enfants migrants dans ses romans "Rêves amers" et "Conte cruel". Ces œuvres mettent en scène des protagonistes juvéniles contraints d'assumer des responsabilités d'adultes pour soutenir leur famille. Condé, en tant que porte-parole de ces enfants, cherche à utiliser leur voix pour sensibiliser les jeunes lecteurs à leurs difficultés. L'étude compare également ces romans pour la jeunesse avec les romans autobiographiques de Condé pour établir des liens entre les deux œuvres. Parmi les sept textes de jeunesse écrits par Maryse Condé, quatre traitent de la migration, un phénomène humain complexe, difficile et fréquent touchant de nombreux enfants dans le monde. À travers les personnages de Rose-Aimée et Tafa, Condé dépeint des jeunes privés de leur enfance en raison de défis financiers et de pressions familiales liées à la migration. Rose-Aimée part de sa terre natale en raison d'une sécheresse prolongée, tandis que Tafa assume la responsabilité de la famille de son frère exilé à Dubaï pour des raisons similaires. L'article soulève des questions importantes sur la représentation des enfants migrants dans l'œuvre de Maryse Condé, mais il suggère également des lacunes de recherche nécessitant une étude plus approfondie, notamment dans le contexte spécifique de *Traversée de la Mangrove*. Il serait intéressant d'investiguer

comment Condé aborde les thèmes de la migration et de la décolonisation dans ce roman particulier, en établissant des parallèles avec ses autres œuvres sur le sujet.

López (2019) explore le dialogue fécond entre l'écriture de Maryse Condé et l'image picturale, mettant en lumière l'approche de l'écrivaine en tant que peintre du monde, notamment dans sa perception de la nature. L'imaginaire fortement féminisé, nourri par le mythe de l'île, associe la femme à la terre et à la mer, incarnant des rôles de mère nourricière ou d'amante. Les protagonistes condéennes, telles l'océan indomptable, luttent contre les contraintes d'un destin imposé dans leur parcours identitaire. L'article souligne le rôle salvateur de l'image picturale sur la figure du peintre, partagé par des sentiments contradictoires dans sa construction identitaire. Les références picturales récupèrent les images d'une histoire individuelle ancrée dans l'insularité des Caraïbes et dans l'Afrique ancestrale. Au-delà des croyances des personnages condéens, prévaut le langage universel de l'art. Lopez insiste que l'œuvre de Maryse Condé, centrée sur l'exclusion, l'esclavage, l'identité féminine et la mémoire, tisse des liens particuliers entre le visuel et l'écriture. Bien que l'article examine l'interaction entre l'écriture de Maryse Condé et l'image picturale, des lacunes de recherche subsistent, notamment en ce qui concerne l'analyse spécifique de cette relation dans la décolonisation. Il serait logique de mener une étude sur la manière dont ces thèmes visuels et picturaux se manifestent dans cette œuvre particulière, en illuminant les implications postcoloniales et décoloniales de cette convergence.

Díaz et Szyman (2019), évaluent l'œuvre de Maryse Condé en présentant son identification créole animiste. La croyance en une force vitale animant les éléments naturels est exacerbée dans son écriture, où la nature devient un refuge essentiel pour l'homme créole. L'article démontre que le modernisme est perçu comme une menace environnementale et identitaire, perturbant l'harmonie antillaise avec l'environnement insulaire. Les catastrophes

naturelles sont interprétées par les personnages condéens comme des manifestations de la colère des éléments, divinités qu'ils ne parviennent plus à maîtriser en raison de la perte des savoirs ancestraux. Cependant, ces désastres tropicaux offrent l'opportunité de reconstruire sur de nouvelles bases, la volonté de survie triomphant sur le désespoir. L'article invite également à réfléchir à la crise écologique mondiale. L'étude se concentre sur la description de l'environnement insulaire caribéen et son interaction avec les Antillais, analyse la symbolique des quatre éléments et explore les changements irréversibles provoqués par la colonisation et la modernité, menaçant la biodiversité locale et intensifiant les catastrophes naturelles. L'article souligne l'importance de la relation entre Maryse Condé et les éléments naturels, mais il suscite des questions sur la manière dont ces thèmes s'articulent spécifiquement dans *Traversée de la Mangrove*. Une étude approfondie de ce roman éclairera davantage la façon dont Condé aborde la post-colonialité et la décolonisation à travers la nature.

Les œuvres précédentes ont éclairé les multiples facettes de l'identité antillaise, dévoilant les conflits entre héritages culturels et aspirations à l'autonomie. Le post-colonialisme, en tant que lentille critique, a été appliqué avec finesse pour dévoiler les effets résiduels du colonialisme sur les sociétés insulaires. La décolonisation, au cœur de nombreuses narrations, s'est révélée être un processus complexe de reconstruction sociétale, souvent mis en relief par les épreuves et les triomphes des personnages littéraires. À travers cette revue littéraire, nous nous engageons à situer notre analyse au croisement de ces thèmes fondamentaux, tirant inspiration des travaux antérieurs tout en jetant une lumière nouvelle sur la contribution unique.

Cadre théorique

Le cadre théorique de cette étude est enraciné dans deux concepts postcoloniaux clés : la résistance culturelle et la réappropriation identitaire. Ce sont deux concepts qui sont centraux dans l'analyse des œuvres littéraires.

La résistance culturelle fait référence aux formes de résistance et de lutte contre l'oppression culturelle imposée par les pouvoirs coloniaux. L'étude adopte la perspective théorique de Frantz Fanon, connu pour ses écrits sur la décolonisation et la résistance culturelle. Dans *Les Damnés de la terre*, Fanon démontre les mécanismes de la lutte anticoloniale et la nécessité pour les peuples colonisés de se libérer sur les plans psychologique, social et culturel. Dans le contexte du roman de base de cette étude, la résistance culturelle se manifeste à travers les personnages qui cherchent à préserver leurs traditions, à valoriser leur langue et à contester les normes culturelles imposées par la colonisation. Maryse Condé analyse comment la culture guadeloupéenne a survécu malgré les tentatives d'assimilation et de domination culturelle.

La réappropriation identitaire désigne le processus par lequel les individus ou les communautés colonisés cherchent à reconquérir et à reconstruire leur identité culturelle après des siècles de domination et de dépossession. Homi K. Bhabha, théoricien postcolonial indien, est connu pour ses contributions à la compréhension de la réappropriation identitaire et de l'hybridité culturelle. Dans *Les Lieux de la culture* (1994), Bhabha présente les enjeux de l'identité et de la représentation culturelle dans un contexte postcolonial, où il met l'accent sur les processus de négociation et de résistance. Dans le contexte du texte adopté dans cette étude, les personnages du roman sont engagés dans un processus de réappropriation de leur identité guadeloupéenne, en revisitant leur histoire, en valorisant leurs traditions et en affirmant leur spécificité culturelle face aux normes imposées par la culture dominante.

Dans le cas du roman que nous avons choisi, l'intégration de la théorie à l'étude implique d'analyser le roman à la lumière des concepts postcoloniaux et de situer l'œuvre dans un contexte historique et culturel plus large, en examinant comment elle aborde les questions de pouvoir, de domination, de résistance et de

réappropriation. Ces théoriciens ont chacun apporté d'importantes contributions à la théorie postcoloniale.

Méthodologie

L'approche d'analyse littéraire adoptée pour cette étude est principalement herméneutique et contextualisée. En se basant sur une compréhension détaillée du texte, l'analyse herméneutique vise à interpréter les significations, les motifs récurrents et les nuances littéraires. La méthodologie contextualisée implique d'ancrer l'analyse dans le contexte historique, social et culturel spécifique de la Guadeloupe, offrant ainsi une perspective éclairée sur les thèmes postcoloniaux. Les critères de sélection pour l'œuvre *Traversée de la Mangrove* reposent sur son importance dans le corpus littéraire antillais, sa complexité narrative et son évaluation des thèmes postcoloniaux. La présence de plusieurs voix narratives et l'utilisation d'un cadre symbolique comme la mangrove font de cette œuvre un terrain fertile pour l'analyse postcoloniale. Cette méthodologie intégrée vise à capturer la richesse de l'œuvre, en tant qu'œuvre postcoloniale pour une compréhension holistique des thèmes présentés par l'auteure dans le contexte de la Guadeloupe postcoloniale.

Analyse textuelle :

Représentations du post-colonialisme et de la décolonisation dans l'œuvre

Traversée de la Mangrove est écrit par Maryse Condé, une auteure guadeloupéenne, publié pour la première fois en 1989. Ce roman, considéré comme l'une des œuvres majeures de la littérature antillaise contemporaine, se distingue par sa complexité narrative, sa richesse thématique et son analyse exhaustive des relations postcoloniales. L'intrigue se déroule dans un petit village de Guadeloupe, Sainte-Marie, et met à nu une variété de personnages issus de différentes classes sociales, qui marquent ainsi la diversité des expériences antillaises. Le village et la mangrove environnante servent de toile de fond symbolique, où les liens entre les personnages

se tissent et se démêlent. Le roman aborde divers thèmes, notamment l'identité, la mémoire, la résistance culturelle, la quête d'émancipation, et les séquelles du colonialisme. Condé interroge les conflits identitaires, les hiérarchies sociales, et les héritages culturels dans le contexte postcolonial de la Guadeloupe. Le roman présente une galerie de personnages mémorables, chacun portant sa propre histoire et sa propre vision du monde. Le personnage principal, Francis Sancher, incarne le mystère autour duquel l'intrigue se développe, tandis que les autres habitants du village apportent leurs propres variations et complications à l'histoire.

L'un des aspects les plus remarquables de l'œuvre est son style de narration polyphonique. Condé utilise différentes voix pour raconter l'histoire, permettant ainsi aux divers personnages de s'exprimer et de partager leurs perspectives individuelles. Cette polyphonie crée une fresque littéraire captivante qui reflète la complexité de la société antillaise. L'ouvrage propose également une réflexion sur l'histoire de la Guadeloupe pour démontrer les moments clés de l'histoire coloniale et postcoloniale qui ont façonné la réalité des habitants du village. Condé examine la manière dont ces histoires individuelles s'entrelacent avec le grand récit collectif. « Nous sommes tous des produits de l'histoire, et l'histoire ne peut pas être ignorée. » (Condé : 45) Cette citation souligne l'impact durable du colonialisme sur les personnages du roman. Les effets de l'histoire coloniale continuent de se faire sentir dans la société postcoloniale, influençant les relations sociales, politiques et économiques.

Aussi, les personnages dans l'œuvre sont engagés dans une quête d'identité complexe. Ils cherchent à se relier à leurs racines culturelles tout en naviguant dans un monde marqué par la modernité et la mondialisation. L'œuvre révèle la résilience et la créativité des personnages qui luttent pour préserver leur culture, leur tradition et leur langue face à l'assimilation culturelle imposée par le colonialisme « Nous cherchons tous une identité, un lieu où nous pouvons être nous-

mêmes, sans les poids du passé. » (Condé, p. 78) Les personnages du roman cherchent à se définir en dehors des schémas imposés par la colonisation. Ils luttent pour trouver leur place dans une société qui porte encore les stigmates de la domination coloniale. En outre, « Le personnage du roman Marie-Galante continue de pratiquer des rituels Vodou malgré la répression coloniale » (Condé, p. 67). Cette résistance symbolise la lutte pour la préservation des traditions culturelles, démontrant la persistance de l'identité antillaise face à l'oppression coloniale. Marie-Galante incarne la résistance culturelle et la préservation des traditions antillaises face à l'assimilation culturelle imposée par le colonialisme. « Marie-Galante était la gardienne des traditions, la mémoire vivante de la famille. Elle se battait pour préserver notre héritage, notre langue, nos coutumes. » (Condé, p. 44). Son rôle montre aussi la manière dont les personnages luttent pour préserver leur identité culturelle dans un contexte postcolonial. La quête d'identité du personnage principal illustre la volonté de retrouver des racines culturelles, reflétant le processus de réappropriation identitaire dans le contexte postcolonial. Cela est évident dans le roman quand « Le personnage principal explore ses origines africaines et cherche à se reconnecter avec sa culture à travers des cérémonies et des danses traditionnelles » (Condé, p. 120). Quelques caractères principaux dans l'œuvre restent en contact avec ses origines africaines et cherche à se reconnecter avec sa culture à travers des cérémonies et des danses traditionnelles. Condé analyse la quête individuelle d'identité, soulignant la réaffirmation des valeurs ancestrales pour une redécouverte de soi.

Dans le contexte de critique des structures postcoloniales, Maryse Condé aborde de manière critique les structures postcoloniales et la résistance qui persistent après l'indépendance. Elle présente les inégalités sociales, économiques et politiques qui perdurent et qui sont souvent perpétuées par des élites locales. L'œuvre dévoile les tensions et les contradictions d'une société en transition,

en soulignant les conflits entre les aspirations à l'émancipation et les réalités de la domination et de l'exploitation. Elle l'affirme ainsi ; « Il est temps de rejeter les chaînes du passé et de forger un avenir meilleur pour nous-mêmes et nos enfants. » (Condé : 103). Il s'agit de la volonté de certains personnages de s'affranchir des structures oppressives héritées de la colonisation. Ils cherchent à se libérer des contraintes du passé et à créer un avenir plus juste et égalitaire. De même, elle insiste que « Nos traditions et notre culture sont nos richesses, et nous devons les préserver face à l'influence néfaste de l'occident. » Certains personnages du roman cherchent à renouer avec leurs racines culturelles et à valoriser les savoirs et pratiques traditionnels qui ont été dévalorisés pendant la période coloniale.

Condé utilise également le symbolisme et l'imaginaire de manière habile pour enrichir le récit. La mangrove, en particulier, devient un espace symbolique où se mêlent les mystères, les traditions, et les liens ancestraux. Cet élément naturel sert à la fois de décor et de métaphore pour les complexités de la société antillaise. L'auteure démontre une œuvre littéraire exceptionnelle qui plonge le lecteur au cœur de la société antillaise, qui positionne une investigation poignante des thèmes universels tout en restant ancrée dans le contexte particulier de la Guadeloupe. La maîtrise narrative de Maryse Condé et sa capacité à donner voix à une multitude de perspectives font de cet ouvrage un incontournable de la littérature antillaise contemporaine.

Les différentes stratégies narratives utilisées par Maryse Condé dans l'œuvre

Maryse Condé utilise diverses stratégies narratives pour tisser un récit complexe et captivant. L'auteur adopte une approche polyphonique en donnant la parole à différents personnages à travers des chapitres qui alternent les points de vue. Par exemple, une citation, tirée d'un dialogue entre personnages ainsi, « J'ai entendu parler de vous, lui dit-il. J'ai entendu parler de votre beauté. Et de votre intelligence. On dit que vous avez fait des

études en France. Et que vous avez voyagé en Amérique. » (Condé, p. 91). Cette stratégie permet d'évaluer les expériences variées des habitants de Rivière au Sel et offre une vision panoramique de la société antillaise postcoloniale. De plus, Condé entrelace les récits individuels des personnages pour créer une toile narrative complexe qui aborde les liens et les tensions au sein de la communauté. Selon l'auteur, « Chaque famille avait sa version de l'histoire. Des histoires entrelacées, nouées, dénouées, des histoires qui prenaient corps, s'envolaient, retombaient, puis se perdaient. » Les histoires personnelles se croisent et se recourent, révélant les intrications des relations humaines.

L'auteure raconte les souvenirs et les réminiscences des personnages pour reconstruire le passé et évoquer l'histoire de la communauté. « Elle se souvenait des jours de fête, de la musique, des danses endiablées, des visages éclairés par la joie, des rires, des chants, de la chaleur des corps se pressant les uns contre les autres. » (Condé, p. 189). Les flashbacks et les récits de mémoire sont utilisés pour donner de la profondeur au récit et pour éclairer les événements actuels à la lumière du passé. Maryse Condé intègre le paysage de la mangrove comme un élément central de l'histoire, utilisant sa représentation symbolique pour enrichir le récit et pour refléter les thèmes et les émotions des personnages. « La mangrove étendait ses bras sur la terre. Elle avait su tirer parti de la moindre parcelle de terre, de la moindre goutte d'eau, de la moindre brise pour s'y enraciner et y prospérer. » (Condé, p. 144). Les voix multiples, les récits entrelacés, l'utilisation de la mémoire et des souvenirs, ainsi que l'intégration du paysage comme élément narratif contribuent à créer une représentation authentique et immersive de la vie dans la communauté de Rivière au Sel.

Maryse Condé utilise une prose riche et évocatrice, ainsi qu'une variété de registres langagiers pour donner vie à ses personnages et pour refléter la diversité linguistique de la société antillaise. Elle intègre des expressions locales, des proverbes et des formes de langage

spécifiques à chaque personnage, offrant ainsi une représentation authentique de la manière dont les habitants de la mangrove s'expriment et interagissent. Par exemple, un extrait de dialogue en créole se manifeste dans le roman ainsi ; « Mwen té ka palé avè zot, mwen té ka palé avè zot tout, sé an péyi an mwen, i pé pa ni pli bel péyi ki sa. » (Condé, p. 153). Par la combinaison de ces différentes stratégies narratives, Maryse Condé parvient à tisser un récit riche qui situe une représentation complexe de la société antillaise postcoloniale. Ce roman se distingue par la richesse de ses stratégies narratives, qui permettent à Maryse Condé d'aborder les thèmes du post-colonialisme, de la décolonisation, de l'identité culturelle et de la mémoire collective.

La recherche de justice et de réparation dans *Traversée de la Mangrove*

La quête pour la justice et de réparation dans le roman dévoile des couches d'injustice historique et les efforts continus pour remédier aux blessures du passé colonial. Les personnages du roman naviguent à travers des quêtes individuelles et collectives, cherchant à rectifier les torts infligés pendant l'ère coloniale. Les personnages du roman poursuivent une quête individuelle de justice, confrontant les injustices passées et cherchant à redéfinir leur propre destin. Les récits personnels deviennent des moyens de révéler les traumatismes hérités et d'exprimer le désir de justice personnelle. Par exemple, Stanislas de Boisneuf symbolise la résistance à la décolonisation et à l'évolution de la société antillaise. Il démontre les tensions entre les forces conservatrices et progressistes dans un contexte postcolonial. « Stanislas de Boisneuf représentait l'ancienne garde, attaché aux privilèges hérités du passé colonial. Il incarnait la lutte pour maintenir le statu quo face aux forces du changement. » (Condé, p. 205). Chacun de personnages dans l'œuvre incarnent des aspects différents de la résistance, de l'adaptation et de la lutte pour l'émancipation dans un contexte postcolonial. De plus, Condé analyse les dimensions émotionnelles et psychologiques de la recherche de réparation. Les personnages cherchent à guérir des

traumatismes historiques, exprimant des émotions complexes liées à la perte, à la douleur, et à la lutte pour la dignité. La quête de réparations émotionnelles devient ainsi une composante centrale de l'émancipation personnelle. Au-delà des quêtes individuelles, le roman examine les dimensions sociales et économiques de la justice. Evidence textuelle montre qu'Annie Gauzette incarne la résistance politique et sociale face aux structures postcoloniales. Son rôle met en lumière la lutte pour l'émancipation et la remise en question des systèmes de pouvoir hérités de la colonisation. « Gauzette était la voix de la révolte. Elle a défié les conventions et a remis en question l'autorité établie, ouvrant ainsi la voie à un changement radical. » (Condé, p. 167). L'auteure souligne les inégalités persistantes héritées de l'histoire coloniale, en poursuivant les luttes pour l'égalité, la redistribution des ressources, et la reconnaissance des droits longtemps négligés.

Les personnages du roman sont aussi confrontés à l'injustice historique de manière directe ou indirecte. Les récits personnels révèlent des épisodes de violence, de discrimination et d'oppression vécus pendant l'ère coloniale, incitant ainsi à une confrontation profonde avec le passé. La recherche de justice se manifeste également à travers des réparations symboliques et culturelles. Francis Sancher représente la figure de l'étranger, apportant avec lui des idées et des perspectives nouvelles qui défient les normes établies par la société postcoloniale. Son rôle provoque les tensions entre les anciennes et les nouvelles influences dans la société antillaise. « Francis Sancher était une énigme pour nous tous. Il est arrivé à Rivière au Sel comme un étranger, mais il a fini par réveiller nos consciences endormies. » (Condé, p. 222). Les personnages s'engagent dans des actes de résistance culturelle, réaffirmant leurs identités et cherchant à rétablir l'équilibre culturel rompu par la colonisation. Le roman établit un dialogue intergénérationnel sur la justice, illustrant comment les générations se transmettent des réflexions sur les luttes passées et les aspirations à la justice. Les récits familiaux

deviennent des passerelles pour comprendre et agir face à l'injustice persistante. Ainsi, la recherche de justice et de réparation dans ce roman transcende les simples considérations historiques pour devenir une investigation sur des efforts individuels et collectifs qui visent à restaurer l'équité et à guérir les blessures de l'histoire coloniale. La quête de justice devient une force motrice, motivant les personnages à confronter le passé, à réparer les injustices, et à construire un avenir plus équitable.

Après une étude minutieuse du roman choisi, plusieurs positions émergent, mettant en lumière des thèmes récurrents et des dynamiques postcoloniales spécifiques dans l'œuvre. Les personnages du roman incarnent une résistance culturelle forte face à l'oppression coloniale. Le maintien des rituels Vodou, malgré la répression, représente une affirmation de l'identité antillaise et une lutte pour préserver les héritages culturels. L'étude a établi que la réappropriation identitaire se manifeste à travers la quête personnelle du personnage principal pour évaluer ses racines africaines. Cette démarche reflète une volonté de renouer avec une identité culturelle propre, soulignant la nécessité de se réappropriier des éléments culturels précoloniaux. De plus, cette étude a identifié que l'utilisation de narrateurs multiples contribue à la représentation diversifiée des voix postcoloniales. Cette polyphonie offre une palette de perspectives, exposant la complexité des expériences individuelles et collectives postcoloniales au sein de la société antillaise.

En outre, les cicatrices de l'histoire coloniale restent visibles dans les relations interpersonnelles. Les conflits, les préjugés et les tensions émotionnelles entre les personnages témoignent des séquelles durables de la domination coloniale, soulignant que la décolonisation est un processus continu. L'étude montre que *Traversée de la Mangrove* offre une critique subtile des influences extérieures qui continuent d'influer sur la société antillaise postindépendance. Les personnages éprouvent des conflits identitaires complexes, illustrant les défis de définir une identité distincte dans un

contexte postcolonial. Condé interroge les marges sociales de la société antillaise et fait écouter les voix souvent négligées. Cela renforce la décolonisation en donnant une visibilité aux expériences et aux luttes des individus marginalisés. Ce qui souligne la nécessité d'une émancipation inclusive. Les résultats de cette recherche démontrent que cet œuvre de Condé transcende la simple narration pour devenir une investigation des dynamiques postcoloniales.

Conclusion

L'étude du post-colonialisme et de la décolonisation dans *Traversée de la Mangrove* de Maryse Condé a révélé des conclusions significatives. La résistance culturelle persistante, la réappropriation identitaire, la diversité des voix postcoloniales, les séquelles de l'héritage colonial, la critique des influences extérieures, et l'exploration des marges sociales sont autant de thèmes qui s'entrelacent pour créer une œuvre riche, révélatrice des réalités complexes d'une société en transition postcoloniale. Nos analyses révèlent que le roman illustre les conséquences néfastes du colonialisme sur les individus et les communautés antillaises. Le roman préconise la nécessité de déconstruire les discours coloniaux et de réécrire l'histoire des peuples colonisés. Condé utilise habilement des techniques narratives telles que la fragmentation narrative et la polyphonie pour représenter la complexité des expériences postcoloniales et pour donner la parole à des personnages marginalisés. Le roman soulève également la question de la réconciliation entre les différentes cultures et identités présentes dans les Antilles. L'étude ouvre la voie à des recherches futures dans le domaine du post-colonialisme dans la littérature antillaise. Cette étude contribue de manière significative à saisir le sens caché de ces concepts dans la littérature antillaise, notamment à travers la perspective de Condé. Cette étude contribue à la connaissance existante en illuminant les stratégies narratives utilisées par Maryse Condé pour représenter les effets du colonialisme et les luttes pour la décolonisation.

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PREVALENCE OF MILITANCY IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper examines militancy in the Niger Delta Region with specific reference to Burutu Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. Inhabitants of the region face pollution caused by the multinationals during production of crude oil. The neglect of the area has compelled the people to resort to violent struggle against the multinational oil companies and federal government by resorting to bunkering, hostage taking/kidnapping for ransom and vandalization of pipelines in the region. Yar'Adua government adopted the Amnesty Programme to stop militancy in the year 2009. Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission (OMPADEC) was established to address the developmental challenges of the oil producing areas, but was taken over by Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) because it could not address the challenges of the people of the region. The objective of this paper is to examine the nature of the economy of Burutu Local Government Area before militant insurgency. The paper intended to achieve peace and free of militancy in the Burutu Local Government Area. This paper adopted historical method. The paper examines militancy in the Niger Delta Region, with special reference to the people of Burutu Local Government Area. Arising from the foregoing discourse, it may not be out of place to put forward a few recommendations/suggestions on how peace may reign in the Burutu Local Government Area, and be free of militancy.

Keywords: Militancy, Niger Delta, Multinationals, Ecosystem, Pollution.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Niger Delta Region of Nigeria is made up of Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers States. In 2000, however, the Obasanjo regime expanded its definition to include Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Cross Rivers, Edo, Imo, and Ondo States. The major occupation of the people is subsistence farming and fishing. The Niger Delta Region is characterized by deep poverty, in spite of the fact that crude oil, which accounted for over 80% of the country's revenue has been produced in the region since late 1950s. Niger Delta people are faced with pollutions caused by the production of crude oil by the multinationals in the region. Pollution, especially in the form of oil spillage and gas flaring has been damaging farmlands and the ecosystem, leading to

joblessness in the rural areas. Angered by the destruction and neglect of their farmlands, some of the people have acted out of desperation and chose to engage in pipeline vandalization.¹

Offshore petroleum deposits were discovered near Burutu in 1964, and in the following year the first crude oil from the area that is Delta State today was exported from a loading point at sea. By 1966 Burutu's port has eclipsed that of Forcados, 8 kilometres downstream, which is the former transshipment point for goods destined for Lagos, the Nigerian capital as at then. Burutu is known for shipbuilding and repairing, but it also serves as an agricultural trade centre for the Ijo people. It has a hospital.

Exploration in Nigeria could be traced to the first decade of the last century when oil seepages were seen at Araromi in the present-day Ondo State. Encouraged by this occurrence a German Company, the Nigerian Bitumen Corporation started exploration in that area in 1908 in the very first attempt to search for hydrocarbons in Nigeria. Unfortunately, this pioneering effort did not last long, and the Company terminated its operations at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.²

Two decades passed before another major exploration effort was embarked upon. An Anglo-Dutch consortium, Shell D'Archy (the forerunner of present Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria) came to Nigeria to start exploration activities in 1937 after being awarded the sole concession rights covering the whole territory of the country. Shell D'Archy's activities were interrupted by the Second World War and exploration did not resume until 1947. After many years of search, and investment of over N30m, petroleum was discovered at Oloibiri in the Niger Delta in 1956. In 1958, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) started oil production and export from the Oloibiri field in today's Bayelsa State at a rate of 5,100 barrels per day. This quantity doubled the following year, and crude oil production in Nigeria attained its all-time peak in 1960-1973 at the rate of 2.44 million barrels per day.³

In 1959, the sole concession rights over the whole country granted to SPDC was reviewed and extended to Companies of other nationalities in line with the policy of increasing the pace of exploration while at the same time ensuring that the country was not dependent on one Company or nation.⁴

The success of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) encouraged other Companies to join in the exploration, and by 1961, Mobil, Agip, Gulf, Satrap (Now Elf), Tenneco and Amoseas (Now Texaco/ Chevron) had joined the explorers, for oil in the offshore and onshore area of Nigeria. The first offshore discovery of petroleum was by Gulf or the Okan structure of

Bendel State (Now Delta State) in 1964 and many of the newcomers also made significant discoveries. Today, license have been granted to indigenous Companies in the country to explore, produce and market petroleum products. However, significant progress has been achieved in the area of marketing of mainly imported petrol and diesel (fifty years after oil was first struck in 1957). Local refining of crude oil is now a popular business in Niger Delta. Its owners and operators are mainly members of the militant groups who because of the huge money they make from the business do not seem to care about the enormous health risks that it entails.⁵ Delta State in the Niger Delta, of which Burutu Local Government Area is a part, become an important area for the Nigerian government and the International oil Companies in the post independence period.

By 1960, when Nigeria attained political independence and was already established as an oil producing country, crude oil production was over 170,000 barrels per day. This encouraged other Companies to come into the country such as Mobil, Agip, Satrap (Now Elf), Texaco and Gulf oil as they got their license, to operate both onshore and offshore.⁶ By 1970, Nigeria became the largest oil producing and exporting country in Africa. In 1978, the Warri Refinery was officially opened with a total capacity standing at 100,000 barrels per day.⁷

With the discovery of oil and its exploration in Burutu Local Government Area, the people have felt the impact in one way or the other. The communities where oil exploration was carried out have benefitted by way of some socio-economic infrastructure and employment opportunities as well as education. Similarly, these communities have also experienced and are still experiencing the negative results of oil exploration such as environmental pollution as a result of oil spillage and gas flaring, hike in the prices of local goods and Intra-and inter-community crisis. Devastated by the ecological cost of spillage and the highest gas flaring rate in the world, the Niger Delta is politically dangerous especially Burutu Local Government Area in Delta State. Deep political and economic

frustrations among oil producing communities, and pre-electoral thuggery: all have combined to make Burutu Local Government Area as well as other oil producing areas of Niger Delta prone to militancy.

Oil exploration in Burutu Local Government Area carried with it some potential predicaments. Despite the contribution of oil industry to the revenue of Nigeria, the people remain in abject poverty. The area of study is Burutu Local Government of Delta State. The people are farmers, fishermen, and petty traders. Nevertheless, they do not fare better even with the discovery of oil. There is also the environmental pollution of oil producing areas in Burutu Local Government Area. This dissertation will address these problems, especially one of the responses of the people of the area- militancy.

This paper is divided into four sections. The second section of this paper dwells on the marginalization of the people in Burutu Local Government Area, and the lack of social amenities and infrastructure. The third section dwells on the discovery of oil, and with the need to review the existing revenue allocation scheme, which was a fallout of the 1957/8 Constitutional Conference and the imminence of political independence. The fourth section dwells on the amnesty programme adopted by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in 2009 and followed by the recommendations contained in the 2008 report by the Niger Technical Committee (NDTC).

2. MILITANCY IN THE BURUTU AREA, C. 2000-2009

The Niger Delta Region, also called the South-South geopolitical zone is the current six geopolitical structures, is made up of six States, which Burutu in Delta State is among.

Burutu in the Niger Delta Region is rich in oil and gas resources and also rich in the sheer diversity of its flora and fauna, however, the region like other parts of Nigeria is poor in terms of social amenities and infrastructure.⁸ The Burutu infrastructural crisis does not seem to respect

natural resources endowment. In spite of this, some scholars think that the Niger Delta case is the result of oppressive, exploitative and discriminative policies of the federal government aimed at marginalizing and rendering irrelevant, the people of the Niger Delta in Burutu Local Government Area.⁹ As extreme as the above view seems, it may be understandable. This is the extent that Burutu Local Government Area maybe considered as the proverbial goose that lays the golden egg. The grouse of the people of the region seems to be that the goose is treated with disdain and may even be faced with the risk of death. Osaghae sums up the problem of the Niger region very nicely. According to him, although the bulk of crude oil, Nigeria's main source of revenue is derived from the Niger Delta, in Burutu Local Government Area, the region belongs to the ranks of the most backward and politically marginalized groups in the country.¹⁰

Reactions to these problems of neglect, marginalization and environmental degradation started even before the independence of Nigeria. According to Oloya and Ugbeyavwighren,¹¹ the struggle for resource control in the Niger Delta dates back to the pre-colonial era when the Royal Niger Company by its action tried to deprive the people of their legitimate trade and industry.

Unfortunately, the death of Saro Wiwa was to be the beginning of militancy in the Niger Delta struggle. Rather than deterring others, the execution of Saro Wiwa has resulted to the emergence of several militant groups in the Niger Delta Viz: Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF) among others. In the Niger Delta of Burutu, Delta State, today, the texture of the struggle has changed from non-violent era of the past: we have today well armed groups working as it were for the liberation and emancipation of the region. As it has been reported, we now in the region " a new generation of restless youths who desire change.¹² It has become clear that their only understanding of how changes can come about is violence. This became a sort of article of faith

especially after the famous Kaiama Declaration of December 11th, 1998.¹³

Furthermore, the hanging of Saro Wiwa and eight others on the November 1995 internationalized the crisis. The international outcry that greeted this was indeed loud and led to the suspension of Nigeria from the Commonwealth among other sanction.¹⁴ Again the leveling of Odi in 1999 by the army on the orders of President Obasanjo did not help matters. This is because before the leveling of Odi, the army has carried out similar attacks in the Niger Delta Region. These earlier attacks in the Niger Delta were not engendered by the killing of policemen as, was the case in Odi.¹⁵ We recall that the action in Odi was consequent upon the killing of some policemen in the town. All these acts against the people made them lack a sense of belonging in the Nigerian Federation.

