
PERCEIVED IMPACT OF NATIONAL INSECURITY ON HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE NIGERIAN CHILD

**¹Joyce Ezidiugo OGWAZU; ²Justina Chinyere AGUH
& ³Subedat Olashubomi KOLEDIYE**

¹Primary Education Department, School of Education
Federal College of Education (Technical), Akoka, Lagos State, justina.aguh@yahoo.co.uk

²Dept. of Educational Foundations, Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State,
talktoezidiugo@gmail.com

³Primary Education Department, School of Education, Federal College of Education
(Technical) Akoka, Lagos State, koledoye2020@gmail.com

Abstract

Rethinking the foundation of education in Nigeria comprises healthy and nurturing environment that is effective and holistic for childhood living. The study assessed perceived impact of National Insecurity on health and safety of the Nigerian child. The descriptive survey research design was adopted. Two research questions and one null hypothesis guided the study. Simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques were used to select 220 teachers in 22 schools in Katsina State. Teachers in Basic 1-2 were randomly and purposively selected for the study. A ten-item statement instrument titled 'Perceived Impact of National Insecurity on Health and Safety of the Nigerian Child' Questionnaire (PINIHSNCQ) was used to collect data for the study. Content and face validity of the instrument was determined by experts in Early Childhood and Measurement and Evaluation. Cronbach's alpha was used for the instrument reliability, and a reliability coefficient of 0.78 was obtained. The research questions were analysed using descriptive statistics of frequency, percentage, and mean. The results showed among others that National insecurity has increased gender/ sexual, high school drop-out, assault and molestation, and increased mortality and morbidity rate. Also, national insecurity affects the socio-emotional state of children, and sexual assault has resulted into unwanted pregnancies and early marriages. The authors recommended among others that government should ensure high level of national security through training and retraining of security officers and provision of more sophisticated ammunitions, and the spirit of 'being our neighbours keeper' should be the motto of everyone and the government and private agencies to give jobs to the unemployed youths.

Keywords: Perceived impact, National insecurity, Health and safety, Teachers, Nigerian child

Introduction

Rethinking the foundation of education encompasses having children nurtured in a serene and secured environment. However, coercion, killing and molestation affects the wellbeing, developmental milestones, nurture, health and safety of children. The uneasiness is further worsened by abduction, kidnapping, bombing, high school drop-out, and sexual assault especially that which is meted out on the girl child among others. In support of this statement, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations ([UNESCO], 2020) stated that school closure affected almost 1.2 billion pupils which resulted in high school drop-outs, poor food supply and poor children's learning. Also, Oduolowu and Olowe (2011) posited that in the early years, there is intense vulnerability, and therefore need for adequate protection, care and nurture for the children.

Teachers, pupils, and the general public flee for their lives from schools and dwelling places due to abduction and rape. House property as well as school facilities are vandalized. In corroboration, Amnesty International (2023) revealed that since early 2012, over 70 teachers and 100 students have been killed or wounded in Northern Nigeria. Educational facilities have been burnt, while thousands of children are out of school forcefully, and teachers were made to flee for their safety. In this vein, Oluisekema (2011) noted that the continuous violent attacks in Northern States followed by suicide bombing has forced inhabitants to flee for their lives leaving their abode desolate, and those who could not flee stay home without doing anything.

Early childhood education is a holistic approach and development setting for children aged 0-8 years. In support, Estes (2004) asserted that early years is a significant period of growth and development in the lives of children. During early childhood years, the child's nurturing, care, health and direction for a successful all round development is paramount both for parents and teachers at large. However, such effective nurture and healthy living is truncated due to peculiar factors of insecurity aforementioned that are common in Nigeria.

