# An Empirical Assessment of Insecurity and The Socio-Economic Living Standard of the People of Orlu, Imo State

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## ABSTRACT

*Insecurity is currently a recurrent issue in many countries of the world - developed and developing. In Nigeria, it has multifaceted manifestations such as Boko Haram terror attacks, banditry/kidnapping, herdsmen/farmers clashes, religious tensions, secessionist movements, agitations for resource control, piracy, organized crime, etc. Recently, the level of insecurity in Imo State has become alarming with several reported regular occurrences of shooting in the area involving unknown gunmen, bandits, and security operatives - a situation which is undoubtedly affecting both social life and the local economy. This paper, therefore, sought to investigate to what extent the socio-economic living standard of the people of Orlu Imo State, Nigeria has been adversely affected by the insecurity situation currently ravaging the area. The investigation mainly covered 2018 and 2022. The survey research design used questionnaires and interviews as instruments of primary data collection were used for the study. Frustration-Aggression Theory served as the theoretical framework. Data were analyzed with simple percentages while the chi-square was used to test the hypothesis. Secondary data from library research was utilized for analytical discussion. Research findings showed that insecurity adversely affected the socio-economic living standard of people as the situation forced residents to be indoors and businesses and social activities ground to a halt. It is recommended that dialogue and round table discussion be made to urgently find a lasting solution to the insecurity situation because the residents are bearing the brunt of the suffering.*

Keywords: Insecurity, Socio-economic living standard, Frustration-aggression theory, Imo-state

## 1.0 Background to the Study

Security debates have become an important part of the international development discourse, especially after the cold war. Insecurity has been a recurrent turbulent issue in recent times in many countries in the world - developed and developing. Security is a complex concept; occurrences in one country would affect neighboring countries hence the security of individuals, states and the international system becomes, in part, a condition for the security of all (Buzan, 1991; Enika, 2001). The same analysis is made within a country as insecurity in one part may likely affect other parts. According to Nwanegbo & Odigbo (2013), security is the pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. Similarly, Stewart (2004) draws particular attention to the synergy between development and security where he stated three types of connections between development and security, thus: (a) the immediate impact of security/insecurity on well-being and consequently development achievements (or how security forms part of the definition of development); (b) the way that insecurity affects (non-security) elements of development and economic growth or the security instrumental role; and, (c) the way development affects security or the development instrumental role. These views and scholarly works on security (Edeh, 2014; Grigoreva, 2015; Yagboyaju & Akinlola, 2019; Retter et al, 2020) show how tangential and detrimental insecurity is to the socio-economic development of a state. Insecurity is the antithesis of security and has attracted certain common descriptors as want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe, and others (Achumba et al., 2013).

However, there has been a diversion in the conceptualization of security since the early 1990s. This was a result of the need to broaden and deepen the concept of security. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reveals in its report that "for most people, a feeling of insecurity arises more from worries about daily life than from the dread of a cataclysmic world event". Security, for them, is about safety and protection "from the threat of disease, hunger, unemployment, crime, social conflict, political repression, and environmental hazards" (UNDP, 1994: 22; Abutudu, 2005); thus, human security approach emerged. Human security recognizes multiple causes that make people insecure. This can be economic, food, health, environmental, community, or political security. All these threats correlate and can produce a significant effect.

The unchecked and increased spate of crime and violence in Nigeria, particularly since 2010, sadly has put the citizens at the receiving end of its negative effects. Insecurity in Nigeria has multifaceted manifestations such as Boko Haram terror attacks, banditry/kidnapping, herdsmen/farmers clashes, religious tensions, secessionist movements, agitations for resource control, piracy, organized crime, etc. Banditry attacks which initially started in the North West region of Nigeria have since spread to other parts of the country; attacking softer targets such as schools where about two hundred and seventy-six girls were abducted from Government Secondary School, Chibok on 14th April 2014; Dapchi

Government Girls' Science Technical College, Yobe State where over a hundred and ten girls were abducted on 19th February 2018 (Iheriohanma & Emenyonu, 2018); in Zamfara State, over three hundred schoolgirls were recently taken captive (www.cfr.org). In December 2020, eighty students were kidnapped from an Islamic school in Katsina state. Higher institutions of learning are not left out of the terror. There exist bloody conflicts between herders and farmers in the Middle Belt (particularly Benue State) which has begun to expand towards South West and South East regions leading to the creation of internal security groups who take up arms to protect their communities such as the South East Regional Security Network (*Ebube Agu)* and the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the South West Regional Security Network (*Amotekun*) and other armed groups in the South-South region (www.africreport.com). Statistics by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) have placed Nigeria among the least peaceful countries in the world. It indicates that there is a significant decline in peace as Nigeria ranks 147 out of 163 independent states and territories in the 2020 Global Peace Index. Nigeria has been identified as the least peaceful country in West Africa (GPI, 2020). In addition, Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2019 was 0.539 which puts the country in the low human development category as Nigeria dropped three spots to 161 in 2019 from 158 in 2018 among 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index (www.businessday.ng/news/article). These (human) security challenges raise concern for the implications for the country, continent, and the world at large.

According to McGrew (1988) cited in Onifade et al. (2013), the security of a nation hangs on two important pillars which are (1) the maintenance and protection of the socio-economic order in the face of internal and external threats and (2) the promotion of a preferred international order, which minimizes the threat to core values and interests, as well as to the domestic order. Many of the security challenges Nigeria faces today can be linked to its weak state; however recent occurrences seem to show that Nigeria is transitioning to a failed state. The inability of the Nigerian state to provide peace and stability, ensure the citizens are safe and secure within their territory shows that the state has lost its coherence bearing in mind the stipulations in the 1999 Constitution (section 14(2)) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the social contract theory and how states emerged. The first duty of a government is to keep its citizens safe (protection of lives and properties) because like Hobbes observed, only the state has the wherewithal to guarantee security and save society from anarchy. Since government represents the state, it is expected that the state through its government should provide adequate security to justify its raison d'être (Hobbes & Gaskin, 1996; Manzoor, 2013) of which the Nigerian state is seen to have failed. Consequently, as the state is unable to address the challenges of insecurity within its boundaries, it creates the problem of legitimacy of these governments leading to repression and election rigging just to retain power (www.cfr.org; Abutudu, 2005); probably to cover up.

Violence is thus a result of the state failing to fulfill its most reasonable and rudimentary duties and this is detrimental to human security. Despite measures employed to curb insecurity vis-a-vis the huge allocations in the annual budgets for internal security, relocation of military personnel and apparatus to the crises areas, the promulgation of the Anti-Terrorism Act by the National Assembly among others, the efforts of the government are yet to yield positive outcomes as these are yet to be felt by the people. Insecurity breeds fear and fear generates anxiety which deters/hinders human social and economic activities thereby causing food scarcity and inflation.