Government responses to the aspirations by the Niger Delta has mostly been institutional, that is to say government has responded by establishing institutions to solve the problems of the region.¹⁶ For example, in 1961 and in response to the recommendations of the Willink Commission, government established the Niger Delta Development Board (NDDDB). The next institutional response was the 1.5% Presidential committee set up in 1989. This was followed by Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission.¹⁷ The point to note about these responses is that none has tackle the Niger Delta problem to any reasonable extent.

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The discovery of oil in some parts of Eastern Nigeria and the potential it had for growth altered the thinking about the place of minerals in the revenue allocation formulae. As already mentioned, up till then, royalties from minerals fully belonged to the region of origin. In 1958, however, the discovery of oil in Nigeria coincided with the need to review the existing revenue allocation scheme, which was a fallout of the 1957/58 Constitutional Conference and the imminence of political independence. The Colonial Government subsequently appointed

Sir. J.R. Hicks and Sydney Philipson to review the federal fiscal structure.¹⁸ The Committee, in the main, recommended that the regions should have authority over produce sales tax and on motor vehicle fuel. It also recommended the establishment of Distributable Pools Account (DPA) for the purpose of sharing federally collectible revenue.

Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) set out constructing various infrastructures to include roads, provision of water, electricity and land reclamation. A summary of Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission activities from its Business and Commercial Directorate (BCTD) as cited by Udemé Ekpo, indicated N603.44m only was expanded as loan disbursement to 509 small scale entrepreneur.¹⁹

Beyond physical infrastructure, Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission provided motorcycles to youths to complement the transport system in the area. The Commission brought its weight to bear on oil Companies during oil spill accidents, and mediated in compensation negotiations between committee and multinationals. From the foregoing, it comes clear, that Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission was designed to address developmental challenges relating to oil production, but was unable to satisfactorily and successfully handle or overcome these challenges. However, by 1999, the Commission had been plagued by lack of funding which meant that new projects could not be initiated and ongoing ones completed.²⁰

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was mooted, canalized and invigorated by President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2000. The Commission was put in place to replace the moribund Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission. The bill established the Niger Delta Development Commission into law was signed on June 5, 2000. The Commission operated under the mandate of improving the social and environmental conditions in the South- South region which it acknowledged as horrific in its own report.

However, the organization came under scrutiny and according to some was generally regarded as a vehicle of corruption and prebendalism.²¹

The mandate of the Niger Delta Development Commission could be explained as follows: to formulate policies and guidelines for the development of the areas; to conceive, plan and implement policies in accordance with set rules and regulations, to execute projects and programmes for sustainable development in the areas of transportation, education, employment, industrialization, agriculture, housing, urban development, water supply, electricity and telecommunications.

The genesis of the Niger Delta Development Commission is largely a response to the demands of the population of the Niger Delta, a populous area inhabited by a diversity of minority ethnic groups. During the 1990s, these ethnic groups established organizations to confront the Nigerian government and multinational corporations. The Niger Delta Region is highly underdeveloped and these circumstances precipitated active and sometimes violent confrontation with the Nigerian state and oil companies as well with the communities.

In pursuance of its mandate, the Niger Delta Development Commission developed the Niger Delta plan. The master plan is a collaborative endeavour among all the stakeholders in the Niger Delta.²² The partners for sustainable development were set up with the Niger Delta Development Commission as facilitator. It operates at three levels: regions, state and local. At the regional, membership comprised nine mandated state governments of the representatives, the national planning commission, international development agencies, the organized private sector and civil society organization. At the secondary level, it comprised the state governments, community representatives, the organized private sector and the civil society organizations.

Thus, the Niger Delta Master Plan tries to address the problems of the Niger Delta in five key areas agreed over a time frame of 15 years,

divided into phases of five years each, spanning from 2006-2020. Niger Delta Development Commission personnel argued that 2001-2005 was regarded as an interim period. Quick intervention projects were formulated to later blend into the foundation phase of the Master Plan Focus within the period was an economic development, physical infrastructure, human and community need, the natural environment and institutional development. This first phase is to run from 2006-2010. The second phase or expansion phase is from 2011-2015, and the third or consolidation phase is from 2016-2020.

While the first (foundational) phase targets enhancing and enabling environment and alleviating poverty, the second (expansion) phase would harness the wider possibilities of improved climate occasioned by the growth of agro-based industries, solid mineral industries, petrochemical industries and terrorism. The third (consolidation) phase would build on the gains of the preceding two phases to entrench peace. This phase,²⁴ argues, will see the growth of heavy chemical industries and generally manufactured goods. Its laudable objectives notwithstanding, the inhabitants of the Niger Delta are yet to fully reap the benefits of the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission in that region.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) treated the announcement of the President with caution, saying the new ministry could be yet another avenue for corruption and political favoritism.²⁵ Although the Niger Delta is the main source of government revenue, it is poor and poorly governed, suffering from violence and corruption. Activists have called for real government in the region, infrastructural development and jobs. Human rights activists are concerned that the new bureaucracy will stall progress in addressing these issues, which is a fact.

In March, 2012, a report in the Vanguard Newspaper indicated that relatively little had been done and accomplished in the first four years of establishment of the ministry

portraying laxity and incoherence in the establishment and functions of the ministry. It is unfortunate that projects to improve roads, build skill acquisition centres and improve water and electricity supplies were far behind schedule. Reasons for these lapses may not be far-fetched from the bureaucratic bottlenecks that characterized government functionaries, under-funding of the projects, monies not released, or outright diversion of funds budgeted and spent for projects related to waterfront development, but nothing tangible had been done. There had also been a large gap between federal promises and the amounts released, an action which throws doubts on government policies and sincerity about developmental projects in the region. The Ministry was also noted for project duplication which it denies.²⁶ Thus, there are reasons to doubt the credibility and effective functioning of the Niger Delta Ministry and its operations in the Niger Delta. One doubts if the purpose for which it was created is being fulfilled.

The 13 percent derivation fund comes from the federation revenue to oil producing communities through the state governments. The 13 percent derivation fund is different from the three percent provided for host communities in the PIA from the oil company's operating expenses. But despite the 13 percent derivation allocations, oil producing states are still battling with high domestic debt and suffering from massive infrastructure decay.

With the 13 percent derivation, the Niger Delta youths did not welcome it at all, and that it resulted to militancy in the Niger Delta Region. Examples of where militancy occurred are in Bayelsa and Delta States especially, and with this, the federal government could not contain themselves. They decided to appease the youths by calling for round table discussion in order to attain peace in the Region.

The non-confrontational resistance used by the youths is pipeline vandalization which is an action involving deliberate destruction of public or private property. Within the civic domain, vandalism denotes willful destruction of public

or government property in keeping with criminal or political intent. Oil pipeline vandalism therefore implies deliberate breaking of oil pipelines with the intent to steal petroleum products or to sabotage government.²⁷

In Burutu Local Government Area, oil pipeline vandalization has been perpetrated principally by criminal syndicates who are motivated by the desire to loot oil products for material aggrandizement. This organized crime is often aided and abetted by the state agents, which gives it a semblance of a franchise. Oil pipeline vandalism is also known in Burutu Local Government Area as oil bunkering, which is the act of drilling into pipelines with the intent to steal products.

Bunkering is the supplying of fuel for use by ships,²⁸ including the logistics of loading and distributing the fuel among available shipboard tanks.²⁹ A person dealing in trade of bunker is called a bunker trader. The term bunkering originated in the days of steamships, when coal was stored in bunkers. Nowadays, the term bunker is generally applied to the petroleum products stored in tanks, and bunkering is the practice and business of refueling ships. Bunkering operations take place at seaports and include the storage and provisions of the bunker to vessels.³⁰

The two most common types of bunkering procedure at sea is Ship to Ship Bunkering in which one ship acts as a terminal whilst the other moors. The second type is Stern Line Bunkering, which is the easiest method of transferring oil, but can be risky during bad weather.

Kidnapping and hostage taking is an abduction that forces a heavy psychological border on the cost of players that are involved in such a crime. The seizure affects not only the individual(s) who are abducted, but generates an anxiety in a larger group of people as location and welfare of the abductors are in doubt, and the prospect of rescue is hazardous at best. If "terrorism is theatre" and kidnapping and hostage taking can be imagined as drama, the final act can quickly

degenerate to a tragedy where actors and actions are in disaster.

The bombing of oil wells and flow station by the youth(s). A flow station is a facility where oil flows directly from the wellhead through headers and the manifold for primary treatment and separation of the bulk impurity. Youths had blown up crude oil trunk line.

Piracy is an act of robbery or criminal violence by ship or boat-borne attackers upon another ship or coastal area, typically with the goal of stealing cargo and other valuable goods.

4. FROM AMNESTY TO SURVEILLANCE CONTRACTS 2009-2023

The Amnesty Programme

On 24 June 2009, the Nigerian Federal Government officially opened a two-month amnesty window from 6 August to 4 October 2009 to all militants in the Niger Delta Region in exchange for their demobilization and disarmament. Upon surrendering their weapons, militants would receive financial compensation from the government over a period of time.

The declaration of amnesty by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua follows recommendations contained in the 2008 report by the Niger Delta Technical Committee (NDTC). The Committee was initially established by the Federal Government to assess various initiatives taken for the Niger Delta Region and provide for a comprehensive report and recommendations. The NDTC was accompanied of high-profile individuals and institutions mandated by President Yar'Adua. The Committee proposed among other three sets of reforms tackling issues of governance and the rule of law, socio-economic development, and human development towards achieving sustainable peace and progress in the region.³¹

According to Section 175 of the 1999 Constitution the proclamation of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria depends heavily on powers vested upon him.

According to President Yar'Adua the granting of amnesty and pardon was without condition to all those involved and not involved in the act of militancy in the Niger Delta.

To the Niger Delta leaders the granting of amnesty to the Niger Delta militants would bring a relative peace and stability to the Niger Delta Region. They accepted it as a bold and commendable peace building effort to the Niger militants was a great act of petroleum which has been a great relief for Nigerians.³² To the Niger Delta leaders, oil production was at its low ebb when amnesty was granted in June 2009 steadily improved and has stabilized to the benefit of the Nigerian economy. From the poor 700 barrels of crude oil per day before amnesty, oil production has moved to 2.6 million barrels per day. With the current selling price at about \$110 per barrel and estimated cost of production at \$55, production saving have increased greatly. The granting of amnesty to the militants and the post amnesty programme has helped to stabilize, consolidate and sustain security and safety in the Niger Delta thereby creating an enabling environment for promoting economic development in the area.³³

The Amnesty Programme is made up of four components, namely, the environmental, petroleum, infrastructural, and Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR) components. The DDR components have direct bearing on the successful rehabilitation of armed youths in the region or stability and peace in the Niger Delta.

The Reintegration Department is made up of three units: vocational training, education, and post-training and empowerment. The vocational training unit is responsible for the placement of ex-militants in vocational training programmed and the education unit focuses on the involvement of ex-militants in tertiary education institutions. The post-training and empowerment unit is tasked with helping ex-militants who have completed their training to find employment opportunities.

The Reintegration process started at the point of demobilization. The Demobilization

programme was characterized by a camping and discharge approach- an approach used in most DDR programmes.³⁴ During the camping stage, which lasted between 6 and 12 months, the Nigerian implementation agency collected essential information on the background and history of ex-militants enrolled in the PAP. The camping stage also included counseling and training for ex-militants in preparation for their reintegration into civil life.

Conclusion

This dissertation examines militancy in the Niger Delta Region, with special attention to the people of Burutu Local Government Area.

It is observed that oil exploration and exploitation in the Niger Delta has led to the degradation of the aquatic environment, the land and the ecology of the region. Yet the level of attention given to these problems by the multinational oil expatriates and the Federal Government is not encouraging. This has made the inhabitants of Burutu Local Government Area to resort to violent struggle against these Multinational oil Companies that operated in the area, to make the situation better.

The Niger Delta Region of Nigeria, known to be one of the richly endowed Delta's in the world, contributed about 80% of the Nigeria's national wealth. Years of political and economic marginalization, environmental degradation, bad governance and policy inconsistency by the government, and the divide and rule policy of the oil Component led to the emergency of militancy in the Niger Delta in the early 2003. The various activities of militants has created a state of general insecurity in the region.

Revenue Allocation which is the sharing or the distribution of the Federation Revenue among the various units and Local Governments in the country. Various Commissions have been set up and the 1999 Constitution [section 162(2)] also entrenched some principles for revenue distribution.

In the year June 25, 2009, President Umaru Yar'Adua granted amnesty to all persons who

have directly or indirectly involved in militant activities in the Niger Delta. It was a political solution to a problem, which seemed to have defied other solutions. It seems that force was a language which the militants enjoyed and realizing this, government decided to toe the path of amnesty.

One of the most controversial debates in the political economy of Nigeria is the way revenue is shared amongst the component tiers of government in the country. It shows how the discovery of oil and the enormous revenues derived from it led to the de-emphasis of derivation as the basis for revenue allocation. Oil theft is the illegal stolen of crude oil or refined oil products of the pipelines of multinational oil Companies. Oil theft in Nigeria is a collaboration between security forces, the local population, militia organizations, and most especially oil Company employees who use various means to steal crude oil from the multinational oil corporations that are within the country.

Pipeline surveillance came up because of the perpetual and massive crude oil theft. People are responsible for the monitoring of the pipelines to avoid the oil theft that keep ongoing. Oil theft reduces the production of crude oil per day and also affects the country's revenue.

Recommendations

Arising from the foregoing discourse, it may not be out of place to put forward a few recommendations/suggestions on how peace may reign in the Burutu Local Government Area and be free of militancy.

First and foremost, there must be the creation of skill acquisition centre for the youths in the Burutu Local Government Area. There must be job creation for the youths and infrastructural development in the region.

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CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC BUDGET AND IMPLICATIONS FOR BUDGET PERFORMANCE IN ONDO STATE NIGERIA

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Abstract

The essence of government globally is to provide basic social amenities and welfare services. To ensure this government through its ministries, departments and agencies prepares a budget indicating expected revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year. However, evaluation of public budget vis-a-vis performance in most states of Nigeria showed a low level of performance. This study examined challenges confronting public budgets and implications for budget performance. This study adopts a descriptive survey research design. Multi-stage sampling techniques were used to select 35 respondents as the study sample size. Secondary and primary data were relied upon. The study adopted developmental theory as the theoretical framework. Findings showed that uneven distribution of resources, lack of transparency, inflation of contract sums, institutional corrupt practices, and overestimated allocation of funds to a particular area of interest among others are the challenges confronting public budget performance in the state. The study concluded that if public budget is implemented in an ideal manner, it would improve the socioeconomic conditions of the state. The study recommended among others that efforts should be made to avoid overestimated allocation of financial resources to a particular area of interest at the expense of others.

KEYWORDS: Public Budget, Budget Performance, Challenges, Implications.

1. Introduction

Every public organisation needs to have well-thought-out plans in place to raise the funds required to keep the operation running and how to use the funds prudently and efficiently. This is not limited to public organisations; private organisations are also expected to act the same

way. This was done to achieve the organisation's predetermined goals within a particular period (Brest & Harvey, 2018). The plans are typically administrative and how to finance these plans. The financial aspect of the plan required by these organisations is commonly referred to as the budget of such

organisations. Budget is usually referred to as the document that directs an organisation's action; and provides the organisation with information on the expected financial resources and how to expend it in a definite period. A budget, according to Dandago and Tijani (2005) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), is a plan quantified in monetary terms, prepared and approved before a defined period typically showing planned incomes to be generated or expenses to be incurred during that period, and the capital to be employed to achieve a given objective.

The budget is a tool used by the government of every nation in the world to show the direction of its policies (economic, political, and social). However, any project that is not budgeted for is not expected to be carried out by any government (Badwan *et al.*, 2017); therefore, budget reflects what the public expects from a specific government during a specific period. Budgets are translations of governmental manifestos, philosophies, and policies. It specifies how the government intends to use the nation's resources, sets the direction of economic policy, and distributes the commonwealth. For the government to successfully provide services, a budget must be effective and efficient to meet the needs of the people in the state.

An estimate becomes a budget and attains its legal status as soon as it is approved by the legislative arm. It, thereafter, empowers the government to accumulate revenue and expend it. Budget is crucial to governance; therefore, all hands should be on deck from preparation to implementation level (Oladele *et al.*, 2021). Budget preparation in a State is coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budgeting for onward transfer to the executive for presentation and defence at the State's House of Assembly. Every ministry, agencies and departments in the state prepare their estimates and forwards them to the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget for coordination.

The budget is prepared in the form of public policy of the government. It serves as the guide

towards achieving the set goal of touching on the delivery of service and accomplishing her mission as a government. Nigeria has a record of good budgets, but the performance of these budgets as measured by the accomplishment of essential services has been very poor (Olurankinse, 2012). Achievement of budget in Nigeria is so distant from realism.

Olurankinse (2012) claims that the issue of inadequate budgets affects almost all the 18 local governments in Ondo State. The slow rate of infrastructure growth and deterioration, particularly regarding capital projects, physical infrastructure, abandoned projects, deployable roads, a high unemployment rate, and insecurity, serve as evidence for this. Budget in governance is a vivacious tool. It can be likened to the importance of blood to life in the body of any living organism. For a government to record optimal achievement, such a government must prioritise planning which is embedded in the budget. Olurankinse (2012) claimed that in present-day Nigeria, a performance-oriented budget is deficient which accounts for limitations in target setting and adequate evaluation of budget performance. Lack of data and accountability, corruption, theft, and leakages among others were noted as some of the problems of Nigerian budgeting. In the Nigerian situation, the budget degenerates into conflicts between the executive and the legislature.

The study's objective is to examine the challenges associated with public budget and the implications for budget performance in Ondo State, Nigeria. The study reviewed literature on the concept of public budget and budget performance. It also reviewed empirical studies on public budget performance challenges and adopted a theoretical framework. A multi-stage sampling technique was adopted as the methodology. It also discussed the analysis, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for the study.

2. Literature Review

Public Budget and Budgeting

The history of budgeting and budgets is associated with the Stone Age. The early men started making calculations. They calculated and estimated how to obtain and maintain food, clothing, shelter, and a general means of subsistence (Johnson *et al.*, 2021). While the French concept word, bougette, connotes a little bag, this is where the idea of a budget first emerged. The leather bag used by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer was labelled with a budget. the container in which the Exchequer kept its report to the parliament on the needs and finances of the government. Olurankinse, (2012). And later, the document in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's bag was marked with the word budget.

The definition of budget has recently changed. Several authors have attempted to define the budget concept. A budget, in Nadan's (2009) opinion is a comprehensive financial statement that details anticipated earnings and expenses. Another element of a financial year plan is an estimate of costs and income for a set time, usually a year. To set urgencies and monitor their progress toward predetermined goals, households, businesses, the government, and other private organisations use budgets as a planning tool. To achieve the budgetary objective, it is necessary to set aside savings or borrow money from outside sources (Olanrewaju, 2016). Ariyo-Edu and Woli-Jimoh (2024) assert that managers manipulate resource allocation by using a budget as a guide. The budget is not limited to Government business. At the governmental level, it is practised at federal, state and local levels. In the same manner, at institutional, community, family and individual levels, budget is involved.

Allen and Radev (2006) claimed that the budget as a concept, has different definitions per country but the main idea centred around estimated expenditure and income, be it annual, bi-annual or quarterly which must be approved by the legislative arm of the government. Budget is one of the major linkages between

important elements of programming and operations in public financial management. In the words of Ugoh and Ukpere, (2009) a budget is a detailed document that summarises a government's economic and non-economic activities over a specific period. The current administration's policies, goals, and strategic plans determine this course with special consideration of the projected available revenue to cater for the proposed expenditure.

The public is required by the budget to support the economic market system in government, and decision-making procedures are designed to guarantee the wise sharing of scarce resources. If there were enough resources to meet everyone's needs, a budget wouldn't have been required, but since there aren't many, a budget is essential. Every country (advanced or emerging) requires financial resources for its existence. They continued by stating that the regime would need to find money from the economy to adequately and properly fund the budget. Allocating resources responsibly, effectively, and efficiently is the responsibility of the government.

The government's financial statement is the practical tool by which obligations are deciphered into fiscal terms, according to Olanrewaju (2016). A budget is a strategy developed by the influential people in a company that describes how to use the available resources to complete whatever those influential people decide is the organisation's top priority. According to Olanrewaju, the study's findings show that the process of creating a budget is known as budgetary, and the monitoring instrument is known as control of budgeting (Abdullahi, 2011).

Budgets are used in the public sector to aid in management oversight and to ensure that the legal process of levelling taxes, revenue collection, and income disbursement is in line with budgetary directives (Baker, 2005). The goals outlined in the current government's plan or manifesto are highlighted in the budget. Edwards (2007) asserted that budgeting encourages collaboration, planning, better

performance evaluation, and the implementation of corrective actions. The government uses the budget to evaluate its performance and create a self-report. The results of a serious government's self-evaluation from a prior year will reveal the degree of success and failure for that year and will point the way for the current and following years. The government often uses an incremental budget rather than other types.

State Government and Budgeting in Nigeria

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria regulates the budget process at the state level (Abdullahi, 2008). There are some sections of the Constitution that address the issue of budget at the state level as entrenched in the 1999 Constitution of the country. The process of budget preparation, the process of legislature before the estimate is passed to law (appropriation law) and the process of evaluation are well stated. The Nigerian Constitution states in Section 120, Subsection 1, state that Governors shall cause to be prepared and laid before each House of the Assembly at any time before the commencement of each financial year, estimates of the revenue and expenditures of the state for the next subsequent financial year (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria). This is an example of the budget preparation process that outlines the duties of the Executive and the House of Assembly by the 1999 Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution.

The Process of Budget Preparation at the State Level in Nigeria

At the State level, budget preparation starts with getting estimates from the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Government stating the capital and recurrent estimates for the following fiscal year. Capital expenditures are expenses on capital projects, like constructions by the Government (road construction, dams and so on) while recurrent expenditure estimates are the operational services of the Government such as payment of salaries, maintenance, repairs and so on

(Olatunji & Hassan, 2022). The estimate of various MDAs is then transferred to the appropriate Department of the Ministry of Finance of the state for approval. Before the approval, the Heads of the Department must defend the estimates.

The estimates having been defended by the Heads of the Departments of the State's Ministry of Finance, are planned via Departments and titled Appropriation Bill and then presented to the House of Assembly of the State. The appropriation bill is published in the gazette for comments, public opinion and debate. After the expiration of the specified number of days for public opinion, comments and debate, the Governor is then expected to present the Budget speech to the State's House of Assembly (Gambo *et al.*, 2021). The formal presentation by the government is preceded by the introduction of the appropriation bill to the House of Assembly. The Budget proposal then goes through a series of readings, and passes through Committee stages and debates, until the appropriation bill is passed to law (appropriation act).

Implication of Defective Budget Process in Nigeria

It is generally believed that the budgeting process in Nigeria is characterised by controversies. Controversies trail the last five National Assemblies (from the 4th to the present 10th Assembly. Several allegations have been pushed forward. The legislature, for instance, has been accused of appropriating 20% of the annual budgets for themselves to provide for the remunerations and allowances of the legislators; and to cater for constituency projects which are not done at all or supervised by the same legislature (Olatunji & Hassan, 2022). The budget in Nigeria has not been transparent and thus lost credibility. A defective budget process has a multiplier effect on the country. The need for funds to execute developmental projects will be denied. It exposes the country to corruption and financial misappropriation. Budget shapes the economy of a country.

Where there is a defective budget, there is an economic summersault, therefore budget is an important document for economic growth. Achievement of 100% budget performance has been difficult in Nigeria since 1999. If a budget is effective, the consequence is also felt positively in the economy and every other sphere of governance. The yearnings and aspirations of the citizenry are met, and this act gives the people confidence in democracy and also draws them closer.

According to Ezekiel and Obafemi (2022) states that the percentage of capital budgets that were implemented by the end of the fiscal year had rarely increased since 1999. Poor social indicators, a lack of infrastructure, a high rate of unemployment, and underdevelopment and poverty are all implied by this. The misuse and mismanagement of public funds is another effect of an imperfect budgetary process. The various ministries' virement of contract figures will only result in the looting of the nation's resources, rendering useless the accountability systems put in place. It is crucial to note that if a country's budget process is found to be deficient, it will not be able to become a political or economic powerhouse. Nigeria's situation is far from ideal, necessitating immediate reforms to enhance the procedure (Ehigiamusoe & Umar, 2013).

Empirical Review

Gachithi (2010) investigated the challenges of budget implementation in public institutions using the University of Nairobi, Kenya. The data collected for the study were analysed using descriptive statistics and content analysis. The findings revealed that disparity in the allocation of funds, inadequate funding, and a lack of effective budget implementation policy were the challenges confronting budget implementation in the institution. The study concluded that fair treatment in budget approval across all the institution's departments would aid implementation. The study recommends among others the need for effective guidelines and procedures in allocating funds.

Ejumudo and Ejumudo (2020) investigated the failure of budget implementation in Nigeria using Delta State. Primary and secondary data were collected for the study. The findings of the study revealed that the culture of corruption, poor commitment from stakeholders, compromised budget monitoring and lack of transparency were the hindrances to public budget implementation in the state. The study concluded that a high level of commitment from stakeholders would translate budget into concrete development. The study recommends among others budget implementation without personal or selfish interest of stakeholders.

Oladele *et al.* (2021) investigated the legislature and budget process in Nigeria. The study relied on secondary data for analysis. The findings revealed that poor budget implementation, corruption, and the selfish interests of stakeholders constrain budget implementation in Nigeria. The study concluded that strict adherence to the appropriate legal framework on a budget would aid budget approval and implementation. The study recommends timely and effective oversight functions of the legislature to ensure transparency in budget implementation.

Rahi *et al.* (2024) investigated the challenges and processes of implementing programmes and performance budgets in public universities in Iraq. Primary and secondary data were utilised for the study. Data collected were analysed using thematic analysis. The study's findings revealed financial constraints, lack of commitment from stakeholders and inadequate management competence were the challenges associated with budget implementation in the study area. The study concluded that budget evaluation process would aid the implementation. The study recommends among others transparency and absolute commitment from stakeholders in budget implementation.

Theoretical Framework

This study is premised on development theory propagated by British economist Dudley Seer

and other proponents of development theory. Seer (2010) stated that to judge if a nation has grown, three fundamental characteristics should be considered: What became of poverty? What is the current rate of unemployment? What recent actions has inequality taken? Seer argues that if all three are declining, the country is truly progressing. They show that true development occurs when inequality, unemployment, and poverty have all decreased or vanished. If these three development indices fall, the population's quality of life and happiness will undoubtedly rise.

According to the World Bank (2006), development is defined as an improvement in quality of life, which includes higher income, better education, better health and nutrition, a reduction in poverty, a sanitary environment, equitable opportunities, greater personal freedom, and a thriving cultural life. Development, according to the World Bank, is a challenging process that necessitates considerable changes in national institutions, social structures, and economic growth. The majority of people today have better access to primary healthcare, education, and work prospects as a result of economic advancement.

Sen (2000) defines development as the reduction or escalation of deprivation. Hunger, ignorance, disease and bad health, helplessness, quiet, insecurity, shame, and lack of access to the foundation are all examples of deprivation. According to developmental theory, when government officials saddled with the responsibility of making an authoritative decision about government policy such as budget preparation and implementation utilise and distribute the resources appropriately to improve the socioeconomic welfare of the state devoid of corruption development of the state is set to take place.

3. Methodology

This study used a descriptive survey research design. Secondary and primary data sources were accessed for data collection. However, an in-depth interview session is the source of

primary data collection. Multi-stage sampling techniques were used to select 35 respondents as the study size. The study was conducted in selected Ondo State Ministries of Finance, Health, and Education and the State House of Assembly Committee on Appropriation, Health, Education and Finance. One urban and one rural Local Government was selected from the three Senatorial Districts of the State: Okitipupa, Ilaje, Ondo East, Akure South, Akoko North-East, and Akoko South-East respectively.

4. Analysis and Discussion of Findings

The challenges confronting public budget and its implication on budget performance in Ondo State, Nigeria were examined. To study relied upon in-depth interview sessions to achieve this objective. Data collected were analysed using content analysis method.

In response to the interview session, a director in the ministry of education revealed that: public budget in the state is faced with several challenges some of which are lack of concentration on capital projects, inflation of contract sums and lack of political will among others. To corroborate the above statement a director in the ministry of finance submitted that some of the limitations to the public budget in the state are overestimated allocation of funds to a particular area of interest over essential services, institutional corrupt practices and inadequate resources.

According to a director in the ministry of health, he opined that: several challenges confronting public budget in the state is attributed to scarce, inadequate, limited or no resources for the monitoring of appropriation bill towards implementation projects.

According to the view of the representative of house committee on appropriation, he stated that: one of the major problems of public budget in the state is inadequate preparation and late submission for approval. In the words of member house committee on education she submitted that: inadequate funding is a major problem of public budget in the state, this has

limited the provision of essential services. In the words of member house committee on finance, he opined that: looting of public funds by public officers is a constraint militating against public budget in the state. To collaborate the above statement member house committee for health, observed that: diversion and mismanagement of public funds is a problem envisaged on public budget in the state, this problem has effects on capital projects inadequacy.

Interview responses from Ilaje Local Government Council of the study area. According to the head of department of finance, she submitted that: inadequate resources and lack of political will are some of the challenges militating against public budget of the council. In the words of departmental head of education, he stated that: overestimated allocation of funds to a particular area of interest over others is limiting factor of the council budget. According to the departmental head of community health, she observed that: limited resources, institutional corrupt practices and inflation of contracts sum are some of the hinderances of budget of the council.

According to the supervisory councillor for education, he submitted that: delay in budget preparation and late approval of the estimate are the challenges militating against the council budget. In the words of supervisory councillor for finance, she observed that: the council budget is bedevilled with several challenges such as lack of political will and looting of public funds among others.

Supervisory councillor of community health observed that: inadequate financial resources and inflation of contracts sum are some of the challenges of the council budget. Reactions from Okitipupa Local Government Council of the study area. According to the head of the department of education, she observed that: uneven distribution of resources, and absence of transparency are some of the limiting factors of budget in the council, to her these have led to the misappropriation of public funds. In the words of the departmental head of finance, he submitted that Some of the

problems of the council budget are inappropriate planning processes, and lack of accountability among others. According to the departmental head of community health, he opined that: the militating factors of the council budget are inadequate monitoring processes and footdragging on the part of the council's staff.

According to the supervisory councillor for education of the study area, he submitted that: lack of concentration on capital projects, institutional corrupt practices and uneven distribution of resources are challenges limiting the council budget. In the words of supervisory councillor for finance, observed that: lack of early preparation and submission are some of the challenges confronting the council budget, she however noted that this has to a large extent affected the council's financial capacity.

According to the supervisory councillor for community health, he observed that: looting of funds by public officers, lack of political will and inflation of contracts sum among others are the challenges militating against the council budget. In light of the above statement, enrichment of the elites has been proven to be associated with anti-performance of budget, while impoverishing the majority of the citizens to abject poverty, insecurity, squalor and violence.

Responses form Ondo East Local Government of the study area. According to departmental head of finance, she observed that: limited resources, lack of accountability and uneven distribution of resources are some of the challenges envisaged on budget of the council. In the words of departmental head of community health, he observed that: there are several challenges confronting budget of the council ranging from inadequate preparation process, diversion of funds, inflation of contracts sums and uneven distribution of allocation.

According to the supervisory councillor for education of the study area, he observed that: Absence of transparency, foot dragging among others. In the words of supervisory councillor for finance, he opined that: the council budget is bedevilled with several challenges such as

institutional corrupt practices, inflation of contracts sums, lack of adequate planning process and looting of public funds.

According to the departmental head of community health, Akure South LGA he observed that: there are several challenges militating against the council budget such as uneven distribution of resources, absence of transparency and inadequate resources. In the view of the departmental head of education, submitted that: lack of political will on the part of the elected officers, institutional corrupt practices and inflation of contracts sum are some of the hinderances of the council budget.

In the words of a representative supervisory councillor for finance he revealed that: the major constraint of the council budget is inadequate finances and lack of professionalism on the part of the employees. According to the supervisory councillor for community health, he opined that: lack of early preparation, and delays in approval are some of the challenges of the council budget.

Responses from Akoko North Local Government Area. According to the departmental head of finance revealed that: Inadequate monitoring systems, diversion of public funds and footdragging among others are some of the challenges besetting the budget of the council. In the words of the departmental head of education, he submitted that: the overestimated allocation of funds to a particular area of interest over others is a major constraint of the council budget.

According to the supervisory councillor of community health, he observed that: lack of concentration on capital projects and inflation of contract sum are some of the challenges facing the council budget. In the opinion of the supervisory councillor for finance, he revealed that an improper planning process and lack of accountability among others are the challenges confronting the council budget.

According to the departmental head of community health Akoko South LGA bureaucratic bottlenecks, foot-dragging and

inadequate financial resources are some of the challenges confronting the council budget. In the opinion of the departmental head of education, he opined that: in most cases, budget particulars from the council chairman to the legislature are not sent on time to allow time for discussions and negotiations that would eventually result in an approved budget are some of the challenges confronting the council budget.