Education is for children's all-round development. To this end, The Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) (2014) on National Policy on Education (NPE) rightly posited that the philosophy and goals of education in Nigeria is to be an instrument for national development and social change, to maximize the creative potentials and skills of the child for self-fulfillment and societal general development and, to be qualitative, comprehensive, functional and relevant to the societal needs. The rights of the child should not be trampled upon as buttressed and captured among others in United Nations Conventions on the Right of the child, African Charter on the Right and Welfare of the Child, Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) and Education for All (EFA). Due to insecurity, the girl child is abruptly raped and forced into early marriage. Also, there is poor school attendance and high school drop-out. In a country where children are killed and abducted continuously, the educational national goals '2' and '5' respectively as stated in the national Constitution of 'A just and egalitarian society and a land full of bright opportunities for all citizens' (FRN, 2014) are gradually becoming an aberration. Oluoyomi and Grace (2016) disclosed that the girl child often drop out of school and be forced into early marriage due to insecurity.

The self-esteem theory by Stanley Coppersmith of 1967 is used for the study. The theory is rooted in early childhood with beliefs in trust, unconditional love and security. These

terms impact the child's life by both combinations of positive and negative influences in life. High self-esteem results when there is balance on psychological nutrients, needs of life which includes relatedness, competency and autonomy. If support is derived through social conditions and there are opportunities to fulfil the basic needs of the child, there will be enhanced personal growth, vitality and total wellbeing. Conversely, self-esteem becomes fragile and unstable, if cultural values and needs are introjected instead of being integrated and obviously will have negative effect on self-esteem (Ryan & Delci, 2004).

Security in the lives of people is germane to their peaceful co-existence and harmony. Such a state allows proper nurturing and upbringing of children. There is high school attendance, safety, serenity, and peace in such dwellings, and people's property are safe. Therefore, Nnom (2013) defined security as a state of peace of mind among inhabitants in an abode. Such peace guarantees quality life and solidity for survival. Otoibhi (2012) asserted that security interest includes safety of lives and property, economic, physiological, mental-well-being, and freedom.

The dearth of security results in insecurity. Living in a state of fear and uneasiness keeps people in fear. As well, when people's property and lives are threatened, insecurity occurs. Effiong and Edinyang (2013) defined insecurity as a state of being subjected to danger and injury and with the feeling of nervousness. Udeh and Okoroafor (2013) asserted that insecurity is the fear of the unknown, and the feeling of tension because lives and property are not protected. In this vein, Hassan (2014) posited that insecurity is an act of injustice that instills fear and anxiety in the lives of individuals. Therefore, security challenges in Nigeria have been an issue for decades. The Nigeria civil war that took place from 1967-1970 aggravated the situation. Since then, there had been social unrest, and it has affected education grossly. Incessant killings in the North, South East, and other parts of the country for the past years, have caused social unrest.

Insecurity comes in different forms; spanning from political, educational, religious, ethnic, and economic causes. In affirmation, Udeh and Okoroafor (2013) outlined the types of insecurity to include: job insecurity, food insecurity, political insecurity, economic insecurity, financial insecurity, social insecurity, demographic insecurity, gender/sexual insecurity, relationship insecurity, religious insecurity, moral insecurity, insecurity complex among others.

Abduction of, and sexual assault on girl children have forced them to early marriages, sexual transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies and early entrance into motherhood which can result into Vesico Virginal Fistula (VVF); a condition where such young women have bladder malfunction and urinate uncontrollably. In support, Grantham-McGregor, et al. (2007) revealed that in most developing countries, more than 200 million children who are less than five years fail to reach their potential in cognitive and social development due to poverty, poor health, nutrition, and deficit care. National insecurity has created phobia, traumatic condition, and has significantly increased the rate of out of school children. In corroboration, Bwala (2012) is of the opinion that over 85 per cent school children no longer attend school due to insurgency. Also, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC, 2020) disclosed that there are often school closure in Katsina State due to kidnapping of school children and other banditry activities. In this vein, Amnesty International (2023) posited that between December, 2020 and March 2021, there are up to five reported cases of abductions in the Northern Nigeria, including schools which include

Kanakra, Kagara, Jangbede, Damishi- Kaduna, Tegna, and Yawuri, and closure of over 600 schools in the North.

