

Urban Kano Insecurity: A Study Proposal of Five Factor Analysis

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Abstract

Fear, anxiety and hopeless future are some major characteristics in most parts of the developing world. Perhaps the genesis is traced to poor public leadership. This gives rise to absence of rule of law. As a societal pillar, poor governance results in other negative effects such as unemployment, poverty, law enforcement corruption and police inadequacies. These factors are alleged to be most significant in triggering societal insecurity. It is in this context that the literature argued on the impact of these factors in causing human insecurity. The write up is a proposal paper of a PhD research being conducted in urban Kano, Nigeria. Although there are numerous issues related but these five are considered to be the most crucial. Hence, the findings are expected to indicate possible relationship with insecurity of urban Kano. The research is to be guided by Broken Windows theory (Wilson and Kelling, 1982). Meanwhile, innovative solutions may need to be initiated. An obligation that demands the participation of the general public.

Keywords: *Security/Insecurity, Poor governance, unemployment, poverty, law enforcement corruption, police inadequacies*

1. Introduction

Security is the most vital element in human's life. Without it, social, economic and political achievements cannot be attained. Immediately after the Soviet disintegration, end of cold and gulf wars in the early 1990s the global attention was diverted from territorial (traditional) to domestic (non-traditional) aspects of human security. Provision of job, income, health, environmental, food, water resources and crime prevention securities were some of the promising avenues believed to ensure human security especially within developing nations. These issues were invoked during the United Nations summit held to address the essential aspects of domestic human security (United Nations Report, 1994).

However, a number of studies have indicated the importance of human security and why it should be preserved (Slakmon, 2007; Brooks, 2010; Good, 2010; Hoogensen, 2012). Despite its vitality, security management in Nigeria seems neglected, hence deteriorated creating an insecurity upsurge (Eme 2009). In urban Kano, insecurity becomes aggravated with the 2012 deadly *Boko Haram*¹ attack on security forces (FBS, 2013²). Consequently, the security system becomes vulnerable and deteriorate in a rapid form as crime perpetrators intensify oppressions in a number of ways. This stance that turns worrisome and needs urgent address (Ayila, Oluseyi & Anas, 2014). Insecurity depends on a number of factors because security is in effect geared towards the safety of persons, property and the environment (Marfo, 2013). The major concern of this study focuses on responsible factors of internal insecurity as it opposes to the traditional military occupation (Christou, 2014).

2. Problem Statement

¹ A religious sect aiming to create an Islamic state in Nigeria.

² FBS is an acronym Nigeria's Federal Bureau of Statistics.

Insecurity situation in Nigeria becomes problematic resulting in severe physical, social and psychological consequences (Achumba, Ighomereho & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). Insecurity in the study area relates to recent statistics of NDLEA³ (2013; 2014), that shows Kano state as having the highest illicit drug consumption incidences in the country in which cases from urban Kano were the most evident. Unfortunately, it involves not only the youth across all sexes, but house wives, juveniles and old people. This as scholars argue are responsible for dangerous crimes consisting of violent⁴, property⁵ and public order⁶ types (Simpson, 2003; Jacques & Allen, 2014; Sutherland, et.al, 2015). For instance, paedophile raping statistics of 2013 alone shows hundred and seventy nine (179) cases excluding the dark figures⁷ (KSGD, 2014).

Insecurity proliferation in urban Kano relates to factors such as religious fanaticism, ethnic jingoism, illiteracy, regional sentiment and favouritism (Gofwen, 2004). Evidently, the collapse of rule of law results in a system failure giving rise to poor public governance (Ojo, 2010). This affects achievement of accountability and transparency. Other effects are lack of care for public's rights, livelihood, welfare and harmonious existence. This disorder creates a vacuum that results in more serious societal ills. One unattended factor leading to more severe factors (Wilson & Kelling, 1982).

On its failure, governance as a societal pillar gives rise to unemployment and poverty which continue to hunt the public peace (Oluwaniyi, 2011). For instance, in Nigeria the rate of unemployment shows a drastic upsurge of 5% between the years of 2008 and 2011 (CBN, 2013)⁸. This scenario forced people into crime in order to meet their survival needs (Gofwen 2004; Azahalu, Akwara, John, Morufu & Joseph, 2013). Also, issues of law enforcement corruption began to dominate (Smith, 2007). In addition, police inadequacies vis-a-vis personnel and tools emerges (Idris, 2013). Moreover, the police civilian population ratio in Kano is estimated at 1:1722 violating the standard of 1:450 set by the United Nations (Ahmed, Muhammad, Mohammed & Idris, 2011). This scenario as Blaikie (2000; 2010) argued is worth sociological investigation. Some of the innovative measures that will manage the situation include; effective rule of law, provision of employment, effective punishment and bridging the policing gaps. A task that lies in the hands of the general public.