According to the representative of the supervisory councillor for education, she opined that: lack of accountability and absence of transparency are one of the challenges facing council budget. In a nutshell, the supervisory councillor for finance revealed that the looting of funds by both public and political officeholders, inflation of contract sums and lack of political will among others, are the challenges confronting the council budget.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concluded that public budget provides the means for providing and delivering public goods to improve socioeconomic conditions and ensure development in concrete terms. It also revealed that lack of political will, inflation of contract sum, and embezzlement of public funds are the challenges associated with public budget in the study area. The study also revealed that transparency and accountability from budget stakeholders would facilitate budget performance. Within the context of the key findings of the study, the following recommendations are made for public budgeting and budget performance in Nigeria.

Efforts should be channelled to avoid overestimated allocation of financial resources to a particular area of interest at the expense of other areas. This will ensure even development in all sectors of the state.

The government of the state and the local government levels should put mechanisms in place towards improving its internally generated revenue. This will go a long to curtail dependency syndrome on federal allocation and

ensure timely provisions of social amenities and development projects to the populace.

Concerted efforts should be geared towards ensuring an adequate monitoring system of public budget process and performance at the state and local government levels. This will help to curtail the diversion of public funds, and institutional corrupt practices and ensure that what the state budgeted for is implemented to the latter.

Furthermore, there is a need for the legislative arm of the government to scrutinise budget estimates submitted to the house to prevent inflation of contract sums and overestimated allocation of resources to irrelevant projects. Efforts should be made by the appropriation committee of the house to sanction any ministries, departments and agencies found guilty of such acts.

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**EFFECT OF STRIKE ACTION ON UNION GOALS PURSUIT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA.
(A STUDY OF WEMA BANK PLC, IGBOORA BRANCH, OYO STATE)**

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Abstract

This study examined the impact of strike action in the achievement of union aims in institution in specific interest of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State. The study aims to investigate the effectiveness of strike action as a means of achieving union goals. Relevant literatures were reviewed. This study is anchored on unitary perspective theory, Classical perspective theory, interactionist perspective theory and Pluralistic perspective theory. The study adopted survey research design. The population of the study was 560, and Taro Yamane (1967) was used to determine a sample size of 225. Instruments used for the study was structured questionnaire. Face content validity was used to validate the instruments. Test-retest and Cronbach's Alpha was used to compute the reliability of the instrument. Data for the study were subjected to simple percentages, descriptive statistics. The study also employed Multiple Regression Analysis (MRA) at 0.05 level of significance in testing hypotheses. Findings showed that; Salary increase has a significant positive effect on Union goal. Delay in salary has a significant positive effect on Union goal. Poor condition of service has a significant positive effect on Union goal. The study concludes that Strike Action has a significant positive effect on Union goal in the sampled Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State. The study recommended that better workers- management relationship should be encouraging through meetings aimed at and seeking union opinion on some issues. Autocratic leadership should be avoided. Management should employ the two in order to get the best performance from the employees. General upward view of the fringe benefits should be carried out to be in line with the economic needs of the staff. It is advisable that management of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State put the goals of the workers/union into consideration when making decision. Oyo State College of Agriculture Management should adopt a humanistic approach technique and use it in their management function. This will help discourage workers and management from corrupt practices and dishonesty in management labour relations.

Key words: Dispute, Grievance Procedure, Salary Strike Action, Union

1. Introduction

Strikes are the most significant aspect of industrial conflict. Strike is defined as the temporary stoppage of work in the pursuance of grievance or demand. In practice however, it has been difficult to separate strike from other forms of expression of industrial dispute as employer lock out workers and workers themselves embark on strike action. It is more useful to view both phenomena as part and parcel of the conflict situation, not as opposite. Rarely does a strike occur over a single issue for an obvious cause may be linked with several other issues that not immediately apparent to the observation that have caused dissatisfaction because solutions to them have been long in coming. The actual occurrence of strike depends on several factors including prevailing circumstances (Adetiba, 2012).

This spate of industrial unrest was evidently a result of lack of adequate attention to the human factor in the running of the business organization. This relegation of the human factor to the background by the management has been a serious but a latent causes of increased strike action with its resultant consequences. It is therefore the purpose of this work to probe into this and acquaint the management with tools for combating this hydra-headed monster.

Strike action also called labour strike or industrial action is a work stoppage caused by the mass refusal of employee(s) to work. A strike usually takes place in response to employee's grievances (Omolayo, 2000).

According to Ojielo (2002), strikes are sometimes used to put pressure on government to change policies. Occasionally, strike destabilizes the rule of a particular political party or ruler. In such cases, strikes are often part of a broader social movement taking the form of a campaign of civil resistance. A notable example is the stoppage of work by the indigenous railway's workers in (1932) led by Pa Michael Imodu during the colonial era and the first general strike of (1945) in Nigeria.

Since 1970 to present time, workers demand for improved condition of work and wages have increased the number of strike actions as management most times would not accurately satisfy the needs and requests of employees even in the face of economic recession.

Therefore, strike is one word that is thorn in the flesh of management. Each time the organized labour embarked on any strike, substantial output is lost. For instance, during the first general strike of 1949 and 1993 (ASUU strike) when the government disagreed with civil servants on wages and allowance, about 30 working days were lost. Output dropped substantially as a result government had to increase or enhanced their welfare packages in a bid to resolve the crisis.

The objective of the paper is to examine the effectiveness of strike action as a means of achieving union goals.

Specifically, the study is focused on the following issues.

- i. to identify the causes of trade disputes in Oyo state college of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora Oyo State?
- ii. to find out the tools for achieving union demand from government in Oyo state college of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora Oyo State?
- iii. to identify the effectiveness of strike action in achieving union aims measured against the regular occurrence of strike actions in Oyo state college of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora Oyo State?

2. Literature Review

Concept of Strike

Over the years several authors have define the effect of strike action.

Adesulu (2012). strikes are the most significant aspect of industrial conflict. Strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work in the pursuance of a grievance or demand. In practice however, it has been difficult to separate strike from the

other forms of expression of industrial dispute as employer lock-out workers and workers themselves embark on strike action. It is more useful to view both phenomena as part and parcel of the conflict situation, not opposite.

The concept of strike action is also known as labor strike or strike. Strike is a common phenomenon that cuts across all tiers of the globe (Adavbiele, 2015). According to Hornby (2001), strike is a period of time when an organized group of employees of a company stops working because of a disagreement over pay or conditions. It can be seen as an action or attitude exhibited by a group of people (that is, employees or students) to express their level of disagreement with a view to attracting favorable responses from those concerned. Strike actions over time have been used as a tool by union leaders in registering their grievances concerning pay and conditions. The intensity of strike actions often varies from one sector to another; and from one country to another. Strike actions have been a recurring phenomenon in Nigerian's education sector and as such, strike actions have led to several grievous consequences in the program offerings in the nation (Adavbiele, 2015).

Condition of services

According to the Sounder's comprehensive veterinary Dictionary 3rd edition, 2007, conditions of service is that part of an employment that set out the duties, responsibilities, hours of work, salary, leaves and other privileges to be enjoyed by a person employed. Conditions of service also has to do with issues such termination of appointment, downsizing, retrenchment, transfer, payment of salaries and allowances, etc. (Adavbiele, 2015). Conditions of service equally includes the punishment given to employees when they go against the terms of their employment or the rules and regulations of the organization. Additionally, years of service, retirement and pension schemes are part of the conditions of service. Conditions of service has also been defined as matters relating to the nature of the work environment, remuneration, promotion,

leave, working hours and allowances (Ahmed, 2014). Going by this definition, one would understand that conditions of service encompass the treatment which workers receive in the work place, how they are paid, what they are paid and how they are paid. According to Wikipedia (2021), conditions of service refers to the procedures, role, rules and regulations upon which civil service is formulated. Conditions of service also involves the agreement between the employer and the employees with regard to how they are to work and the benefits they are to enjoy during and after service. The issue of staff welfare in every organization is a very vital issue that should not be toiled with. This is because, staff play a very vital role in the production process of any organization as such if their welfare is poorly worked on (if their condition of service is poor) it can affect their performance work place (Saharay, 2013).

The Right to Strikes

As shown later, the argument against the right to strike in the public sector in Nigeria rests more on the effect of the strike on the economy, public health and safety than on the sovereignty doctrine. If, however, the right to strike is denied, then there ought to be effective and mutually satisfactory method of regulating employment condition in the public sector. Yet as demonstrated, collective bargaining in this sector is subsidiary to other methods of employment rules and wage commissions, are by and large, unilateral determination since they preclude real participation of employees (Ojielo, 2002).

Given the inequities that are usually associated with unilateral decision-making and bargaining machinery, the role of the strike as a means of ensuring favorable employment condition in the public sector then becomes crucially important. In other words, without effective collective bargaining, the strike is the main avenue for giving expression to employee's grievance. And since only the strike can induce the public employer to negotiated, it is therefore the effective means of conducting industrial relations in the public sector.

Educational system

First of all, education is the process of molding individuals in the society in order to develop their natural potentials and become engines of growth. According to Plato (1987), education can only be good when it helps the educated to "lift up the eyes of the soul to gaze on that which shades light on all things." A system is made up of many units, all of which interact with one another to form a whole. It receives inputs from its environment. These are converted into outputs, which go a long way to extend the life of the entire system. A system that is unable to fulfill its aims by transforming its demands and supports into satisfactory response, is in a crisis (Akani, 2018). Therefore, an educational system consists of those structures and machinery, which are set in motion for the socialization of a people and help in the development of the nation.

According to Fafunwa (1991), the term educational system generally comprises everything that goes into educating members of the society which includes school students at the federal, state, or community levels. Educational system also incorporates laws, policies, and regulations, public funding, resource allocations, and procedures for determining funding levels. According to Wikipedia (2021), an educational system also involves the state and district administrative offices, school facilities, and transportation vehicles, human resources, staffing, contracts, compensation, and employee benefits, books, computers, teaching resources, and other learning materials and of course, countless other contributing elements.

An education system refers to the political, economic and social factors that typically make up the teaching and learning process at the federal, state or community levels. Such factors include public funding, school facilities, staffing, compensation, employee benefits, teaching resources and more. Education systems refer to the coordination of individuals (among teachers, administrators and students), infrastructure (including safe facilities and transportation) and

functioning institutions and processes (Ivowi & Mon, 2009).

Cause of Strike

○ **Structural Organizational Conflict**

This refers to attempt by one party to change either the structure of bargaining or the contents of the negotiable or non-negotiable list. In (1984) the employer's association in the banking industry sought a change in the bargaining structure such that certain issues (luncheon vouchers, gratuity etc.) which have been negotiated at the company level, would be moved to the multi-employer bargaining level. The reason was that they lost out at the company bargaining level. This attempt led to the declaration of a trade dispute by the union,

○ **Inadequate Decision-Making Power**

This refers to the limitation of negotiations in committing their respective constituencies to an agreement. When an agreement signed by management negotiators is repudiated by top management because the foremen did not have a mandate to commit the employers, unions customarily resort to strike action. In fact, this explains why many unionists are unwilling to negotiate with the middle level management officials, insisting instead on dealing with top management.

○ **Management Policies**

This refers to management approach to bargaining relations with the union. Where management develops a negative policy towards union disputes and strikes are inevitable. Even when a positive policy is involved, management approach to bargaining and the implementation of agreement may be a source of conflict and strikes. Indeed, non-implementation of collective agreement is a continuing source of conflict in Nigeria.

○ **Intra Organizational Conflict**

This refers to internal union conflict, arising from several forces, including the heterogeneous and diverse interest in the union. In 1986, a faction of the National Union

of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, in a bid to demonstrate its claim to leadership of the union, organized a very damaging strike of its Tanker- driver members. This strike paralyzed the delivery of petroleum products to major urban cities; yet, it had little to do with the labour-management relationship.

Strikes as a problem

The unpalatable side of individual relations, and on which the public often associate unions, is the strike. The strike indicates a breakdown of cordial relationship between labour and management and is usually the one aspect of industrial relations that invites the most negative commentary. Yet the useful functions for the two sides of industry. When a union calls out its members on strike, it is in the belief that strike will exert pressure on the employer (and sometimes indirectly on government) to take a desired action, such as conceding a demand for Improvement in terms of employment, or ameliorating an unsatisfactory working condition. All strikes, whether orthodox or political, fit into this description.

Most strikes involve attempts by either the union or management to change the bargaining position of the other party. When properly used, a strike can force management to concede the demand of the union. it can impose exorbitant costs and thereby induce them to reach agreement. apart from the use of the strike by the workers to win substantive demands, a strike may be used to effect a change in the structure of bargaining, such as changing from enterprise bargaining to multi-employer bargaining, or vice versa. It may also serve to lower the expectations of the rank.

In Theoretically reviewed, the study used four theories.

Unitary perspective: In unitary perspective, Peter ducker in the year 1959 made the following point in one of his books "Any business enterprise must build a true team and weld individual efforts into a common effort" Each member of the enterprise contributes towards a common goal. Their effort must all pull in the

same direction, and their contributions must fit together to produce a whole without unnecessary duplication of efforts.

The manager must know and understand what his performance and his superior must know what contribution to demand and expect of him and must Judge him accordingly.

If these requirements are not met managers are misdirected, their efforts are wasted. Instead of team work, there is friction, frustration such traditional views appear to imply a unitary perspective of the organization. The organization is viewed as an integrated and harmonious, while conflict is seen as a dysfunction outcome and can be explained, for example by poor communication, personality clashes or handwork of agitators.

Classical perspective: - The prevalence of conflict in organization is only too apparent, not only from our experience but also from literature of organization studies. All schools of thought have recognized that conflict exists. They differed only in how they looked at it. The writers of classical organization theory viewed the organization. Ideally it should not exist. There could be done by adequate Job definition, detailed, specification of relationship among position, careful selection of people to fill positions, and the through training of people once they have been assigned.

Interactionist perspective: - A more recent view of conflict is the integrationist, perspective, which believe that conflict is a positive force and necessary for effective performance. This approach encourages a minimum level of conflict within the group in order to encourage self-prevent apathy or too great a tolerance for harmony and status quo. Conflict parse is not necessarily good or bad but inevitable feature of organizational life and should be judged in terms of its effects on performance. Even if organization has taken great care to try and avoid conflict, it will still occur. Conflict must continue to emerge despite attempts to suppress it.

Pluralistic perspective: - If one however accepts the views of social writers and the idea of a pluralistic approach to work organization, then, conflict among competing subgroups will be seen as an inherent feature of organization and induced in part by the very structure of the organization. The pluralistic manger is more likely to accept that conflict in organization requires careful handling and attempts to reconcile rival interest.

Empirical Review

Armstrong (1969) sees industrial relation as the intertwining activities of trade unions, employer and the state. Analyzing Armstrong's view, Akpala (1992) stated that it is in line with Levine's definition of industrial relation as the respective roles of management, labour and government in the process which relates workers to employers, workers to workers and workers to work. He pointed out that John Dunlop has brought out the concept more clearly in listing the participant or actors of industrial relation as: A hierarchy of managers and the respective organization. Fashoyin (1989) traced industrial relation to classical economist of the 19th century, such as Adam Smith, Matus and David Ricardo were concerned with problems of labour. These economists saw insufficient difference between labour and other factors to explain the complex nature of labour input into production. The climax of Fashoyin's view is the postulation that improvement in the condition of the labour class could be achieved through the antagonizing role of trade union (strike). According to him, Marx sees trade union as revolutionary agents for changing social order. The classical view is important but fails to recognize the parties in industrial relations. Industrial relations within the context of Nigeria is seen from functional approach put forward by Damach, (1990). He defined industrial relations in the production process. He pointed out that the crucial element of the Nigerian system of industrial relations includes the environment, which influences the actors as well as their goals, ideology and power.

The unpalatable side of individual relations, and on which the public often associate unions, is the strike. The strike indicates a breakdown of cordial relationship between labour and management and is usually the one aspect of industrial relations that invites the most negative commentary. Yet the useful functions for the two sides of industry. When a union calls out its members on strike, it is in the belief that strike will exert pressure on the employer (and sometimes indirectly on government) to take a desired action, such as conceding a demand for Improvement in terms of employment, or ameliorating an unsatisfactory working condition. All strikes, whether orthodox or political, fit into this description.

Most strikes involve attempts by either the union or management to change the bargaining position of the other party. When properly used, a strike can force management to concede the demand of the union. it can impose exorbitant costs and thereby induce them to reach agreement. apart from the use of the strike by the workers to win substantive demands, a strike may be used to effect a change in the structure of bargaining, such as changing from enterprise bargaining to multi-employer bargaining, or vice versa. It may also serve to lower the expectations of the rank.

3. Methodology

This study employed a mixed-methods approach to investigate the effects of performance evaluation on workers' performance in Nigeria using Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State, as a case study. The population of this study was made up of (560) five hundred and sixty. The sample size of this study was 225 and was selected from different departments in the College using Taro Yamani Formula. The type of research design used in conduct of this work was survey research as it deals with getting detailed and factual information direct from the respondent, for presentation analyzing and interpretation of data through Linear Regression analysis, thus in describing the effectiveness of strike action as a means of achieving union

goals from management Data was collected through questionnaire from the staff of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State.

4. Results and Discussion

Test of hypotheses

This section aims at testing the hypotheses formulated for this research work. The significant of this test is to possibly validate the hypotheses that is found true and therefore

Hypotheses

H₀₁: trade disputes and industrial unrest are not as a result of unsettled grievances Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State.

H₀₂: Strike actions are not the only effective means of achieving union objectives Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State.

accept them. On the other hand, the hypotheses that is untrue shall be rejected and hence are unacceptable. In testing the hypotheses for this study and because from each hypothesis an independent variable was tested against one dependent variable as well, multiple linear regression analysis was used and the major focus ascertain the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable. Thus, in general, the hypotheses to be tested in this research work include:

H₀₃: Poor conditions of services does not correlate with strike actions Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State.

Table 1 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin Watson
1	.251 ^a	0.353	.0.196	0.591	1.948

Source: SPSS version 21

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Strike Action
- b. Dependent Variable: Union Goals.

The table shows that all the independent variables explain 55% to the dependent variable and the model is best fitted up to 25%. It also shows that 35% are the other variables that did not explain this model. It might be the other variables which didn't consider due to the

limitations. In the table 35% can be adjusted by adding the independent variables. It gives us an idea of the scatter of the points around the line of regression. The table shows that 1.948 scattered.

Table 2 ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig
1 Regression	8.957	1	9.657	28.549	.003 ^a
Residual	29.061	112	0.249		
Total	29.018	113			

Source: SPSS version 21

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Strike Action
- b. Dependent Variable: Union Goal

The value of F is statistically significant at a level of 0.05 or less, and this suggests a linear relationship between the variables. Statistical significance at a .05 level means there is a 95 percent chance that the relationship between the variables is not due to chance. On the other hand, the value of the P is less than the 0.05

then it will be significant, and the hypothesis which you stated will be accepted. The significance level must be less than .05, and it shows that independent variables how much explain the effect of the dependent variable. After that F=28.549 and P=0.001 is statistically significant.

Table 3 **Coefficients**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	
2. (Constant)	0.706	0.18	.555	.000
Delay in salary	0.592	0.129	.549	.034
Poor condition of service	0.567	0.345	.455	.001
Increment in salary				

Source: SPSS version 21

- c. Predictors: (Constant), Delay in salary, Poor condition of service
- d. Dependent Variable: Union goals

Multiple Regression: $Y = a + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + b_3X_3 + \dots + b_tX_t$

Job satisfaction = 0.706 + D (.592) + P (.556)

In terms of the p values of 0,000, EP variable was explained by the variable of strike action. As a result, the equation of the model is: Union goals = 0,706+ 0,592* delay of salary and poor condition of services and Increment in salary are significantly and positively related to Union goals. In order to attain the relation between the strike action and Union goals, regression analyses were conducted. The results in the Model Summary table showed that the explanatory power of the constructed model (R Square) were 251. That means 35% variation of the Union goals variable was explained by strike action variable and 35% variation of the Union goals variable was explained by delay of salary and poor condition of services and Increment in salary. According to F values of 28.549 and p values of both 0,000 (sig.) in ANOVA table, it is decided to reject Ho hypothesis that means there is no significantly relationship between contribution of strike action and Union goals in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State. After finding the model statistically significant, regression equation was conducted.

Discussion of the Result

The tables demonstrate the result produced by multiple linear regression on the data collected from 225 respondents through questionnaires. After applying the linear regression on the collected data to check the effective relationship between the strike action (independent variable) and Union goals (dependent variable) the above-mentioned result has been drawn. The probability of f-statistic shows the significance of the research. According to the standard if the p value is < 0.05 so than it is significant. In this study the above given table demonstrates the p value is 0.000 which is < 0.05 thus the model of the research is statistically significant. So the independent variable of the study, strike actions, has significant relationship with dependent variable of the study, Union goals. The un-standardized value of the mentioned table illustrates obviously that independent variable strike actions have a positive impact on Union goals in this study. Therefore, the study rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis. Therefore, strike actions have effect

on Union goals. One major limitation of this study was that it was based only on Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State.

5. Conclusion

This study has indicated that in recent time, Institutions are increasingly recognizing the need for cordial relationship between management and union, which helps in maintaining harmonious working environment and help to enhance the effective and efficient productivity of the organization. It is concluded that with unions in institutions, there would be efficient relationship between workers and management thereby bringing high productivity through the effort of unions reducing turnover rate and workers' insecurity, increasing workers' morale by enabling them have a collective voice to address their problems and receive solutions and compensation, improved working condition. Management should ensure that when formulating and implementing policies that take care of the interest of parties involved, having proper concern in the evaluation of those policies so that they will not in turn bring about conflict situation between management and trade union. The policies adopted should contain or cover areas as industrial peace, job security, improved working environment and adequate facilities. Collective bargaining which is a machinery for settling dispute should be employed by both management and labour in any conflictual situation for the avoidance of

industrial action in order to endure harmonious relationship and industrial unity.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the research, this study recommends the practical way of ensuring that union objectives are achieved and avoidance of the danger of industrial action in the organization.

1. Better workers- management relationship should be encouraging through meetings aimed at and seeking union opinion on some issues. Autocratic leadership should be avoided.
2. General upward view of the fringe benefits should be carried out to be in line with the economic needs of the staff.
3. The apparent lack of confidence between union and management should be discouraged. Both parties should see themselves as partners in progress.
4. It is advisable that management of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State put the goals of the workers/union into consideration when making decision.
5. Management should adopt a humanistic approach technique and use it in their management function. This will help discourage workers and management from corrupt practices and dishonesty in management labour relations.

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OIL SUBSIDY AND PRICE STABILITY IN NIGERIA (2000Q1 TO 2022Q4)

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Abstract

Elimination of oil subsidies by the Nigerian government in recent years has disrupted price stability. This study examined the effect of oil subsidy on price stability in Nigeria. In order to achieve this purpose, the study made use of quarterly data that ranged from 2000Q1 to 2022Q4. Data for the study were sourced from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin, World Development Indicators (WDI) of the World Bank and National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reports. The techniques of data analysis adopted comprise Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) statistic, Johansen Cointegration technique, Error Correction Model (ECM) method and Granger Causality approach. The result of Johansen Cointegration Test showed that there exists a long run relationship or cointegration between oil subsidy and price stability in Nigeria. The result of Error Correction Model showed that oil subsidy has a negative but substantial effect on consumer price index in Nigeria while oil price has a positive and substantial effect on consumer price index in Nigeria. The pairwise Granger causality test result showed that oil subsidy and oil price have unidirectional causation with consumer price index. Owing to the findings, the study concluded that oil subsidy has substantial negative effect on price stability in Nigeria. Consequent upon these findings, the paper recommended that government should gradually reduce and eventually phase out fuel subsidies. While subsidies may initially help keep fuel prices low for consumers, they can also distort market mechanisms, strain government budgets, and contribute to inflationary pressures. Gradually reducing subsidies will allow for a smoother adjustment process, mitigating the immediate impact on consumers while signaling the government's commitment to fiscal sustainability.

Key words: Oil Subsidy, Oil Prices, Price Stability, Consumer Price Index

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to keep prices low or keep the income of the producers of desired goods stable, the government often provides monetary help or financial aid in the form of subsidies to support key activities. For a long time, petroleum subsidies have been the lifeline for the people of Nigeria, whose economy is highly reliant on oil exports. To help its citizens cope with the impact of growing gasoline costs, the government subsidises petroleum products. The

elimination of oil subsidies by the Nigerian government in recent years, however, has disrupted price stability (Muktari, Muhammad Rabiu & Kabiru, 2023). Maintaining price stability, which is characterised by neither too much nor too little inflation, is one of the primary goals of monetary policy and economic management. In congruence with a 2017 study by Coady, Parry, Sears, and Shang, the elimination of gasoline subsidies might pose serious threats to price stability by influencing

inflation, consumer prices, and the health of the economy as a whole. Obo, Omenka, Agishi, and Coker (2017) state that when gasoline prices officially surged, the government's decision to eliminate subsidies caused widespread protests and turmoil. An example of an unintended consequence is the smuggling of petroleum products out of the country. Another example is the federal government's claim that they are unable to address collective infrastructure problems like roads, power, agriculture, and fixing the refineries because of the fuel subsidy policy. Both the ever-increasing price of gasoline (which forced the government to pay more to maintain a low domestic price) and the exponential growth of Nigeria's population have contributed to the fuel subsidy's ever-increasing cost. When taken as a whole, these factors render the gasoline subsidy programme financially unviable.

As a result, Babatunde (2018) affirmed that oil subsidies have substantial implications for price stability, affecting both domestic and global markets. While subsidies may initially stabilize prices by keeping fuel costs low for consumers, they can also distort market mechanisms, strain government budgets, and impact long-term economic stability. Oil subsidies can artificially lower fuel prices, which may contribute to short-term price stability by shielding consumers from market fluctuations. This can also lead to market distortions, as subsidized prices do not reflect true production costs or global market prices. As a result, consumers may overconsume fuel, leading to inefficient resource allocation and market imbalances (Babatunde, 2018). Furthermore, Coady, Parry, Sears and Shang (2017) found that the removal of fuel subsidies often leads to an immediate increase in fuel prices, which can contribute to inflationary pressures in the economy. Higher fuel prices can raise production costs, transportation costs, and input costs for businesses, leading to higher prices for goods and services across various sectors. This can result in a temporary uptick in inflation as consumer prices adjust to the new cost environment.

The notion that oil subsidies impact economic development is no longer novel. Nevertheless, the impact of oil subsidies on price stability is now a subject of intense dispute in worldwide literature. In congruent with the researchers, there is a lack of empirical studies in the Nigerian setting that have explored the relationship between oil subsidies and price stability. Furthermore, none of these empirical studies used quarterly data or extended their analysis up to 2022, highlighting a research gap that this study intends to address. This research aims to analyse the impact of oil subsidies on price stability in Nigeria over a span of twenty-one years, using quarterly data from 2000Q1 to 2022Q4. The research had the specific objective of investigating the impact of oil subsidies on the consumer price index in Nigeria, likewise examining the influence of oil prices on the consumer pricing index in Nigeria. Section 2 of the paper comprises the literature while section 3 is the methodology. Section 4 presents the data analysis, and discussion of findings. The paper ends with section 5 by concluding and making significant recommendations.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Big Push Theory. The Big Push Theory, initially proposed by Paul Rosenstein-Rodan in the 1940s and further developed by economists such as Albert Hirschman and Ragnar Nurkse, suggests that developing economies may require a simultaneous and coordinated effort across multiple sectors to overcome structural barriers to growth and achieve sustained economic development. The theory argues that in certain situations, isolated or piecemeal investments may not be sufficient to stimulate growth due to the presence of interdependencies and coordination failures among different sectors of the economy. Instead, a "big push" or concerted effort involving simultaneous investments in infrastructure, industry, education, and other key sectors is necessary to trigger a self-reinforcing cycle of growth and development. The Big Push Theory suggests that there are

strong interdependencies among different sectors of the economy. In the case of oil subsidies, the provision of subsidies to the energy sector can have spillover effects on other sectors, such as transportation, manufacturing, and agriculture. For example, lower fuel prices resulting from oil subsidies can reduce production costs for businesses across various industries, leading to lower prices for goods and services. This can contribute to price stability by reducing inflationary pressures and improving the purchasing power of consumers. The Big Push Theory also highlights the presence of coordination failures in development interventions. In the context of oil subsidies, government interventions aimed at stabilizing energy prices may be necessary to prevent market failures or address externalities associated with energy consumption. However, if subsidies are not implemented effectively or coordinated with other policy measures, they may lead to unintended consequences such as fiscal deficits, distortions in resource allocation, and inflationary pressures. For example, excessive or poorly targeted oil subsidies can strain government budgets, crowd out public investment in other sectors, and fuel inflationary pressures, undermining price stability in the long run (Jhingan, 2012). The big push theory is applicable to the study as it suggests that large-scale government intervention, like subsidies, can stimulate economic stability and growth, helping to stabilize prices by reducing costs in critical sectors.

Empirical Literature

Ozili and Obiora (2024) use discourse analysis to delve into the micro and macroeconomic effects of Nigeria's gasoline subsidy elimination in 2023. The removal of fuel subsidies would have several positive effects, comprising promoting competition, revitalising domestic refineries, alleviating pressure on the exchange rate, freeing up financial resources for other sectors of the economy, boosting employment, directing funds towards the development of essential public infrastructure, reducing government borrowing, combating corruption related to fuel subsidy payments, increasing

employment opportunities, and reducing Nigeria's reliance on imported fuel. Additionally, it would bolster employment rates and result in a surplus in the budget in the foreseeable future. In the short run, reducing gasoline subsidies could slow economic development, but in the long run, it might lead to higher inflation, poverty, fuel smuggling, criminality, petroleum product costs, and the loss of informal sector employment.

Fuel subsidy withdrawal has far-reaching consequences for companies of all sizes in Nigeria, and Ohonba and Ogbeide (2023) looked at how this will affect GDP growth across the board. Findings from the study illuminate complex processes that follow the removal of gasoline subsidies. The research team used a qualitative technique to scour the relevant literature. While the elimination of fuel subsidies does raise gasoline prices, which in turn affect transportation costs and product and service pricing, the effects on companies differ greatly in congruence with industry and size, in congruence with the findings. Big companies can usually weather price hikes with relative ease, and they can even reap some benefits from less competition.

Attitudes, social norms, and perceived control are three factors that Nwachukwu and Tumba (2023) looked at as they pertain to consumer behaviour. In congruence with the results, the elimination of subsidies caused gasoline prices to spike suddenly, which in turn drove up the prices of transportation and other necessities. Hoarding and other forms of poor consumer behaviour, such as purchasing in a panic, made price instability, inflation, and social discontent even worse. As a result of consumers' perception that petroleum goods were becoming more expensive, gasoline consumption patterns shifted, and alternative energy sources became more popular. Consumers shifted their spending habits in response to the elimination of subsidies, which affected several industries. These comprised transportation, services, food and grocery, and consumer goods.

With data collected from 1981–2019, Noorasiah, Mukaramah, and Arief (2022) analysed how fuel subsidy rationalisation affected sectoral production and employment. The research used total employment as a proxy for employment and oil subsidies and prices as proxies for fuel subsidy rationalisation. The research used the Ordinary Least Squares regression method with a computational general equilibrium (CGE) model. In particular, the analysis found that businesses with strong ties to the petroleum refining industry will see a decline in economic performance as a result of higher input prices caused by the elimination of fuel subsidies. The biggest drop in production and jobs is in the manufacturing sector. On the other hand, there is a surge in demand for labour forces that are highly and moderately skilled.

Research by Omotosho (2020) examined the impact on Nigeria's macroeconomic (in)stability of oil price shocks and gasoline subsidies. This research measured and constructed a New-Keynesian DSGE model that takes into consideration the impact of changes in the price of oil on petrol prices at the pump. The findings demonstrated that oil price shocks had substantial and long-lasting effects on production, explaining about 22% of its changes up to the fourth year. The research demonstrated that in the standard model (i.e., with fuel subsidies), a drop in oil prices reduces GDP overall, improves GDP in sectors other than oil, raises headline inflation, and lowers the value of the currency.

Inegbedion, Obadiaru, and Asaleye (2020) looked examined the economy of Nigeria from 1985 to 2018 via the prism of petroleum subsidy removal, gasoline price rises, and other related factors. The researchers in this study set out to answer the question, "How much do you think elimination of petroleum subsidies would affect gasoline prices and other product prices in the Nigerian economy?" As a result of the high degree of interdependence among the different sectors, the results demonstrated that a decrease in petroleum subsidies causes prices of petroleum products to rise, which in turn causes transport fares to rise.

Uzonwanne, Ezenekwe, and Iregbenu (2018) looked into the gasoline subsidy's effects on the Nigerian economy; specifically, they looked at the challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions to Nigeria's long-term economic growth concerns. For the purpose of proving its point, the research relied on Rosenstein-Rodan's "Big Push" thesis or theory. The research relied heavily on both primary and secondary sources for its data. We used questionnaires to gather main data, and we also gathered secondary data. Data analysis relied on descriptive statistics. In congruent with the research, most Nigerians' quality of living has not improved much as a consequence of gasoline subsidies.

In an empirical study, Suraju (2018) looked at how the transportation industry in Lagos State reacted to the elimination of petroleum subsidies and the introduction of a fuel tax. Using a multi-stage sampling approach, data was acquired from 1, 565 respondents spread among 70 housing complexes in six local governments in the state. The state's fuel consumption has been substantially reduced as a result of the elimination of subsidies and the implementation of a petrol tax, in congruent with the results of the correlation study. Subsidy elimination and fuel taxation are, therefore, viable policy choices for lowering Nigeria's present high petrol consumption.