Insecurity has affected both the masses and those at the helm of affairs. The security operatives are not left out, because they are the major target and are being killed on daily basis. There are many reported cases of death all over the nation; ranging from children to adults. For instance, on Sunday, 20th March, 2022, there was news report that some miscreants burnt and destroyed Police Station in Omuma in Imo State, where lives were lost in the process. Also, the report has it that the house of Prof. George Obiozor, the Spokesman of OhanaezeNdi Igbo was set ablaze, and the property of the brothers were also vandalized in his country home in Awo-Omamma in Imo State, Nigeria the same day (Vanguard Newspapers, 2022). The same 20th March, 2022, bandits killed about 20 men including clan chief (head, 19 others) in Zamfara State, looted shops and carted away with their belongings (Channels Television, 2022). On Friday, 21st April, 2023 five (5) police officers, a man and the wife, Mr. and Mrs. ChinakaNwagu, whose shop some of the cops ran to, were killed by unknown gunmen at Ngor-Okpala in Imo State. The gunmen carted away the cops' rifles. Such stolen guns would be used to harass and abduct innocent citizens in future. The incidence has resulted in plethora of fear, state of panic and abruptly, crippled commercial activities. Also, on March, 27, 2023, gunmen killed five personnel of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in the same Ngor-Okpala LGA, Imo State (Punch Newspapers, 2023). The hope of the children of these deceased is all truncated. Ogheneakoke (2014) enumerated some major causes of insecurity to include: corruption, marginalization, social inequality, ethnicity, poverty, greed, mutiny, bad leadership, youth unemployment, porosity of borders, fallen standard of education, cultism and cult activities, attaching high values to material possession, lack of trust on security agents, abuse on human rights and injustice among others. Udeh and Okoroafor (2013) disclosed that other causes of insecurity are imposition of unpopular policies, corruption, unemployment, poverty, terrorism/suicide bombing, external influence, inequality, uneven development among others.

Most farmers and their families are now in Internally Displaced Persons' (IDPs) camps, with no home, no security of lives and property. The children in such camps lack proper care and good health as it would have been in their natural homes. There is possibility of food rationing in the camps, possibility of gender/ sexual assault, overcrowding, child molestation, diseases, child labour, and lack of school attendance among others. Such harsh conditions such children are exposed to, adversely affect their total wellbeing and good health. In support, Mordi (2013) disclosed that the effects of the menace of Boko-Haram bandits in the country had been lack of peace and stability. There is the case of over 276) Chibok Girls' abduction from Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Maidugiri State by Boko-Haram bandits between 14th-15th April, 2014. This is nine years later; in year 2023, 98 Chibok girls are still in captivity. This proves the utter failure of the Nigerian authorities. Not only this, a plethora of schools since the abduction of Chibok Girls has had their students abducted, killed, raped or even forced into early marriages. There is no single credible investigation into the security failures which has made the children highly vulnerable by the atrocities committed by Boko- Haram and gunmen. Parents of the abducted children are living in anguish because their children are being mishandled by ruthless brutes. The girls who refused to marry the Boko-Haram

Bandits are brutally ill-treated on daily basis. The parents lamented that about 14 of the rescued girls came back with 24 children whose fathers are not known. The burden of feeding, educating, and provision of health care for the returnee children and grandchildren are solely on those parents, increasing their pain, rejection and stigma (Amnesty International, 2023). Also, one student out of the 121 Bethel Baptist High school students (the youngest among them) abducted on 5th July, 2021 in Damishi, Kaduna State preferred being with the abductors to returning home. The student's excuse, not being very clear. However, the report by Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) says that the person who went to pay the ransom for the boy's release was abducted, worsening the situation (Daily Trust Newspapers, 2022). Also, there is the kidnapping of Bauchi nursing mother, Khadija Audu-Ardo and her baby at Tsamiya Village of Boi, Bogoro LGA of Bauchi State on 11th February, 2022, where a ransom of one Million, Five hundred thousand naira (#1.5million) was demanded and paid before their release. This was reported by Oyewole, Bauchi of Guardian newspaper (The Guardian, Nigeria, 2022). A teacher, Abdulmalik Muhammad Tanko abducted his pupil, Hanifa Abdulsalam, a five year old girl and only child of her parents on 4th December, 2021 and killed her after a 6million naira ransom was paid. The girl attended Nobel Kids School at KwanarDakata in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Kano State; her killing led to the closure of all private schools in Kano State by the State Government (Punch Newspapers, 2022). In corroboration, Nnamdi (2021) posited that the challenges of insecurity in Niger, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara, Jigawa, Sokoto States and other Northern States had led to constant closure of schools. These are just few among the many cases of lootings, shootings, and incessant killings and abductions in the nation by unknown gunmen who go about with sophisticated weapons and armories.