According to the 2006 Census, Imo State has a population of approximately a 3.9million people and this population is predominantly of the Igbo ethnic group. Imo State is made up of 27 Local Government Areas (LGAs). Violence per capita in Imo used to be the lowest in the region and Nigeria in general but unfortunately, the security of lives and properties in Imo State presently calls for great concern. Incidents of violence reported between January 2012 and December 2013 in Imo State were criminality, abductions and vigilante/mob justice, ritual killings, and several fatalities associated with public unrest (www.fundforpeace.org). The first half of 2014 was also marred with communal clashes and a cult clash between rival gangs that reportedly killed dozens. Iheriohanma, Opara, and Raimi (2020) posit that insecurity has escalated intensely by unemployment among youths, herdsmen-farmer's attacks, fraud of all kinds and internet swindling, official corruption among others. However, the recent bloody confrontation between Nigerian soldiers and a group of youths alleged to be members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in Orlu was reported as what provoked the hostilities and crisis in the state in early 2021. An announcement was made by Nnamdi Kanu - the leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) which is a Biafran separatist movement whose aim is to restore an independent state of Biafra in the South-East of Nigeria on the formation of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) on December 12, 2020, primarily to protect Igbos against Fulani-herdsmen raiders led to the counter-response of the Nigerian federal government who deployed the army, with a ruthless marching order to locate and viciously deal with ESN camps and occupants anywhere in Igbo land. Orlu in Imo State was identified as one of the areas ESN camped against the Fulani herders and thus with assembled military arsenal invaded Orlu in search of ESN operatives; and in the ensuing events, properties and lives were lost. These happenings led to the deployment of more than 400 Nigerian soldiers to brutally thwart the activities of ESN (BBC, Jan. 25, 2021). Series of attacks and counterattacks have occurred thereby not only instigating fears in the citizens but endangering the lives, properties, peace, and commercial and social activities in Orlu

and Imo State at large with other untold critical attendant's consequences of such insecurities.

These challenging crises generating insecurity and attendant threats are assumed to have invariably affected the socio-economic living standard of the people of Orlu and Imo State in general. The number of human lives lost, the human capacities decapitated, the stoppage of market activities, businesses, and other economic engagements of the people as a result of the crises and military activities in the area within this period, 2018 to 2022, probably form the critical insecurity pillar for this investigation using the Human Development indices as the measurement tool.

## 1.1 Statement of the Problem

Sub-Saharan Africa has notably been facing various multifaceted security challenges since the early 2000s (Delidji, 2020) heightened by the proliferation of transnational criminal networks and the resultant growth of terrorism and violent extremism (Aning & Abdallah, 2016). With increased globalization and its attendant technological advances conducive to the dissemination of ideas as well as the proliferation of transnational terrorist networks, Nigeria as a country in sub-Sahara Africa is deepest embroiled in and facing these security challenges. The wave of insecurity in Nigeria has assumed a dangerous dimension that is threatening the corporate existence of the country as one geographical entity. Chapter II Section 14(2)(b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically states that "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Unfortunately, the Nigerian government has failed on this constitutional responsibility to provide a secured

and safe environment for lives, properties, and the conduct of business and economic activities. Omenga (2013) pointed out two degenerate areas of security lapses in Nigeria. These include the practical lack of (rapid) response by the Nigerian police force in times of crime and emergency; and, the reckless destruction of lives by "known and unknown gunmen" which some analysts assume government, or better still, some group of unscrupulous government officials has been using as a gambit for its political game. Added to this is the obvious involvement of the Nigerian police in the extrajudicial killings of innocent Nigerians. The "#EndSARS Protest" of 2020 is a test case. This appears to be a paradox.

The inability of the government to provide a secure and safe environment for lives, properties, and the conduct of business, freedom of association and participation, and economic activities has led to resentment and disaffection among ethnic groups. This has resulted in ethnic violence, communal clashes, and religious violence in different parts of the country that has destroyed lives and properties as well as disrupted businesses and economic activities leaving unpalatable consequences for the nation's economy, its growth, and human capital development. The sure insecurity situation in Nigeria has become a fertile ground for recruitment for trans-border crime, international and global terrorism networking, and internet fraud (Iheriohanma, et al., 2020; Austin-Egole, Iheriohanma, Iheanacho, Ezeji, Okafor and Wokoma, 2022). The confirmation of the high level of insecurity in Nigeria is shown in her 3rd position in the global terrorism index and the low ranking at 147th position in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2020) as shown in Figure 1 below.

| Position | Country | Index |
|---|---|---|
| 146 | Lebanon | 2.828 |
| 147 | Nigeria | 2.865 |
| 148 | Ukraine | 2.927 |
| 149 | Venezuela | 2.936 |
| 150 | Turkey | 2.959 |
| 151 | North Korea | 2.962 |

**Figure 1**: Global Peace Index
**Source:** 2020 Global Peace Index

On January 25th, 2021, BBC News reported the clash between the Eastern Security Network, the security "armed" wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) considered torchbearers working for more social justice for the Igbo

people, and the Nigerian army in Orlu, a local government in Imo West Senatorial Zone of Imo State, southeast Nigeria. This led to many deaths and the loss of properties and businesses. More recently, CBS News on 6th April 2021

reported that gunmen attacked the prison (Correctional Service) in Owerri, the Imo-State capital on April 5th, 2021, freeing 1844 inmates and this jailbreak (government alleged) has increased violence and insecurity in the state. Unfortunately, the Owerri Correctional Service shares boundaries with the state's Government House and the Central Police Station. Insecurity and violence with dire consequences in terms of loss of lives and properties have become the order of the day. The state is literally under siege from "unknown gunmen'' and the presence of heavily armed to the teeth military following these senseless attacks that have put everybody on edge. Furthermore, Premium Times of 8th April 2021 equally reported the new wave of incessant burning down of police stations within Owerri and its environs in Imo State by gunmen also armed to the teeth. On Sunday night, March 20th, 2022, the police stations at Umuguma, Owerri West Local Government headquarters, and Omuma in Oru West Local Government and the country home of President, Ohaneze Ndi Igbo worldwide, Prof. George Obiozor were attacked and set on fire. If the expected-to-be-secure police stations are not safe from attacks, what then is the fate of the average Imo State residents? In all these, no "Unknown Gunmen" have been apprehended since the dare-devil insecurity started. In their stead, the governor of Imo State, Senator Hope Uzodimma on each occasion, ran to the president at Abuja and was always granted more armed soldiers, security apparatus, and funds instead of tackling the real causes of the insurgents and agitations. While the Human Rights Writers Association (HURIWA), other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and a group of traditional and religious leaders have variously advocated for true federalism, a non-kinetic approach, and dialogue to solve this ugly situation, the federal and state government authorities are rather fueling it by use of force; forgetting that force begets force. Using the same approach to solve the same problems does not yield sustainable solutions.

