

**INSECURITY IMPLICATION IN EBONYI STATE OF NIGERIA:
INTERROGATING THE HUMAN COST OF VIOLENCE 2021-2022**

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Abstract

This paper examined the impact of insecurity, interrogating the human cost of violence between 2021-2022 in Ebonyi State of Nigeria. The broad objective of the paper is to

interrogate the volume of human death recorded in Ebonyi State within the years under study as a result of violence. The paper in its investigation used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The content and descriptive analytical tools were also applied. Human needs theory was explored. The paper discovered among other things that there are high rates deaths as a result of violence in Ebonyi State. However, Ebonyi State has witnessed policy somersault on security since, creation. The paper recommends Security Trust Fund, forming Security Community advisory Committee and inclusion of security studies in primary and secondary schools etc. to avert or reduce to the bearest minimum incidence of violence in the State.

Keywords: Insecurity, Interrogating, Human Cost, Violence and Ebonyi.

Introduction bear

Fundamentally, the issue of security is vital to global peace. Global, regional and domestic statistic records show that there is no core economic growth and development without security. Insecurity is the opposite of security. Encarta dictionary (2009) defined insecurity, "as the state of being unsafe or insecure or a state of mind characterized by self-doubt and vulnerability". Global Peace Index ranked Nigeria 37 out of 44 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa, and 144 out of 163 of 99.7% in the Global peaceful deposition (Global Peace Index, 2023). The high rate of insecurity is responsible for low peace disposition in Nigeria. Nigeria is seriously challenged by different regional violence and new emerging ones. Records also show that North East from 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2016, indicates that Boko Haram conflict engulfed 32,842 fatalities, almost one-third of the 101,480 deaths in 2006-2016 (Watch database, 2016). Crime incidents such as banditry, boko haram, militancy, insurgence, farmers/herdsmen attacks and counter operational attack by security agency is more pronounce in the Northern Nigeria while communal clashes, armed robbery, piracy, cult violence, mob action, kidnapping, domestic violence, ritual killings are often experienced mostly in the Southern parts of the country.

Historically, from 2016 till date, the rate of incidence of violence in South East of Nigeria, Ebonyi State inclusive, continued to rise upwards which triggers off high level of violence in the region. The rapid increase in the emerging criminal activities as well as agitation for self independent by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Eastern Network (ESN) worsen the insecurity in the region. Ebonyi State is one of the five States in the South East of Nigeria where communal clashes, land disputes, chieftaincy issues, farmers/herdsmen, unknown gunmen

attack, banditry, local politics, hoodlums, political violence, assassin, kidnapping, domestic violence, non-state actors such as neighborhood watch, Ebuagu, Eastern security network (ESN) and indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) etc. are the core insecurity challenges emerging in Ebonyi state as well as other parts of the county. The degree of incompatibility continues to increase in Ebonyi state as a result of claim and counter claim among individuals and groups arising from unending spread of communal violent, agitations for self-independence, property ownership, unknown gunmen, kidnapping as well other emerging insecurity as mentioned above.

Since, the state creation of the state in 1996, crime and criminal activities are on the increase. The efforts by the state government, the local authorities, traditional institutions, scholars and commentators to proffer permanent solution to the persistent violence in the state continue to hit rock as lives and property are wasted on the daily bases. Scholarly studies of violence in Ebonyi from various perspectives made serious contributions to proffer permanent solutions to address the hydra-headed moister but to no avail. Such studies are devoid of comprehensives statistical data from recognized database in their descriptive and content analyses, which is the lacuna this paper addressed. Such studies included but not limited to the followings; Scholars such as Ibeogu and Nwusolor (2020), writing on electoral violence, political participation and democratic consolidation in Ebonyi State of Nigeria. 2019 election in focus, Ewa-Ibe and Iroh, (2021) Newspaper Coverage of Domestic Violence Against Women in Ebonyi Sate , Nigeria. Abada (2022) Land Management and Violent in Ebonyi State.

Others are Elem and Nweke (2018), Curbing Insecurity in Nigeria through Youths Employment and Skills Acquisition: Ebonyi State in Question .Nwoba (2022) Negotiation and Mediation as Method of Conflict Resolution: A Study of Akataka-Ekpa-Omaka and Omege-Echara Ikwo, Ebonyi State, Nigeria and Nwoba, & Nwabuko, (2022). Youth, Women and Land Conflict Resolution in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. South East etc. It is on this backdrop that the paper addresses the statistical challenges arising from the study of violence of human and economic cost in the State.