Okwanya, Ogbu, and Pristine (2015) examined the CPI data from 1986 to 2015 to see how changes to gasoline subsidies affected the index. This research examined the correlation between the elimination of fuel subsidies and CPI using data on premium motor spirit (PMS) pump prices and CPI from 1986 to 2014, and it did it using the co-integration and error correction model (ECM). Although there is a short-term effect of gasoline price changes on CPI, the research indicated that this effect is only 12% in the short-term. Within one year, only 0.2% of the CPI distortion generated by such a shift is rectified. This suggests that changes to fuel subsidies may have long-lasting effects on the economy, even while they won't

reduce actual family income or raise poverty rates.

In 2012, Chinedu and Ebele looked examined how the elimination of gasoline subsidies affected the growth of businesses in Nigeria. Regulatory monopolies, a fundamental tenet of classical economic theory, provide the basis of the research. The research aimed to achieve its aims by using a descriptive survey approach. We used a questionnaire to gather information from 300 people in the southeastern region of Nigeria. We empirically tested the hypothesis that led the research by analysing the data gathered using a statistical summation approach and a Z-test at a significance level of 0.05. The research concluded that cutting gasoline subsidies will not lead to an increase in employment opportunities in Nigeria. Removing gasoline subsidies is a key component of the broader plan to speed up company growth, in congruent with the report.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study used an ex-post facto research design. In order to get valuable and dependable information, the researchers used secondary sources for data collecting. The quarterly data used in this study were obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Statistical Bulletin, the World Development Indicators (WDI) published by the World Bank, and reports from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The dataset had a duration of twenty-three years, comprising the time period from 2000Q1 to 2022Q4.

Model Specification

The empirical model used in this work was owing to Omotosho's (2020) model, which empirically examined the impact of oil price shocks and fuel subsidies on macroeconomic instability in Nigeria. The model underwent minor modifications to comprise all the variables used in this analysis. The details of this model are displayed below:

Representing the model in its functional form, we may express it as:

$$CPI = f(OSD, OLP) \tag{1}$$

By converting equation (1) into a mathematical representation, we get:

$$CPI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 OSD_t + \beta_2 OLP_t \tag{2}$$

Converting equation (2) into an econometric model yields:

$$CPI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 OSD_t + \beta_2 OLP_t + \psi_t \tag{3}$$

Converting equation (3) into a logarithmic linear model yields:

$$InCPI_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 InOSD + \beta_2 InOLP + \psi_t \tag{4}$$

Where: CPI = consumer price index, OSD = oil subsidy, OLP = oil price, β_0 = constant variable in the model, β_1 = parameter of oil subsidy, β_2 = parameter of oil price t = timeframe ψ_t = disturbance or error term.

The Error Correction Model is defined as:

$$\ln(CPI_t) = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^p \alpha_{1i} \Delta \ln(CPI_{t-i}) + \sum_{i=1}^q \alpha_{2i} \Delta \ln(OSD_{t-i}) + \sum_{i=1}^q \alpha_{3i} \Delta \ln(OLP_{t-i}) + \delta ECT_{t-1} + \epsilon_{1t} \tag{5}$$

$$\Delta \ln(OSD_t) = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^p \alpha_{1i} \Delta \ln(OSD_{t-i}) + \sum_{i=1}^q \alpha_{2i} \Delta \ln(CPI_{t-i}) + \sum_{i=1}^q \alpha_{3i} \Delta \ln(OSD_{t-i}) + \delta ECT_{t-1} + \epsilon_{2t} \tag{6}$$

$$\Delta \ln(OLP_t) = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^p \alpha_{1i} \Delta \ln(OLP_{t-i}) + \sum_{i=1}^q \alpha_{2i} \Delta \ln(OSD_{t-i}) + \sum_{i=1}^q \alpha_{3i} \Delta \ln(CPI_{t-i}) + \delta ECT_{t-1} + \epsilon_{3t} \tag{7}$$

Where: α_{1j} - α_{3j} = short-run dynamic coefficients of the model's convergence to equilibrium. δ = the speed of adjustment which is expected to be negative. ECT = the lagged error correction term derived from the long run cointegrating relationships.

Description of Variables in the Model

The factors in this research are categorised as dependent and independent variables.

The Dependent Variable

In this research, the dependent variable is price stability, which is quantified using the consumer price index.

➤ **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** This is an indicator that monitors fluctuations in the mean price level of a collection of products and services that are used by households, with the passage of time. The measure of inflation, known as the Consumer Price Index (CPI), is widely used and is determined by comparing the present cost of a certain set of goods and services to the cost of the same set during a reference period.

The Independent Variables

- **Oil Subsidy (OSD):** This is financial assistance provided by the government to reduce the cost of oil-related products, such as gasoline, diesel, or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), for consumers. Subsidies are typically implemented through mechanisms such as direct payments, price controls, or tax exemptions to keep fuel prices below market levels. However, oil subsidy is expected to have negative effect on consumer price index. This is mathematically stated as: $\beta_1 < 0$.
- **Oil Price (OLP):** The term "crude oil spot price" pertains to the prevailing market value of crude oil, which serves as a substantial commodity traded on international markets. Oil prices are impacted by a multitude of variables, such as the interplay between supply and demand, geopolitical occurrences, economic circumstances, and market speculation. The price of oil is typically quoted in terms of barrels (bbl) and can vary

substantially over time due to fluctuations in global oil markets. However, oil price is expected to have positive effect on consumer price index. This is mathematically stated as: $\beta_2 > 0$.

Data Analysis Techniques

To avoid spurious result, the features of the time series data utilized for the estimation of the model were examined. This enabled the researchers to ascertain whether the mean value and variance of these variables vary or do not vary over time. To this end, stationarity test (unit root test) was conducted on all the variables involved in the study using Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) statistic. In addition to this, Johansen Cointegration was used to investigate the long run relationship among our variables (consumer price index, oil subsidy and oil price). Lastly, given that the variables were all stationary at first difference [I(1)], Error Correction Model (ECM) method was adopted.

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Descriptive Analysis

The descriptive statistics of all the variables comprised in our model are as follows:

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Consumer Price Index (CPI), Oil Subsidy (OSD), Oil Price (OLP)

	CPI	OSD	OLP
Mean	12.85970	1365.347	63.19189
Median	12.00000	1402.538	60.93000
Maximum	23.80000	2705.330	109.4500
Minimum	6.600000	132.1400	23.12000
Std. Dev.	3.557202	759.8574	27.34352
Skewness	0.450978	-0.092247	0.208978
Kurtosis	2.865289	1.810981	1.866168
Jarque-Bera	2.841544	4.946667	4.989228
Probability	0.241527	0.084303	0.082528
Sum	1054.495	111958.5	5181.735
Sum Sq. Dev.	1024.949	46768043	60561.10
Observations	82	82	82

Source: *Researchers' Computation (2024).*

The descriptive statistics of the study variables (consumer price index, oil subsidy, and oil price) displayed in Table 1 reveal that the mean value of oil subsidy is 1365.34, which is the highest among the variables. Next in line is the oil price, which has an average of 63.191, and the consumer price index, which has an average value of 12.85 during the study period. The aforementioned figure demonstrates that the

magnitude of the oil subsidy surpasses both the consumer price index and the oil price during the duration of the study. Throughout the specified time frame, the highest consumer price index reached 23.8%, while the lowest figure was 6.6%. Oil subsidy ranges from a minimum value of 132.14 to a high value of 2705.330, while the least oil price is 23.12 and the maximum oil price is 109.45.

Trend Analysis

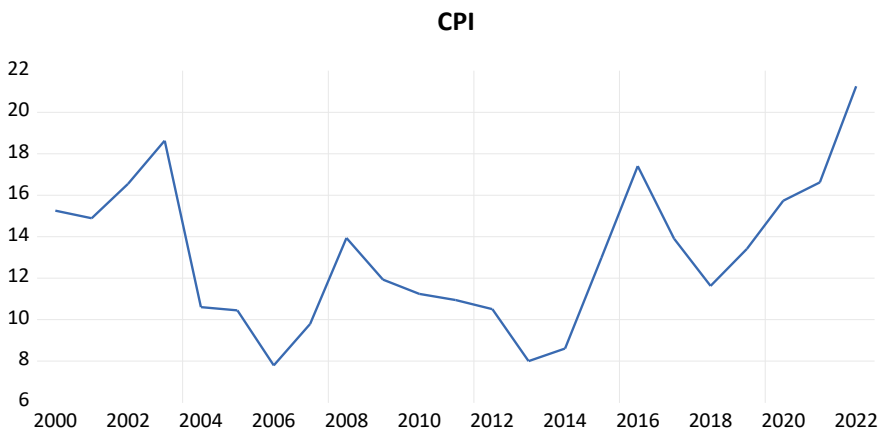


Figure 1: Line Graph Showing the Trend in Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Figure 1 shows the trend in Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2000Q1 to 2022Q4. As depicted by the graph, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was initially low during the early period of this study (2000Q1) but later appeared to rise shortly after which it later fell again. This

rise and fall continued until it peaked at 2022Q1. This is evidenced in the aggressive upward and downward movements in the graph representing Consumer Price Index (CPI) throughout the study period.

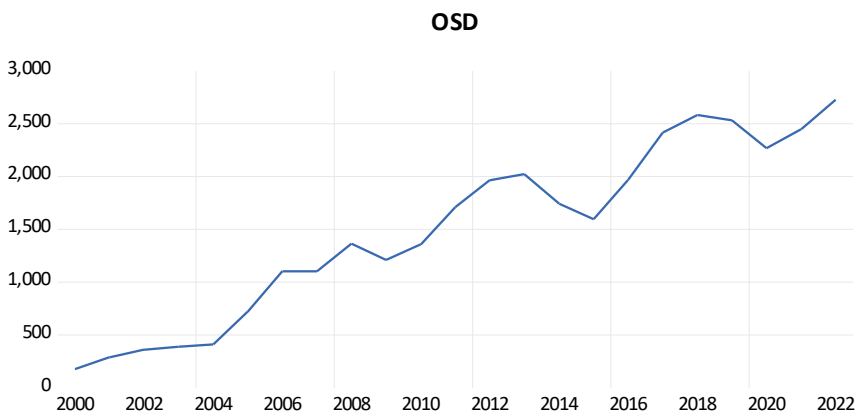


Figure 2: Line Graph Showing the Trend in Oil Subsidy (OSD)

Figure 2 presents the trend in oil subsidy (OSD) from 2000Q1 to 2022Q4. As displayed by the graph, the oil subsidy (OSD) began its upward movement from the start period of the study (2000Q1) and this movement most continued to the end period of the study which

is 2022Q4. However, series of slight downward movements were observed in between upward movements from the start period to the end period, indicating low level of inconsistencies in oil subsidy (OSD) in Nigeria during the study period.

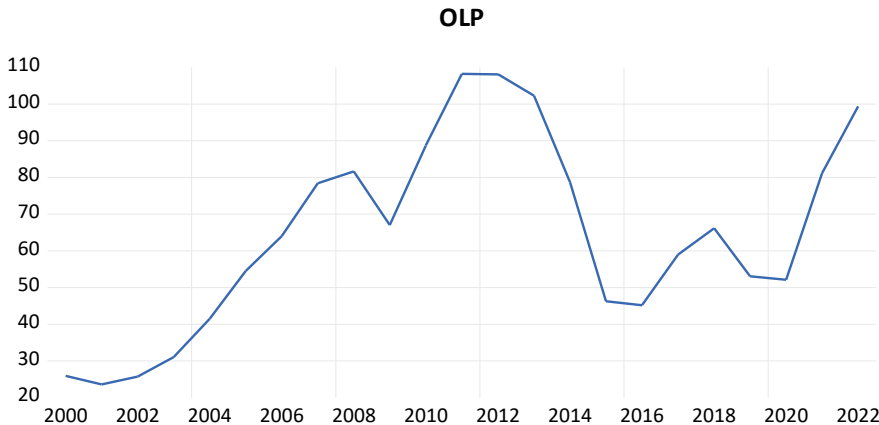


Figure 3: Line Graph Showing the Trend in Oil Price (OLP)

Figure 3 shows the trend in oil price (OLP) from 2000Q1 to 2022Q4. As indicated in the graph, the oil price (OLP) was initially high during the early period of this study (2000Q1) but slowly moved downward after which it resumed upward movement again which continued till

2008Q4 before moving downward only to move upward shortly after. These upward and downward movements in the graph representing oil price (OLP) continued throughout the study period, indicating variations in oil price.

Unit Root Test

Table 2 displays the results of the unit root test.

Table 2: Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) Test Results

Variables	At Levels		At First Difference		
	ADF Statistic	5% Critical Value	ADF Statistic	5% Critical Value	Order of Integration
<i>lnCPI</i>	-2.474732	-2.896779	-3.718856	-2.896779	I(1)
<i>lnOSD_t</i>	-1.775602	-2.903566	-3.545089	-2.903566	I(1)
<i>lnOLP_t</i>	-2.305378	-2.895109	-3.362542	-2.895109	I(1)

Source: *Researchers' Computation (2024).*

The null hypotheses of unit root test presented in Table 2 are rejected for consumer price index (CPI), oil subsidy (OSD) and oil price (OLP) at first difference. This therefore means that consumer price index (CPI), oil subsidy (OSD) and oil price (OLP) are stationary at first difference and are integrated of order one, that is, [I(1)]. Ultimately, the outcomes of the unit

root test suggest that the series are likely to be devoid of false regression estimates. Since the variables exhibit a tendency of stationarity, namely being integrated of order one [I(1)], we can now evaluate if there is a long-run cointegrating connection among the variables in the ECM equation using the Johansen cointegration test.

Table 3: VAR Lag Order Selection Criteria

Lag	LogL	LR	FPE	AIC	SC	HQ
0	-1010.176	NA	1.75e+09	29.79929	29.89721	29.83809
1	-702.5184	579.1200	268880.7	21.01525	21.40692	21.17044
2	-619.5964	148.7718	30626.93	18.84107*	19.52651*	19.11266*
3	-617.2719	3.965277	37429.81*	19.03741	20.01660	19.42540
4	-611.5447	9.264661*	41536.38	19.13367	20.40662	19.63805

Source: *Researchers' Computation (2024).*

According to Table 3, all of the criteria chose lag two as the optimal lag duration when selecting a lag. After this, the remaining

studies in this research all used an optimal lag length of two.

Cointegration Test

Table 4 below displays the findings of the Johansen cointegration test:

Table 4: Johansen Cointegration Test Results

Hypothesized No. of CE(s)	Trace			Maximum Eigen Value		
	Statistic	0.5 Critical Value	Prob.**	Statistic	0.5 Critical Value	Prob.**
None*	43.46768	42.91525	0.0440	26.41303	25.82321	0.0403
At most 1	23.05465	25.87211	0.1078	15.31121	19.38704	0.1773
At most 2	7.743439	12.51798	0.2733	7.743439	12.51798	0.2733

Source: *Researchers' Computation (2024).*

The Johansen cointegration test result, displayed in Table 4, indicates that there is one co-integrating long-run equation in both situations. The values of the Trace and Max Eigen statistics are above the crucial values of 0.05. This suggests that there is a presence of cointegration among the variables in the model. The Johansen cointegration test confirms the presence of a long-term link or cointegration between the consumer price index, oil subsidy,

and oil price. In the long term, both oil subsidy and oil price have a substantial impact on the consumer price index. After identifying cointegrating correlations in the model, we proceeded to estimate the Error Correction Model (ECM) in order to align the short-term dynamics with the long-term disequilibrium of the variables.

Table 5: Results of Estimated Short-Run Coefficients of ECM

Dependent Variable = (lnCPI_t)				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.*
C	0.000549	0.009598	0.057188	0.9546
D(lnCPI _{t-1})	0.666175	0.109076	6.107447	0.0000
D(lnCPI _{t-2})	0.078913	0.123727	0.637801	0.5258
D(lnOSD _t)	-0.563878	0.232456	-2.425745	0.0284
D(lnOSD _{t-1})	-0.097666	0.176878	-0.552163	0.5827
D(lnOSD _{t-2})	-0.077519	0.142186	-0.545198	0.5875
D(lnOLP _t)	0.561247	0.222083	2.527195	0.0211
D(lnOLP _{t-1})	0.123874	0.232769	0.532175	0.5964
D(lnOLP _{t-2})	0.105786	0.182881	0.578442	0.5649
ECM _{t-1} *	-0.14679	0.036610	-4.009566	0.0002
Adjusted R-squared = 0.580190; Prob(F-statistic) = 0.000000; Durbin-Watson stat = 2.038307				

Source: *Researchers' Computation (2024).*

The ECM result in Table 5 shows that the coefficient value for the oil subsidy (OSD) in the short term is negative (-0.563878), and the probability value (0.0284) is below the 5 percent threshold of significance. These findings demonstrate that oil subsidy (OSD) has a detrimental and statistically substantial impact on the consumer price index (CPI) in the immediate term. Therefore, a surge in oil subsidy would result in a fall in the consumer price index in Nigeria. Furthermore, in the near term, the consumer price index (CPI) is not substantially affected by the oil subsidy (OSD) at lag one and lag two. The present discovery is connected to the research conducted by Ozili and Obiora (2024), which concluded that the elimination of fuel subsidies has adverse effects on both economic development, leading to a decline, and inflation, which experiences a surge in the near run. Conversely, in the beginning stage, the coefficient value (0.561247) and probability value (0.0211) of the oil price (OLP) are both positive and below the 5 percent significance limit. This suggests that there is a positive and strong correlation between the price of oil (OLP) and the consumer price index (CPI) in the near term. Therefore, a surge in the price of oil would result in an increase in the

consumer price index in Nigeria. In the near term, there is a positive but statistically insubstantial relationship between oil price (OLP) and consumer price index (CPI) at lag one and lag two. This finding is corroborated by the study conducted by Inegbedion, Inegbedion, Obadiaru, and Asaleye (2020), which demonstrated that a decrease in petroleum subsidies leads to higher prices of petroleum products. These price increases then cause an increase in transport fares, which, in turn, result in higher prices for other goods due to the interconnectedness of different sectors.

In addition, the adjusted R-squared (R²) value of 0.580190 signifies that 58 percent of the predictable variation in the consumer price index (CPI) can be accounted for by the oil subsidy (OSD) and oil price (OLP) in the short-term. The remaining 42% is attributed to other variables or factors that were not contained in the model. The Prob(F-statistic) value of 0.000, which is below the significance level of 0.05, suggests that both the oil subsidy (OSD) and oil price (OLP) have a statistically substantial combined impact on the consumer price index (CPI) in Nigeria. Furthermore, the Durbin Watson statistic of 2.038307 demonstrates a

lack of serial correlation in the model. Finally, the short-term error correction model (ECM) result in Table 5 indicates that the anticipated negative value of ECM(-1) is quite substantial. This validates the presence of a sustained connection between the variables, taking into

account their respective considerable delays. The coefficient of ECM(-1), which is -0.146790, signifies that the discrepancy from the long-term growth rate of the consumer price index is adjusted by 15% in the subsequent year.

Table 6: Pairwise Granger Causality Test Result

Null Hypothesis:	Obs	F-Statistic	Prob.
<i>lnOSD</i> does not Granger Cause <i>lnCPI</i>	80	4.06752	0.0327
<i>lnCPI</i> does not Granger Cause <i>lnOSD</i>		0.29840	0.7460
<i>lnOLP</i> does not Granger Cause <i>lnCPI</i>	80	4.63907	0.0346
<i>lnCPI</i> does not Granger Cause <i>lnOLP</i>		1.04575	0.3743
<i>lnOLP</i> does not Granger Cause <i>lnOSD</i>	80	0.71612	0.5037
<i>lnOSD</i> does not Granger Cause <i>lnOLP</i>		0.41159	0.6694

Source: Researchers' Computation (2024).

The upshots of the paired Granger causality test, as displayed in Table 6, indicate that there is a unidirectional causation between oil subsidy and oil price, and the consumer price index. These findings suggest that oil subsidy and oil

price have an impact on the consumer price index in Nigeria throughout the research period, but the consumer price index does not dictate the oil subsidy and oil price.

Post Estimation (Diagnostic) Tests

The results of diagnostic tests are presented and discussed below:

Table 7: Post-Estimation Test Results

Test	F-Statistic	Probability	Null Hypothesis	Decision
Normality Test	1.970411	0.407932	H₀: Normal distribution	Do not reject H ₀
Serial Correlation LM Test	1.008856	0.3704	H₀: No serial correlation	Do not reject H ₀
Heteroskedasticity Test	1.860612	0.0737	H₀: Homoscedasticity	Do not reject H ₀
Ramsey RESET test	0.018976	0.8909	H₀: Correctly specified	Do not reject H ₀

Source: Researchers' Computation (2024).

The normality test conducted on the error term, as displayed in Table 7, confirmed its normal distribution. Additionally, the outcome of the serial correlation LM test indicated that the model does not exhibit any serial correlation

issue. Furthermore, the heteroscedasticity test indicated that the model exhibits homoscedasticity, while the Ramsey RESET test confirmed that the model is accurately defined.

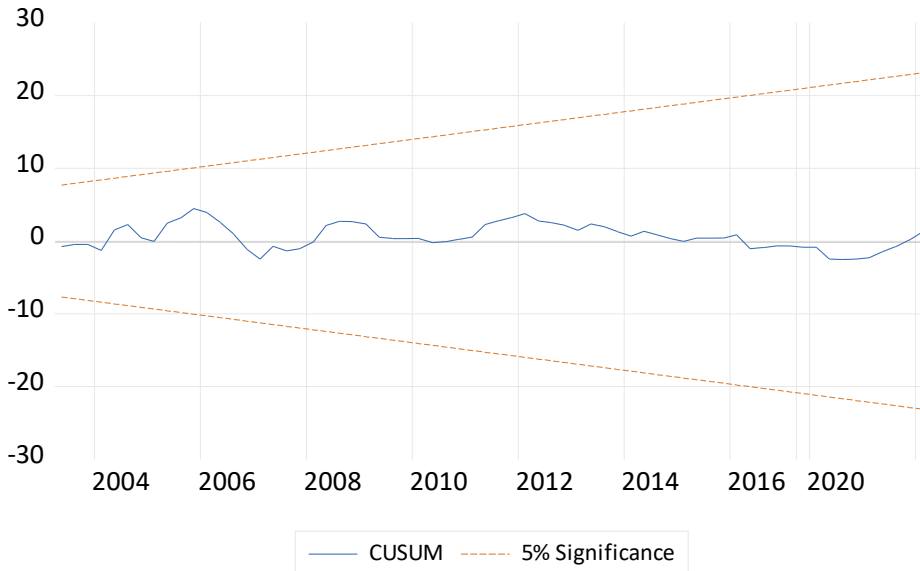


Figure 4: Cusum Stability Test

The stability test conducted in Figure 4 demonstrated the presence of coefficient stability for the calculated values. This is because the plot remains inside a crucial limit of 5%.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This research has determined the impact of oil subsidies on price stability in Nigeria between 2000 and 2022 by analysing quarterly data. The analysis revealed that both oil subsidy and oil price have substantial individual and combined impacts on the consumer price index in Nigeria. In congruence with the results, the research finds that oil subsidies have a substantial adverse impact on price stability in Nigeria. In congruence with the study's conclusions, it is

proposed that the government should progressively decrease and ultimately eliminate gasoline subsidies.

While subsidies may initially help keep fuel prices low for consumers, they can also distort market mechanisms, strain government budgets, and contribute to inflationary pressures. Gradually reducing subsidies will allow for a smoother adjustment process, mitigating the immediate impact on consumers while signaling the government's commitment to fiscal sustainability. Lastly, there should be diversification of energy sources and promotion of energy efficiency measures to reduce reliance on oil and mitigate the impact of oil price fluctuations on the consumer price index.

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COUNTER-HEGEMONIC INTERNATIONAL LAW AS A STRATEGY FOR RETHINKING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Counter-hegemonic international law is an approach that challenges the dominant western centric international legal order. The study examined the potency of counter-hegemonic international law as a third world strategy. It is revealed that counter-hegemonic strategies such as non-aligned movement and Brazil's counter-hegemonic foreign policy employed by third world nations have been instrumental in challenging the dominant narrative within international law as well as the promotion of alternative development models. In implementing these strategies, third world nations face challenges ranging from economic dependence and vulnerability, capacity constraints, division and fragmentation. The study concludes that counter-hegemonic international law encourages collaboration among third world nations and fosters solidarity. The study recommends a Third World-centred perspective.

Keywords: Counter-Hegemony, International law, Human rights, Development, Third World

1. Introduction

Counter-hegemonic international law refers to an approach that challenges the dominant western centric international legal order. The concept is rooted in Antonio Gramsci's work, which pertains to the opposition against prevailing power structures. In the context of international law, it represents the challenges posed against a dominant legal framework that is often shaped by powerful nations, by

marginalized groups or states. This resistance seeks to undermine, change, or supplant established legal norms, institutions, and practices with alternatives that more accurately represent the interests and values of those who have been marginalized or oppressed (Cox, 1981). Central to understanding counter-hegemony in international law is the recognition that law is not merely a neutral instrument but a tool of power.

As Robert Cox argues "law is not given, it is made" (Cox, 1981). Hegemonic legal frameworks are designed to validate and perpetuate current power dynamics, frequently to the detriment of marginalized communities. Consequently, counter-hegemonic movements involve a deep analysis of these power dynamics and the formulation of alternative discourses and practices. This process frequently requires reinterpreting current legal norms to better align with the needs and aspirations of marginalized communities. For example, the idea of "human security," in contrast to conventional state-centered security, has developed as a counter-hegemonic framework that emphasizes safeguarding individuals and communities from a range of threats, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation (Ungoed-Thomas, 1998). Groups that want to change the power structure might create new laws and courts. For example, the International Criminal Court was made to stop powerful countries from getting away with bad things and to make sure everyone follows the same rules (Ungoed-Thomas, 1998).

The significance of rethinking traditional frameworks of international law from a Third World perspective is underscored by the systemic inequalities embedded within these frameworks. As Robert Cox argues, international law is not a neutral construct but rather a tool of power wielded by dominant states (Cox 1981). Historically, international law has been predominantly shaped by Western powers, reflecting their interests and values (Acharya 2000). Consequently, it has often marginalized the concerns and experiences of the Global South (Stiglitz 2002).

By centering the experiences of the Global South, it becomes evident that traditional international law has often failed to provide adequate protection for their rights and interests. For instance, the law of the sea, while providing a framework for ocean governance, has not effectively addressed the specific needs of coastal developing states, particularly in terms of marine resource management and exploitation (Burke et al, 2006). Similarly, the

international trade regime, under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO), has been criticized for exacerbating inequalities between developed and developing countries (Chang 2007). The fulcrum of the study is to examine counter-hegemonic international law, while rethinking human rights and development as a third world strategy. The paper is organized in six sections. Section focuses on hegemonic nature of international law. Section 3 addresses human rights and development in the Third World. Section 4 introduces and stresses counter-hegemonic strategies and challenges. In section 5, findings and future directions are enumerated. Section 6 concludes and offers insight into recommendations.

2. **Hegemonic Nature of International Law**

The historical development of international law is inextricably linked to the rise of European states and the subsequent establishment of a global order dominated by Western powers. The foundations of contemporary international law can be traced back to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, which marked the end of the Thirty Years' War and established the principle of state sovereignty (Buzan and Waever 2003). This system, while promoting political independence, also laid the groundwork for a hierarchical international order in which European states enjoyed privileged status.

The nineteenth century witnessed the codification of international law through the work of jurists such as Jeremy Bentham and Hugo Grotius. These efforts, while contributing to the development of a more formalized legal system, also reinforced the dominance of European legal thought and practice (Cassese 2005). The colonization of vast territories by European powers further entrenched Western legal norms and institutions in global governance.

The post-World War II period marked a significant turning point in international law with the creation of the United Nations. While the UN Charter espoused principles of equality and self-

determination, the organization's structures and decision-making processes continued to reflect the power dynamics of the Cold War era. The permanent membership of the Security Council, dominated by Western powers, underscored the enduring influence of European states in shaping the global legal order (Krasner 1999). A core colonial legacy is the principle of state sovereignty, a cornerstone of international law. While it ostensibly promotes equality among states, its origins lie in the European concept of the nation-state, a construct used to justify colonial domination. This principle often overlooks the diverse and complex political formations that existed prior to colonization, perpetuating a Eurocentric worldview (Mamdani 1996).

Moreover, the division of the world into sovereign states facilitated the unequal distribution of resources and power. Colonial boundaries, often drawn arbitrarily, have contributed to post-colonial conflicts and hindered regional integration. Economic systems imposed during colonialism, such as export-oriented agriculture and extractive industries, continue to shape many developing countries' economies, making them vulnerable to global market fluctuations (Rodney 1972). International economic law, a critical domain, is also marked by colonial legacies. The Bretton Woods institutions, established post-World War II, reflected the interests of Western powers and reinforced economic disparities. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a precursor to the World Trade Organization (WTO), was designed to benefit industrialized nations, often at the expense of developing countries (Chang 2007).

3. Human Rights and Development in the Third World

The Global South has been disproportionately affected by historical injustice, colonialism, and economic inequalities. These factors have hindered development and exacerbated human rights violations. Consequently, a human rights-based approach to development is crucial for addressing the root causes of poverty,

inequality, and marginalization. As Sen argues, development should be assessed not merely by economic growth but by the expansion of people's capabilities and freedoms (Sen 1999). However, the relationship between human rights and development is complex and contested. Some argue that prioritizing human rights can hinder economic growth, while others contend that economic development is a prerequisite for human rights realization. This debate often reflects differing perspectives on the role of the state and the market in development processes.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the interdependence of human rights and development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, explicitly link economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development with human rights. This integrated approach acknowledges that development must be inclusive, equitable, and participatory to be sustainable (Zhang and Aitong, 2019). On the other hand, human rights are essential for sustainable development. The protection of civil and political rights, such as freedom of speech and association, creates an enabling environment for civic participation and accountability, which are crucial for effective governance and development. Economic, social, and cultural rights, including the rights to education, health, and adequate housing, are fundamental to human development and can serve as powerful tools for poverty reduction and social inclusion (Alkire 2002).

The Global South has been particularly affected by the complex interplay between human rights and development. Many countries in the region have faced challenges such as conflict, inequality, and environmental degradation, which have hindered their development progress. A human rights-based approach to development can help to address these challenges by focusing on the needs and rights of marginalized groups and ensuring that development processes are inclusive and participatory (Kabeer 1999).

4. Counter-Hegemonic Strategies and Challenges

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) emerged during the Cold War as a counter-hegemonic bloc of developing nations. By refusing to align with either the United States or the Soviet Union, NAM countries sought to carve out a space for independent foreign policies. While NAM's influence has waned in recent decades, its legacy as a platform for collective action and advocacy for the Global South remains significant. NAM's success lies in its ability to foster solidarity among diverse developing countries and to articulate shared concerns on issues such as economic development, disarmament, and decolonization (Williams 1991).

Brazil's Counter-Hegemonic Foreign Policy

Brazil has emerged as a leading voice in the Global South, challenging the dominance of traditional Western powers. The country's foreign policy has emphasized South-South cooperation, multilateralism, and the promotion of a more equitable global order. Brazil's successful bid to host the 2016 Olympic Games and the 2014 FIFA World Cup can be seen as counter-hegemonic strategies aimed at enhancing the country's global visibility and influence. Furthermore, Brazil's role in climate change negotiations, particularly through the Amazon Fund, has positioned the country as a leader in global environmental governance (Machado da Silva 2010).

India's Soft Power Diplomacy

India has employed soft power strategies to enhance its global standing and challenge Western dominance. The country's vibrant culture, democratic institutions, and economic growth have contributed to its increasing influence. India's emphasis on South-South cooperation, particularly through initiatives like the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) dialogue forum, has allowed the country to build strategic partnerships with other emerging powers. Additionally, India's engagement with African

countries, through development assistance and trade, has strengthened its position as a global player (Pant 2007).

Challenging Dominant Narratives

The counter-hegemonic strategies employed by Third World countries have been instrumental in challenging the dominant narratives within international law and promoting alternative development models. These strategies directly confront the Western-centric worldview embedded in many international legal frameworks.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) challenged the bipolar Cold War order and offered a third world perspective on global issues. By emphasizing self-determination, economic independence, and non-interference, NAM questioned the West's right to dictate the terms of international relations. The movement also promoted alternative development models based on state-led industrialization and import substitution, providing a counterpoint to the Washington Consensus (Williams 1991).

Brazil's counter-hegemonic foreign policy has challenged the notion of development as solely driven by market forces. The country's emphasis on social inclusion and environmental sustainability offers a different paradigm for economic growth. Brazil's role in international climate negotiations has also challenged the dominant narrative of developing countries as free-riders by demonstrating leadership in addressing global environmental challenges (Machado da Silva 2010). India's soft power diplomacy has subverted the stereotype of the developing world as passive recipient of aid and technology. By showcasing its cultural and economic achievements, India has challenged the West's monopoly on knowledge production and innovation. The country's emphasis on South-South cooperation also undermines the North-South divide, promoting a more equitable and multipolar world order (Pant 2007). Third World countries face significant challenges in implementing counter-hegemonic strategies. These obstacles are multifaceted, ranging from economic constraints to geopolitical pressures.