This research investigates to what extent the socio-economic living standards of the people of Orlu have been adversely affected by the recent turn of events in the state bearing in mind that no investor, whether local or foreign, will be motivated to invest in an unsafe and insecure environment. It is assumed that the people's businesses, their means of livelihood, and overall social and mental life have been affected in this volatile and unsafe situation taking into consideration that Orlu (the commercial nerve center of Imo State) and environs have been turned into battle and killing field? The research will equally proffer recommendations on ways to curtail the nascent incessant insecurity being witnessed in the state to buffer the socio-economic living standard of the people of Orlu in particular and Nigerians generally.

## 1.2 Research Questions
This study is guided by the following questions:

1. What is the origin and nature of insecurity in Orlu, Imo State especially from 2018 to 2022?
2. How does insecurity resulting from the crisis affect the quality of economic activities and incomes of people in Orlu, Imo State?
3. How has the insecurity in Orlu affected the people's access to basic education and health care?
4. How has insecurity affected human capacity development in Orlu, Imo State?
5. What can be done in terms of security to improve the socio-economic living standard of the people of Orlu, Imo State?

## 1.3 Research Objectives
The main objective of this study is to investigate the nature and consequences of the nascent insecurity and the implications on the socio-economic living standard of the people of Orlu, Imo State.
Specifically, the aims are to:

1. Investigate the origin and nature of insecurity in Orlu, Imo State, especially from 2018 to 2022.
2. Investigate the impact of insecurity resulting from the crisis on the quality of economic activities and incomes of people in Orlu Imo State.
3. Investigate the extent to which the insecurity situation in Orlu has affected the people's access to basic education and health care.
4. Examine the extent to which insecurity has affected human capacity development in Orlu, Imo State.
5. Proffer solutions to insecurity and how to improve the socio-economic living standard of the people of Orlu, Imo State.

## 1.4 Research Hypotheses
**Hypothesis 1:** Insecurity significantly affects the socio-economic living standard of residents of Orlu, Imo State.

## 2.0 Conceptual Clarification
### 2.1. Insecurity
The Oxford Advanced Leaner's Dictionary of Current English defines insecurity as having feelings of fear or anxiety, not being protected, being unsafe, etc. The concept of insecurity has different meanings such as the absence of safety, presence of danger, harm, injury, hazard, uncertainty, or lack of freedom.

According to Beland (2005), insecurity refers to a state of fear or anger, or anxiety due to the absence of or lack of protection of lives and properties. Insecurity is a feeling of fear of the unknown and also being unable to protect the lives and properties of the citizens. Nigeria as a country has been experiencing different forms of insecurity for quite some time now and the ugly situation worsens on daily basis due to poor governance, ethnic conflicts, government instability, and the inability of the leaders to deliver the needed dividends of democracy to the people. Maslow and Iyenger (1977) state that an insecure person sees the world as a life-threatening jungle which may make him/her feel unsafe, unhappy, rejected,

hostile, pessimistic, and shows a sign of tension, conflict, and guilt and then tends to be neurotic and generally egocentric. Insecurity can be perceived as one of the worst conditions and controversial pressing issues that often generate discordant opinions and ideas. Nigeria's insecurity is now being talked about all over the world. Nigerians expect their leaders to lead the fight against insecurity frontally but unfortunately, they seem not to be perturbed about it.

## 2.2. Origin and Nature of Nascent Insecurity in Nigeria

In recent times, there have been different forms of insecurity situations in Nigeria. These include the herdsmen attacks in different parts of the country, banditry, kidnapping, and the alleged recent activities of the ESN. Insecurity in Nigeria is not a recent occurrence; it has an origin and can be traced to a certain period and prevailing issues. Ali (2013) observes that the fear of insecurity is on the increase as well as a high rate of terrorism since 1999 when the country returned to democratic rule. He observes that violent crimes have a root and history in Nigeria and could be traced back from the time of the country's independence in 1960 to 1970 when the Nigerian – Biafra civil war ended. Nigeria as a country has been experiencing different forms of insecurity for some decades now and the ugly situation worsens on daily basis due to poor governance, injustice, ethnic conflict, government instability, unemployment, and the inability of the leaders to deliver the needed dividends of democracy to the people (Adoyi, 2014; Udoh, 2015; Nnanyelugo (2021).

Udoh (2015) feels that after independence, Nigeria experienced frequent coups and long periods of autocratic military rule from 1966 until 1999 when a democratic civilian government was established. According to him, insecurity could be traced to the frequent coups and the autocratic military rule experienced in the past. Udoh (2015) further contends that another reason for insecurity is the act of piracy in the Niger Delta which seems to have characterized much of the current period of democracy. Similarly, Nnanyelugo (2021) contends that the 1966 coup is unarguably the ugly cornerstone for the insecurity experienced today in Nigeria and that the 1967-1970 Nigerian civil war brought several baggage items that aggravated the country's security situation that worsened ethnic mistrust.

According to Adoyi (2014), when the government repeatedly failed to deliver on its promises to the people, it leaves a wide communication gap and trust between the government and the people. This creates insecurity because persistence in the non-fulfillment and implementation of policies contravene the social contract between the government and the people. Insecurity in different parts of the country is not vague but pushed by certain predicaments and fundamental reasons. The basic causes of insecurity in Nigeria from the past till now include the reality of bad governance, the reality of economic imbalance and marginalization, the reality of poor/weak security apparatus, the reality of ethnic/religious intolerance, the reality of porous borders, and arms proliferation (Ozoigbo, 2019).

Some scholars of security and insecurity in Nigeria under-score certain structural issues that push for general insecurity in the country and these factors include religious and political intolerance, mismanagement of resources, subversions, sabotage, espionage, mutiny, and coup d'etat (Egbefor and Salihu, 2014). There are other deeper structural problems arising from the inherent contradictions and that of the global financial-economic crisis which is engendering conflicts and crises that are manifesting in forms of political and religious intolerance, corruption, and resource mismanagement. Azeez (2005), Babawale (2007), Akanbi (2004), and Asemota (2004) point out issues of good government and accountability that are still a mirage and lacking among our leaders. Similarly, Alkali (1997) identifies the poor nature and scope of economic development which center around poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The aforementioned issues have given birth to different forms of insecurity that manifest in different nature. Achumba, Ighomereho, and Akpor Robaro (2013) asserts that the absence of limit brings about government disappointment, unavoidable material inequality and injustice, ethno-religious clashes, the struggle of discernment between the society and government, loss of socio-economic and public esteem encouragement, political recklessness of organizations, terror-mongering, joblessness, hardship, etc. are all fruits of insecurity. Added to the myriads of lists include reckless abuse and infringement of the nation's constitution, human rights abuses, abuse of the Federal Character Principles, corruption, favoritism, ethnic chauvinism, and clannishness that have characterized the present administration in Nigeria.