Farmers are abducted daily in their farms and ransom paid before their release while others are killed right there in their farms or during abduction. As a result, farmers are afraid to go to the farm; which leads to food scarcity. Unemployment of youth has worsened the situation. Children who lost their parents in the hands of the hoodlums have their academic pursuit trampled on which has resulted in high school withdrawals and poor school attendance. Also, due to poor feeding, they lack good health and nurture and can hardly concentrate at school. In affirmation, United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF)(2004) rightly emphasize the characteristics of quality education to include among others; learners are healthy and mentally ready to participate and learn while being supported by their families and communities, there is safe, healthy and protective environment that is gender sensitive and promotes enough resources and facilities, teachers adopt child-centred instructional strategies in a well-managed safe classes and adopt assessment to facilitate learning and reduce disparities.

Reports of abduction of children and adults all-round the nation keep ravaging and disrupting the peaceful affairs of the nation. There was a reported case of rape and ritual killing on 9th March, 2022, of one Miss Ayanwale Oluwabamise, a 22 year old fashion designer in Lagos State by the driver of Bus Random Transit (BRT), a bus which people thought could be trusted upon (Channels Television, 2022). The victim was on her way from Ajah, in Lagos State to Ota in Ogun State where she lived when she met her untimely demise in the BRT driven by Andrew Ominnikoron. The body was discovered nine (9) days after she boarded the BRT bus at Carter Bridge in Lagos Island. There is also the

news of the abduction of a baby by an unidentified dispatch rider (courier service motorcyclist) in his courier box in Sangotedo in Lekki, Lagos State on Saturday 12th March, 2022. It was the cry of the baby while the courier man was waiting for the traffic light to turn green that alerted people (Punch Newspapers, 2022). In this vein, Ogheneakoke (2014) asserted that restlessness, kidnapping, bombing, militancy and insurgency among others have been the order in the country.

It is therefore on the aforementioned premise that this study identifies the perceived impact of national insecurity on the health and safety of the Nigerian child.

Statement of the problem

National insecurity has ravaged the nation at large and has put lives and property of people and schools at risk. It has resulted in lack of safety of lives, poor health facilities, and poor healthy living. Not only this, it has affected the holistic development of children and adults at large. This is further compounded by social unrest and austerity measures. Most people in different States in the country live in plethora of fear all day long. States in the Eastern part of the Nigeria now do 'sit at home' every Monday and any other day they deem fit, prohibiting people's movement and commercial activities. It is most ravaging in the North in particular and all parts of the country at large. There is no State void of insecurity in the Nigeria. Such situation has crumbled the Nigerian economy; foreign investors have fled the nation. Religious premises; Churches and Mosques are not left out. Bandits bomb such religious grounds, kidnapping and killing people like fowls, and the survivals are desolate, dejected, and hopeless. People are displaced from homes due to banditry, abduction, forceful deaths, sexual abuse on girl children among others which has forced and exposed them to poor feeding, poor health facilities, sexually transmitted diseases, and unwanted pregnancies. Such situation has led to high morbidity and mortality rate of children. Also, there is poor school attendance and high school withdrawals, incessant kidnapping and killings among other social menaces in most States with high national insecurity.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to identify the perceived impact of national insecurity on health and safety of the Nigerian child. Therefore, the specific objectives of the study are to determine the:

- i. perceived impact of national insecurity on health of pupils; and
- ii. extent perceived impact of national insecurity affects the safety of pupils.