Economic Dependence and Vulnerability:

Many Third World countries are heavily reliant on trade and investment from developed nations. This economic dependence can limit their ability to pursue independent foreign policies and challenge the status quo. Moreover, the global financial architecture, dominated by Western-led institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, often imposes conditionalities that constrain the policy space of developing countries (Stiglitz 2002).

Geopolitical Constraints: The global political landscape is characterized by a complex interplay of power dynamics. Third World countries often face pressure from major powers to align with their interests. Economic sanctions, military intervention, and diplomatic isolation are some of the tools used to coerce developing countries into submission. This limits their ability to pursue independent foreign policies and challenge the existing world order (Acharya 2000).

Capacity Constraints: Implementing counter-hegemonic strategies requires substantial human, financial, and institutional capacity. Many Third World countries lack the necessary resources to build effective diplomatic corps, conduct cutting-edge research, and implement complex policy initiatives. This capacity gap can hinder their ability to compete effectively on the global stage (Kahler 1990).

Division and Fragmentation: The Global South is a diverse region with a wide range of economic, political, and cultural conditions. This heterogeneity can make it difficult to build and maintain unity among developing countries. Differences in national interests, historical experiences, and ideological orientations can undermine collective action and weaken their bargaining power in the global arena (Grillo 1993).

Critiques

While counter-hegemonic approaches offer valuable insights into the challenges faced by Third World countries, they are not without their

critics. One common critique is that these approaches often overemphasize the role of external factors in shaping development outcomes, while downplaying the importance of domestic conditions and policies. Critics argue that many developing countries have failed to achieve their development goals due to factors such as corruption, weak governance, and lack of human capital, rather than solely external constraints imposed by the global economic order (Easterly 2006).

Another critique focuses on the potential for counter-hegemonic strategies to lead to isolationism and protectionism. By emphasizing self-reliance and economic independence, these approaches may inadvertently hinder integration into the global economy, limiting opportunities for trade, investment, and technology transfer. Moreover, some critics argue that excessive focus on challenging the status quo can divert attention from more pressing domestic challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation (Wade 2003).

Furthermore, the effectiveness of counter-hegemonic strategies can be limited by the complex and interconnected nature of the global economy. While it is important to challenge the dominance of Western-led institutions, it is equally important to engage with these institutions and seek to reform them from within. A purely confrontational approach may not be the most effective way to achieve desired outcomes (Gill 2003). While counter-hegemonic approaches offer valuable insights and strategies for addressing the challenges faced by Third World countries, it is essential to consider their limitations and potential drawbacks.

5. Findings and Future Directions

Hegemonic nature of international law: The current international legal framework is heavily influenced by Western values and interests, often marginalizing the concerns of Third World countries. Limitations of human rights and development frameworks: Traditional

approaches to human rights and development have been ineffective in addressing the root causes of poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment in the Global South.

Need for a Third World-centered perspective: To achieve meaningful change, a new paradigm is required that prioritizes the voices and experiences of marginalized communities.

Potential of counter-hegemonic strategies: By challenging the status quo and advocating for alternative legal frameworks, Third World countries can create a more just and equitable global order.

Importance of solidarity and cooperation: Building alliances among developing countries is crucial for amplifying their voices and increasing their bargaining power on the global stage. Ultimately, the issue at stake emphasizes the need for a fundamental shift in the way international law is conceptualized and practiced, one that empowers the Global South to shape its own destiny. The future directions of practice of counter-hegemonic strategies can be captured in what follows.

The Role of Emerging Powers: The rise of countries like Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) has significantly altered the global power dynamics. Research could delve into how these emerging powers are challenging or reinforcing existing international legal orders. A comparative analysis of their counter-hegemonic strategies could provide valuable insights into the evolving landscape of global governance (Acharya 2000).

Inter-sectionality and Counter-Hegemony: Examining how factors such as gender, race, and class intersect with counter-hegemonic struggles is crucial. Research could explore how marginalized groups within the Global South are challenging both domestic and international power structures. This intersectional approach would offer a more nuanced understanding of the complexities of counter-hegemonic movements (Mohanty, 1988).

Digital Technologies and Counter-Hegemony: The rapid advancement of digital technologies has transformed the way activism and social movements operate. Research could investigate how these technologies are being used to challenge dominant narratives and build solidarity among marginalized communities. The impact of digital surveillance and censorship on counter-hegemonic efforts also requires careful examination (Lovink 2003).

Counter-Hegemony and Global Environmental Governance: The climate crisis presents a significant challenge to the global order. Research could explore how developing countries are leveraging international environmental law to advance their interests and challenge the dominance of developed nations. This includes examining the potential for new forms of global governance that are more equitable and inclusive (Biermann 2005).

The Future of Counter-Hegemony: Given the rapidly changing global context, it is essential to consider the future trajectories of counter-hegemonic struggles. Further research could explore potential scenarios and challenges for these movements in the coming decades, including the impact of emerging technologies, geopolitical shifts, and demographic changes. By focusing on these areas, researchers can contribute to a deeper understanding of counter-hegemonic dynamics and inform the development of more effective strategies for challenging existing power structures.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Counter-hegemonic in international law presents a vital framework for re-examining the intersections of human rights and development within the context of Third World strategies. By challenging the dominant narratives and power structures that often marginalize the voices and needs of developing nations, this approach advocates a more equitable and inclusive legal framework. It emphasizes the necessity of integrating local perspectives, cultural contexts,

and historical experiences into the discourse on human rights and development.

Conclusively, counter-hegemonic international law encourages collaboration among third world countries, fostering solidarity and collective action to address shared challenges such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. As these nations assert their agency and redefine their priorities, they can create a more just global order that respects their sovereignty and promotes sustainable

development. Ultimately, rethinking human rights and development through this lens not only empowers third world countries but also enriches the global legal landscape, paving the way for a more balanced and humane international system. The central argument of the paper is that traditional international law, shaped primarily by Western powers, is inadequate to address the unique challenges and aspirations of the Global South. It proposes a rethinking of human rights and development strategies through the counter-hegemonic lens.

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PHONE NUMBER LINKAGE WITH NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: HOW DOES IT SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS' SECURITY AND ANTI-KIDNAPPING EFFORTS IN NIGERIA?

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Abstract

Integration of National Identification Number (NIN) with mobile phone numbers is a strategic policy aimed at enhancing national security by curbing crimes. With organized crime and kidnapping on the rise, the Nigerian government mandated the NIN-SIM linkage policy to reduce the anonymity associated with mobile communication. This paper explores the critical role that telecommunications service providers play in enforcing the NIN-SIM linkage policy and examines the ethical, legal, and practical implications of balancing enhanced security with individual privacy rights. Guided by Social Contract Theory, which underscores the reciprocal responsibilities between citizens and the state, the study posits that citizens' compliance with the NIN-SIM policy is founded on the government's obligation to provide security while respecting individual rights. The paper utilises secondary data. Findings reveal that while the NIN-SIM linkage has potential to aid crime tracking and investigation, it also raises significant concerns regarding data security and privacy, particularly given Nigeria's current data protection framework. The study concludes that by linking SIM cards to unique identifiers, the Nigerian government has created a framework that enables more effective tracking and accountability within telecommunications. To address the issues therein, a recommendation is made to enhance the capacity of the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) to provide robust legal safeguards, thereby ensuring that personal data collected through the NIN-SIM linkage are protected from unauthorized access and misuse.

Keywords: Phone Number Linkage, Security, Service Providers, Anti-kidnapping, Nigeria.

1. INTRODUCTION

Integration of a National Identification Number (NIN) with mobile phone numbers has emerged as a crucial measure in Nigeria's fight against crime, particularly in combating the rising menace of kidnapping. Nigeria, like many nations, has been experiencing increased incidences of kidnapping, with organized groups targeting individuals for ransom. Such crime patterns not only threaten the safety of individuals but also contribute to a pervasive sense of insecurity and a deterrent to economic activities. The Nigerian government has therefore implemented a mandatory linkage of

NIN with mobile phone numbers as a strategic step towards curbing these criminal activities and fostering a safer environment for all citizens.

Kidnapping has become an organized and systemic issue in Nigeria, with perpetrators often utilizing mobile communication channels to coordinate, demand ransoms, and evade capture. According to recent studies of Akinyele (2022), kidnappers frequently rely on mobile phones to communicate with victims' families, making it difficult for authorities to track their activities due to the anonymity of mobile phone ownership. Prior to the NIN policy, Nigeria's

telecommunications system permitted the acquisition of mobile lines without verifiable identification, thus allowing kidnappers and other criminals to exploit this loophole. With the enactment of this policy, every mobile phone number must now be registered and linked to an individual's NIN, thus potentially reducing the anonymity that criminals have historically relied upon (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2021).

The NIN policy is built on the premise that a robust identity management system is a fundamental requirement for any secure society. Identity management, especially when integrated with telecommunications data, serves as a foundation for enhancing security, governance, and socioeconomic development (Olatunde et al., 2020). By linking phone numbers to NINs, authorities gain an invaluable tool to identify and track mobile communication patterns, which is essential for crime prevention and investigation. India and Kenya among others have already implemented similar identity verification protocols, which have proven beneficial in reducing identity fraud, enabling more effective law enforcement, and enhancing national security (Acharya & Gupta, 2019; Mwangi, 2021).

However, the success of this security measure is heavily reliant on the cooperation of telecommunications service providers, who play an instrumental role in ensuring compliance and enforcement. Service providers are tasked not only with linking phone numbers to NINs but also with managing a comprehensive database that is accessible to security agencies in real-time. This responsibility places them at the forefront of the nation's anti-kidnapping efforts, making their role pivotal in ensuring the effectiveness of the NIN policy. Telecom operators are required to accurately verify and register users' identities, block unregistered or improperly registered SIM cards, and assist law enforcement agencies by providing essential information during investigations (NCC, 2022).

In addition to operational challenges, the policy raises important questions around privacy, data security, and human rights. The mandatory

linkage of NIN to phone numbers necessitates the collection and storage of sensitive personal data, which, if mishandled, could lead to data breaches or unauthorized surveillance (Amadi & Balogun, 2021). This aspect of data security is essential to maintain public trust in the NIN program and to prevent potential abuses. With the Nigerian populace showing mixed reactions to the mandatory NIN-SIM linkage due to privacy concerns and fear of government overreach, telecom companies are compelled to adopt transparent, ethical practices in handling users' personal data (Ibrahim, 2022).

Beyond security and privacy considerations, the role of service providers also includes raising public awareness. Given the resistance and misinformation surrounding the NIN-SIM linkage policy, telecommunications companies are in a unique position to educate the public on the importance and benefits of the policy. They are responsible for communicating the purpose behind the policy, which not only enhances compliance but also strengthens community support for anti-crime measures. According to Chukwu and Olarinde. (2023), public cooperation is often influenced by trust in government initiatives and confidence in data protection protocols. It is against this backdrop that this paper roles of phone number linkage with NIN in enhancing security, with focus on the responsibilities of service providers in supporting anti-kidnapping efforts in Nigeria. The study is divided into five sections, beginning with the introduction which laid the background to the study. The second section discusses the literature relevant to the study, while the third section explain the method employed. The fourth and fifth sections are conclusion and recommendations respectively.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Framework

National Identification Number

The National Identification Number (NIN), a unique identity code issued to each Nigerian by the National Identity Management Commission

(NIMC), serves as a cornerstone in Nigeria's quest for an integrated and secure identity system. To begin, Akinyele (2022) highlights the NIN's role in promoting both security and national development. Akinyele defines the NIN as a unique identifier that not only enables citizens to be tracked within national databases but also helps the government extend public services more effectively. The system, therefore, aligns with the government's objective to centralize identity management.

Transitioning to a broader perspective, Olatunde et al. (2020) underscore the NIN's role in bridging Nigeria's digital divide. Their interpretation focuses on the NIN as part of a larger digital identity infrastructure that brings marginalized populations into the formal economy, especially by supporting unbanked individuals' access to financial services. Olatunde et al. (2020) also see the NIN as instrumental for ensuring that government programs reach the intended beneficiaries. They argue that reliable identification systems, such as the NIN, are vital in a country where vast segments of the population might otherwise be excluded from digital and economic opportunities.

In addition, Acharya and Gupta (2019) compare Nigeria's NIN system to India's Aadhaar initiative, framing the NIN as a tool aligned with international standards for biometric and demographic data collection. They maintain that the NIN is critical for maintaining a secure, accountable identity system capable of supporting effective crime prevention and population tracking. Furthermore, Balogun and Amadi (2021) frame the NIN as a critical foundation for identity verification across both public and private sectors, highlighting its role in preventing unauthorized access to critical services. They discuss the NIN as a verification tool that ensures that only authenticated users can access services such as telecommunications, banking, and government benefits. The absence of a reliable identity verification system previously allowed criminal activities, including terrorism and fraud, to thrive with relative ease. Thus, the NIN is seen

as a preventive mechanism, providing the government and private entities with a framework for secure identification and enhancing national security.

Okoye (2021) brings a governance perspective to the discussion by framing the NIN as an integral component of Nigeria's digital transformation and e-governance initiatives. Okoye's view diverges slightly from a purely security-focused approach by situating the NIN within Nigeria's broader strategy for digital governance. In this light, the NIN not only combats identity-related crimes but also serves as a strategic driver for Nigeria's economic and technological modernization.

National Security

National Security is a broad yet vital concept that refers to the measures and strategies a country adopts to ensure the protection and safety of its citizens, institutions, and interests. Wolfers (1952) offers one of the earliest definitions of national security, describing it as "the protection of a country's core values and way of life against external threats." According to Wolfers, national security is fundamentally about preserving a nation's independence, freedom, and territorial integrity. In his view, it involves safeguarding against not only military threats but also any external factors that might compromise a country's sovereignty.

Expanding on Wolfers' ideas, Buzan (1991) brings a broader approach, arguing that national security encompasses much more than just military defence. Buzan's work highlights that modern national security also includes economic, political, environmental, and social dimensions, asserting that threats in these areas can equally endanger a nation's stability. Buzan's approach shifted the focus from traditional military threats to a wider range of risks, such as economic instability and environmental degradation.

Meanwhile, Ullman (1983) presents a more nuanced view, defining national security as "an essential condition where the risks of subjugation, disruption, or coercion are

minimized." His definition implies that security is not simply the absence of war but rather a stable environment that enables citizens to pursue a peaceful life and the government to exercise its authority without undue challenges. Ullman's approach adds the critical element of psychological security, showing that threats can come not only in the form of physical attacks but also through disruptions to daily life, such as terrorism or political unrest. In addition, Booth (2005) advances the concept of "human security," which links national security directly to the well-being of individuals rather than focusing solely on the state. Booth argues that a true measure of national security should include how well a nation protects its citizens' basic rights, health, and economic prospects. This perspective places human dignity at the centre of security considerations, suggesting that a country is only as secure as the security of its people. McSweeney (1999) presents a critical perspective, questioning the traditional focus on state-centric security. He suggests that national security should account for both state and non-state actors, emphasizing the role of civil society, international organizations, and private institutions in contributing to a secure nation.

Theoretical Framework

The paper adopts the Social Contract Theory. The theory has a long history, with foundational contributions from philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes (1651), John Locke (1689), and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1762). Hobbes, in his work *Leviathan*, proposed that in a "state of nature," individuals lived without rules, leading to a chaotic and violent existence. To escape this, people consented to form a social contract, granting authority to a sovereign to enforce peace and security. Locke and Rousseau further developed this idea, emphasizing that the government's legitimacy arises from its duty to protect individuals' rights, including their life, liberty, and property.

Social Contract Theory has been widely applied in contemporary settings to justify state policies aimed at ensuring security. For example, it has

been used to support policies on mass surveillance and data collection in various countries, particularly following the 9/11 attacks in the United States, where extensive data collection became central to counter-terrorism efforts (Zedner, 2009). In this instance, the theory was used to justify increased government monitoring as a necessary trade-off to protect society from potential terrorist threats, with citizens consenting to limited privacy in exchange for greater security. The theory has also been applied in digital governance and data protection frameworks within the European Union, particularly through the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Here, the Social Contract Theory supports the idea that individuals consent to provide their data to entities that, in return, have an obligation to protect that data and use it responsibly (European Parliament, 2016).

One of the primary strengths of the Social Contract Theory is its emphasis on mutual obligations, which provides a balanced framework for assessing the responsibilities of both the state and citizens. This aspect of the theory is valuable in understanding state interventions like the NIN-SIM linkage, as it underscores the idea that citizens' cooperation in such policies is based on the expectation of improved security in return. Another strength lies in the theory's ability to justify privacy concessions as part of a legitimate, collective pursuit of security. This framework allows for flexibility, acknowledging that in extraordinary circumstances, such as high rates of kidnapping, governments may need broader powers to protect society. The Social Contract Theory helps clarify why citizens may accept certain measures that limit privacy if they are convinced of the policy's security benefits (Zedner, 2009).

However, critics argue that Social Contract Theory can be misused to justify overreach, where governments impose excessive restrictions on citizens' freedoms under the guise of security (Taylor, 2017). This critique is particularly relevant in contexts like Nigeria, where trust in government institutions may be fragile, and citizens are wary of potential abuse

of power. Additionally, the theory assumes a level of voluntary consent and trust that may not always exist, especially in regions where people may feel pressured to comply with state mandates without a genuine sense of agreement or benefit (Ajayi, 2022).

In the context of this study, the theory guides the analysis of the responsibilities of telecommunications service providers as intermediaries in this social contract. In their role, service providers are not only data custodians but also partners in upholding the trust inherent in the contract between the government and citizens. Social Contract Theory suggests that providers, by managing sensitive personal data, have a duty to protect user privacy and operate transparently to maintain public confidence in the system. The Social Contract Theory is considered particularly appropriate for this paper because it directly addresses the foundational question of the relationship between the government and its citizens in terms of rights and responsibilities. This theory is essential to understanding the balance between individual privacy and collective security.

3. METHODOLOGY

The paper is both conceptual and theoretical in nature, adopting a qualitative approach. It made use of secondary data, with the data gathered from relevant scholarly articles, newspapers, websites, and peer-review journals. This method enables the researcher to explore different means, bringing a broader view to the subject of discussion.

NIN Linkage and Security Enhancement: The Nexus

The linkage of mobile phone numbers to a unique National Identification Number (NIN) has become a strategic policy in Nigeria, primarily aimed at enhancing security. The underlying principle of this measure is straightforward: by ensuring that every individual with a mobile phone can be uniquely identified, the government can significantly

reduce anonymity within communication networks, which criminals have long exploited to evade detection. This identification system is particularly relevant in Nigeria's ongoing fight against kidnapping, a crime that has surged in recent years and increasingly relies on untraceable phone communication for coordination, extortion, and ransom demands (Nwokolo, 2019).

The Nigerian government introduced the mandatory NIN linkage policy in response to the security challenges posed by unverified mobile phone usage. Prior to this policy, individuals could obtain and use SIM cards without providing verifiable identification, creating a breeding ground for criminal exploitation. According to Aigbokhan (2018), the availability of anonymous phone lines facilitated not only everyday crimes but also organized criminal activities, including terrorism, fraud, and especially kidnapping. The anonymity offered by unregistered SIM cards gave kidnappers a secure communication channel, making it nearly impossible for law enforcement agencies to track their movements or intercept their plans. In response, the government recognized the need to tighten control over telecommunications through identity verification measures. This measure not only deters criminals but also aids law enforcement in identifying, tracking, and prosecuting those involved in criminal activities (Ibrahim & Musa, 2020). With the implementation of the NIN linkage policy, authorities now have a more reliable database to aid in criminal investigations and enforce accountability, thus transforming Nigeria's approach to crime prevention.

The potential impact of the NIN linkage policy on reducing crime lies in its ability to remove the veil of anonymity that criminals have traditionally relied upon. Kidnappers and other organized crime groups frequently use mobile communication to plan their activities and negotiate ransom payments. According to Bamidele and Jacob (2021), the linkage of phone numbers with NIN enables authorities to monitor suspicious communication patterns and swiftly respond to incidents of crime, particularly

those involving mobile-based coordination. For instance, if kidnappers use their mobile devices to contact victims' families, law enforcement agencies can now trace such calls to specific NINs, thereby identifying the individuals involved or their associates.

Furthermore, identity verification in telecommunications has proven effective in other countries facing similar challenges. For example, India's Aadhaar system, which mandates linking SIM cards to a unique national ID, has been successful in reducing identity-related crimes and enhancing law enforcement capabilities (Patel & Singh, 2017). Nigeria's NIN linkage system draws from these global experiences, aiming to replicate similar benefits by enhancing transparency in mobile communication. As security experts point out, even if the NIN linkage does not completely eliminate crime, it serves as a strong preventive measure, pushing criminals to seek alternative, less efficient means of communication (Olajide, 2020).

In addition to organized crime, the NIN linkage policy holds promise for tackling fraud, which has become increasingly prevalent in Nigeria's financial sector. With a verified identity tied to each mobile phone, it becomes easier for financial institutions to confirm the authenticity of transactions, reducing the likelihood of fraud. Okeke and Umeh (2020) explain that identity verification through NIN linkage has been particularly helpful for banks and mobile payment providers, who often rely on mobile numbers to authenticate transactions. By requiring NIN-linked numbers, the system ensures that only individuals with verified identities can conduct financial transactions, thereby adding a layer of security that reduces the risk of fraudulent activities.

Nigeria's NIN-SIM linkage policy also reflects a broader global trend in which governments seek to incorporate identity verification into telecommunications as a method of enhancing security. Countries around the world are recognizing the critical role that digital identification plays in mitigating security risks.

For instance, Kenya and South Africa have implemented similar measures requiring identity verification for SIM cards, which has significantly reduced the prevalence of identity fraud and improved national security (Mwangi & Nkatha, 2019). In addition, European countries have adopted robust identification standards that mandate registration and verification in telecommunications, seeing them as essential for ensuring national security and public safety. However, while these systems have proven effective in reducing crime, they also necessitate a robust data management infrastructure and strict compliance from service providers to be fully effective. Eze and Talabi. (2021) argue that one of the challenges Nigeria may face is ensuring that telecom providers maintain accurate and up-to-date records, as any lapse in data accuracy could undermine the efficacy of the NIN linkage in crime prevention efforts.

Telecommunications Service Providers and NIN-SIM Linkage Policy

At the heart of the NIN-SIM linkage policy is the task of accurately identifying and verifying each mobile phone subscriber, a responsibility that telecom providers must fulfil with precision. According to Ibrahim (2022), telecom operators are responsible for registering and linking each SIM card to an individual's NIN, a process that involves capturing biometric and personal data and maintaining comprehensive user databases. By establishing a clear identity trail for every mobile user, telecom providers enable authorities to track criminal communication patterns, thereby enhancing law enforcement capabilities.

Moreover, telecom providers must comply with guidelines established by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), which mandates strict adherence to user data verification and maintenance of accurate records. The NCC's regulatory framework requires providers to ensure that all registered SIM cards are correctly linked to a NIN and that unlinked or improperly registered SIMs are deactivated. Compliance with these directives is

critical, as failure to properly link SIMs to NINs can create loopholes that criminals could exploit (Daily Trust, 2024). For instance, in April 2024, the Nigerian government reportedly disconnected over 50 million unlinked SIMs as a demonstration of its commitment to enforcing the policy and pressuring telecom companies to meet their obligations (Guardian, 2024).

In addition to data verification, service providers are also required to support real-time collaboration with law enforcement agencies. As crime tracking in Nigeria often relies on telecommunications data, providers are tasked with responding to lawful requests for user information in criminal investigations. This collaboration is particularly important in kidnapping cases, where timely access to suspect communication records can aid in locating victims or intercepting ransom calls (Punch, 2024).

Despite their critical role, telecom providers face several challenges that complicate their efforts to enforce the NIN-SIM linkage effectively. One major challenge is the logistical difficulty of registering and verifying millions of subscribers in Nigeria's vast and diverse population. According to Nwankwo (2024), rural areas, in particular, experience significant delays in registration due to limited infrastructure, inadequate staffing, and, in some cases, a lack of awareness among residents about the importance of NIN registration. These challenges have led to uneven compliance levels, with rural populations often lagging behind urban centres in meeting the NIN-SIM linkage requirements. This uneven registration creates potential gaps that could allow criminals to bypass the system in underserved areas.

Additionally, telecom providers are tasked with the complex responsibility of protecting user data while maintaining compliance with the policy. This dual responsibility is challenging, as large volumes of personal and biometric data collected during the NIN linkage process must be securely stored and managed to prevent unauthorized access. Afolabi (2021) highlights that data privacy concerns are significant

among the Nigerian public, and any security breach could undermine trust in both the NIN linkage policy and the service providers handling their information. Therefore, telecom operators must implement rigorous cybersecurity measures to protect user data from hackers, which adds financial and operational burdens on companies already working to meet compliance deadlines. Moreover, telecom providers encounter resistance from segments of the public who view the NIN-SIM linkage as an infringement on privacy and a potential tool for government surveillance. This perception, according to National Economy (2024), has led to a degree of reluctance among citizens to register, especially in regions with a history of government distrust. This societal resistance complicates providers' efforts to ensure full compliance, as non-cooperative users may either delay registration or attempt to bypass the policy entirely, thus creating enforcement challenges.

The integration of NIN and SIM data allows authorities to monitor suspicious activity more effectively, an advantage particularly relevant for reducing the incidence of kidnapping. For instance, if kidnappers are aware that their communication can be traced back to their personal NIN, this creates a psychological deterrent that may discourage some from committing such crimes (National Economy, 2024). Furthermore, by collaborating closely with security agencies, telecom providers help build a communication infrastructure that supports rapid responses to criminal incidents. Real-time data sharing between telecom providers and law enforcement agencies enhances the capacity to track suspects' movements, analyse communication patterns, and prevent crimes before they escalate (CDD West Africa, 2024).

However, these security gains come with the need for telecom providers to balance their compliance obligations with ethical considerations around user rights. The widespread collection of user data raises concerns regarding potential overreach and misuse, particularly if data is accessed without

adequate oversight. According to This Day Live (2024), telecom providers must uphold high standards of data transparency to ensure that the NIN-SIM policy does not become a tool for unauthorized surveillance. Providers are therefore responsible not only for compliance but also for advocating policies that protect users' privacy rights, building public trust in the policy, and promoting transparency in data handling practices.

Balancing Security and Privacy: Ethical and Legal Implications of NIN-SIM Linkage

The National Identification Number (NIN) and Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) linkage policy in Nigeria is a double-edged sword, presenting both substantial security benefits and serious ethical and legal concerns, particularly in relation to privacy. While the primary purpose of the NIN-SIM linkage is to enhance security by curbing crimes such as kidnapping and identity fraud, the extensive collection and storage of personal data have raised important questions about data privacy, user consent, and government oversight. The balance between security needs and privacy rights is a central issue in modern digital identity frameworks, and Nigeria's implementation of this policy is no exception.

One of the foremost ethical issues associated with the NIN-SIM linkage is the extensive amount of personal information collected from citizens. The registration process requires not only basic personal details but also biometric data, including fingerprints and facial scans, raising concerns about the sensitivity and potential misuse of such information. According to Afolabi (2021), many Nigerians are wary of the NIN-SIM policy due to fears that their data could be used for purposes beyond crime prevention, such as surveillance or profiling by government authorities. This apprehension is fuelled by a broader context of limited trust in government institutions, especially among populations who have experienced civil rights abuses in the past (Daily Trust, 2024).

Furthermore, the collection of sensitive biometric data introduces significant ethical challenges related to informed consent. In many cases, citizens may not fully understand how their data will be used, stored, or protected. Without adequate transparency, the NIN-SIM linkage risks becoming a policy that prioritizes national security at the expense of individual rights. As Babalola and Musa (2023) argue, the government's responsibility to ensure public safety must be balanced with the obligation to respect individual autonomy and privacy. Citizens must be clearly informed about the scope and purpose of data collection, which is a foundational principle of ethical data handling.

The issue of potential misuse also arises with data access, as telecom providers and government agencies hold vast databases containing sensitive personal information. With multiple agencies involved in data management, there is a risk that information may be accessed without proper authorization or oversight. This raises ethical concerns regarding accountability and the need for stringent access controls to prevent misuse. Okonkwo (2023) notes that in the absence of robust accountability measures, the policy may be viewed as an instrument of control, potentially undermining public trust in both the NIN-SIM linkage and the government.

From a legal standpoint, the NIN-SIM linkage policy requires strong data protection laws to ensure that citizens' rights are upheld. Nigeria's data protection regime has made strides in recent years, particularly with the introduction of the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) in 2019, which sets out requirements for lawful processing, data minimization, and data subject rights. However, experts argue that the NDPR, while a positive step, lacks the comprehensive scope and enforcement mechanisms necessary to effectively safeguard sensitive biometric data collected under the NIN-SIM policy (Adegoke, 2021). In practice, this gap in data protection legislation can lead to inadequate oversight, making it difficult to hold institutions accountable in cases of data misuse or breach.

In addition, the legal responsibility of telecommunications providers in safeguarding data is not clearly defined, which complicates the enforcement of privacy protections. Telecom providers, under the NIN-SIM policy, are required to collect and manage vast amounts of personal data, yet there is limited guidance on their obligations to prevent unauthorized access or to respond to data breaches. The lack of a clear legal framework for data accountability places an immense burden on telecom companies, who must navigate between government compliance and public trust. Ogunsanya and Ekene (2022) emphasize that without clearer legal protections, citizens are left vulnerable, and telecom providers are left to manage privacy risks in an unpredictable regulatory environment.

The legal implications of data access by law enforcement agencies also present a critical challenge. Under the NIN-SIM linkage policy, law enforcement authorities can request access to users' data for investigations. However, if such access is not strictly regulated, it risks infringing on citizens' privacy rights. Guardian (2024) reports that the lack of judicial oversight in data access requests has raised concerns about potential abuse, as unrestricted access to private data could lead to government surveillance. Privacy advocates argue that data access should require legal warrants, ensuring that requests are based on legitimate, evidence-backed concerns and that citizens' privacy is respected. Establishing legal safeguards, such as mandatory court orders for data access, could provide a necessary balance between investigative needs and privacy rights.

Telecom providers play a pivotal role in data protection under the NIN-SIM linkage policy, as they are responsible for collecting, storing, and managing sensitive information. Ensuring data security is essential not only for protecting individual privacy but also for maintaining public confidence in the policy. Without adequate security measures, telecom providers risk exposing user data to unauthorized parties, which could lead to identity theft, fraud, or even

unauthorized surveillance. This challenge is particularly pressing given Nigeria's limited cybersecurity infrastructure, which is often vulnerable to breaches and attacks (Ojo, 2022). In line with global best practices, telecom providers should implement multi-layered security protocols that prevent unauthorized access to data and ensure compliance with international data protection standards. As Nwankwo and Udo (2024) note, telecom providers who prioritize data security help to strengthen the public's trust in the NIN-SIM linkage policy, demonstrating that security and privacy can be managed concurrently.

Additionally, telecom providers are responsible for creating public awareness around data privacy and security. Educating users about how their data is handled and what measures are in place to protect it can help to alleviate public concerns and enhance transparency. This approach not only supports public compliance with the NIN-SIM policy but also empowers citizens to make informed decisions about their data. According to *This Day Live* (2024), telecom providers can build user trust by communicating openly about data management practices, thus contributing to a balance between national security objectives and respect for individual privacy.

Conclusion

The integration of the National Identification Number (NIN) with phone numbers in Nigeria is a significant policy shift aimed at bolstering security, particularly in combating kidnapping and other organized crimes. By linking SIM cards to unique identifiers, the Nigerian government has created a framework that enables more effective tracking and accountability within telecommunications. This policy, however, places substantial responsibilities on telecommunications service providers, who are central to implementing the NIN-SIM linkage by managing vast user databases and ensuring compliance with government regulations. While the NIN-SIM linkage offers considerable security benefits, it

also presents substantial ethical and legal concerns, particularly concerning data privacy and protection. The extensive collection and storage of personal information necessitate robust safeguards to protect citizens' rights and build public trust.

Recommendations

From the foregoing and gaps observed, the need arises for significant recommendations to improve the status quo.

1. Therefore, to ensure comprehensive protection for citizens' personal and biometric data, the Nigerian government should update and enhance its data protection laws, particularly the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR). The revised regulations should include specific provisions on handling biometric data and establish clear consequences for breaches by government or telecommunications entities.
2. Access to NIN-linked data should require court orders, particularly in non-emergency situations, ensuring that law enforcement activities are properly documented and justified.
3. Telecom providers should adopt advanced cybersecurity measures, including encryption and regular security audits, to protect users' data from unauthorized access and cyber threats.
4. Telecom providers and the government should collaborate to educate the public on the NIN-SIM linkage policy, its benefits, and the measures in place to protect their privacy.
5. Data retention should be based on clear criteria and only kept for as long as necessary to fulfil the policy's security objectives.
6. To promote inclusivity and prevent gaps in compliance, the government should provide adequate infrastructure and resources to support NIN registration in underserved rural and remote areas.