The paper is divided into six sub-headings; introduction, conceptual review, theoretical frame-work, methodology, presentation and analysis of data, conclusion and Recommendations.

Research Question

1. What are the factors that contribute to human cost of violence in Ebonyi State?

Research Hypothesis

1. There are factors that contribute to human cost of violence in Ebonyi State.

Conceptual Clarifications**Security**

Before conceptualising insecurity, it is very important that security is discussed for comprehensive understanding of the concept 'insecurity'. One of the fundamental roles of the state is to protect life and property. The state also plays minimal, developmental, socio-democratic and totalitarian roles. However, the fundamental basis for any government to exist is the first philosopher's of social contracts between the leaders and the governed (Hobbes, Locke, and Montesquieu, 1937). In the modern society, the security of life and property is core and very significant to socio-economic and political lens of development. In the contemporary world also security is critical and bases for sustenance of human life and development of individuals or groups well being.

Charas (2015) affirms that for any nation states to be responsive to the people efforts must geared toward concrete security network by deepening the vital core values and open security window to secure, contain and protect the environment for the peoples well being. For the state to have a peaceful disposition there is need to recognise largely the national interest, identity, and sovereignty which are very critical and germane for peoples well being and good life of traditional and non-traditional security (Baldwin, 1997).

Frankly speaking, the emergence of new security challenges generates more violence in Nigeria and as it is in any other parts of the globe. The violence issues are generated by individuals or groups through criminal activities such as armed rural bandits, terrorists, child abduction, violent extremists, kidnappers, militants, separatist agitators, drug traffickers, pastoralists farmers/herdsmen, others are people involving in cybercrimes, communal/land conflicts, chieftaincy tussle, labour dispute, transnational organised crimes, piracy, sea robbery, porous borders, technology problems, fake news, socio-political threats, hate speeches, environmental threats, public health,

economic, regional, and global security challenges. These result to destruction of vehicles; burning of churches, police stations, schools, hospitals, clinics, shops, army barracks, residential houses, abduction of company and industrial expatriates etc.

Insecurity

Insecurity is the opposite of security. The concept of insecurity lacks universally accepted definition by security scholars and commentators. Scholars explain insecurity relating to their various fields of discipline. Encarta dictionary (2009) defined insecurity, "as the state of being unsafe or insecure or a state of mind characterized by self-doubt and vulnerability". it ranges from issues such as mistreatment, worrisome situations; which crates fear and anxiety for individuals or groups in society. In this context insecurity means uncertainty which breeds doubt, fear, anxiety, danger, hazard, instability, and unsafe situation that lacks adequate protection of lives and property (Achumba et al, 2013).

The devastating impact of insecurity is that unsafe situation makes people to lose hope of survival, or protection from government, distorts effort of being focus, peoples missions are derailed, crate room for lost of trust. The peoples well being is at stake as these are the root of unsettlement, oppression, intimidation, marginalisation, subjugation, humiliation, and suppression in society. Above all, the people are frightened and threatened in the process to carryout lawful duties and obligations as humans in society.

Adebanjoko & Ugwuoke (2014) opine that, "insecurity is the state of being subject in every respect to terror, threat, risk, molestation, bullying, harassment, etc". In a such situation of threat, a state attempts to protect her citizens by employing arms and nuclear weapons either internal or external aggression for safety.

Statistical data from reputable database such as Global Peace Index, Nigeria Watch database and National Bureau of Statistics etc in recent years indicts Nigeria of less peaceful disposition as a result of insecurity which causes upwards rate of violence in the country. The emergence of insurgence of Boko Haram and rural banditry in the Northeast is making insecurity to become a heritage in Nigeria. The high economic impact and dangerous human cost of violence as evidence by statistical record is a practical testimony in Nigeria. Global Peace Index ranked Nigeria 37 out of 44 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa, and 144

out of 163 of 99.7% in the Global peaceful depositions (Global Peace Index, 2023). Nwoba, Elom, Obeni, Nwabuko, Omeh and Nwokposi, (2023) note that looking at the security situation in Nigeria, one is pushed to the extreme to say that the emerging security challenges which is on daily basis showing red alert and also increasing astronomically will ignites further violence which signified more violence or danger in the Nigerian polity. For example, residents of more pronounced violence areas in Nigeria are now sleeping with one eye closed, while the government appeared more confused in losing grip of the their fundamental role of protecting lives and property for the welfare and well being of the people (Emmanuel & Emily, 2019).

Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria

Poverty

The statistical data survey as recorded by Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Survey (2022) in collaboration with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the National Social Safety-Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) indicates that 63% of persons living within Nigeria (133 million people) are multidimensional poor.

As at 2022, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Survey (2022) estimated the Nigeria population to a home of 200 million people and 63% facing multidimensional poverty of over one-quarter of all possible deprivations. The spread shows that 65% of the poor (86 million people) live in the North, while 35% (nearly 47 million) live in the South. Nigerians are still cooking with dung, wood or charcoal, rather than cleaner energy, sanitation are poor, unhealthy healthcare, food insecurity, and housing problems are drastically deteriorating, if not in shambles currently. This is the bane of poverty, while the situation of abject poverty, envy continued to cause violence in the state. Sincer`ely speaking, the result of the high deprivation of human needs and non-challant attitude to the well being of the people. The youth and women mostly bear the broth in the polity as statistically stated above.

Unemployment

In 2022 available data shows that Nigeria unemployment rate

stood at 5.3 % in the fourth quarter of the year. While is 4.1 % in the first quarter of 2023 (NBS, 2023). This indicates that unemployment rate in the first quarter (Q1) of 2023 is 4.1% against 5.3% in the last quarter of 2022. In 2020 NBS shows that unemployment rate stood at 33.3 % . This is a country instead of creating more jobs and establishing industries for the current ongoing digital trade believes in the importation of finished goods in exchange of primary products for example, in last quarter of 2021, Nigeria importation from Asia stood at ₦2,743.76 billion or 46.19%, Europe, ₦2,422.41 billion or 40.78%, America, ₦571.70 billion or 9.62%, Africa ₦161.47 billion or 2.72% and Oceania, ₦41.24 billion or 0.69%, ECOWAS, ₦35.76 billion, or 0.6% National Bureau of Statistics (NBS 2021, 2022).

The rate of importation shows that the country is importing unemployment and poverty thus, the increase of violence and high human death in the country. Nigeria Export trade in Q4 2021 indicates that Europe, ₦2,408.39 billion or 41.76%, Asia (₦1,875.56 billion, or 32.52%) and Africa was ₦773.83 billion or 13.42% of total exports 0.6% National Bureau of Statistics (NBS 2021, 2022).. Even, the exportation is less to what is imported thus, the unending unemployment and underemployment which gave rise to insecurity followed by systematic deprivation of basic infrastructures which continue to frustrate individuals and groups in the country.

Corruption

Nigeria ranked 154 out of 180 in 2021 and 150 in 2022 but maintained the same score of 24 score out of the 100 points in 2021 and 2022 in the Corruption Perceptions Index (Transparency International, 2022). In academic grading rate, 24 score is a total failure and a disgrace for a giant of Africa, Nigeria. The shame translates to poverty and unemployment and distorts economic growth; therefore, Nigeria's abundant natural resources have failed to translate into economic growth for reasonable percentage of home of 200 million people to benefit in the country. Hence, corruption made Nigeria a dangerous place to live and enjoy the dividends of democracy.

However, the governments refused to squarely face the socio-economic and political realities because of the weak institutions milking the dividends of corrupt practices against the well being of humans in society. The governments at all levels work for the few privilege elite at the detriment of the entire country through an act of compromise which in turn fuel violence disputes and new emerging insurgency in all parts

of the country. The government efforts since, independence by various administrations, democratic or military regimes to ensure good governance, transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption policies continued to prove hydra-headed and now convincingly is a mirage. The current situation is that millions of Nigerians are schemed out things as well as deny their fundamental rights because of systematic corrupt practices.