Research questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What is the perceived impact of national insecurity on pupils' health?
2. To what extent does perceived impact of national insecurity affect the safety of pupils?

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprises all teachers in Katsina State. Katsina has 34 Local Government Areas (LGAs) which includes: Bakori, Batagarawa, Batsari, Baure, Charanchi, Daandume, Dutsi, Dutsin-

Ma, Kankara, Kurfi among others. The study used a sample size of 220 teachers in Basic 1-2 in selected public primary schools in two (2) LGAs in Dutsin-Ma and Kankara, Katsina State. The choice of the State is due to high national insecurity there and to determine the perceived impact it has on the residents. 22 schools were purposively selected; 11 schools in each LGA. Ten (10) teachers each were randomly and purposively selected in the 22 schools. Teachers who are in Basic 1 and 2 were purposively selected. This is because their pupils are not in terminal classes and they are dealing with pupils who need special care and good feeding habits for optimal development. Two research questions were formulated for the study. The instrument titled Perceived Impact of National Insecurity on Health and Safety of the Nigerian Child Questionnaire (PINIHSNCQ) was used for the study and subjected to face and content validation by the experts in Early Childhood Department and Department of Measurement and Evaluation. The reliability of the questionnaire was determined using the re-test technique. Each research question has five (5) items, giving a total of ten (10) item statements. The reliability of the questionnaire was determined using the re-test techniques. Cronbach's alpha technique was used for the reliability consistency of the instrument and 0.78 coefficient was derived. The questionnaire was self-administered to the selected respondents and collected back from the respondents immediately to avoid loss and external influence. Data were analyzed using simple percentages and mean rating which were tabulated in a four point Likert rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA) :4, Agree (A) :3, Disagree (D)2 and Strongly Disagree (SD):1. Decision was made to accept mean scores of 2.5 and above.

Results

Table 1: *Perceived Impact of National Insecurity on Pupils' Health*

S/N	Item	SA(4)	A(3)	D(2)	SD(1)	Mean	Decision
1	National insecurity increased food rationing and hindered provision of essential services given to children	74 (33.6%)	82 (37.3%)	38 (17.3%)	26 (11.8%)	2.93	Accept
2	National insecurity has increased gender/ sexual assault, high school drop-out and child's molestation	42 (19.1%)	86 (39.1%)	50 (22.7%)	42 (19.1%)	2.58	Accept
3	National insecurity has resulted in poor healthy habits which increased child's mortality and morbidity rate	70 (31.8%)	38 (17.3%)	74 (33.6%)	38 (17.3%)	2.64	Accept
4	National insecurity has exposed children to overcrowding which led to infections and diseases	90 (40.9%)	46 (20.9%)	38 (17.3%)	46 (20.9%)	2.82	Accept
5	National insecurity has led to possibility of child	98 (44.5%)	58 (26.4%)	50 (22.7%)	14 (6.4%)	3.09	

labour and poor feeding habits	Accept
Cluster Mean	2.81 Accept

Item one which states that national insecurity increased food rationing and hindered provision of essential services given to children has a mean score of 2.93, while item 2 which states that national insecurity has increased gender/ sexual assault, high school drop-out and child's molestation has a mean score of 2.58, and item 5 which states that national insecurity has led to possibility of child labour and poor feeding habits have a mean score of 3.09. The cluster mean of 2.81 highly supports the findings.

Table 2: The Extent Perceived Impact of National Insecurity Affects the Safety of Pupils

S/N	Item	SA(4)	A(3)	D(2)	SD(1)	Mean	Decision
6.	National insecurity has led and increased kidnapping and abduction of children	69 (31.4%)	103 (46.8%)	24 (10.9%)	24 (10.9%)	2.99	Accept
7.	National insecurity has increased incessant killings and bombing of properties.	42 (19.1%)	97 (44.1%)	43 (19.5%)	38 (17.3%)	2.65	Accept
8.	National Insecurity has denied Child's right to shelter, nurture and quality education among others as contained in the convention on the right of the child	73 (33.2%)	35 (15.9%)	78 (35.5%)	34 (15.4%)	2.67	Accept
9.	National insecurity affects the socio-emotional state of children which can lead to depression	88 (40%)	95 (43.2%)	13 (5.9%)	24 (10.9%)	3.1	Accept
10.	Abduction and sexual assault on girl children has increased early marriages and unwanted pregnancies	107 (48.6%)	59 (26.8%)	49 (22.3%)	5 (2.3%)	3.22	Accept
	Cluster Mean					2.93	Accept