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EXTERNAL DEBT SERVICING AND PRICE STABILITY: EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA (1985-2022)

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Abstract

This study examined the relationship between external debt servicing and price stability in Nigeria, 1985-2022. Price stability was assessed using the consumer price index (CPI). While external debt servicing was evaluated using a range of indicators, like external debt stock, external debt service, and external debt service's GDP ratio, external debt service's revenue ratio, and external debt service's export ratio. The primary data sources were the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI). The paper utilized the auto-regressive distributed lag model for stationarity and long-term analysis, as well as the Augmented Dickey-Fuller unit root test to confirm data correctness and look at variable correlations. A long-run association involving paying off foreign debt and price stability was shown using the bound test. While the foreign debt to export ratio showed a positive and substantial effect on the consumer price index, the foreign debt to revenue ratio had a negative short-term effect on the index. In addition, the external debt service to gross domestic product ratio, the foreign debt stock, and the foreign debt service all had favorable and substantial long run effects on the CPI. The study found that Nigeria's price stability is significantly affected by paying off foreign debt. In order to lessen the inflationary pressures brought on by foreign debt, it is recommended that the Federal Ministries of Finance, Budget, and National Planning decrease their reliance on borrowing from outside sources for public projects and look into alternative funding options, such as tax reforms and public-private partnerships.

Keywords: Consumer Price Index, External Debt Service, External Debt Stock, External Debt to Revenue Ratio, External Debt Service

JEL Classification Code: E31, E64, H11, H51

1. Introduction

Price stability is a fundamental economic goal defined as minimum volatility in the general price level in an economy. Nwikina et al. (2024) and Ogunmuyiwa (2019) describe price stability

as "a circumstance when the general rate of pricing for products and services within a market remains relatively constant throughout time, thereby preventing significant inflation or deflation." In Nigeria, price stability is critical for

providing economic predictability and safeguarding consumers' purchasing power. The Nigerian Central Bank aims at an inflation rate of 6-9% to preserve price stability; yet, Nigeria has failed to keep inflation within this range. Nigeria's inflation rate increased to 21.34% in 2023 (CBN), mostly due to growing food and energy expenses, indicating severe price instability. Igbokwe (2020) agrees, stating that "price consistency is fundamental for fostering economic progress and attracting investment, as it creates an environment of certainty that encourages savings and long-term investments." Price instability can result to negative economic results, such as reduced consumer spending and investment, exacerbating inflation. For example, the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported that food inflation reached 24.08% in September 2023, owing to the high cost of basic food products caused by supply chain disruptions and increasing import expenses.

Conversely, foreign debt repayment relates to a nation's obligation to pay interest and principal on loans from overseas creditors. Akindele and Odugbesan (2018) state: "External debt servicing represents the financial commitments that arise from borrowing funds from international financial markets or foreign governments." This service is critical because failure to meet these commitments can result in defaults, which harm a country's credit rating and increase future borrowing costs. It is worth noting that Nigeria's foreign debt status has deteriorated. The Office of Debt Management (DMO) claims that Nigeria's foreign debt was roughly \$37.2 billion at the end of 2022, with debt servicing accounting for a considerable amount of government revenue. Nigeria spent over N2.83 trillion (about \$4.2 billion) on external debt servicing in 2021, accounting for roughly 30% of total revenue. This large proportion of revenue dedicated to debt servicing prevents the government from investing in vital areas like infrastructure, health care, and education that may spur economic progress.

Increased external debt servicing has a significant impact on Nigeria's economy. As a debt from outside commitments mount, the government is under increasing pressure to satisfy these payments, which frequently results in lower spending on development projects and key services. According to Olowofeso and Osabuohien (2018), unsustainable debt servicing results in inflationary pressures, currency depreciation, and general economic instability. For example, during times of high external debt servicing, the naira devalued dramatically, increasing import costs and contributing to inflation. High debt service expenses might also cause inflationary pressures. When the government prioritizes debt repayment over productive expenditure, it may raise taxes or print more money to cover these expenses. For example, Central Bank of Nigeria claimed that the government increased taxes and tariffs to boost money for debt servicing, potentially raising costs for products and services. Nigeria's inflation rate rose to 21.34% in June 2023, owing primarily to increased food and fuel prices. This inflation is worsened by the government's inability to combine debt repayments with the need to stabilize prices, resulting in lower consumer purchasing power. Furthermore, external debt repayments are frequently denominated in foreign currencies, exposing the government to exchange rate volatility.

When the Naira falls in value against the US dollar or other major currencies, the cost of servicing external debt rises, putting further strain on the government's budget. For example, in 2022, the naira devalued dramatically, causing the expense of servicing foreign debt to rise. According to CBN, the total amount spent on debt servicing increased by more than 25% over the previous year due to exchange rate fluctuations, putting additional financial strain on the economy and raising inflationary pressures. Furthermore, excessive external debt servicing can harm investor confidence. High debt levels can inhibit foreign direct investment (FDI) because investors perceive an insecure economic climate.

According to the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), FDI inflows are expected to fall to around \$2 billion in 2021, down significantly from \$4.2 billion in 2019. This decline in investment not only has an influence on economic expansion, but additionally adds to price volatility, as less economic activity can lead to supply shortages and higher prices for products and services.

Finally, there is a large opportunity cost to excessive debt servicing. We could have diverted funds spent on external debt service to productive investments that would have increased production and stabilized prices. For example, the government should invest in agricultural development to boost food supply and lower inflation. Instead, given the current debt burden, these monies are diverted to debt payment, resulting in lower agricultural output and increased food costs. In light of this, this study aims to respond to the following queries: What impact have stocks with external debt had on price stability? Has the service of foreign debt affected the stability of prices? How much has price stabilization resulted from servicing external debt relative to GDP? How is the ratio of external debt to revenue? Influenced price stability? And how has the ratio of external debt to exports influenced price stability? This research aims to answer these important problems and disclose the intricate ways external debt servicing affects price stability in Nigeria. The structure of the paper is as follows: after this introduction, Section 2 reviews relevant theoretical and empirical literature. Section 3 details the research methods and definitions of key variables. Section 4 presents the findings, while Section 5 concludes with a discussion on policy implications and recommendations.

2. Literature Review

Theoretical Literature

Debt Overhang Theory

According to Paul Krugman and Richard Cohen's debt overhang theory, nations with large

external debt loads may find it difficult to draw in foreign investment, which could lead to instability and economic stagnation. This is because paying off debt can be expensive, which might restrict the volume of funds the government can spend on investments, amenities, and other services. This may result in less money being spent by the government on vital areas like infrastructure, education, and health, stifling future growth and potentially causing a decline in economic production. Continuous debt payments also deter investment, both locally and globally. Countries with a high debt load may be perceived as having a high level of risk, discouraged by investors, further hindering sustainable growth and development. Proponents argue that having a large amount of foreign debt negatively impacts future economic prospects, as they may be reluctant to commit new capital for fear of benefiting creditors rather than supporting regional growth.

However, experts such as Jeffrey Sachs and Anne O. Krueger disagree with this notion, arguing that countries can use their debt as leverage to secure financial support and restructuring, lessening the detrimental impact of excessive debt on development. Investment choices are also heavily influenced by the quality of institutions and political stability. Nigeria's economy is significantly impacted by the debt overhang hypotheses, especially during the credit crunch of the 1980s and 1990s, where the country's income was mostly used to settle foreign debts, leaving little for necessities like healthcare and education. The rising cost of debt servicing may raise inflation, endangering price stability and the economy's general well-being. This theory is relevant to the study because it suggests that high external debt obligations can limit a country's ability to stabilize prices by diverting resources away from productive investments, thereby hindering economic stability.

Fiscal theory of Price Level

Mathew et al. (2001) proposed the fiscal theory of price level, which suggests that a

government's fiscal policy is the primary factor influencing price levels or inflation. This theory suggests that increased inflation may result from a government running significant budget deficits and accruing significant debt without a plan to raise future income or cut spending. This is because the government may be expected to monetize its debt, creating money and heightening the potential of inflation. The FTPL's proponents argue that the market expects the federal government to create funds to pay down its debt if it believes the fiscal policy is unsustainable, with high debt levels and no credible commitment to future fiscal adjustments. This expectation can push up inflation as the money supply expands to manage the debt, reflecting the theory's key assumption that fiscal policy directly effects price stability.

Detractors of the fiscal theory of prices argue that monetary policy is a more direct and efficient means of containing inflation. They contend that central banks' immediate impact on inflation is greater than that of fiscal policy due to instruments like interest rates and open market activities. Critics also argue that stable inflation expectations can be achieved even in the face of substantial debt if a government maintains a credible fiscal plan and successfully communicates its debt management strategy. The fiscal theory of the price level is suitable for this study as it posits that the price level is influenced by the government's fiscal policies, where excessive debt financing can lead to inflationary pressures, impacting price stability in Nigeria.

Monetary Theory of Inflation

According to Milton Friedman and Irving Fisher's monetary theory of inflation, changes in the money flow are what primarily determine an economy's price levels. According to this idea, inflation is only an economic event, meaning that when the currency circulation grows without the equivalent number of items, prices will rise. According to the formula of exchange ($MV = PQ$), the currency volume and money spread directly affect the rate of prices and

output of merchandise and services. Additionally, the hypothesis states that, particularly over an extended period of time, fluctuations in the currency circulation had little impact on an economy's real output. By introducing policies like minimum reserve requirements, interest rates, and open market operations, apex banks can limit the amount of currency supply. Opponents counter that, especially in the short term, inflation is more than just a monetary phenomenon. According to Keynes, increasing the money supply would promote demand and output rather than cause inflation, and that government action through fiscal policy is required for sustaining price stability.

External variables, like the global price of oil, have a significant effect on inflation in Nigeria. Despite the apex financial institution of Nigeria's efforts to restrict the currency supply amid the 2014 oil price slump, severe inflation occurred, highlighting the importance of external variables in determining price stability. James Tobin (1972) criticized the assumption of steady velocity, claiming that people's behavior in keeping and spending money can fluctuate according to factors such as interest rates and expectations, resulting in instability of the velocity of money. Conclusively, the monetary hypotheses of inflation emphasizes the importance of managing money supply growth and economic production to achieve long-term price stability. The monetary theory of inflation is relevant to this study as it argues that inflation is primarily driven by excessive money supply, suggesting that high external debt servicing in Nigeria could pressure monetary policy, thereby affecting price stability.

Review of Related Empirical Studies

Numerous empirical studies were undertaken in the area of foreign debt servicing in relation to price stability. However, findings of such researches were mixed and inconsistent in some cases. Ogundipe et al. (2024) conducted a study regarding "Foreign Debt Servicing and Inflation Dynamics in federal republic of Nigeria: ARDL Approach.". Using Consumer

Price Index as a stand-in for inflation and the external debt service-to-export ratio as a substitute for the independent variable, the research investigated how external debt servicing affected inflation in Nigeria. The ARDL hypothesis was utilized to assess both short-term and long run and long run associations over the 1990–2022 research period. The findings demonstrated that foreign debt servicing greatly improved short-term outcomes for inflation, induced by the depletion of foreign exchange reserves necessary for debt payments.

Similarly, Adeola (2023), in the paper titled "Foreign Debt Servicing and Macroeconomic Stability in Nigeria: A VAR Analysis," investigated the relationship involving external debt and servicing and inflation in Nigeria, using the GDP deflator as a stand-in for inflation and the external debt service-to-GDP ratio as a substitute for external debt servicing. The scope included 1980–2021. A vector auto-regressive model was employed in the inquiry to assess both long-run and short-run associations. Findings demonstrated that foreign debt servicing causes inflationary pressure in the long run as the government raises money supply to meet debt obligations. Congruently, Olabisi and Effiong investigate the effect of paying off external debt on Nigeria's economic progress from 1985 and 2021. Results of the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimate approach show that debt service slows the Nigerian economy's growth. This implies that the burden of paying off foreign debt depletes the nation's revenue, which could have been used to boost output in the future. The data also imply that the amount of foreign debt increases economic expansion.

Furthermore, Adamu and Ajibola (2023) in the paper titled "Debt Servicing and Price Stability in Nigeria: Evidence provided by the VECM Approach", used CPI to proxy inflation and the foreign debt service-to-GDP ratio for debt servicing. The study spanned from 1995 to 2022 and employed the VECM to establish the long-run connection involving debt servicing and inflation. The findings showed that there is a positive relationship between foreign debt

servicing and inflation in the long term. Debt servicing imposes fiscal pressure, leading to inflationary tendencies. Also, Olaniyan (2022) explored the interaction between foreign debt servicing, inflation, and currency rates in the country. "External Debt Repayment, Inflation, and Currency Rate Volatility: Co-integration Evidence from Nigeria" is the title of a study. The study used the CPI and the Naira/USD exchange rate as proxies for inflation and exchange rate volatility, while the external debt service-to-GDP proportion functioned as a surrogate for foreign debt servicing. Spanning a time span between 2000 and 2021, the study employed co-integration and VECM techniques to assess both short- and long-run correlations. The results indicated that external repayments exacerbated both inflation and currency rate volatility.

In the research on "external debt repayment and inflation in Nigeria: A Case for Fiscal Prudence" by Okafor (2021), the association involving external debt servicing and inflation was investigated using CPI as the explained variable and the external debt service-to-GDP proportion as the explanatory variable. The study covers a time frame from 1999 to 2020 and used the OLS (Ordinary Least Squares) regression technique. The result revealed a significant favorable relationship among foreign debt and servicing and inflation, indicating that large levels of debt service commitments limit federal government expenditures on domestic goods, which in turn contributes to inflation. Likewise, Ajayi (2021) in the study titled "Debt Servicing and Inflationary Pressures in Nigeria: An Auto-Regressive Distributive Lag Techniques" used the retail price index as a substitute for inflation and debt service-to-GDP ratio for external debt servicing. The scope of the research was 1985 to 2020, and the ARDL bounds test to co-integration techniques was adopted to assess the long- and short-term effects. The results suggested that foreign loan servicing had a substantially encouraging impact on inflation both in the long run and short-term.

Besides, Eze and Nwankwo (2020) authored the study "Foreign Debt and Price Instability in Nigeria: VECM Techniques", where CPI was used as the proxy for inflation and the debt repayment-to-export proportion represented foreign loan servicing. The study spanned from 1990 to 2019 and utilized Johansen co-integration and VECM methods. The findings indicate that external loan repayment had a long-term favorable impact on inflation. Additionally, Lawal (2020) in a research titled "Foreign Debt Servicing, Monetary Policy, and Inflation in Nigeria: A VAR Approach", employed CPI represents the explained variable and foreign loan service payments as the independent variable's proxy. The research's scope encompassed the years between 1986 and 2018. The vector auto-regressive framework and impulse response evaluation were applied. Result revealed that shocks in foreign loan repayment contributed directly to rising inflation, especially in the short term.

Moreover, Obi and Uche (2020) conducted a study titled "Debt Service Burden and Inflation Dynamics in Nigeria: A Co-integration Techniques". Using CPI as a proxy for inflation and the foreign loan-to-export proportion for external debt servicing, the study spanned from 1992 to 2018. The co-integration and Granger causality framework were adopted to investigate the connection. Findings indicate that external loan repayments pressures lead to short-term inflation increases. In addition, Abubakar and Yahaya (2020) in the research on "Foreign Loan Servicing and Inflationary Trends in Nigeria: The Auto-Regressive Distributive Lag-VECM Techniques", utilized Retail Price Index as a surrogate for both inflation and the proportion of debt service to GDP. The research covered the period from 1990 to 2017. Both ARDL and VECM techniques were utilized to assess both the long term and short term connections. Findings indicated that external loan repayment had a substantial favorable connection with inflation, in the short term and long term effects observed.

Correspondingly, Usman (2019) authored a study on "Foreign Debt Servicing and Price

Stability in Nigeria: A Causal Examination", where the explanatory variable was foreign loan payments, and the explained variable was the CPI. The scope of the study spanned from 1985 to 2018, and Granger causality and co-integration analysis was utilized. The findings indicated that rising foreign debt servicing obligations lead to inflationary tendencies both in the short and long term. Aliyu (2019) investigated the effects of foreign debt service on inflation in Nigeria: The Auto-Regressive Distributive Lag Techniques", employed the Gross Domestic Product deflator as a substitute for inflation and debt service payments as the proxy for external debt servicing. The study spanned from 1990 to 2017 and utilized the Auto-Regressive Distributive Lag framework to investigate long term and short term effects. The results indicated that external debt servicing leads to substantial inflation increases, with short-run dynamics displaying quicker adjustments.

Ogunleye (2019) conducted the study "Foreign Debt Servicing and Inflation in Nigeria: A VECM Assessment", which used CPI as a stand-in for inflation and the debt service-to-GDP ratio for external debt servicing. The study spanned from 1995 to 2018 and employed the VECM technique create a long-term partnership. The findings indicated that foreign loan servicing had a favorable long run effects on inflation. In the research titled "External Debt Servicing and Inflation in Nigeria: A Fiscal Method" by Bello and Salisu (2018), CPI was utilized as the proxy for inflation and foreign debt service payments as the independent variable's proxy. The scope covered 1990 to 2016, and the ARDL and co-integration techniques were applied. The result showed a substantial favorable connections involving external debt servicing and inflation, particularly in the long term.

Yusuf (2018) explored the connection involving foreign debt servicing and inflationary shocks in Nigeria: A VAR Analysis", utilizing CPI as a surrogate for inflation and the debt service-to-GDP proportion. The study spanned from 1990 to 2015, employing a VAR and impulse response analysis. Results indicated that foreign debt

servicing shocks played a role to rising inflation in the short term and long term. In addition, Ajayi and Oke (2018) in "Debt Servicing and Inflation in Nigeria: Long term Evidence from Co-integration", used CPI as the dependent variable and foreign debt service payments as the independent variable. The research covers the between 1990 and 2016 and employed co-integration and VECM techniques. Findings revealed that external debt servicing significantly impacts inflation in the long run.

Gaps and Value addition

This study compared and contrasted reports from previous studies on the connection involving price stability and foreign debt servicing. Studies by Adeola (2023), Adamu and Ajibola (2023), Olaniyan (2022), Okafor (2021), Ajayi (2021), Eze and Nwankwo (2020), Lawal (2020), Obi and Uche (2020), Abubakar and Yahaya (2020), Usman (2019), Aliyu (2019), Ogunleye (2019), Bello and Salisu (2018), and Ajayi and Oke (2018), for example, all concluded that servicing external debt exacerbates price stability, but they differed in which direction the impact would be felt. Adeola (2023), Olaniyan (2022), Ajayi (2021), Abubakar and Yahaya (2020), Usman (2019), and Ajayi and Oke (2018), among others, suggested that paying down foreign debt has a favorable influence on price stability over the short term and long term. Similar studies by Adamu and Ajibola (2023) and Eze and Nwankwo (2020) suggested that the influence of external debt servicing on price stability is limited to the long term. However, according to reports by Ogundipe et al. (2024), Okafor (2021), Lawal (2020), Obi and Uche (2020), and Aliyu (2019), the relationship is only temporary.

The study also discovered that while prior research used measures like ratios of foreign debt to exports, external debt to GDP, and external debt payment as proxies for the external debt servicing, important variables like the ratio of revenue to external debt service and the external debt stock were overlooked. This suggests a void in the body of writing. Thus, using the consumer price index as an indicator

for price stability, this research objectively investigated the consequences of repaying external loans through the foreign debt stock, foreign debt repayment to revenue proportion, percentage of foreign debt service to GDP, and percentage of foreign debt service to export between 1985 and 2022.

3. Methodology

This paper assessed the impact of servicing external debt on price stability in Nigeria using the bounds test to co-integration method, which was created by Pesaran et al. (2001). Considering the following factors, this test was selected. Initially, in contrast to the majority of traditional multivariate cointegration techniques, which are appropriate for studies with large sample sizes, the bound test is appropriate for studies with smaller sample sizes (Pesaran et al. 2001). This strategy will be suitable considering that the overall amount of observations inside our sample is limited to 37. Second, there is no restrictive assumption that all the variables being studied have to be integrated in the same sequence when using the limits test. The non-standard distribution of the F-test is influenced by the number of regressors in the system, whether I (0) or I (1) variables are included in the ARDL technique, and whether an intercept and/or trend are present in the ARDL model. Consequently, the limits approach will be used to estimate the autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) techniques given below in order to assess the cointegration connection involving external debt servicing and price stability variables:

Theoretical Framework

The fiscal theory of price is a framework used to analyze the connection involving foreign debt servicing and price stability. It suggests that taxation and government expenditure are crucial components of fiscal policy that influence market prices. The theory assumes that inflation expectations are linked to government budget limitations, which can lead to concerns about fiscal instability. High levels of debt can also raise inflationary expectations, affecting existing

price levels. Government spending policies also affect aggregate demand and supply dynamics, as a substantial amount of income is dedicated to servicing foreign debt, reducing fiscal space for investments. The theory also emphasizes the

need for government confidence in maintaining price stability. High debt servicing commitments can impede the capacity of the government to implement effective fiscal policies, leading to inflation as supply strains to meet demand.

Model Specification

This research is predicated on the modification of Olabisi and Effiong (2023) when investigating the impact of foreign debt servicing on economic expansion in Nigeria. Their framework was specified as follows:

$$GDPPC = f(EDSE, EDST, GCF, INF) \quad (1)$$

Where: GDPPC = Gross Domestic Product Per Capita, EDSE = External Debt Stock, EDST= Foreign debt repayment, GCF= Gross Capital Fixed Formation, INF= Consumer Price Index

Their framework was improved by adding the foreign loan repayment to GDP proportion, foreign debt to revenue proportion, and external debt to export proportion. The model is defined as follows:

$$CPI = f(EDS, EDTS, EDSGDPR, EDSRR, EDSER) \quad (2)$$

The mathematical framework may be represented symbolically as follows:

$$CPI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EDS + \beta_2 EDTS + \beta_3 EDSGDPR + \beta_4 EDSGDPRR + \beta_5 EDSER \quad (3)$$

The error term (ϵ) is added to equation (3.2) previously to create an econometric equation in the manner described below:

$$CPI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EDS + \beta_2 EDTS + \beta_3 EDSGDPR + \beta_4 EDSRR + \beta_5 EDSER + e \quad (4)$$

Another practical method for turning a severely distorted data to one that is closer to even distribution is the logarithmic transformation (Kenneth 2011).

The updated equation that was adopted for the examination now appears like

$$LCPI = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LEDS + \beta_2 LEDTS + \beta_3 LEDSGDPR + \beta_4 LEDSR + \beta_5 LEDSER + \mu_t \quad (5)$$

Where:

CPI = Consumer Price Index, DDSP = External Debt Servicing, EDTS = External Debt Stock, EDSGDPR = External Debt Service to GDP

Proportion, EDSRR= External Debt to Revenue Proportion, EDSER = External Debt Service to Export Proportion, f = functional connection β_0 = Intercept of association in the framework/constant B_1 - B_4 = Every explanatory or independent variable, such as e =error or disturbance term, has coefficients.

Hence, the ARDL model can be expressed as an Auto- Regressive Distributive Lag {pqrsuv} model such as;

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \ln cpi_t = & \alpha + \sum_{i=0}^p a_{1i} \Delta \ln cpi_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^q a_{2i} \Delta \ln eds_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^r a_{3i} \Delta \ln eds_{t-i} \\ & + \sum_{i=0}^s a_{4i} \Delta \ln edsgdpr_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^u a_{5i} \Delta \ln edsrr_{t-i} \\ & + \sum_{i=0}^v a_{6i} \Delta \ln edsr_{t-i} + C_1 \ln cpi_{t-1} + C_2 \ln eds_{t-1} \\ & + C_3 \ln eds_{t-1} + C_4 \ln edsgdpr_{t-1} + C_5 \ln edsrr_{t-1} \\ & + C_6 \ln edsr_{t-1} + \mu_t \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where \ln is the natural logarithm of the corresponding variables in the model and Δ is the first difference operator. It was determined whether $\ln cpi$ is co-moving with the regressors using Equation (5). The study examined whether the index of consumer prices and the independent variables in the ARDL model are co-moving. By using a restricted F-test, the study limited the coefficients of C_1 ., C_2 ., C_3 ., C_4 ., C_5 ., and C_6 to be zero versus the alternative in order to determine whether a long-term association amongst $\ln cpi$ and the regressors. Consequently, the following is how the null and alternative hypotheses are stated:

$H_0: C_1 = C_2 = C_3 = C_4 = C_5 = C_6 = 0$ (no long term connection involving $\ln cpi$ and the regressors)

$H_1: C_1 \neq C_2 \neq C_3 \neq C_4 \neq C_5 \neq C_6 \neq 0$ (there is long term connection involving $\ln cpi$ and the regressors)

Leveraging the innovative framework created by Pesaran et al. (2001), the test statistic distribution exhibits nonstandard behavior, independent of whether the parameters have order one (I(1)) or zero (I(0)) integration. To navigate this complexity, Pesaran and colleagues generated two distinct collections of converging critical values: one assuming the parameters are I(0), representing the lower-bound critical values (LCB), and the other presuming the variables are I(1), representing the upper-bound critical values (UCB). These crucial values are pivotal in assessing if a stable long-term association, or cointegration, occurs between the index of Consumer Price Index and its associated variables. The decision-making process hinges on the calculated F-statistics: Whenever the F-value surpasses the UCB, the unproven theory of absence of cointegration is rejected, signaling a stable long term relationship. If it falls under the LCB, the unproven theory is not rejected, indicating no evidence of cointegration. Whenever the F-statistic stands between the Lower Central Bound and Upper Central Bound, the findings is ambiguous, requiring further analysis. Upon establishing cointegration, this study employs the robust two-step strategy of the Auto-Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) techniques as outlined by Pesaran and Shin (1997). This approach is used to meticulously estimate the long run and short run term coefficients (elasticities) within the specified ARDL [p, q, r, s, u, v] framework, ensuring a complete understanding of the dynamic connection between the variables. This methodology not only captures the nuances of short-term fluctuations but also uncover the enduring economic linkages that persist over time.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In cpi}_t = & \alpha + \sum_{i=0}^q a_{1i} \text{In cpi}_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^q a_{2i} \text{In eds}_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^r a_{3i} \text{In edts}_{t-i} \\ & + \sum_{i=0}^s a_{4i} \text{In edsgdpr}_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^u a_{5i} \text{In edsrr}_{t-i} \\ & + \sum_{i=0}^v a_{6i} \text{In edser}_{t-i} + \mu_t \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

To determine the short-run elasticities, the above equation's error-correcting mechanism (ECM) must be constructed.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \text{In cpi}_t = & \alpha + \sum_{i=0}^q a_{1i} \Delta \text{In cpi}_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^q a_{2i} \Delta \text{In eds}_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^r a_{3i} \Delta \text{In edts}_{t-i} \\ & + \sum_{i=0}^s a_{4i} \Delta \text{In edsgdpr}_{t-i} + \sum_{i=0}^u a_{5i} \Delta \text{In edsrr}_{t-i} \\ & + \sum_{i=0}^v a_{6i} \Delta \text{In edser}_{t-i} + \psi \text{ECM}_{t-1} + \mu_t \end{aligned}$$

While ψ represents the pace of adjustment, bs represents the elasticities related to the short-term dynamics of convergence to equilibrium. Different lag durations were used in the study to estimate the model. The maximum lag selection was restricted to three to avoid losing the degree of flexibility. The Akaike information criterion (AIC) was used to calculate the appropriate lag period for the ARDL model.

Description of Variables in the Model

Consumer Price Index (CPI): This refers to a statistic that tracks the mean fluctuation of prices periodically for a basket of products and services widely purchased by households. It is a key indicator employed to gauge inflation and the cost of living. In the Nigerian economy, the CPI has a significant impact. It serves as a main instrument to determine inflation, influencing how the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) formulates monetary policy. For instance, if CPI indicates rising inflation, the CBN may boost interest rates to reduce spending and manage inflation, which can slow down economic growth. The CPI also affects wage adjustments, as rising inflation often leads to demands for higher wages, which can increase production costs and impact business profitability. Therefore, the consumer price index is employed to substitute price stability and is measured in US\$

External Debt Servicing (EDS): The payments a nation makes to settle its foreign debt's interest as well as principal obligations are referred to as external debt servicing. When a nation devotes a significant amount of its income to repaying its debt, it could face financial difficulties that result in lower investments in infrastructure and public services. This may reduce productivity and economic growth, leading to a lack of goods and an increase in pricing. Inferentially, paying off external debt frequently strains foreign exchange reserves, which causes a fall in the worth of the currency. Import costs increase when the value of the currency declines, which fuels inflation and raises the CPI. As a result, rising inflation is typically linked to rising external debt servicing, indicating a favorable association with the consumer price index. This article uses the term "external debt servicing," which is quantified in US dollars, to refer to external debt. In other words, $\beta_1 > 0$.

External Debt Stock (EDTS): This represents the entire sum owed by a country to foreign lenders, including governments, commercial lenders, and international organizations. It

represents the entire debt and other obligations that require repayment. This suggests that increasing amounts of external debt will result in the depreciation of the value of the currency, increased import prices, and inflationary pressures, all of which will raise the consumer price index. This indicates a favorable correlation between rising foreign debt levels and rising prices for products and services in the economy. As a result, this research anticipates that the external debt stock will increase in tandem with the CPI. Measured in US dollars, external debt stock serves as a stand-in for external debt servicing. In other words, $\beta_2 > 0$.

External Debt Service to GDP Ratio (EDSGDPR): The ratio of a nation's GDP to its external debt servicing indicates what percentage of its GDP is allocated to paying down its external debt. Accordingly, there may be economic strain if a larger amount of GDP is dedicated to paying off foreign debt since fewer funds are available for infrastructure development, public services, and domestic investment. This may lead to supply restrictions that raise prices and lower overall economic output. A heavier debt servicing burden also frequently causes currency depreciation since repayment commitments require foreign exchange, which raises the price of imports and contributes to inflation. As a result, a positive correlation with the CPI indicates that a rise in the foreign debt servicing to GDP ratio is typically linked to greater inflation. It is therefore thought that there would be a favorable correlation involving the consumer price index and the service of foreign debt and the gross domestic product. The ratio of external debt service to GDP, expressed as a percentage (%), is used as a stand-in for external debt service. That's when $\beta > 0$.

External Debt Service to Revenue Ratio (EDSRR): The external debt servicing to revenue proportion estimates the percentage of a government's revenue used to service its foreign debt commitments. As a consequence, when a bigger share of government revenue is devoted toward debt servicing, fewer dollars are available for vital public expenditures, for

example, social services, infrastructure, and economic growth initiatives. This can impede economic growth and diminish the supply of products and services, placing upward pressure on pricing. Additionally, heavy debt servicing may lead to currency depreciation since the government may need to convert local currency into foreign currency to make payments. This depreciation increases the cost of imports, further boosting inflation. As a result, a larger foreign debt servicing to revenue ratio tends to connect with rising inflation and an increase in the CPI. Therefore, this article assumes that the ratio of foreign debt to revenue will be positively related to the consumer price index. Foreign debt service to revenue proportion is used as a substitute for foreign debt servicing and is quantified in percentage (%). That is $\beta_4 > 0$.

External Debt Service to Export Ratio (EDSER): The percentage of a country's export

revenue that is used to settle its foreign debt is shown by the export earnings to external debt payment ratio.

Depreciation of currency will result from increased debt servicing requirements, particularly if reserves of foreign exchange are not enough to make the payments. A depreciating currency raises the cost of imports and intensifies inflationary pressures. As a result, rising inflation, which is represented by an increased CPI, is generally linked to a larger foreign debt servicing to export ratio. Consequently, the present study postulated a favorable correlation involving the consumer price index and the external debt service to export ratio. Measured in percentage (%), the external debt service to export ratio is used as a stand-in for external debt servicing. That's $\beta_5 > 0$.

4. Result and Discussion

Unit Root Test

In order to choose the best methodology and avoid erroneous regression, the study employed

the Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) unit root test to assess the order of integration of the variables being studied.

Table 1: Unit Root Test Using Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF)

Variables	Levels		First Difference		Order of Integration	P-value
	T. Statistics	5% Critical Value	T. Statistics	5% Critical Value		
CPI	-2.969015	2.960411			I(0)	0.0491
EDS	-4.639760	-2.943427			I(0)	0.0006
EDTS	-0.4595207	-2.943427	-4.885702	-2.945842	I(1)	0.0003
EDSGDPR	-0.987640	-2.943427	-5.496954	-2.945842	I(1)	0.0001
EDSRR	-2.048596	-2.943427	-6.120346	-2.945842	I(1)	0.0000
EDSER	-3.119226	-2.963427			I(0)	0.0337

Source: Extracts from E-view 10. * Level of significance at 5%

The study parameters were subjected to Augmented Dickey Fuller analysis in order to determine whether they were stationary or non-stationary series based on the findings in table 1.1 above. According to the results of the

stationarity test, LEDTS, LEDSGDPR, and LEDSRR were stationary at initial difference I(1), whereas LCPI and LEDS remained stationary at level I (0). Based on assessments of the parameters' stationarity, the variables

show a blended sequence of integrations or stationarity of level and initial differences. The autoregressive distributive lag (ARDL) approach, which is capable of handling combinations of stationary at level I(0) and first difference I(1), was employed for the data

analysis. Therefore, the best-suited analytical method is the auto-regressive distributive lag assessment, which considers long- as well as short-term patterns while analyzing the relationship among the explained and explanatory parameters.