3. Literature Review

3.1 Concept of Security/Insecurity

Security encompasses crime prevention and public policing (Craighead, 2003; Brooks, 2010). On the other hand, insecurity denotes a situation being characterized by vulnerability, fear and want, associated to feelings of powerlessness (Slakmon, 2007). The interplay of these two concepts relates to human social, economic and political life

³ An acronym for National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency saddled with management of drug related offences.

⁴ Robbery, rape, assault, gang warfare, etc.

⁵ Burglary, duping, theft, pick pocketing, etc.

⁶ Drug abuse, premarital pregnancy, homosexuality, prostitution, etc.

⁷ Refer to three categories of criminal cases. Undetected, detected unreported and detected, reported but unrecorded.

⁸ Central Bank of Nigeria recent unemployment statistics

(Hoogensen, 2012). However, current security paradigm focuses upon everyday concerns which make individuals relevant and visible (Good, 2010). Security experts believe that insecurity depends on so many factors (Button, 2009). Insecurity relate to personnel with limited training, inadequate education and absence of real commitment to professionalism (Parfomak, 2004). These hinder the effective societal security at both micro and macro levels (Button, 2009).

3.2 Crime as Insecurity Intervening Factor

Durkheim (1964) sees crime as a behaviour that shocks all healthy none the less a normal not a pathological phenomenon. It refers to the commission of acts that are forbidden, or the omission of acts required, by law and for which offenders are liable to be punished if convicted in a court of law. This implies that, criminal law is applied “uniformly to all members of the classes to which the rules refer (Siegel, 2012:13). Insecurity exist if the amount of crime goes beyond control. Kristjansson (2007) argued that the amount and types of crime being committed determine people’s safety and security. Di Masso, Castrechini and Valera (2014) maintained that urban insecurity is crime related. Rodgers (2004) contend that crime lead to urban insecurity which depend on the rate at which people are being threatened. Smith (2010) argued that the level of crime rates determine people’s insecurity which directly affect the life quality of the populace.

3.3 Insecurity Associated Factors

As mentioned earlier, several factors may be responsible for urban insecurity. However, this study considers only five which are alleged to be the most pertinent in explaining urban Kano situation

(i) Public Governance

Omodia and Aliu (2013:36) refers to governance as ‘a process of proper management of state institutions and structures to enhance socio-economic and political transformation of society’. It is also ‘a process by which a political system achieves such values as accountability, participation, transparency and respect of rule of law and due bureaucratic process through care and concern for people’s rights, livelihood, welfare, and ensuring harmonious existence by protecting their environment and future by the authorities concerned’ (Inokoba & Kumokor 2011:141).

Governance failure entails a state of anarchy (Ojo, 2010). This is a society that Durkheim believed to be characterised by crime and individualism due to weaknesses of collective consciousness and representation (Ritzer, 2003). Relative sense of normlessness increases making individuals insecure and exposed to social vulnerability (Merton, 1968). Governance failure results to the raging state of instability and insecurity (Omodia & Aliu, 2013). Therefore, its quality strongly determines vulnerability to insecurity. The inferior quality the governance and the weaker the institutions, the more likely a country is to experience insecurity (Fearon, 2011).

(ii) Unemployment

Unemployment is on the basis of a number of economically active population (ILO, 2007). Empirical evidences from Nigeria on crime/insecurity unemployment nexus indicate an increase in sectarian violence⁹ (Alexis, 2011). Meanwhile, the prevailing socio-economic environment entices unemployed youth to turn to war, crime and violence (Akande & Okuwa, 2009). Unemployment pre-disposes people to poverty, creating insecurity situation especially where youth are involved (Gofwen, 2004). Also, the rising waves of crime are the consequences being brought by unemployment (Azahalu, Akwara, John, Morufu & Joseph 2013).

Unemployment leads to the emergence of urban youths (“area boys¹⁰”) encouraging criminal behaviour (Okafor, 2011). Prostitution among young women having the risk of HIV/AIDS is another product of unemployment (Alexis, 2011). Brain drain among unemployed youth reduces the labour force and production capacity of the nation (Akande & Okuwa, 2009). The acute proliferation of unemployment in Nigeria since 1980s maintained negative consequences (Obadan & Odusola, 2001). Between the years of 2008 and 2011 alone, there was an increase of 5% unemployment in which case youth are the most affected (CBN, 2013). A scenario that force young into criminal groups (Akande & Okuwa, 2009). Evidently, all paraded members of these groups are found to be youth the (Azahalu et’ al 2013).