Table 2, displayed high percentage affirmative responses. Item 6 which states that national insecurity has led and increased kidnapping and abduction of children had a mean score of 2.99, while item 8 which states national insecurity has denied Child's right to shelter, nurture and quality education among others as contained in the convention on the right of the child had a mean score of 2.67 and item 10 which states that Abduction and sexual assault on girl children had increased early marriages and unwanted pregnancies has a mean score of 3.22. The cluster mean of 2.93 corroborates the findings made.

Discussion

Table 1, items 1-5 revealed affirmation of the statements raised on the impact of national insecurity on the health of pupils which include among others that national insecurity increased food rationing and hindered provision of essential services given to children, has exposed children to overcrowding which led to infections and diseases, has resulted in poor healthy habits which increased child's mortality and morbidity rate, high school drop-out and has led to possibility of child labour and poor feeding habits among others. The findings also agreed with the report of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO) (2020) which stated that school closure affected

almost 1.2 billion pupils which resulted in high school drop-outs, poor food supply and poor children's learning. Also, Amnesty International (2023) revealed that since early 2012, over 70 teachers and 100 students have been killed or wounded in Northern Nigeria. Educational facilities have been burnt, while thousands of children are out of school forcefully, and teachers were made to flee for their safety.

Table 2, items 6-10 also revealed a high respondents' affirmation on extent the perceived impact of national insecurity affects the safety of pupils which include among others that that national insecurity has led and increased kidnapping and abduction of children, has denied Child's right to shelter, nurture and quality education and has increased early marriages and unwanted pregnancies. The findings of this work is in agreement with the report by British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC, 2020) which disclosed that there are often school closure in Katsina State due to kidnapping of school children and other banditry activities. Also, Amnesty International (2023) posited that between December, 2020 and March 2021, there are up to five reported cases of abductions in the Northern Nigeria, including schools which include Kanakra, Kagara, Jangbede, Damishi- Kaduna, Tegna, and Yawuri, and closure of over 600 schools in the North.

Conclusion

Children's all round and holistic development is centred on their secure and serene environment with nurture and care. Rethinking the foundation of education encompasses that child nurturing and care be built on a secure and safe foundation. Where social unrest, poor healthy habits and national insecurity affects the facets of the developmental milestones, there tends to be a missing gap in the holistic development of the child. These gaps further affect the total well-being of the child, results in high school drop-out and traumatically sever the academic performance.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Government should ensure high level of national security through training and retraining of security officers and provision of more sophisticated ammunitions.
2. Government should ensure that the security operatives are more transformed to carry out their jobs judiciously without prejudice and all culprits must face the wrath of the law no matter their connections.
3. The spirit of 'being our neighbours keeper' should be the motto of everyone to protect lives and property.
4. Any strange movement or strange faces seen within the vicinity should be reported immediately by people to security officers. Calls should be made to distress toll numbers in the State.
5. Government and private sectors are to provide job for unemployed Nigerians.