Table 2: ARDL Bound Test

Test Statistics	Value	K
F-statistics	3.848663	5

Significance	I (0)	I(1)
10%	2.26	3.35
5%	2.62	3.79
2.5%	2.96	4.18
1%	3.41	4.68

Source: Authors computation 2024

Table. 2 displays the findings of the bound assessment that contrasted the F-statistics against the critical bound values. The F-statistic is 3.848663. The result indicated that, at a threshold of significance of 0.05, the F-statistic is greater than the i(0) and the i(1) of the

threshold figures, that is, 2.62 and 3.79, accordingly. This implies that there exists a degree of co-integration among external debt servicing and price stability in Nigeria. Therefore, the study estimated the long-term auto-regressive distributive lag below:

Table 3: ARDL Long-run Result (Dependent Variable = LCPI)

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-statistics	Prob
LEDS	0.387347	0.100072	3.873187	0.0024
LEDTS	0.019396	0.006739	2.879586	0.0028
LDSGDPR	0.569292	0.206377	2.758504	0.0417
LEDSRR	-6.224593	8.206357	0.758509	0.4617
LEDSE	-1.549256	1.636180	-0.946874	0.3610

EC = LCPI - (0.3873*LEDS + 0.0194*LEDTS + 0.5693*LEDSGDPR-6.2245*LEDSRR -1.5493*LEDSE)

Source: Authors computation 2024

According to Table 3 of the Autoregressive Distributive Lag (ARDL) long-run finding, the logarithm of external debt servicing (LEDS) and the log value of the consumer price index (LCPI), which serves as a proxy for price stability, have a positive connection of +0.387347. This suggests that a unit increase in

LEDS is connected with an increase in annual LCPI of 0.39% yearly. Nonetheless, the statistical significance of the link between LEDS and LCPI is indicated by the p-value of 0.0024. As a stand-in for price stability, analysis of the log value of external debt stock (LEDTS) suggests a positive +0.019396 correlation with

the log value of the consumer price index (LCPI). According to the findings, an increase in LEDTS by one unit corresponds to a 0.19% annual increase in the LCPI. Nonetheless, the statistical significance of the link between LEDTS and LCPI is indicated by the p-value of 0.0028.

Furthermore, the log value of external debt service to gross domestic product ratio (LEDSGDPR) suggests a positive +0.569292 relationship with the log value of consumer price index (LCPI) as a surrogate to price stability. This implies that a unit increase in the log value of external debt service to gross domestic product ratio (LEDSGDPR) will result in about 0.57 percent in annual LCPI per year. Conversely, the p-value of 0.0417 indicates that there is a statistically significant relationship between LEDSGDPR and LCPI. Also, the log value of the external debt service to revenue ratio (LEDSRR) suggests a negative (-6.224593)

relationship with the log value of the consumer price index (LCPI) as a substitute for price stability. This implies that a unit increase in the log value of the external debt service to revenue ratio (LEDSRR) will result in about 6.2 units of annual LCPI per year. Conversely, the p-value of 0.4617 suggests that there is no statistically significant relationship between LEDSRR and LCPI.

Lastly, using the log value of the consumer price index (LCPI) as a proxy for price stability, the log value of the external debt service to export ratio (LEDSER) suggests a negative -1.549256 relationship. Accordingly, an increase of one unit in the log value of the external debt service-to-export ratio (LEDSER) will translate into an annual increase in the LCPI of roughly 1.5 units. In contrast, the lack of a statistically significant correlation between LEDSERs and LCPI is indicated by the p-value of 0.3610.

Table 4: ARDL Short-run Result (Dependent Variable = LCPI)

Variables	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistics	Prob
C	-0.515581	0.100127	-5.149272	0.0002
D(LED S)	0.002750	0.003729	0.737444	0.4740
D(LED S(-1))	3.73E-05	0.003652	0.010218	0.9920
D(LED S(-2))	0.001710	0.002978	0.574178	0.5756
D(LED T S)	0.065694	0.173027	0.379678	0.7103
D(LED T S(-1))	-0.296214	0.126959	-2.333142	0.0363
D(LED T S (-2))	-0.334882	0.172362	-1.942904	0.0740
D(LED S G D P R)	0.372574	0.065680	5.670572	0.0001
D(LED S G D P R (1))	-1.129874	0.220797	-5.117256	0.0002
D(LED S G D P R (2))	-0.216362	0.038185	-5.661536	0.0001
D(LED S R R)	-0.372449	0.065680	-5.670671	0.0001
D(LED S R R(-1))	1.145347	0.228651	5.009162	0.0002
D(LED S R R(-2))	0.294140	0.051900	5.667444	0.0001
D(LED S E R)	-0.025163	0.037312	-0.674388	0.5119
D(LED S E E R(-1))	0.125035	0.051599	2.423206	0.0307
D(LED S E R(-2))	0.039729	0.057229	0.694209	0.4998
ECM(-1)	-0.124124	0.021951	-5.654607	0.0001

Adj R² =0.559644, F-statistics = 3.700645 (0.004548), DW =2.019095

Source: Authors computation 2024

At the 0.05 level, the coefficient estimates for the error correction mechanism, ECM (-1) is substantial and has a negative value. It means that the long-run equilibrium of the model will be reached annually at a rate of 0.12%. This suggests that an annual adjustment speed of 0.12% may remedy the mistake from the previous year. According to the adjusted R-Square (R²) value, the explanatory variables (LEDS, LEDTS, LEDSGDPR, LEDSR, and LEDSER) represent 60% of the overall variation in the explained variable (LCPI). Since the F-statistic is substantial at 5% threshold of significance, the model is notable overall. The model would not function without serial correlation, as indicated by the Durbin-Watson statistics of 2.019095, which is very near to 2.

Table 3 displays the model's short-term outcome. As a stand-in for price stability in Nigeria, the log value of the consumer price index (LCPI) shows the current, previous, and second-year periods showed positive logarithms of external debt service (LEDS) at +0.002750, +3.73E-05, and +0.001710. This indicates that for each unit rise of the logarithm of foreign debt service (LEDS) in Nigeria, the logarithmic worth of the consumer price index (LCPI) will increase by around 0.0008%, 3.7 units, and 0.0001%. The logarithmic value of the consumer price index and external debt service do not significantly correspond ($p = 0.4740$, $p = 0.9920$, and $p = 0.5756$). This is what economic theory says will happen. An increase in the logarithms of the consumer price index and external debt service is likely to cause the index's log value to rise. The log value of the external debt stock (LEDTS) has a negative value of -0.296214 using the consumer price index (LCPI) log value for Nigeria in the current year. If the log value of external debt stock (LEDTS) in Nigeria grows by one percent, the logarithmic magnitude of the consumer price index (LCPI) will drop to 0.03%. The logarithm value of the external debt stock (LEDTS) and the logarithm worth of the consumer price index are substantially correlated, as indicated by the p-value of 0.0363. This finding is not supported by

economic theory. It is anticipated that when the stock of foreign debt increases, the consumer price index's log value will climb as well.

As a stand-in for the external debt service to gross domestic product ratio (LEDSGDPR), the logarithmic worth of price stability in Nigeria throughout the course of the current year, is positive at +0.372574. The consumer price index (LCPI) will increase by roughly 0.37% if the log coefficient of Nigeria's foreign debt service to gross domestic ratio (LEDSGDPR) increased by one unit. The log coefficient of the external debt service to gross domestic ratio (LEDSGDPR) is substantially correlated with the log value of the consumer price index, as indicated by the p-value of 0.0001. This result is supported by economic theory. The projected conclusion is that the logarithm coefficient of the consumer price index increases in reply to a rise in foreign debt service to gross domestic ratio. The log value of foreign debt service to revenue (LEDSRR), a proxy for price stability in Nigeria during the course of the second year, has a positive value of +0.294140. The consumer price index (LCPI) will rise by roughly 0.29% if the log value of Nigeria's external debt service to revenue ratio (LEDSRR) increased by one unit. The log magnitude of the foreign debt service to revenue ratio (LEDSRR) is substantially correlated with the logarithm coefficient of the consumer price index, as indicated by the p-value of 0.000,1. This result is supported by economic theory. It is anticipated that if the foreign debt service to revenue ratio rises, the consumer price index's log value will as well.

Last but not least, using the logarithm of Nigeria's consumer price index (LCPI) from the prior year, the external debt service to export ratio (LEDSE) has a positive value of +0.125035. The external debt service to export ratio (LEDSE) would rise by roughly 0.12% if the consumer price index (LCPI) in Nigeria increased by one unit, according to the 0.0307 p-value. We infer that there is a strong link amongst the log value of the consumer price index and the log value of the external debt service to export ratio (LEDSE). This result is supported by economic theory. It is anticipated that as the percentage of external debt service to export rises, the consumer price index's log value will climb as well.

Diagnostic Test

Table 5: Ramsey Reset Test, Serial Correlation LM Test and Homoscedasticity Test Results

	F-Statistic	Prob. Value
Ramsey Reset Test	3.851701	0.0733
Breusch-Godfrey Serial Correlation LM Test	2.908579	0.0968
Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey Heteroskedasticity Test	1.735681	0.1538

Source: Author's Computation using E-view 10

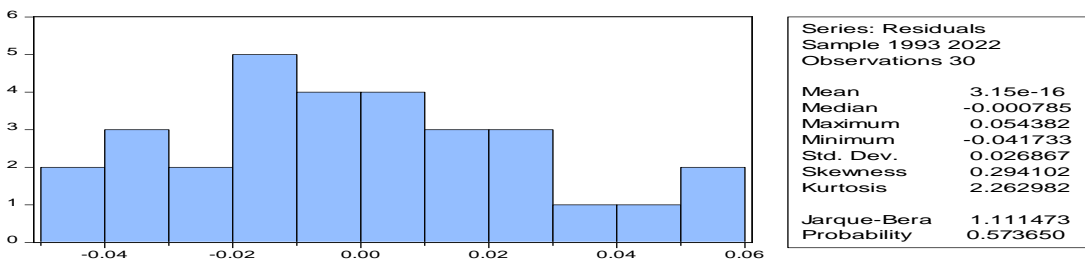
The diagnostic test results, as shown in Table 5 above, show that the model is appropriately described based on the Ramsey reset test's linearity test, which found that the f-statistic (3.851701) with a computed p-value of 0.0733, which is higher than the 5 percent (0.05) crucial value. As a result, the null hypothesis was rejected by the investigation.

The serial correlation of Breusch-Godfrey LM According to the results of the serial or autocorrelation test, the chi-square probability value is 0.0968, and the f-statistic is 2.908579. With a probability value of about 10 percent

(0.0968) being higher than the 5 percent (0.05) threshold value, the analysis thus shows that there is no serial correlation in the model.

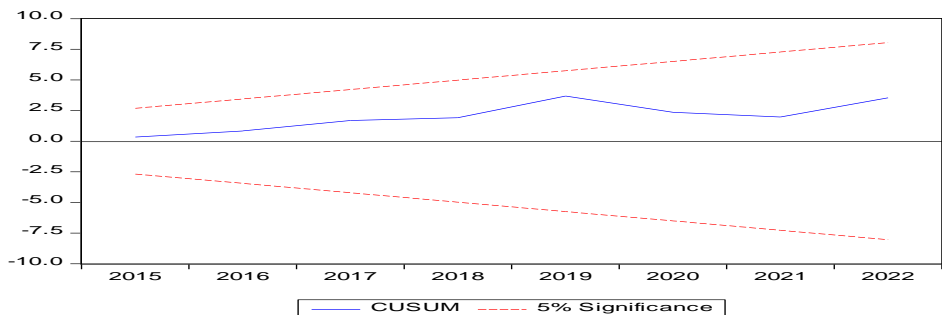
The results of the Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey test for heteroscedasticity show that the chi-square probability value is 0.1538, and the f-statistic is 1.735681. The result indicates that there is no sign of heteroskedasticity in the model because the probability Chi-square value is greater than 5% ($P > 0.05$). Because residuals have constant variance, which is desirable in regression, they are homoscedastic.

Figure 1: Normality Test



The normality test is summarized in Figure 1, which indicates that the residuals are normally distributed with a Jarque-Bara value of 1.111473 and a corresponding probability value of 0.573650 greater than the 0.05 level of significance.

Figure 2: Stability Test



A description of the stability test is shown in Figure 2, and the results indicate that the model is stable. The fact that the blue line falls between the two red (-5 & +5) lines, or below the 0.05 level of significance, makes this clear.

Discussion of Findings

(i) External Debt Service and Consumer Price Index in Nigeria.

Regression research utilizing the ARDL (Auto-Regressive Distributive Lag) technique revealed that, as a stand-in for price stability (CPI), external debt service (EDS) had a positive association with the consumer price index in the short term. Economic theory is supported by it. It was anticipated that as the amount of foreign debt serviced rises, it would have financial difficulties leading to a reduction in public service and infrastructure spending. Also, the conclusion from the p-value demonstrates that external debt service (EDS) has a substantial statistical effect on consumer price index. Consequently, the paper finds that the null hypothesis—which claims there isn't any meaningful connection among EDS and CPI—is false. The results of this study are in line with those of other empirical studies conducted by Adeola (2023) and Ogundipe et al. (2024).

(ii) External Debt Stock and Consumer Price Index in Nigeria.

Regression analysis was used to infer a favorable correlation involving external debt stocks (EDTS) and consumer price index in the long term. According to economic theory, a greater ratio indicates that increasing amounts of external debt will result to increased import prices, devaluation of the currency, and inflationary pressures, all of which will raise the CPI. The p-value of the result indicates that the external debt stock (EDTS) has a substantial statistical influence on the consumer price index. As a result, the study finds that the null hypothesis that external debt stock (EDTS) and consumer price index (CPI) have a significant link is erroneous. The result of this investigation disagree with previous studies by those of Olaniyan (2022).

(iii) External Debt Service to Gross Domestic Product Ratio and Consumer Price Index in Nigeria.

Additionally, we observe that there exists a beneficial relationship between the consumer price index (CPI) and the external debt service to gross domestic product ratio (EDSGDPR) in the data from the long-run years. The external debt service to gross domestic product ratio (EDSGDPR) and the consumer price index (CPI) positively correlate, as predicted by economists. The expected rise in the debt service-to-gross domestic product ratio will lead to supply limits that raise prices and diminish overall economic production. A greater burden of debt payments also often results in currency depreciation since repayment obligations demand foreign exchange, driving up import costs and fueling inflation. However, the p-value of the data indicates that the association involving the external debt service to gross domestic product ratio (EDSGDPR) and the consumer price index (CPI) is statistically substantial. The study's findings thus support the null hypothesis, claiming that there is a statistically substantial association among the EDSGDPR and CPI. The findings of this investigation are consistent with those of Okafor's previous studies (2021).

(iv) External Debt Service to Revenue Ratio and Consumer Price Index in Nigeria.

It suggests that there is a negative association involving the consumer price index (CPI) and the external debt service to revenue ratio (EDSRR) in the short run. A negative link between EDSRR and CPI is not predicted by economic theory. It is thought that as debt service takes up a larger portion of government revenue, there are fewer funds available for important public spending like social services, infrastructure, and economic growth projects. The external debt to revenue ratio has a statistically significant effect on the consumer price index (CPI) (EDSRR), as indicated by the outcome's p-value. The consumer price index (CPI) and the external debt to revenue ratio (EDSRR) were found to be significantly

correlated by the research, refuting the null hypothesis that the two variables don't correlate. This research result conflict with those of Eze and Nwankwo's previous investigations (2020).

(v) External Debt Service to Export Ratio and Consumer Price Index in Nigeria.

We may observe that the external debt service to export ratio (EDSER) is positively correlated in the near term with consumer price index (CPI). Economic theory predict a positive correlation between EDSER and CPI. It is believed that depreciation of currency will result from increased debt servicing requirements, particularly if reserves of foreign exchange are not enough to make the payments. External debt service to revenue ratio (EDSER) has a statistically substantial influence on consumer price index (CPI), based on the p-value. Considering the study discovered a significant correlation among external debt service to export ratio (EDSER) and consumer price index (CPI), the null hypothesis that there is no association involving the two is not true.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

The study, spanning 37 years from 1990 to 2022, used the Auto-Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) bounds testing method and the Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) Unit Root test to analyze the connection involving external debt servicing and price stability in Nigeria. Key economic factors, including external debt service, external debt stock, and debt servicing-to-GDP ratio, were considered. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was used to measure price stability. Findings revealed that external debt service, foreign debt outstanding, and the ratio of external debt to GDP all have a long-term positive impact on the CPI, indicating their role in inflationary pressures. However, the CPI was negatively impacted by the external debt to revenue ratio and positively by the external debt to export ratio.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are therefore offered in light of the results:

- i. Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning reduce reliance on external borrowing for public projects and explore alternative funding methods such as tax reforms and public-private partnerships to mitigate inflationary pressures linked to external debt.
- ii. Debt Management Office (DMO): The DMO should implement effective debt management strategies, including restructuring existing external debts and negotiating lower interest rates or extended repayment periods. This can help alleviate immediate financial pressures and ensure sustainable debt levels.
- iii. Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN): CBN ought to put into practice monetary policies intended at stabilizing the naira and controlling inflation. A stable currency will help reduce the cost of imports, mitigating the inflationary pressures that can arise from high external debt servicing.
- iv. Federal Ministry of Finance: This ministry should enhance fiscal policies aimed at increasing government income by expanding the tax base and increasing the effectiveness of tax collection. By boosting revenue, the government can ensure that debt servicing does not compromise essential public spending.
- v. Lastly, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC): The NEPC should develop initiatives to boost the competitiveness of Nigerian exports, including providing support for local producers, improving infrastructure, and facilitating access to international markets. Increased export performance will enhance revenue, making it easier to service Nigeria's external debt.

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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: HOW EFFECTIVE ARE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE MECHANISMS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Abstract

Human rights and social justice are foundational principles in societies that seek to promote dignity, equality, and peace for all individuals. This paper therefore explores the role of transitional justice mechanisms in advancing human rights and promoting social justice. Transitional justice serves as a framework for addressing past abuses while seeking to create a more equitable and cohesive society. Grounded in Restorative Justice Theory and Social Justice Theory, this study examines how these mechanisms can help to rectify economic and social inequalities. Using a qualitative approach, the research analyses case studies from South Africa, Canada, and Colombia to assess the effectiveness of reparative measures, truth-seeking processes, and community-centred interventions. Findings indicate that while transitional justice mechanisms can restore dignity and provide redress to victims, their effectiveness depends on sustained political commitment, community participation, and comprehensive, long-term reforms that address structural inequalities. The study concludes that achieving meaningful social justice through transitional justice requires combining reparative mechanisms with systemic changes that empower marginalized communities and prevent future injustices. Therefore, it is recommended to prioritize inclusive, community-based programs that both compensate for past harms and provide affected populations with access to education.

Keywords: Human Rights, Social Justice, Transitional Justice Mechanisms, Truth Commission, Reparative Mechanism

1. INTRODUCTION

Human rights and social justice are foundational principles in societies that seek to promote dignity, equality, and peace for all individuals. Human rights include basic freedoms and protections that belong inherently to every person, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or social status (United Nations, 1948). These rights comprise of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions, each critical to the development of a fair and inclusive society (Donnelly, 2013). Social justice refers to the just distribution of resources, opportunities, and privileges to all individuals, advocating that

inequalities should only exist if they benefit the least advantaged members of society (Rawls, 1971). The intersection of human rights and social justice highlights the necessity of addressing structural and historical inequalities, as the protection of human rights is often the foundation upon which social justice is built (Gready & Robins, 2014).

In conflict and post-conflict societies, widespread human rights abuses, such as war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, leave deep scars on communities, both socially and economically. Addressing these violations is essential for societal healing, rebuilding trust,

and fostering sustainable peace. Transitional justice mechanisms have emerged as a response to these complex challenges, offering tools to address past wrongs and to establish a basis for future peace and stability (Teitel, 2003). Transitional justice encompasses various judicial and non-judicial processes, such as criminal prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations, and institutional reforms (Skaar, 2013). These mechanisms aim to support victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and prevent future abuses, thus contributing to both human rights protection and the broader goal of social justice (Fletcher, Weinstein, & Rowen, 2009).

However, the effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms in promoting social justice remains a contested issue. While these mechanisms have the potential to transform societies by addressing historical injustices, they are often limited by political constraints, economic resources, and societal acceptance (van der Merwe, 2009). For instance, truth commissions, such as those implemented in South Africa, Argentina, and Peru, have been instrumental in uncovering the truth about past abuses, fostering a culture of accountability, and providing a platform for victims to share their experiences (Hayner, 2011). In South Africa, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) allowed victims and perpetrators of apartheid-era abuses to testify about their experiences, shedding light on systemic injustices and helping the nation to initiate a process of reconciliation (Chapman & van der Merwe, 2008). However, while the TRC succeeded in promoting awareness and empathy, critics argue that it fell short of achieving full social justice, as the underlying economic and social inequalities that apartheid created have persisted (Mamdani, 2002).

This paper aims to critically examine the effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms in promoting social justice, analyzing the successes and limitations of different approaches in various post-conflict contexts. It is divided into five sections, beginning with the introduction which laid the background to the

study. The section two provides the literature review, comprising of both conceptual and theoretical framework. Section three elaborate on the methodology employed, while the conclusion wraps up the work with the conclusion. The last section provided relevant recommendations from the study.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Clarification

▪ Human Rights

Human rights are generally regarded as inherent, universal, and inalienable rights to which all people are entitled. Jack Donnelly (2013) describes human rights as the kind of rights that comes from being a human being. Donnelly argues that human rights are based on principles of dignity and equality, making them a foundation for ethical and legal standards across societies. Similarly, Amartya Sen (1999) sees human rights as ethical claims derived from human dignity, which provides individuals with entitlements to essential freedoms and protections that enable them to live fulfilling lives.

Michael Ignatieff (2001) sees human rights as necessary protections against abuses of power, rooted in the idea of individual autonomy and the need for limits on state power. Henry Shue (1996) believes that human rights are basic guarantees required for a minimally decent life and are essential for securing both individual well-being and societal stability.

According to Rhoda Howard-Hassmann (2016), human rights should also be understood in light of social and economic contexts, as these factors shape individuals' abilities to fully enjoy their rights. According to Nickel human rights are essential to human welfare and form a basis for social justice by safeguarding individuals from oppression and inequality. Human rights provide individuals with moral claims against their governments, serving as a check on state power and a foundation for personal freedoms and political participation (Nickel, 2007).

Henkin, (1990) emphasizes the intrinsic connection between human rights and human dignity, suggesting that societies have a moral obligation to protect individuals against any condition that may harm their dignity. He stresses that human rights are not only legal entitlements but also moral imperatives grounded in universal principles of humanity.

▪ **Social Justice**

Social justice is concerned with the equitable allocation of resources, opportunities, and responsibilities in a society, aiming to address and rectify long-standing social and economic inequities. According to David Miller (1999), social justice helps ensure that resources and responsibilities within a society are distributed according to ethically justifiable principles. Social justice extends beyond legal entitlements and includes the policies that enable individuals to live dignified lives.

Fraser (1995) expands the scope of social justice to encompass not only the fair distribution of resources but also the need for respect and recognition of diverse identities. She argues that justice involves both addressing economic disparities and remedying the social misrecognition that marginalized communities experience. Social justice tackles both economic injustices and issues of identity and inclusion.

Amartya Sen (2009) proposes that social justice is fundamentally about enhancing people's abilities to lead lives that they value. Rather than focusing solely on material wealth, Sen emphasizes the importance of providing individuals with access to the resources and conditions that empower them to make meaningful life choices. Social justice is realized when individuals are equipped with the necessary tools to achieve personal fulfillment and well-being.

Young (1990), argues that social justice must also address power dynamics and systemic oppression, as these factors often hinder marginalized groups' ability to participate fully in society. Achieving social justice means dismantling societal structures that perpetuate

inequality and restrict individuals' freedom to shape their own lives.

▪ **Transitional Justice**

Transitional justice refers to a set of mechanisms, both judicial and non-judicial, aimed at addressing human rights violations and injustices in societies emerging from conflict or authoritarian rule. Teitel (2003) describes transitional justice as a framework to confront past abuses and establish accountability, reconciliation, and reform. These mechanisms are critical in transforming societies by recognizing victims' suffering and working toward a stable, peaceful future.

Méndez (1997) views transitional justice as an essential process for countries moving from repression to democracy. He argues that transitional justice allows societies to reckon with past violations through various methods such as truth commissions, criminal prosecutions, reparations, and institutional reform. These practices not only promote accountability but also provide a sense of justice to victims and their communities, thereby laying the foundation for democratic stability.

Freeman (2006) adds that transitional justice involves addressing systemic abuses through legal and symbolic means, offering acknowledgment and redress to victims while fostering social reconciliation. Transitional justice should be seen as more than punishment; it serves as a pathway to rebuild societal trust by acknowledging wrongdoings and establishing processes to prevent future violations.

According to Hayner (2011), transitional justice is about creating a balance between peace and justice in post-conflict societies. This balance is often achieved through truth-seeking, reparative measures, and institutional reforms, which collectively aim to address the needs of victims while enabling communities to move forward.

According to Pablo de Greiff (2009), transitional justice is rooted in the principle of restorative justice, which seeks to repair the harm caused

to victims and the broader society. Transitional justice should emphasize restitution, acknowledgment, and institutional reforms to restore dignity to victims and support long-term peace. Hamber (2009) stresses the importance of healing and psychological restoration in transitional justice. He views transitional justice as a process designed to restore individual and collective well-being after periods of trauma. Transitional justice mechanisms should focus on addressing the psychological scars left by conflict, arguing that healing and reconciliation are fundamental to preventing further violence and achieving social cohesion.

Theoretical Framework

▪ Restorative Justice Theory

Restorative Justice Theory emerged in the 1970s as an alternative approach to traditional, punitive justice systems, largely developed through the work of criminologist Howard Zehr, often called the “grandfather of restorative justice.” Zehr’s book, *Changing Lenses* (1990), reframed justice by focusing on repairing harm rather than punishment. Restorative justice is a victim-centred approach, emphasizing healing, accountability, and community involvement rather than retribution (Zehr, 1990). The theory builds on indigenous justice practices, especially those of Maori communities in New Zealand and First Nations in Canada, which prioritize collective responsibility, reconciliation, and restoration over punitive measures (McCold, 1995).

Restorative justice has been widely adopted in both criminal justice systems and post-conflict societies. One of the most notable examples is South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), established after the end of apartheid. The TRC facilitated a process where perpetrators and victims of human rights abuses came forward to speak openly about past atrocities, fostering healing through acknowledgment and dialogue rather than focusing solely on punishment (Tutu, 1999). Another instance is Rwanda’s use of *gacaca* courts after the 1994 genocide, where community-based courts encouraged local

participation in addressing the crimes of the genocide (Clark, 2010).

One of the strengths of restorative justice is its emphasis on healing and reconciliation. By focusing on the needs of victims and fostering open communication, restorative justice seeks to repair relationships damaged by harm, which can be transformative for both individuals and communities (Zehr, 2002). This approach also promotes a sense of accountability, where offenders directly engage with those they have harmed, encouraging a deeper understanding of the impact of their actions. Moreover, restorative justice processes can strengthen social cohesion by addressing underlying issues that may have contributed to conflict, thereby helping to prevent future abuses (Braithwaite, 2002).

One major criticism is that it may be insufficient for addressing serious crimes or mass atrocities, where the scale of harm and trauma is profound. Critics argue that restorative justice processes may fail to deliver appropriate accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights abuses, such as genocide or torture, potentially undermining the demand for justice among victims and survivors (Hamber, 2009). In cases where there are vast power imbalances or lingering fear among victims, the voluntary nature of restorative justice may also create pressures for victims to forgive or reconcile when they are not ready (Walker, 2006).

In the context of this study, the theory can be used to assess whether transitional justice mechanisms, such as truth commissions or community reconciliation programs, effectively facilitate healing and acknowledgment of harm. Moreover, Restorative Justice Theory allows for an exploration of how these mechanisms contribute to broader social justice goals, such as rebuilding trust, restoring dignity, and addressing inequalities that may have contributed to past abuses.

▪ Social Justice Theory

Social Justice Theory, as we understand it today, is rooted in the works of philosophers like

John Rawls, who shaped the modern concept in his influential book *A Theory of Justice* (1971). Rawls proposed that social justice requires the fair distribution of resources and opportunities in society, based on two principles: equality in basic rights and the "difference principle," which asserts that social and economic inequalities are justified only if they benefit the least advantaged members of society (Rawls, 1971). This theory aimed to create a fair system where individuals have equal opportunities to succeed, regardless of their background. Later thinkers, such as Amartya Sen and Nancy Fraser, expanded on Rawls' principles by highlighting the importance of recognizing cultural and social diversity and the need for economic redistribution to achieve justice (Sen, 2009; Fraser, 1995).

Social justice principles have been widely adopted in policy-making, especially in efforts to address structural inequalities. In South Africa, for example, social justice principles were central to the design of post-apartheid policies, including land reforms and affirmative action, aimed at redressing historical inequalities based on race and ethnicity (Seekings & Nattrass, 2005). Similarly, social justice principles guided the development of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which asserts equal rights for all individuals regardless of nationality, race, or gender. The UDHR has influenced global human rights frameworks, encouraging countries to adopt policies that promote fair access to resources and opportunities (UN, 1948). Social justice principles have also been instrumental in Indigenous land rights movements, with nations like Australia and Canada implementing policies to recognize Indigenous peoples' rights and address historical injustices (Alfred & Corntassel, 2005).

One of the main strengths of Social Justice Theory is its focus on fairness and inclusivity. The theory provides a comprehensive framework for addressing both economic and social inequalities, recognizing that true justice involves more than just equality under the law. One challenge is its reliance on subjective interpretations of what is "fair" or "just," which

can vary across cultures and political ideologies. For instance, debates over redistribution policies often reveal differing views on what constitutes a fair allocation of resources, making it difficult to achieve consensus (Miller, 1999). Critics argue that the theory's emphasis on redistribution may sometimes overlook other factors, such as individual responsibility and merit, which are important to some societies' understanding of justice (Nozick, 1974).

However, Social Justice Theory allows for an evaluation of whether transitional justice mechanisms promote long-term equity by dismantling structures that historically excluded or marginalized certain groups.

3. METHODOLOGY

This paper is conceptual and theoretical, utilizing a qualitative approach. It relies on secondary data collected from scholarly articles, text books, websites, and peer-reviewed journals. This method allows the researcher to examine various perspectives, providing a comprehensive view of the topic.

Truth Commissions: Addressing Historical Injustices and Building Social Cohesion

Truth commissions have become a central mechanism within transitional justice for addressing historical injustices and fostering societal cohesion after periods of conflict or authoritarian rule. Rooted in the concept of restorative justice, truth commissions provide a space for victims and perpetrators to recount their experiences, thereby acknowledging suffering and promoting collective healing (Hayner, 2002).

Truth commissions are temporary, non-judicial bodies established primarily to investigate past violations of human rights. Unlike judicial proceedings, which focus on legal accountability, truth commissions aim to produce an official record of abuses, often in a public forum, to promote healing and reconciliation (Minow, 1998). These commissions usually operate on the principles of transparency and inclusivity, inviting victims,

witnesses, and, in some cases, perpetrators to testify. The commissions' reports and recommendations often cover various aspects, such as reparations for victims, institutional reforms, and suggestions for societal healing (Hayner, 2011).

The fundamental objective of truth commissions is to promote a shared understanding of the past, thereby addressing the underlying grievances that fuel division and conflict within societies (Brahm, 2007). By documenting systemic abuses, truth commissions provide acknowledgment to victims, helping to restore their dignity and validate their experiences (Sarkin & Daly, 2004). This acknowledgment serves as a foundation for rebuilding trust between communities and the state, as it demonstrates an official willingness to recognize wrongdoings and confront uncomfortable aspects of national history. Truth commissions also aim to prevent the recurrence of abuses by making policy recommendations for institutional reforms that address the root causes of conflict, such as corruption, discrimination, or lack of accountability in law enforcement (Laplante, 2008).

One of the most well-known and influential truth commissions is South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), established in 1995 following the end of apartheid. Led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the TRC aimed to heal the divisions of apartheid by creating a public record of atrocities and offering amnesty to perpetrators who fully disclosed their crimes (Tutu, 1999). The TRC's mandate included hearing testimonies from victims of human rights violations and from individuals who committed these acts. This inclusive approach provided a platform for the voices of marginalized communities, promoting a sense of shared history and empathy (Gibson, 2004). The TRC's impact on social cohesion has been widely debated. While it succeeded in creating a comprehensive record of apartheid-era abuses and provided victims with a sense of acknowledgment, its reliance on public confession over retributive justice led to mixed feelings among victims and the broader South

African society. On one hand, the commission's open hearings allowed victims and their families to receive public validation, which contributed to their healing process (Lodge, 2002). On the other hand, the granting of amnesty to perpetrators, without any material reparation for many victims, led some critics to argue that the TRC sacrificed justice for reconciliation (Mamdani, 2002).

While truth commissions have achieved significant successes in documenting human rights abuses and fostering public acknowledgment, they face notable limitations in fully realizing social justice. One key challenge lies in balancing the goals of truth-telling and accountability. Truth commissions typically focus on creating a historical record rather than prosecuting individuals, which can lead to perceptions of "justice sacrificed" among victims who may feel that perpetrators are not adequately held accountable (Minow, 1998). In cases where perpetrators are granted amnesty in exchange for testimony, such as in South Africa's TRC, victims may feel betrayed by the justice process, especially if reparations are insufficient or delayed (Chapman & Ball, 2001).