## 2.3 Socio-economic Living Standard

The socio-economic standard refers to the interactions between the social and economic habits of a group of people in a society. These include their income, employment opportunities, cost of goods and services, social and economic life activities and engagements, poverty, etc. In other words, socio-economic living standard explains the degree of measurement of the quality of the social and economic behavior of humans in a given society in relation to the available necessities of life. Similarly, Amy (2019) defines the standard of living as the level of comfort, income, material goods, and the necessities of life available to people in a given society. Ewetan and Urhie (2014) point out that the challenging insecurity situation in the country is also faced with socio-economic developmental problems such as hunger, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, poverty, transport disruption, unemployment, and increment in the crime rate among many others. These affect the general behavior of the people of that area.

## 2.4 Insecurity and Socio-economic Living Standard

Dahida (2015) is of the opinion that most forms of insecurity in the country are championed by militia elements

whose life patterns he describes as that hooliganism, joblessness, gangsterism, and social unrest. These, according to him, hinder smooth economic activities that dwindle and obliterate the living standard of inhabitants. Onime (2018) feels insecurity in Nigeria has resulted in a situation where businesses are comatose. He explains that insecurity usually gives a blow to socio-economic activities as well as socio-economic living standards. He further reveals that insecurity in the country has reached an alarming position where investments are nose-diving, multinationals closing shops and vacating the country in geometric proportion, unemployment soaring and the populace constantly living in fear.

Since, according to Onime (2018), insecurity results in soaring unemployment and vice versa, it, therefore, implies that the socio-economic living standard of affected areas will be poor and worrisome. Stewart (2004) lamented that the economic cost of insecurity is not small as schools, power stations, and roads that are destroyed during crisis reduce the productive capacity of the economy, thereby affecting the living standard of the people. Omole (2020) stated that continued insecurity can lead to a feeling of helplessness and hopelessness, especially in the areas that are vulnerable and amongst victims and their families. This is germane where businesses are affected and crippled.

Urhie (2014) observed that insecurity in Nigeria constitutes a serious threat to lives and property and it has handicapped business activities and equally discourages the presence of both foreign and local investors in the area. Adegbami (2013) opines that insecurity is detrimental to the general well-being of the people and it also leads to the destruction of business centers and properties as well as the relocation of some industries.

According to Ude, Okoroafor, and Ihezie (2013), insecurity in the South East has pushed the economy of the states to zero level thereby having direct effects on the living standard of the people. Adeyeye (2021) posits that the leaders are building on a castle that is already collapsed arguing that "we don't have any other place to go; the nation belongs to all of us". According to him, the government should dialogue with the agitating youths who are "hungry and angry" and engage them positively for a lasting and peaceful resolution. Ogbo, et al (2020) opine that persistent violence and restiveness across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria is inimical to growth and stifles economic development, occasions wanton destruction of property and loss of lives.

## 2.5 Impact of Insecurity on the Quality of Economic Activities

Insecurity usually has an effect on economic activities and the quality of economic activities because it usually paralyzes and puts economic activities on hold. It brings situations where economic activities and operations are usually skeletal. Omole (2020) observes that the continued insecurity and the government's inability to bring it to an end can lead to feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, especially in the

areas that are vulnerable. This state generates uncertainty, communication gaps, and coarse feelings culminating in agitations that affect economic productivity and the quality of living standard.

According to Bright (2018), insecurity affects economic growth by drying-out investments; it increases unemployment and dwindles government revenue hence, the quality of economic activities is greatly affected. Security challenges in any environment constitute threats to lives and properties and hinder business activities and once insecurity ensues, the quality of economic activities usually experiences backward movement and truncation.

Usually, investment becomes unattractive to people during periods of security challenges because investors are usually afraid of losing their investments. Ujah and Eboh (2006) perceive insecurity as a major constraint on investment and business activities. The attendant results are the closure of industries, inflation, structural unemployment, and underemployment as is the situation in Nigeria where university graduates have taken to *manage* motor cycle commercial riding to eke a living. Small and medium scale businesses suffer the brunt of insecurity more since the opening of shops and business arenas are virtually opened on daily basis. Civil Society Organizations affirmed on Channels Television Wednesday 23 March 2022-night news that 4 out of every 10 Nigerian are living below the poverty line. This could probably be a result of insecurity.

## 2.5 Effects of Insecurity on Basic Education and Health

Insecurity affects different spheres of life including the basic education as it disrupts the educational system in Nigeria with serious negative effects. The kidnapping of school children is now on the increase. Even teachers are not spared. Olowoselu, Adaobi, and Uzoechima (2015) revealed that there is major destruction and disruption of school activities in the country in the recent past due to different forms of insecurity.

According to Nwosu, Ukwunna, Ebokaiwe, and Ukwunna (2019), no nation can achieve sustainable development in the face of widespread insecurity of lives and properties, basic education inclusive. According to Akintunde and Musa (2016), an insecure school environment affects the learning of children. Nwosu, et al. (2019) further contend that situations of insecurity trigger traumatic disorder and toxic stress that affect learning negatively. General school attendance and enrollment are affected, parents pull their children out of school, and in some extreme cases schools are closed (Nwosu et al., 2019). Attacks and insecurity most times result in the destruction of school facilities. This limits access and enrollment in basic education as a result of fear, and in situations where children are enrolled, learning is limited. The abduction of students in Chibok Girls School in Borno on April 14, 2014, and Dapchi Government Girls Science Technical College, Yobe on February 19, 2018, and countless other school abductions all

over the country brought out clear examples of disruptions of education systems and traumatic disorder in Nigeria (Iheriohanma and Emenyonu, 2018). Okoli (2013) is of the opinion that the prevalence of school attacks in Nigeria especially in Northern Nigeria reveals the dwindling capabilities of state actors to achieve sustainable development and national security.

The importance of education should necessitate the beefing up of security in schools to prevent indiscriminate attacks on schools. An atmosphere of insecurity retards and slows down the important task of education in development. The negative result includes low quality of education, negative attitudes about education, etc. Insecurity has significantly affected the academic performance of the various levels of students due to the presence of so many forms and manifestations of insecurity like cultism, gangsterism, kidnapping, robbery, and many others and all these invariably influence the boys to abandon their education while the girls will leave the school for marriage (Morgans, 2002; Ojukwu, 2017).