References

- Amnesty International (2023). Nigeria: 'Keep away from schools or we'll kill you': Right to education under attack in Nigeria. Research. www.amnesty.org/en/docu... AFR 44/019/2013
- Amnesty International. (2023). Nigeria: Nine years after Chibok girls abducted, authorities failing. www.amnesty.org 14th April, 2023.
- British Broadcasting Corporation. (BBC). (2020). Nigerian states closes schools after students kidnapped in Katsina. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55338785>.
- Bwala, I. (2012). *The guardian development network*. <http://www.guardian.co.uk>
- Channels Television (2022). Bandits kill village head, 19 others in Zamfara. <https://channelstv.com>
- Channels Television (2022). Eyewitness report on Oluwabamise Ayanwola's murder by BRT bus driver. Youtube.com, <https://m.youtube.com>watch> 15th March, 2022.
- Daily Trust Newspapers. (2022). Kidnapped Bethel Baptist school student wants to stay with bandits. <https://dailytrust.com>/kidnapped-b>
- Effiong, V.N. & Edinyang, S.D. (2013). Social studies and national transformation. *Nigerian Journal of Social Studies and Civic Education*, 3(1), 138-149.
- Estes, L.S. (2004). *Essentials of child care and early education*. United States of America. Pearson Education, Inc.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (2014). *National policy on education*. 6th edition, NERDC: Abuja
- Grantham-McGregor, S., Cheung, Y.B., Cueto, S., Richter, L, et al (2007). Developmental potential in the first 5 years for children in developing countries. *Lancet* 369, 60-70
- Hassan, M.B. (2014). Book Haram insurgency and state of insecurity in Nigeria: Manifestation of governance crisis. *Journal of Research on Humanities and Social Science*, 4(18), ISSN, 2224-5766, ISSN (online) 2225-0484
- Mordi, C. (2013). *Educational reformation for national security*. Keynote address presented at the annual conference of the Institute of Education, Delta State University, Abraka, June, 11th -15th 2013.
- Nnamdi, O. (2021). *Halting repeated school kidnappings in Nigeria*. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/Africa/nigeria/halting-repeated-school-kidnappings-niger>
- Nnom, O.C. (2013). Nigerian family values amidst security challenges. *Nigerian South South Journal of Social Studies and Civic Education*, 8(6), 86-96.

- Oduolowu, E.A., & Olowe, P.K. (2011). Government provision of early childcare and education to pre-primary school orphans in orphanages in Ibadan municipality. *Research in Curriculum Studies*, 6, 2.
- Ogheneakoke, E.C. (2014). Social studies and national security in W.P.Akpochafo and D.I. Mezieobi(eds.), social studies and national security in Nigeria, Enugu: Oshilo Consults.
- Olisemeka, O. (2011). *Boko-Haram: Will Jonathan's carrot and stick end the siege?* August 30, 2011.
- Oluyomi, A & Grace, S.M. (2016). Environmental insecurity and the Nigerian child's learning: Coping strategies. *Asian Pacific Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 4(1), 13-17.
- Otoiibhi, B. (2012). *Resolving national security challenges*. Our Reader, 5th July, 2012.
- Punch Newspapers (2023). *Gunmen kill five policemen, couple in Imo state*. <https://punchng.com>breaking-gu> 21st April, 2023
- Punch Newspapers. (2022). *Baby found inside Lagos dispatch rider's courier box*. <https://punchng.com>baby-found...> 12th March, 2022.
- Punch Newspapers. (2022). *Hanifa, our only child, was murdered by a man who should be her protector- Father of five-year-old Kano pupil kidnapped, killed by her school proprietor*. <https://punchng.com> 25th January, 2022
- Ryan, M.R & Deci, E.L (2004). Avoiding death or engaging life as accounts of meaning and culture: comment on Pyszczynski et al., (2004). *Psychological Bulletin*, 130(3), 473-477
- The Guardian, Nigeria. (2022). *Gunmen kidnap nursing mother, child in Bauchi*. <https://guardian.ng>newsgunme...> 9th February, 2022.
- Udeh, S.C. & Okoroafor, E.C. (2013). Insecurity and national economic development: Implications for Nigeria's vision 20:2020. *International Journal of Development and Management Review*, 8(1), 93-109.
- United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) (2004). *A world fit for children*. Geneva: UNICEF.
- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations. (UNESCO), (2020). *Adverse consequences of school closures*. Retrieved @ <https://en.unesco.org/covid19>
- Vanguard Newspapers (2022). *Imo: Uzodinma blows hot as gunmen bomb Ohanaeze leader's house, police station* <https://vanguardngr.com/2022/> 20th March, 2022.