Moreover, truth commissions can struggle to address deep-seated structural inequalities, as their mandates are often limited to recording past abuses without ensuring the implementation of recommendations for long-term social reforms (Laplante, 2008). In post-conflict societies, socioeconomic disparities and discriminatory practices often persist, leading to the re-marginalization of communities that suffered historical injustices. Thus, while truth commissions can make valuable contributions to social cohesion by fostering acknowledgment, their impact on broader social justice outcomes is often limited by inadequate follow-through on recommendations and a lack of institutional commitment to long-term reforms (Shaw, 2007).

Truth commissions play a critical role in establishing a collective memory that serves as a foundation for preventing future conflicts. By creating an official record of past abuses, these

commissions promote public awareness and understanding of the causes and consequences of conflict, fostering a national narrative that acknowledges the experiences of victims (Humphrey, 2003). This process is particularly important in societies where denial of past abuses or revisionist histories perpetuate division and resentment. In Latin America, for example, truth commissions in Argentina and Chile were instrumental in countering state-sponsored narratives that justified human rights abuses committed under military dictatorships (Hayner, 2011). Creating a collective memory can also serve as a deterrent to future human rights violations by fostering a culture of accountability. When societies acknowledge past injustices and honor victims' experiences, there is a stronger social commitment to preventing similar abuses in the future. For instance, the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission emphasized education and public engagement as means to strengthen democratic values and promote tolerance (Laplante & Theidon, 2007).

Truth commissions are particularly relevant for addressing the needs of marginalized communities, who often bear the brunt of human rights abuses in conflict and authoritarian contexts. The Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission, for example, provided a platform for women and children to recount their experiences of violence and exploitation during the civil war, highlighting issues that had been underrepresented in public discourse (Shaw, 2007). Moreover, truth commissions can advocate for reparations and reforms that specifically address the structural inequalities faced by these communities. However, the success of such efforts depends heavily on whether recommendations for reparations are implemented and whether they provide meaningful redress. In cases where reparative recommendations are not followed through, marginalized communities may continue to experience social and economic exclusion, limiting the long-term impact of truth commissions on social justice (Sarkin & Daly, 2004).

Mechanisms and Equity for Marginalized Groups

Reparative mechanisms are a core component of transitional justice that aims to address the harm inflicted on individuals and communities during periods of violence, conflict, or systemic oppression. These mechanisms seek to redress economic and social disparities that are often deeply entrenched among marginalized groups.

Reparative mechanisms serve to recognize and address the suffering of individuals and communities who were victims of severe injustices. According to de Greiff (2006), reparations are an acknowledgment of wrongdoing by the state or other actors, and they signal a commitment to rectify past abuses. These mechanisms are not solely financial but encompass a range of measures, including symbolic acts such as apologies, as well as more substantive initiatives like educational and healthcare benefits. They aim to address the multifaceted dimensions of harm endured by marginalized groups, who often face both immediate economic challenges and long-term social exclusion (Duthie, 2010). In post-conflict settings, reparative mechanisms frequently include monetary compensation to provide direct financial support to victims. However, this form of reparations is often insufficient on its own to address the deeper systemic inequalities faced by marginalized groups. As Laplante and Theidon (2007) argue, reparations must go beyond financial compensation to include structural interventions that address the underlying causes of inequity, such as access to education, employment, and healthcare. These forms of reparations can serve as a pathway toward empowering marginalized communities.

Several countries have implemented reparative mechanisms aimed at restoring equity among marginalized groups. In South Africa, reparations were a crucial part of the post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations. The commission recommended financial reparations for victims of apartheid-era violence, as well as community-based programs to promote social

and economic reintegration. However, the implementation of these recommendations faced significant challenges. Although some victims received monetary compensation, many argue that these payments were insufficient, given the long-term socioeconomic impact of apartheid on Black South Africans (Gibson, 2004). Additionally, the delay in disbursement and the limited scope of reparative programs have been criticized as undermining the potential of these mechanisms to effect meaningful social change (Mamdani, 2002).

In Canada, reparative mechanisms have focused on addressing the harm inflicted on Indigenous populations through decades of systemic abuse in residential schools. The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, one of the largest class-action settlements in Canadian history, included monetary compensation, funding for community-based healing programs, and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. While financial reparations were distributed to survivors, critics argue that monetary compensation alone does not address the enduring effects of cultural and economic marginalization experienced by Indigenous communities (Milloy, 1999). The lack of sustained support for long-term initiatives, such as educational programs and economic development, has limited the effectiveness of reparative mechanisms in achieving true equity for Indigenous groups (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015).

Colombia's reparations program, established as part of its peace process with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), offers another example of a comprehensive reparative approach. The Colombian Victims' Law provides financial reparations, land restitution, and psychological support to victims of the country's prolonged armed conflict. Notably, the law emphasizes collective reparations for communities disproportionately affected by violence, recognizing the need to address both individual and community-level harm. The collective reparations approach has shown

potential in promoting social cohesion and rebuilding community structures, though challenges remain in ensuring equitable implementation across diverse and often remote communities (Rodríguez-Garavito & Dixon, 2014).

As Hamber (2009) proposed, monetary compensation can provide victims with resources to meet their immediate needs, such as housing, healthcare, and education, which are often out of reach for marginalized communities. Additionally, reparative mechanisms that include vocational training or educational programs can empower individuals and communities to rebuild their lives, enhancing their ability to participate in the economy and reducing the socioeconomic gaps caused by historical injustices (Walker, 2016). According to de Greiff (2006), acknowledgment is a critical component of reparations, as it validates victims' experiences and recognizes the harm inflicted upon them. This acknowledgment can strengthen social cohesion by creating a shared understanding of the past, which is particularly important in societies emerging from conflict or systemic oppression. Reparative mechanisms that address both the material and symbolic needs of victims have the potential to support long-term reconciliation and prevent future conflicts by addressing the grievances of marginalized groups (Duthie, 2010).

However, financial reparations, while important, cannot fully compensate for the loss of opportunities, cultural heritage, or the psychological trauma experienced by marginalized groups (Milloy, 1999). In Canada, for example, while financial compensation was provided to survivors of residential schools, many Indigenous communities continue to struggle with issues such as inadequate access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Governments may face budget constraints or political opposition that limit the scope and effectiveness of reparative programs. In South Africa, the limited funds allocated to reparations after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations left many

victims feeling that justice had not been served (Gibson, 2004). Additionally, the complexity of distributing reparations equitably, particularly in countries with limited administrative capacity, can result in delays and inconsistencies that undermine the credibility of the reparative process (Rodríguez-Garavito & Dixon, 2014).

For reparative mechanisms to achieve their intended impact, they must be designed with a holistic approach that addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of marginalized communities. This approach requires governments to prioritize not only monetary compensation but also structural reforms that tackle the root causes of inequality. In South Africa, for instance, reparations could have been more effective if they had been accompanied by broader economic policies aimed at addressing the racial disparities entrenched by apartheid. Comprehensive reparative strategies that include community-based programs, educational initiatives, and healthcare support have the potential to create lasting change by empowering marginalized groups and integrating them into the socio-economic framework of society (Walker, 2016). In Colombia, the collective reparations approach has shown promise by addressing community-level harm and fostering social cohesion. This approach recognizes that marginalized communities often face unique challenges that cannot be fully addressed through individual compensation alone (Rodríguez-Garavito & Dixon, 2014).

Ultimately, the effectiveness of reparative mechanisms in promoting equity depends on the political will and commitment of governments to follow through on their promises. Reparative mechanisms can contribute to reconciliation and social justice by acknowledging and addressing historical injustices. However, to achieve genuine equity, reparations must be part of a larger effort to address systemic inequalities and promote inclusive development. Reparative mechanisms, when properly implemented, can serve as a foundation for building a more just and equitable society, but they must be supported

by comprehensive policies that prioritize the well-being of marginalized communities and provide them with the resources they need to thrive.

4. CONCLUSION

In examining the relationship between human rights, social justice, and transitional justice mechanisms, it is clear that transitional justice offers a powerful approach to addressing past abuses and promoting social cohesion among marginalized communities. Mechanisms like truth commissions and reparative programs can provide essential platforms for acknowledging injustices, validating victims' experiences, and delivering reparations aimed at restoring dignity and social stability. However, the effectiveness of these mechanisms in achieving meaningful social justice often depends on their design, implementation, and long-term sustainability. For transitional justice to fully contribute to human rights and social equity, it must address the root causes of marginalization, foster economic empowerment, and create avenues for sustained community participation. Financial constraints, political will, and structural limitations can undermine the transformative potential of transitional justice mechanisms. Therefore, achieving social justice through transitional justice requires a holistic commitment from governments, civil society, and international partners to ensure that interventions are genuinely responsive to the needs of affected communities.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness of transitional justice mechanisms in promoting social justice and protecting human rights.

1. Transitional justice mechanisms should be accompanied by structural reforms addressing systemic inequalities that contribute to ongoing marginalization.
2. For transitional justice to have a lasting impact, affected communities should be

- actively involved in designing and implementing reparative programs.
3. Reparations should not be limited to financial compensation. They should include initiatives focused on educational opportunities, vocational training, and healthcare access, all of which help address the socio-economic roots of inequality.
 4. Building strong and accountable institutions is essential for protecting human rights and preventing future injustices. Transitional justice mechanisms should prioritize reforms within the judicial system, law enforcement, and government institutions to ensure transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights in post-conflict societies.
 5. Transitional justice processes should integrate psychosocial support services for victims and communities affected by conflict and violence.

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MOBILE, ONLINE BANKING AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF DEPOSIT MONEY BANKS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of mobile and online banking on the operational efficiency of deposit money banks (DMBs) in Nigeria. Motivated by the rapid digitization of the financial sector, the research aims to assess whether the adoption of these digital banking platforms improves operational performance in the Nigerian banking context. The research adopts an ex post facto design, focusing on ten DMBs listed on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) as of 31st December 2023. The study utilized secondary data from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS), CBN statistical bulletin, and annual reports, and employs descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis to investigate the relationship between Mobile Banking, Online Banking, and Operational Efficiency. Findings indicate that both mobile and online banking have no statistically significant impact on the operational efficiency of DMBs, suggesting that technological adoption alone does not automatically enhance performance. This study concludes that mobile banking has no significant impact on operational efficiency, while online banking positively influences it. Hypotheses were accepted or rejected based on these findings. The study recommends a holistic approach to optimizing digital banking, emphasizing investments in digital infrastructure, collaboration, enhance customer experience and continuous performance evaluation to maximize the benefits of digital banking technologies. Future research could therefore explore the underlying factors limiting the efficiency gains from mobile and online banking in Nigeria.

Keywords: Mobile banking, Online banking, Operational efficiency

1. Introduction

In global finance, the integration of technology into banking operations has become a pivotal factor in determining the efficiency, competitiveness, and overall performance of financial institutions. This technological revolution has been particularly pronounced in the terrestrial of mobile and online banking, which have transformed the way banks interact with their customers and manage their internal processes. In Nigeria, Africa's largest economy and most populous country, the adoption of these digital banking systems poses both enormous potential and distinct obstacles for deposit money banks (DMBs). The Nigerian

banking system, known for its dynamism and tenacity, has grown and transformed significantly during the last two decades. However, it continues to confront operational issues, including as high service delivery costs, limited rural reach, and inefficiencies in transaction processing. The introduction of mobile and online banking technology is a possible path for addressing these difficulties, potentially increasing operational efficiency and promoting financial inclusion across the country.

Mobile banking, which leverages the widespread adoption of smartphones and mobile networks in Nigeria, allows customers to perform a wide range of financial transactions remotely.

Similarly, online banking platforms provide 24/7 access to banking services through internet-connected devices. These digital channels not only offer convenience to customers but also have the potential to significantly reduce operational costs for banks by minimising the need for physical branches and streamlining back-office processes. DMBs' operational efficiency is crucial to their ability to provide cheap financial services, make long-term profits, and contribute to economic development. These institutions may be able to optimise resource allocation, lower transaction costs, and improve overall performance by implementing mobile and online banking technologies. However, the relationship between digital banking adoption and operational efficiency is complex, influenced by factors such as the regulatory framework, technology infrastructure, client acceptability, and cybersecurity concerns. This study examines how mobile and online banking affects the operational efficiency of Nigerian deposit money institutions.

Specifically, it aims to assess the current state of mobile and online banking adoption among Nigerian DMBs, examine the relationship between these digital banking technologies and key operational efficiency, identify the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing these technologies in Nigeria, and assess the implications of increased digital banking adoption for financial inclusion and economic development in the country. By looking into these issues, this study adds to the growing body of literature on financial technology (fintech) in emerging markets and offers useful insights for policymakers, banking executives, and researchers interested in the intersection of technology and financial services in Nigeria and other developing economies.

The rapid advancement of mobile and online banking technologies presents both opportunities and challenges for deposit money banks (DMBs) in Nigeria. While these digital innovations offer potential solutions to longstanding operational inefficiencies, their actual impact on the Nigerian banking sector

remains unclear and understudied (Adewale et al., 2022). The problem this research addresses is multifaceted. There is a lack of comprehensive understanding of the current state of mobile and online banking adoption among Nigerian DMBs. The extent to which these technologies have been implemented, the variations in adoption rates across different banks, and the factors influencing adoption decisions are not well documented (Okonkwo & Igwe, 2023). This knowledge gap hinders the development of effective strategies for technological integration in the banking sector.

The relationship between digital banking technology adoption and operational effectiveness in Nigerian DMBs is not well understood. While theoretical arguments suggest that mobile and online banking should result in increased efficiency (Johnson, 2021), practical evidence for the Nigerian setting is scarce. It is unknown whether and to what extent these technologies help to reduce operational expenses, improve service delivery, and boost overall bank performance (Nnamani, 2022).

The problems and opportunities connected with establishing mobile and online banking in Nigeria have not been adequately addressed. Nigeria's distinct socioeconomic, infrastructural, and regulatory environment may bring unique challenges or opportunities that are not taken into account in other situations (Eze & Chukwu, 2023). Understanding these factors is crucial for successful implementation and optimisation of digital banking technologies. The broader implications of increased digital banking adoption for financial inclusion and economic development in Nigeria are not well understood. While digital technologies have the potential to extend banking services to underserved populations (World Bank, 2022), the actual impact of these innovations on financial inclusion and economic growth needs to be critically examined (Adesina, 2023).

Lastly, there is a need for a comprehensive framework that integrates the various aspects of mobile and online banking adoption,

operational efficiency, and their wider economic implications in the Nigerian context. The absence of such a framework limits our ability to fully grasp the transformative potential of these technologies in the Nigerian banking sector (Oluwaseyi, 2023). Addressing these problems is crucial for several reasons. It will provide valuable insights for bank managers seeking to optimize their digital strategies, for regulators aiming to create supportive policy environments, and for researchers looking to understand the dynamics of technological innovation in emerging financial markets. Moreover, it will contribute to the broader discourse on the role of digital technologies in promoting efficient, inclusive, and sustainable financial systems in developing economies (Akinwunmi & Olajide, 2022).

The rest of this paper is organised as follows: Section 2 provides a thorough examination of relevant literature, focusing on the ideas of mobile and internet banking, operational efficiency in banking, and the Nigerian banking sector. Section 3 describes the research methodology, including data collecting and analysis procedures. Section 4 describes the findings, analysis, and examines the consequences of these findings. Finally, Section 5 concludes the study by presenting a summary of the key findings, discussing the limitations of the research, drawing conclusions, and offering recommendations for future studies.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Mobile Banking

Mobile banking refers to the use of a smartphone or other cellular device to perform online banking tasks while away from your home computer, such as monitoring account balances, transferring funds between accounts, bill payment and locating an ATM (Shaikh & Karjaluoto, 2015). In the Nigerian context, mobile banking has seen significant growth due to the widespread adoption of smartphones and the expansion of mobile networks (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2018).

2.1.1 Online Banking

Online banking, also known as internet banking, is a service that allows customers to conduct financial transactions through a bank's website (Yoon & Steege, 2013). This can be accessed from a PC or mobile device. In Nigeria, online banking has become increasingly popular, especially among urban populations and younger demographics (Ezeoha, 2015).

2.1.2 Operational Efficiency

Operational efficiency in banking refers to the ability of a bank to deliver products and services to its customers in the most cost-effective manner possible while still ensuring the high quality of its products, services and support (Berger & Humphrey, 1997). In the context of Nigerian deposit money banks, operational efficiency is crucial for maintaining competitiveness and profitability in a challenging economic environment (Oino, 2018).

2.2 Theoretical Review

Three theories were used in the study namely Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), Diffusion of Innovation Theory, and Resource-Based View (RBV)—the rationale for adopting these three theories—stems from their complementary perspectives on understanding the adoption, diffusion, and strategic utilization of technological innovations in the banking sector. Each theory addresses distinct but interconnected aspects of the study

2.2.1 Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

The Technology Acceptance Model, proposed by Davis (1989), is widely used to explain user acceptance of new technologies. It posits that perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use are primary factors in determining user acceptance. In the context of mobile and online banking in Nigeria, studies have applied TAM to understand customer adoption patterns (Ayo et al., 2016).

2.2.2 Diffusion of Innovation Theory

Rogers' (2003) Diffusion of Innovation Theory explains how, why, and at what rate new ideas and technology spread through cultures. This theory has been applied to study the adoption of mobile and online banking technologies among Nigerian banks and customers (Oluwatayo, 2013).

2.2.3 Resource-Based View (RBV)

The Resource-Based View, developed by Barney (1991), suggests that firms can gain competitive advantage through the effective use of their resources and capabilities. In the banking sector, this theory has been applied to understand how technological resources, including mobile and online banking platforms, can contribute to operational efficiency and competitive advantage (Onu & Amagwu, 2020).

2.3 Empirical Review

Several empirical studies have looked at the link between mobile and internet banking and operational efficiency in a variety of settings, including Nigeria. Aduda and Kingoo (2012) explored the link between electronic banking and commercial banks' financial performance in Kenya. Their study discovered a high positive association between e-banking and bank performance, implying that implementing electronic banking leads to increased operational efficiency.

Kathuo (2015) evaluated the influence of mobile banking on Kenyan banks' financial performance, with a focus on ROA and ROE. A descriptive research approach and questionnaire-based data collection were used in the study, which focused on 42 commercial banks. Mobile banking greatly enhanced client outreach and financial performance, including fund transfers, bill payments, and balance enquiries. The study suggests that mobile banking favourably affects financial performance by growing client bases, while it points out drawbacks such as reliance on

descriptive statistics, potential self-reporting bias, and limited generalisability beyond Kenya.

Bochaberi and Job (2021) investigated the effect of mobile banking on the financial performance of many Kenyan banks. Using questionnaire data and audited financial records (2011-2015), the study concluded that mobile banking enhances performance by increasing customer reliability, accessibility, safety, affordability, and efficiency. It recommended that banks use mobile banking to enhance transactions, lower costs, and increase profitability, while regulators should incorporate mobile banking into regulatory frameworks to promote the transition to technology-driven banking.

In Nigeria, Taiwo and Agwu (2017) investigated the impact of ICT on bank operational efficiency. Their findings showed a strong positive association between ICT adoption (including mobile and online banking) and operational efficiency, as assessed by cost savings and enhanced service delivery. However, Oni and Ayo's (2010) study on e-banking usage and customer service delivery in Nigeria yielded mixed results. While e-banking increased service delivery in some ways, issues such as network unavailability and security concerns limited its full potential for improving operational efficiency. Enofe et al. (2022) examined the impact of digital banking on the financial performance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria. Their results showed a positive and significant relationship between digital banking adoption and bank profitability, suggesting improved operational efficiency.

In a more recent study, Tiosanna et al. (2023) examined how Indonesian banks' financial performance affected stock values in relation to internet and mobile banking. Through the use of descriptive and regression analyses and data from seven banks that are listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange, the study discovered that while mobile banking has a large negative impact on stock prices, internet banking has a positive but negligible effect. Stock prices were positively but marginally impacted by financial

performance. The report advises banks to take these issues into account when developing e-banking strategies by highlighting the divergent effects of online and mobile banking on stock values. One of the limitations is the tiny sample size.

Despite these findings, Abaenewe et al. (2013) noted that the relationship between e-banking and operational efficiency is not always clear. Their analysis of Nigerian banks discovered that, while e-banking increased equity returns, it had no meaningful influence on asset returns. These empirical studies emphasise the complex relationship between mobile and internet banking uptake and operational efficiency in Nigeria's banking system. While many studies indicate a favourable link, the mixed results highlight the need for additional study to properly understand this relationship in the context of Nigerian deposit money banks.

3.0 Methodology

This study employed an ex post facto research design, which involves examining existing data where the researcher has no direct control over the variables, as these variables readily available. The area of the study is Nigeria, while the population is the twelve (12) Deposit Money Banks listed on the NGX as of 31st December

2023. The study sample comprised Ten (10) Deposit Money Banks listed on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) as of 31st December 2023. The sample was selected using the purposive sampling technique. The study utilised secondary data from Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System Plc (NIBSS), CBN Statistical Bulletin and the Annual Reports of the selected Deposit Money Banks for the period 2009 - 2023. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics were employed to assess the centralisation and dispersion of study variables. The data were presented using the mean, standard deviation, lowest, and maximum values (Katarzyna 2020). To test the hypotheses, multiple regression analysis was utilised, which is a statistical approach for determining the relationship between a single dependent variable and multiple independent variables. The study used panel regression analysis to capitalise on its strengths in controlling for omitted or unobservable factors that could jeopardise causal inference in observational studies (Halaby, 2004). This panel data approach is well-suited to the data's cross-sectional and time-series nature, and it is consistent with the methodologies used in studies done in China by Agyemang et al. (2023) and Javed (2023).

3.1.1 Model Specification:

The econometric model adopted in this study is stated below:

$$OEFit = \beta_0 + \beta_1 WPit + \beta_2 MPit + \beta_3 FSZit + \epsilon_{it} \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

where:

OEFit = Operational Efficiency (Dependent variable)

WPit = Web pay representing online banking (Independent variable)

MPit = Mobile Pay representing mobile banking (Independent variable)

FSZ = Firm Size (Control Variable)

B0 = Intercept

β1- β3 = Coefficients of the estimate

εit = Error term of the estimate

3.1.2 Variables definition and measurement

Variable	Description	Source
Wep Pay (WB)	Volume of online banking transactions	Oliveira, et al. (2016); Gbanador (2023).
Mobile Pay (MP)	Volume of transactions processed through mobile banking apps	Acharya, et al. (2008); Zango, G.A. (2019).
Firm Size (FSZ)	Natural log of Total Assest	Oyelade (2019)
Operational Efficiency (OEF)	Ratio of Profit after taxes to Total Assets	Lotto & Papavassiliou (2019).

Source: Researcher’s Compilation (2023)

4.0 Data Analysis

4.1 Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive statistics were computed for the dataset in this section using the key parameters.

The results revealed important information about the distribution and central tendency of the data.

Table 2: Descriptives statistics of variables

	WP	MP	FSZ	OEF
N	15	15	15	15
Missing	0	0	0	0
Mean	3.52	6.26	2.65	5287
Median	1.41	4.71	2.65	5287
Standard deviation	6.73	1.38	0.0686	825
Minimum	1.60	1.16	2.53	3995
Maximum	2.18	5.26	2.75	6579
Skewness	1.92	3.11	-0.202	1.40
Std. error skewness	0.580	0.580	0.580	0.580
Kurtosis	3.03	10.3	-1.14	-1.20
Std. error kurtosis	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12
Shapiro-Wilk W	0.610	0.521	0.961	0.964
Shapiro-Wilk p	< .001	< .001	0.714	0.755

Source: Jamovi Output

Key: WP = Web Pay; MP = Mobile Pay; FSZ = Firm Size; OEF = Operational Efficiency.

The descriptive statistics reveal important insights related to the study objectives:

Web Pay (WP) had a mean of 3.52 and a median of 1.41, with values ranging from 1.60 to 2.18 (SD = 6.73). The skewness (1.92) and kurtosis (3.03) indicate a right-skewed, peaked distribution, with a Shapiro-Wilk p-value (< 0.001) confirming non-normality. This suggests that a few firms exhibit significantly high usage of Web Pay.

Mobile Pay (MP) had a mean of 6.26 and a median of 4.71, ranging from 1.16 to 5.26 (SD = 1.38). The skewness (3.11) and kurtosis (10.3) indicate a highly peaked, right-skewed distribution, with a Shapiro-Wilk p-value (< 0.001) also confirming non-normality. Similar to WP, this indicates that a small number of firms dominate the use of Mobile Pay.

4.2 Correlation Matrix

The correlation matrix is a square matrix that displays the correlation coefficients between each pair of variables in a dataset.

Firm Size (FSZ) had both a mean and median of 2.65, with values ranging from 2.53 to 2.75 (SD = 0.0686). The skewness (-0.202) and kurtosis (-1.14) suggest a flat, left-skewed distribution, while the Shapiro-Wilk p-value (0.714) indicates normality, reflecting consistent firm sizes across the sample.

Operational Efficiency (OEF) had a mean and median of 5287, ranging from 3995 to 6579 (SD = 825). The skewness was near zero, and the kurtosis (-1.20) indicated a flat distribution. The Shapiro-Wilk p-value (0.755) confirms normality, suggesting that most firms maintain similar operational efficiency levels.

Overall, these findings highlight variability in the adoption of digital payment methods (WP and MP) while indicating stability in firm size and operational efficiency across the sample.

Table 3: Correlation analysis of study variables

		WP	MP	FSZ	OEF
WP	Pearson's r	—			
	p-value	—			
MP	Pearson's r	0.932	—		
	p-value	< .001	—		
FSZ	Pearson's r	0.707	0.615	—	
	p-value	0.003	0.015	—	
OEF	Pearson's r	0.747	0.652	0.998	—
	p-value	0.001	0.008	< .001	—

Source: Jamovi Output

Table 3 presents correlations between the independent variables (Web Pay (WP), Mobile

Pay (MP), and Firm Size (FSZ)) and Operational Efficiency (OEF).

There is a strong positive correlation between **WP** and **OEF** ($r = 0.747, p = 0.001$), indicating that higher usage of Web Pay is associated with improved operational efficiency. This suggests that Web Pay may enhance efficiency through streamlined payment processes. Also, a significant positive correlation exists between **MP** and **OEF** ($r = 0.652, p = 0.008$). This implies that increased use of Mobile Pay is linked to better operational efficiency, potentially reducing transaction times and costs. Lastly, the correlation between **FSZ** and **OEF** is nearly

perfect ($r = 0.998, p < 0.001$), indicating that larger firms tend to have higher operational efficiency. This may be due to economies of scale and more effective systems. The results indicate that the adoption of Web Pay and Mobile Pay positively influences operational efficiency. Additionally, larger firms not only adopt these digital payment methods more often but also achieve greater efficiency, aligning with the study's objective to understand the impact of digital payments on operational performance

4.3 Regression

Regression analysis was conducted to test the impact of online banking and mobile banking on

operational efficiency. The result is shown in table 4.

Table 4: Model Fit Measures

Model	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Overall Model Test			
				F	df1	df2	P
1	0.999	0.999	0.999	3221	3	11	< .001

Source: Jamovi Output

The model fit measures indicate a nearly perfect correlation between the independent variables—Web Pay (WP), Mobile Pay (MP), and Firm Size (FSZ)—and Operational Efficiency (OEF), with an R-value of 0.999. This suggests a strong relationship between digital payment methods, firm size, and operational performance. The R² value of 0.999 shows that

99.9% of the variability in OEF is explained by the model, demonstrating its high explanatory power. The adjusted R² also at 0.999 confirms the model's robustness without overfitting. The F-statistic of 3221, with degrees of freedom $df1 = 3$ and $df2 = 11$, indicates statistical significance, while the p-value of less than 0.001 supports the overall significance of the model.

Table 5: Model Coefficients – OEF

Predictor	Estimate	SE	t	P
Intercept	-24610	460	-53.463	< .001
WP	1.24	3.89	3.181	0.009
MP	-1.08	1.70	-0.635	0.538
FSZ	11278	176	64.239	< .001

Source: Jamovi Output

The model coefficients for Operational Efficiency (OEF) indicate the following:

The **intercept** is -24,610, with a highly significant t-value of -53.463 and a p-value < 0.001, indicating a strong base effect when all predictors are zero. **Web Pay (WP)** has a positive coefficient of 1.24, with a t-value of 3.181 and a significant p-value of 0.009, showing that an increase in WP significantly improves operational efficiency. **Mobile Pay (MP)** has a negative coefficient of -1.08, but with a t-value of -0.635 and a p-value of 0.538, the effect of MP on OEF is not statistically significant. **Firm Size (FSZ)** has a positive coefficient of 11,278, with a t-value of 64.239 and a p-value < 0.001, strongly indicating that larger firms significantly boost operational efficiency.

4.3 Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1 (H01): *Mobile banking adoption does not have a positive significant influence on the operational efficiency of Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria.*

The coefficient for **Mobile Pay (MP)** is negative (-1.08), and the p-value is 0.538, which is not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$). This means that mobile banking adoption does not have a significant positive effect on operational efficiency. Therefore, **H01 is accepted**, as the results show no significant influence.

Hypothesis 2 (H02): *Online banking adoption does not have a positive significant effect on the operational efficiency of Deposit Money Banks in Nigeria.*

The coefficient for **Web Pay (WP)** is positive (1.24) with a significant p-value of 0.009 ($p < 0.05$). This indicates that online banking adoption significantly improves operational efficiency. Therefore, **H02 is rejected**, as the results show a significant positive effect.

a. Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study offer nuanced insights into the relationship between mobile and online banking adoption and operational efficiency in

Nigerian Deposit Money Banks (DMBs). This study found no significant effect of mobile banking adoption on operational efficiency, with a negative and non-significant coefficient ($p = 0.538$). This finding contradicts the conclusions of **Kathuo (2015)**, **Bochaberi and Job (2021)**, and **Taiwo and Agwu (2017)**, who reported that mobile banking positively influences financial performance and operational efficiency, enhancing customer reach, service delivery, and profitability. The divergence in findings could be attributed to differences in regional banking environments, the nature of mobile banking services in each context, or methodological approaches. The negative result here may reflect challenges such as network issues, security concerns, or user adoption barriers in the Nigerian banking sector, as highlighted by Oni and Ayo (2010).

While Bochaberi and Job (2021) and Kathuo (2015) suggested that mobile banking enhances customer satisfaction and operational efficiency, the non-significant result in this study resonates with the findings of **Tiosanna et al. (2023)**, who noted a negative and significant impact of mobile banking on certain performance metrics, such as stock prices. This underscores the complex and context-dependent nature of mobile banking's impact on financial and operational outcomes, suggesting that while mobile banking may expand customer access, it might not always translate to improved operational efficiency, particularly in the Nigerian context.

In contrast, this study found that online banking adoption has a significant positive effect on operational efficiency ($p = 0.009$), aligning with findings from **Aduda and Kingoo (2012)**, **Taiwo and Agwu (2017)**, and **Enofe et al. (2022)**, who observed that the adoption of electronic and online banking significantly improves operational efficiency by reducing costs and enhancing service delivery. These studies support the idea that online banking streamlines bank operations and contributes to overall performance improvements.

The significant positive effect of online banking on operational efficiency in this study echoes

the broader consensus in the literature, such as Aduda and Kingoo (2012) and Enofe et al. (2022), which consistently highlight the role of online banking in enhancing efficiency through better service delivery and cost management.

In conclusion, this study aligns with past research on the positive impact of online banking on operational efficiency but challenges the assumed benefits of mobile banking, pointing to context-specific factors that may hinder its effectiveness in Nigerian banks. These findings suggest that while online banking adoption is a clear driver of operational improvements, mobile banking's impact may be more complex, warranting further investigation into its limitations within Nigeria's banking sector.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study concludes that mobile banking (MB) does not have a statistically significant effect on the operational efficiency (OE) of Nigerian deposit money banks, while online banking (OB) shows a significant positive impact. The findings, based on descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression analysis, suggest that MB has yet to contribute meaningfully to operational efficiency, leading to the acceptance of the first hypothesis. However, the significant effect of OB supports the rejection of the second hypothesis.

These findings align with studies like Taiwo and Agwu (2017), which found a positive

relationship between online banking and operational efficiency, but diverge from those of Bochaberi and Job (2021), which showed a strong impact of mobile banking on performance in Kenyan banks. In the Nigerian context, mobile banking has not yet delivered similar efficiency gains, possibly due to technological and infrastructural challenges.

The study recommends that Nigerian banks:

1. **Invest in Digital Infrastructure:** Upgrade systems for reliability, minimize downtime, and adopt advanced technologies.
2. **Enhance Customer Experience:** Develop user-friendly platforms, strengthen security, and educate customers on digital banking benefits.
3. **Integrate Digital Strategies:** Align mobile and online banking with broader cost-saving and efficiency goals.
4. **Collaborate with Stakeholders:** Work with CBN, NIBSS, and others relevant Agencies to create supportive policies and share infrastructure costs.
5. **Address Barriers:** Investigate and resolve factors like poor connectivity, regulatory challenges, or user resistance.
6. **Review Performance Periodically:** Monitor digital banking efficiency to identify and address weaknesses.
7. **Future research:** Future research should explore specific barriers within the Nigerian banking sector that hinder mobile banking from boosting operational efficiency.

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