According to Ojukwu and Nwanma (2015), academic performance refers to the maintenance and achievement of a satisfactory and successful academic record or result so as to meet the obligations of the course they enrolled for. It, therefore, seems that when a student studies in an environment that is characterized by insecurity or hostility, the student may suffer socially, mentally, emotionally, or otherwise. The child or student will generally be destabilized, which will definitely affect his academic performance. Ojukwu and Nwanma (2015) and Ojukwu and Onuoha (2016) opine that the levels at which the aforementioned variables can positively or negatively interact with each other in the school environment will help to make or mar teaching and learning. In order words, the negative impact of the variables may equally lead to low academic performance. They equally observe that in insecure school environments, the psychological problems of the students are always on the increase, and worse still if they are carelessly handled may lead to loss of lives and destruction of both personal, communal, and government properties.

According to Daniel and Keith (2018), insecurity causes a decline in mental health while a higher income significantly reduces the negative effects on physical health. The negative effect of insecurity is constant throughout the income distribution. Adegbami (2013) opines that insecurity is detrimental to the general well-being of the people and it also leads to the destruction of business centers and properties as well as the relocation of some industries to climes conducive for businesses to thrive.

### 2.6 Implications of Insecurity on the Income Status of People

The principal threat emanating from Nigeria's insecurity is the socio-economic hardship that the country has been facing since 1980 (Isiaka, 2005) and especially since 2009/2010 with the current wave of daily insurrection.

Insecurity usually results in the displacement of people which cripples economic activities in affected areas and as such, the affected people do not engage in economic activities which invariably affects, to a volatile degree, the income status of the people. Insecurity in any environment constitutes a threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities, and discourages local and foreign investors (Isiaka, 2005; Ewetan & Ese, 2014; Iheriohanma & Emenyonu, 2018). All of these do not only negatively affect the income of people but have implications on the income status of people through unemployment, underemployment, capital flight, and de-investment. Pullah and Good (2020) not only posit that insecurity definitely results in the shutdown of businesses and the relocation of companies from unsafe to the safe haven, but it also translates to an increase in the number of unemployed with a resultant effect on their income level and level of criminality. Insecurity-prone areas not only witness a rise in unemployment (Imobighe, 2003), it creates foundations for incessant conflicts and bickering, absence of outside support (financial and material), difficulty in need identification, lack of fund among others which impact negatively on the income status of affected people (Ugwu, 2005).

In their study on the effects of insecurity on community development projects, Okwelle et al (2019) posit that insecurity is detrimental to the socio-economic growth of Nigeria and they highlighted the tangential effects to include:

- ✓ Social dislocation and population displacement.
- ✓ Social tensions and a new pattern of settlement pave the way for different religious and ethnic groups to come together and move to either Christian or Muslim-dominated areas.
- ✓ Increase in citizenship curiosity which may result in hostility between "indigenes and non-indigenes, believers and non-believers",
- ✓ Relocation and disruption of family and commercial life.
- ✓ Creating an atmosphere of fear, anxiety, mistrust, etc.
- ✓ Increases inhuman behaviors toward women, children, and men particularly in the areas of rape, child abuse/trafficking, and neglect are used as an instrument of war.
- ✓ Increase in the rate of hunger and poverty in the society.
- ✓ Ushering into of atmosphere of political insecurity and instability which includes declining confidence in political leadership and apprehension about the system.
- ✓ Governance deficit as a result of security agency's inefficiency and corruption.
- ✓ Loss of many hours due to reduction in working hours by banks and commercial institutions, and also the closure of businesses by those who work at night due

to the introduction of curfew from dusk to dawn and the declaration of a state of emergency in some states.

Insecurity has a great adverse effect on the informal but widespread sector of the local economy such as food vendors and petty traders who earn their living on day to day basis (Shettima 2012). As long as the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are affected, the overall effect of these is the gross effect on the income status of affected people.

## 2.8 Theoretical Framework

The rising cases of insecurity in Nigeria in general and Orlu, in particular, are of concern to all especially the inhabitants of Imo State. There are numerous perspectives, views, or theories to explain the nature of insecurity in Orlu and the resultant effects on the socio-economic living situations of the inhabitants. These persuasions include Economic and Social Integration theory, Deprivation Theory, Resource Mobilization, and Cultural theories. However, this paper adopts the "Frustration-Aggression Theory" as Anifowoshe (1982) observed that by far the most common explanation of insecurity and violence among social scientists is psychological in nature. While there may be differences in interpretations, definitions, concepts, and conceptualizations, all those who stress this model emphasize psychological theories of motivation and behavior. Scholars stress the revolutionary gap or the want-get-ratio which is the distance between expectation and achievement. Gurr (1967) asserts that "the central premise of the frustration-aggression theory, put simply is that aggression is always the result of frustration. Given the requisite conditions, an individual whose basic desires are thwarted and who consequently experiences a profound sense of dissatisfaction and anger is likely to react to his condition by directing aggressive behavior at what is perceived as being responsible for thwarting those desires or at a substitute" (Gurr, 1967: 24). This Theory has its root in the work of Dollard (1939) as quoted in Titus and Abubakar (2020). It assumes that human frustrations could lead to aggressive behavior. Frustrations ultimately lead to aggression and aggression connotes that previously, frustration took place. Gurrr (1967) argues that ordinarily, aggressive actions or conducts presuppose the existence of frustration, and this frustration, whether real or imagined, will ultimately lead to some form of aggression. He argues that frustration results from (a) the potential for collective violence as a function of the extent and intensity of share discontent among members of society; and, (b) potential violence as a function of the degree to which such share discontents are blamed on the political system and its agents thus discontent arising from the perception is the basic instigating condition for participants in collective violence. People will always have needs and expectations in society and also expect such needs to be met and any obstacle to the attainment of the needs by groups or individuals will likely provoke violence or violent response. Usually, when people observe differences between their basic societal goals and current level of achievement, that is, when attainment is below expected outcomes or set goals, they experience a sense of collective frustration. It means that when people observe or deduce that subsequent attainment of their goals will not materialize or be realized due to no fault of theirs but due to the political system, structures or factors. Their collective frustration may be expressed through violent or aggressive behaviors directed at the government or its agents like the burning of police stations, offices of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) among others which are believed to be the source of their violence (Austin-Egole, Iheriohanma, Iheanacho, Ezeji, Okafor & Wokoma, (2022).