(iii) Poverty

It as a multidimensional concept defined as the inability to achieve certain standards. It is defined as ‘Lack of adequate food, shelter, education, and health care provision by the institutions of the state and society’, (Wolfensohn & Bourguignon 2010:119). It has been estimated that, about 1.2 billion of the world population are extremely poor who are characterised by severe deprivation of basic human needs (United Nations Report, 2009). Living in a marginal or fragile environment implies susceptibility to violence (Moore, 2007). Poor people are often exploited, frustrated and more prone to commit crime through counter cultures, destabilizing peace and abetting insecurity (Cohen, 1955).

(iv) Corruption

It is ‘the misuse of public power, office or authority for private benefit through bribery, extortion, influence, nepotism, fraud, speed money or embezzlement’ (UNDP, 1999:7). This is where public officials have a direct responsibility for the provision of public service or application of specific regulations (Akay, 2006). Aremu, Pakes and Johnstone (2011) explained factors responsible for promoting corruption among the Nigerian police. They include; the system itself, the police culture, poor remuneration, poverty, recruitment procedures and organisational climate. Lack of commitment of some government’s policies results to intensification of corruption (Holmes, 2012).

Newell (2008) concluded that, corruption is more significant in less developed countries (Africa) than developed ones (Western Europe). Memoli and Pellagata (2014)

⁹ Niger Delta militancy and *Boko Haram* insurgency.

¹⁰ A popular name given to the urban mobs (youth) in south-west Nigeria.

see corruption as systemic in the current global era. Smith (2007) added that, incidence of corruption in Nigeria is an increasingly common phenomenon amidst the general populace. Idris (2013) affirmed that there exists a perfect correlation between corruption and insecurity.

(v) Police Inadequacies

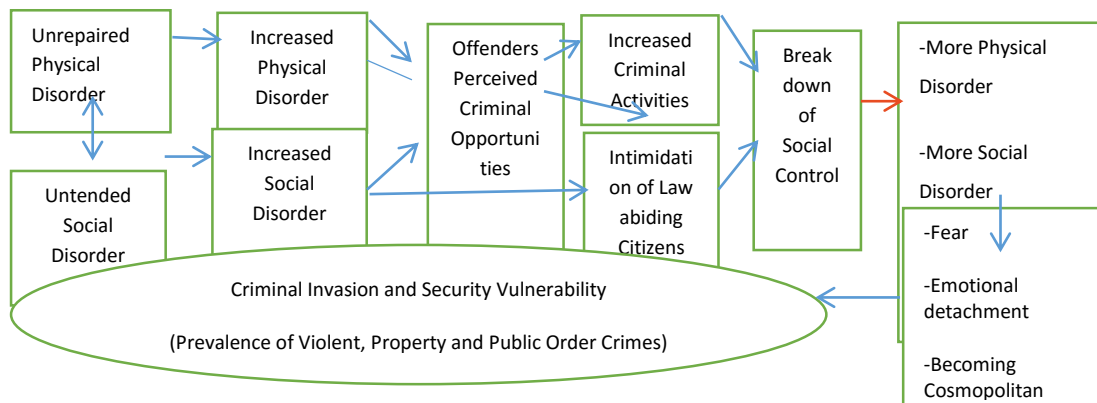
Alemika (2009:483) defined policing traditionally ‘as the diverse mechanisms or measures (consciously) employed by the community to enforce its values, norms, and rules through protective devices (target hardening), surveillance, detection, and apprehension of suspects’. Police are viewed as law enforcing agents whose main function is to provide security and maintain law and order (Ahmad et’al 2013). For police to be effective and serve the purpose for which it has been established, quality must exist (Wentz & Schlimgen, 2011). To actualise this, there must be availability of modern working devices to law enforcement agencies (Williams & Williams, 2007). Police is therefore an important segment through which human security is maintained (Nilson & Oliver 2006).

Lack of quality, adequate working gadgets and un-hygienic working environment are major problems of police force in Nigeria (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2003). Others are low commitment to duty, indiscipline, police criminal connivance, poor police-public relations, poor knowledge of law, lack of integrity and a total disregard of human rights. Okunola and Ojo (2012) added that, the major problems of police in Nigeria are resources inadequacies. Ladapo (2012) maintained that, inadequate funding is another impediment to policing in the country. Similarly, the urban Kano based GIS analysis revealed some police inadequacies (Ahmed, et al, 2013).