The frustration-aggression theory is relevant for this study because the people of Orlu are part of a whole who have clamored for equity, fairness, and justice for a long time despite the fact that oil and gas which is the mainstay of the Nigerian economy is partly from the South-East (former Biafra enclave). This has led to agitations from the Indigenous People of Biafra and other separatist groups. The perceived Nigerian government's neglect of the region and the inability of the Imo State Government to manage and satisfy the various interests in the State are causes of poverty, poor and dilapidated infrastructural development including environmental degradation and these have frustrated the people. These are assumed to have influenced their terror-related activities such as the kidnapping of law enforcement officers, and the destruction of government properties and institutions. It could be argued that these have contributed to the high level of insecurity in Orlu since the general perception is that the governments at both the state and federal levels are doing virtually nothing to stem the tide of insecurity. The insecurity also has affected their socioeconomic cum living standards as they are usually afraid to engage in any form of commerce. The hope of the inhabitants of Orlu in particular and Eastern Nigeria, in general, is dying on daily basis. They have become frustrated since the political system and its allies are not doing enough to encourage, support, or protect the people of the region. It is an indisputable fact of history that cultures of oppression, repression, and denial of certain rights and basic needs of life generate a culture of resistant-violent aggression (John, 2006 cited in Kuku 2012). Alienated youths that are "forced" to drift into violence as a result of marginalization will only lead to insecurity as they will become expressive and violent. The youths and people of Orlu and Imo and Southeast, in general, have cried against their non-inclusion in national governance and the appointment of personnel into key federal government institutions and establishments. The establishment of ESN was necessitated by the Fulani Herdsmen with guns that destroy planted crops and the few acres of farmlands in Igbo-land and the Fulani-headed federal government has bluntly refused to call the herdsmen to order. The consequences and implications are that the Igbos feel alienated, aggrieved, and not wanted in the country that they call theirs and this generated the agitations for both restructuring of the country's current power structure and the referendum for the State of Biafra. The call has cut across all

ethnic nationalities in Nigeria because they are all affected by the activities of the herdsmen and the federal government's stance on exclusionism.

## 3.0 Methodology

### 3.1. Method of Research

The survey research design is adopted as the methodology in this investigation.

### 3.2. Area of Study

The area of study is the Imo West Senatorial District comprising the twelve (12) Local Government Areas of Orlu Zone in Imo State located in the Southeast Zone of Nigeria. The local government areas include Ideato North, Ideato South, Isu, Njaba, Nkwerre, Nwangele, Oguta, Ohaji/ Egbema, Orlu, Orsu, Oru East, and Oru West. Orlu Zone is chosen for the investigation because, since 2018 and the inception of the present administration in Imo State, the zone has received the greatest of the heat and blows resulting from the security challenges on an almost daily basis more than Owerri and Okigwe Senatorial Districts.

### 3.3. Population

The population of the study is gotten from the twelve (12) Local Government Areas as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1**: **Population of the Twelve (12) Local Government Areas of Study**

| S/No | Name of Local Government Area | Population Census, 2006 | Population Projection, 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ideato North | 156,161 | 215,100 |
| 2 | Ideato South | 159,654 | 219,900 |
| 3 | Isu | 164,328 | 226,300 |
| 4 | Njaba | 143,485 | 197,600 |
| 5 | Nkwerre | 80,270 | 110,500 |
| 6 | Nwangele | 127,691 | 175,800 |
| 7 | Oguta | 142,340 | 196,000 |
| 8 | Ohaji/Egbema | 182,891 | 251,900 |
| 9 | Orlu | 142,729 | 196,600 |
| 10 | Orsu | 120,224 | 165,600 |
| 11 | Oru East | 111,743 | 153,900 |
| 12 | Oru West | 115,704 | 159,300 |
| | **Total** | | **2,268,500** |

**Source**: City Population (2020).

The total population as shown in Table 1 above is 2,268,500.

### 3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Yamane's (1967) statistical formula for the determination of sample size is utilized in deriving the sample size from the total population of 2,268,500 from the area of study. The statistical formula is;

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

Where n = sample size, N = population size, e = margin of error 0.05.

Thus n = $\dfrac{2,268,500}{1+2,268,500\ (0.05)^2}$

= $\dfrac{2,268,500}{1+2,268,500\ (0.0025)}$

= $\dfrac{2,268,500}{5672.25}$

**n** = 399.93

**n** = 400 approximately

To ensure that both the respondents chosen from the twelve local governments in the study area and the number of respondents administered copies of questionnaire in the different local governments were representative of their percentage in the entire population stratified, quota and random sampling methods were adopted.

**Table 2: Stratified / Quota Sampling Size for the 12 Local Government Areas of Study**

| S/NO | Name Of Local Government Area | Stratified Sample (%) | Quota Sample Size |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ideato North | 9.5 | 38 |
| 2 | Ideato South | 9.7 | 39 |
| 3 | Isu | 10.0 | 40 |
| 4 | Njaba | 8.7 | 35 |
| 5 | Nkwerre | 4.9 | 20 |
| 6 | Nwangele | 7.7 | 31 |
| 7 | Oguta | 8.6 | 34 |
| 8 | Ohaji/Egbema | 11.1 | 44 |
| 9 | Orlu | 8.7 | 35 |
| 10 | Orsu | 7.3 | 29 |
| 11 | Oru East | 6.8 | 27 |

| 12 | Oru West | 7.0 | 28 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **100** | **400** |

Table 2 above shows the sample size for the twelve local governments in the area of study.

The questionnaire which is divided into two sections (Section A which containing the socio-demographic variables of the respondents and Section B comprising of questions relating to the insecurity and the implications on the socio-economic living standard of the residents of Orlu Imo State) with close-ended questions, and interview guide were the instruments of primary data collection. The choice of close-ended questions was to guarantee reliability as well as limit irregularity in answers. A total of 60 persons - 5 for each local government - were randomly selected and interviewed.

### 3.5 Method of Data Analysis

While the interview responses were thematically analysed, the percentage distribution was utilized to determine the proportion of respondents that chose the various responses. The chi-square ($x^2$) statistics with the formula:

$$x^2 = \sum \frac{(0-E)}{E}$$

was used to test the hypothesis of the study. Where

$x^2$ = Chi-square
$\sum$ = Sum Of
E = Expected frequency
O = Observed frequency (Kelley and Donnelly, 2009).

For testing the significance of the chi-square ($x^2$), due consideration was given to the degree of freedom and the level of significance. The degree of freedom (df) is calculated using the formula: df = (r -1) (c – 1) (Kelley and Donnelly, 2009)
Where:
df = degree of freedom
r = number of rows
c = number of columns

## 4. Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion of Findings

There was a significant high return rate of the questionnaire (381 copies representing 95% of the distributed copies of the questionnaire). Data analysis is based on this figure of the returned questionnaire.

**Table 3: Sex of Respondents**

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | 192 | 50.4 |
| Valid | Female | 186 | 48.8 |
| | Total | 378 | 99.2 |
| Missing | System | 3 | .8 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source:** Field work, 2021.

From Table 3 above 50.4% of the respondents are male while 48.8% are female.

**Table 4: Age of Respondents**

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 18-30 | 154 | 40.4 |
| Valid | 31-45 | 149 | 39.1 |
| | 45and Above | 69 | 18.1 |
| | Total | 372 | 97.6 |
| Missing | System | 9 | 2.4 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 4 shows that majority (40.4%) of the respondents are youths within the 18-30 age bracket, 39.1% are within the 31-5 age bracket while 18.1% are 45 and above.

**Table 5: Marital Status of Respondents**

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Single | 168 | 44.1 |
| | Married | 165 | 43.3 |
| Valid | Divorced | 19 | 5.0 |
| | Separated | 15 | 3.9 |
| | Prefer not to say | 9 | 2.4 |
| | Total | 376 | 98.7 |
| Missing | System | 5 | 1.3 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

From table 5 above, 44.1% of the respondents are single, 43.3% are married while the divorced and separated make up 8.9% of the respondents.

**Table 6:  Occupation of Respondents**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Self-employed | 86 | 22.6 |
|  | Public servants | 78 | 20.4 |
|  | Private sector | 65 | 17.1 |
| Valid | Job seeker | 60 | 15.7 |
|  | Student | 49 | 12.9 |
|  | Politician | 37 | 9.7 |
|  | Total | 375 | 98.4 |
| Missing | System | 6 | 1.6 |
| **Total** |  | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 6 indicates that 22.6% of the respondents are self-employed, 20.4% are public servants working in government parastatals, 17.1% work in the private sector, 12.9% are students while 15.7 % are unemployed. The politicians make up 9.7% of the respondents.

**Table 7: Respondents Response on How Long They Have Lived in Orlu**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | <5years | 149 | 39.1 |
| Valid | >5years | 195 | 51.2 |
|  | Total | 344 | 90.3 |
| Missing | System | 37 | 9.7 |
| **Total** |  | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

More than half of the respondents (51.2%) have lived in Orlu for more than five (5) years while 39.1% have lived there for less than five years. This could be attributable to the fact that most of the respondents are indigenes of communities in Orlu zone and are residing in their ancestral homes. This is further buttressed by the responses from some of the interviewees. In the words of one respondent:

*I am a farmer and a basket weaver from Umudiala Ofeke in Umuhu Okabia in Orsu LGA. I have resided in my village all my life and eke out a living by selling my farm products and baskets at Eke Ututu market here in my village (39 years old Female, Orsu)*

**Table 8:  Respondents Response to Whether the Security Challenge Has Affected Their Access to Health Care**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | YES | 356 | 93.4 |
| Valid | NO | 24 | 6.3 |
|  | Total | 380 | 99.7 |
| Missing | System | 1 | .3 |
| **Total** |  | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 8 indiates that a whooping majority, 93.4% agree that the insecurity has affected their access to health care. All the interviewees reiterated that insecurity has enormously affected their access to health care. While bemoaning the effect of insecurity on healthcare one of the interviewees pointed out that

*The high level of insecurity in the area has made it difficult for most workers in the public health facilities to come to work for fear of their safety. There have been numerous cases of kidnap and attempted kidnap of doctors on their way to work. This has greatly affected access to health care. Even those going to these hospitals are afraid of what might happen on the road between their homes and the health facilities. It is a deplorable situation (35 years old Male, Njaba).*

This assertion above confirms the report of Njoku (2021) on the attempted kidnap of a team of medical personnel at Amucha, Njaba Local Government Area of Imo State on Monday the 29th of November, 2021

**Table 9: Respondents Response to Whether the Security Challenge Has Affected Access to Education**

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| | YES | 317 | 83.2 |
| Valid | NO | 60 | 15.7 |
| | Total | 377 | 99.0 |
| Missing | System | 4 | 1.0 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 9 indicates that 83.2% of the respondents affirm that the insecurity situation has affected access to education. One of the interviewees, a teacher in one of the public secondary schools in the area of the study stated that

*Both our lives and those of our students are perpetually been in danger since the unrest started. On Mondays, we do not come out of our house worst of all go to school. Anybody seen on school premises on Mondays has his or herself to blame for any calamity that befalls her* (40-year-old Female Teacher, Njaba).

That insecurity has adversely affected access to education is further confirmed by the report of Adesina (2021) on the disruption of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) English Language examination at the Comprehensive Secondary School, Nkume community, Njaba Local Government Area of Imo State because the examination was being taken on a Monday which has been declared as a compulsory "sit-at-home" day by the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

**Table 10: Respondents Response to Whether the Security Challenge Has Affected Their Income Earning**

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| | YES | 351 | 92.1 |
| Valid | NO | 25 | 6.6 |
| | Total | 376 | 98.7 |
| Missing | System | 5 | 1.3 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 10 indicates that 92.1% of the respondents agree that the security challenge in the area has adversely affected income earning. One of the interviewees, a trader, lamented bitterly about the effect of the insecurity on their means of livelihood. According to her

*No market opens on Mondays so we do not earn any kind of income on Mondays. This has affected our business money because we still cater to our needs with them even on those days that we don't make an earning from sales* (40-year-old trader, Male, Oru East).

In the same vein, Alozie (2021) reports that about twenty (20) shops were burnt down in Okporo Orlu in the wake of this insecurity and unrest destroying people's means of earning daily income.

**Table 11: Respondents response to Whether the Security Challenge Has Affected Social Events in Orlu**

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| | YES | 353 | 92.7 |
| Valid | NO | 7 | 1.8 |
| | Total | 360 | 94.5 |
| Missing | System | 21 | 5.5 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

From Table 11, it is evident that the security challenge has a significant effect on social events in Orlu with a 92.7% affirmative response from the respondents. One of the interviewees disclosed that little or no social events take place in his area. In his words

*Social gatherings no longer take place in my area because of fear of insecurity. People now do their traditional weddings in hotels in the cities because of fear of insecurity. The dead are buried on a low key without celebration or left in the mortuary while waiting for the end of the insecurity. It is a pathetic situation* (42 years old Female, Orsu)

**Table 12: Respondents Response to Whether the Security Challenge Has Caused the Price of Commodities to Increase**

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| | YES | 372 | 97.6 |
| Valid | NO | 6 | 1.6 |
| | Total | 378 | 99.2 |
| Missing | System | 3 | .8 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

97.6% of the respondents agree that the security challenge has caused the hike in prices of commodities. This, according to an interviewee, is attributable to so many factors. In her words,

*The increase in prices of commodities is caused by a lack of products. People are afraid to leave their homes to the farm to get produce for sale. Due to insecurity, most transporters have boycotted major routes connecting the volatile areas and those who risk driving through those routes increase their fares. The market women increase the price of the goods to reflect the additional money paid on transport so that they can make a profit. Thus the prices of goods just keep rising* (42-year-old Female, Ohaji/Egbema)

Rising food prices affect the socio-economic living standard of the residents because it reduces the real purchasing power of households thereby making them unable to afford most of the lives necessities (Austin-Egole et al 2022).