4. Broken Windows Theory

Wilson and Kelling (1982) attempted to explain the cause(s) and effect(s) of urban disorder. Where a window is likely to be broken at any time, must quickly be fixed if all are not to be shattered (Wilson, 1985). The general idea is that, if small problems are left unresolved, bigger problems will inevitably follow (Thatcher, 2004). Theoretically, disorder is indirectly linked to serious crimes through the process of weakened social control. These realities create “the conditions in which crime can flourish” to create insecurity (Bratton & Kelling, 2006:2). The following interprets this conceptual relationship.

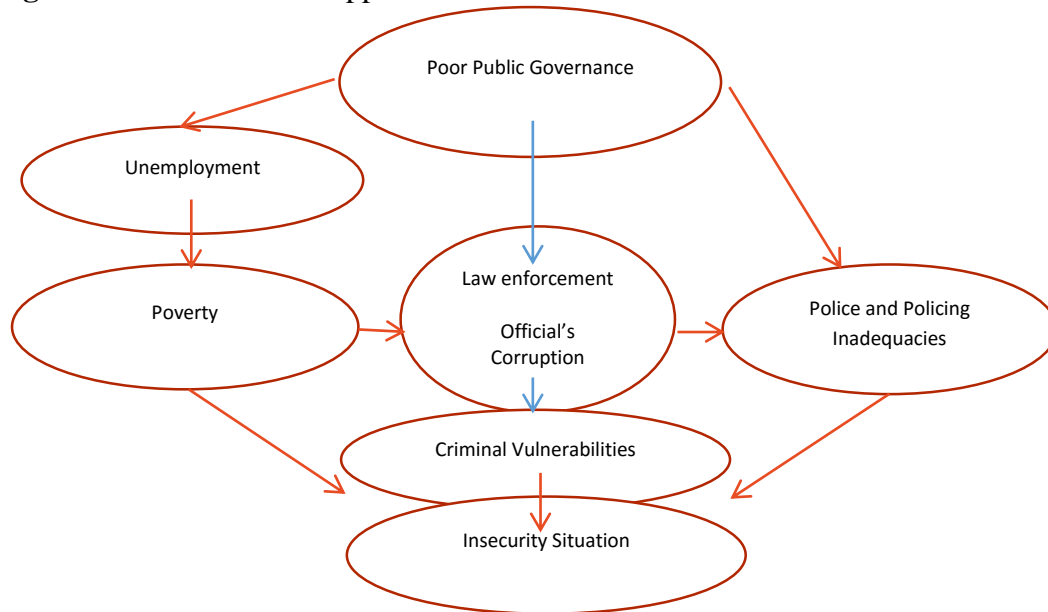
Fig. 1: Broken Windows Model



4.1 Theoretical Application on Urban Kano Insecurity

A number of theories in Criminology were developed to explain how society functions (Siegel, 2012). Based on its nature and applicability, Broken Windows theory depicts the ways in which the insecurity of urban Kano could be explained. Thus, contextually utilised to explore the relationship between the study variables.

Fig. 2: Broken Windows Application



The variables above are related in some differing ways. Theoretically, the first unrepaired *broken window* (poor public governance) led to everything. It is a pillar upon which all other societal segments depend. The theory is therefore adapted.

5. Methods

According to Blaikie (2000; 2010), a researcher is responsible for the design, collection, analysis and reporting of the data.

5.1 Data Sources: Consist of the target population of urban Kano households between the ages of eighteen (18) and above. And also the security stake holders consisting of Police, *Hisbah*¹¹ and Civil defence. Secondary data sources being utilized include books, academic journals and official documents at both state and federal levels.

5.2 Sampling: The sampling technique to be utilised in the research is non-probability (Blaikie, 2010). Purposive and snowball sampling methods will be utilised for the selection of first and second respondents' categories (Dorsten & Hotchkiss, 2005).

¹¹ Established in the year 2000 to assist the implementation of Islamic Shari'a in Kano State.

5.3 Sample size: A total of four hundred and ninety five units (495) will be selected. Four hundred and eighty (480) for the households and fifteen (15) for the security stake holders.

6. The Literature Gap

Until recently, insecurity in urban Kano was not quite challenging. As a result, it received little or no attention in the field of academics. Generally, lacking in the reviewed literature is deeper explanation on the effects of the five identified factors on human security. It only provides a surface explanation failing to satisfy a micro level analysis. A gap on which the study hopes to contribute. Thus, insecurity synonymous to urban Kano's could only be understood if it is analysed from the grassroots.

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SOCIAL SCIENCES POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR (SSPIS) 2015
e-ISBN 978-967-11473-2-0

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