**Table 13: Respondents Response to Whether Vigilante Groups Exist in Orlu and Adjourning Communities**

| | | **Frequency** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | YES | 146 | 38.3 |
| Valid | NO | 203 | 53.3 |
| | Total | 349 | 91.6 |
| Missing | System | 32 | 8.4 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 13 above indicates that a greater majority of the respondents (53.3%) agree that vigilante groups do not exist in Orlu while 38.3% believe that they exist.

**Table 14: Respondents Response on How Efficient the Security Forces Have Been in Handling the Crises in Orlu**

| | | **Frequency** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Very efficient | 49 | 12.9 |
| | efficient | 71 | 18.6 |
| Valid | fairly efficient | 106 | 27.8 |
| | not efficient | 135 | 35.4 |
| | Total | 361 | 94.8 |
| Missing | System | 20 | 5.2 |
| **Total** | | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 14 shows that there are mixed reactions to how efficient the security forces are in handling the crises in Orlu. While 35.4% of the respondents feel the security forces are not efficient enough, 27,8% feel they are fairly efficient and 31.5% feel that they are efficient. An interviewee expressed his displeasure at the modus operandi of the security forces. In his words

*The way the security forces are tackling the menace of insecurity caused by the hoodlums who now occupy communities in Orlu seems to be escalating the insecurity rather than curtailing it* (48 years old Female, Oguta)

Seemingly in agreement, Njoku (2021) reports that the decision of soldiers to indiscriminately fire gunshots supposedly to stop alleged planned attacks by the Eastern Security Network (ESN), in the area, led to their regrouping for confrontation with the security operatives which further escalated the already pent up tension in the areas. The running battle is to the detriment of villagers who run away from their homes for safety.

**Table 15: Respondents Response on Their Feelings about Local Vigilante Groups Helping to Solve the Security Challenge**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | YES | 191 | 50.1 |
| Valid | NO | 167 | 43.8 |
|  | Total | 358 | 94.0 |
| Missing | System | 23 | 6.0 |
| **Total** |  | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

From Table 15 above, 50% of the respondents believe that local vigilante groups can help in solving the security challenges faced by residents in Orlu while 43.8% feel the contrary. In the words of one of the interviewees,

*There is palpable fear everywhere and people are scared of losing their lives. The young men who will form the vigilante groups are the first to be shot, killed, and tagged as members of either the ESN or unknown gunmen. Parents now warn their children to stay at home* (42-year-old Female, Isu)

**Table 16: Respondents Response to Whether the Attacks on Police Formations and Stations Have Influenced Their Attitude in Handling the Crises**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | YES | 312 | 81.9 |
| Valid | NO | 56 | 14.7 |
|  | Total | 368 | 96.6 |
| Missing | System | 13 | 3.4 |
| **Total** |  | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

Table 16 indicates that 81.9% of the respondents agree that the attacks on police formations and stations have influenced their attitude in handling the crises.

**Table 17: Respondents Response to The Strength of the Relationship between Insecurity and Socio-Economic Living Standard of Residents of Orlu**

|  |  | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Very Strong | 163 | 42.8 |
|  | Strong | 172 | 45.1 |
| Valid | Weak | 22 | 5.8 |
|  | Very weak | 14 | 3.7 |
|  | Total | 371 | 97.4 |
| Missing | System | 10 | 2.6 |
| **Total** |  | **381** | **100.0** |

**Source**: Field work, 2021.

From table 17 above, 87.9% of the respondents strongly believe that there is a relationship between insecurity and the socio-economic standard of living of residents of Orlu. Adedeji (2022) confirms that the current security situation has affected every area of life of residents of the area such as businesses, schools, nightlife, and transportation in the Orlu zone and the entire state.

### 4.2 Test of Hypothesis

**H1:** Insecurity significantly affects the socio-economic standard of living of the residents of Orlu Imo State.
**Ho:** Insecurity has no significant effects on the socio-economic standard of living of the residents of Orlu Imo State.

Table 17 was used to test the hypothesis.

**Table 18: Chi Square Test of Hypothesis**
**Insecurity and Socio-Economic Living Standard of Residents of Orlu**

| Response | Observed N | Expected N | Residual |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very Strong | 163 | 76.2 | 86.8 |
| Strong | 172 | 76.2 | 95.8 |
| Weak | 22 | 76.2 | -54.2 |
| Very Weak | 14 | 76.2 | -62.2 |
| Undecided | 10 | 76.2 | -66.2 |
| Total | 381 | | |
| $X^2 = 366.15$, DF = 4, P > .05, $X^2$crit = 9.488 | | | |

As shown in the table above, a chi-square goodness of fit test was performed to determine whether insecurity significantly affects the socio-economic standard of living of the residents of Orlu, Imo State, Nigeria. The result shows that insecurity significantly affects the socio-economic standard of living of residents of Orlu, Imo State, which is a rejection of the null hypothesis ($H_o$).

## 5.0 Conclusion

Insecurity adversely affects socio-economic living standards. It normally anchors the destruction of lives and property with no serious commercial cum social activities in areas engulfed by the menace. The alarming level of security in Nigeria in general and Orlu, in particular, is better imagined than witnessed. People are practically living in fear daily with both their social life and sources of income disrupted. As a matter of serious urgency, there is a need to look into the remote causes of this menace as that is the best way to start tackling it. This is because implementing interventions without resolving the root causes is equivalent to killing a snake without cutting off the head, the problem will keep reoccurring to the detriment of the people.

## 6.0 Recommendations

- There is a need for the government to invite all stakeholders to the round table to dialogue on the best approach for tackling the daring insecurity menace squarely. This is the best approach to resolving the conflicts amicably in favor of all.
- There is a need for stakeholders to identify the root causes of this menacing insecurity in the land to make life meaningful for the people of Orlu in particular.

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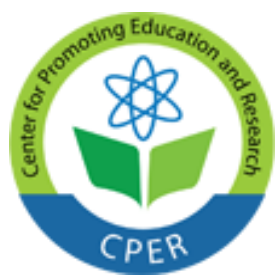
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