For example, Murtala Mohammed Administration Code of Conduct in year 1975, Ethical Revolution of Shehu Shagari Civil Administration 1979, War Against Indiscipline and the Corruption of General Muhammadu in 1984, General Ibrahim Babangida's Mass Mobilization for self-reliance, Social Justice and Economic Recovery 1985, General Sani Abacha's failed Banks Tribunal 1994, Olusegun Obasanjo's Anti-Corruption Act in 2000 all failed woefully and replaced by a heritage of corrupt practices. The failures escalated more crisis/violence in the country. The hardship becomes worst as the economic gap between the rich and the poor widen to the chagrin of the so called common man. The economic development becomes a mirage as "*monkey dey work baboon dey chop*".

Weak Security Agencies

Nigeria is estimated to have over 220 million population but as at 2021 the population of Nigeria police stood at 371,800 personnel. The police according to Nigerian 1999 constitution is saddled with responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in the country. Presently, Nigeria personnel strength is grossly inadequate to boost manpower needs and to enhance operational efficiency. The United Nation projection could not even be met by Nigerian government. This is the scenario where almost all the security agencies in Nigeria is complaining of lack of adequate fund, equipment and personnel to contain, protect and combat the security challenges.

Other factors: Elite exploitation, tribal sentiments, religious bigotry, marginalization, Inequalities, Bad governance, poor Leadership and porous border etc. are other ways criminal activities are nurtured and people are killed indiscriminately in the county.

Violence

. Concise Oxford Dictionary defined violence as a situation where persons or groups use physical force unlawfully. It is application of

physical force which involves bullying (Olweus 1999; Smith et al., 1999). In the process of perpetuating the act of violence, the actors or actor uses the body or object available to aggressively inflict injury or beat an individual or group. The definition of violence in this regard shows that violent behaviour is no doubt truly inter-faces with aggressive behaviour (Nwoba, Elom, Obeni, Nwabuko, Omeh and Nwokoshi, 2023). However, it is process that deals with act of bullying which occurs when physical aggression is applied to individual or group in society. violence is categorised into three namely; physical, sexual, emotional abuses. These abuses are aggressive done by individuals or groups. In this context, Nwoba et al (2023) note that, "physical abuse is concerns with how child, adolescent, adult, or group injure, squeeze, burn, kick, harm, ill treat etc. in different forms such as act of punch, shake, shove, push to inflict or discomfort another persons or damage property". While sexual abuse relates to sex scandal or rape. Then, emotional deals with psychological abuse etc.

Human needs theory

The proponents of human needs theory are John Burton, Manfred Max-Neef, Johan Galtung, and Len Doyal and Ian Gough. Also, Amartya Sen's and Martha Nussbaum's respective 'capabilities approaches' have been considered extensions of needs theory. It is an approach for human well being. Robertson (1998), Deci & Ryan (2000), and Reader (2006). Jackson, Jager, and Stagl (2004) assumptions of the theory are as follows:

1. That for the survival of the people in the society there are essential needs that are necessary for the sustenance of their survival.
2. That the three basic essential needs such as shelter, food and water are not only essential needs for survival
3. That physical as well as non-physical elements are important for human survival in life such as safety, participation, security, personal fulfillment, distributive justice, belongingness, love, self-esteem, identity, cultural security, freedom (Marker 2003).

Human needs theory proponents (Rothman 1997, Maslow (1937), Kelman 1997, Burton of the theory even though there is no universal agreement on what makes up the list. Marker(2003:1) notes that, "Scholars and practioners agree that the issues of identity recognition and security are critical to most, if not all, intractable conflicts". Accordingly, Kelman (1997: 195), "argued that 'Identity,

security and similarly powerful collective needs, and the fears and concerns about survival associated with them, are often important causal factors in intergroup and inter-communal conflict". Arguing in that direction, Burton (1979) insists on the same position that human needs concern is the well being of the people and controversies over achieving expected goals ignite or/ are the root causes of conflict in society. Burton further lamented that because of evolution taking place in the society the decision makers to the own favour distance themselves from the people that are affected by the decision they make, thereby creating gap of interest manipulations that result to frustration and aggressive behaviour.

However, he warns that coercion, punishment, and threat cannot stop individual or group seeking to fulfill their expected needs because there are natural, ontological and non-negotiable in nature in society. He explains further that the limitation associated with modern technological advancement through mass communication and weapons technology weakens the states to exercise conformity with the instrumentality of coercion. The limitation and weakness opens a new window for non-state actors for easy assessment of dissident effective operation movement against the state to secure their goals, desires, and wants (Burton, 1997, Ryan 2000).

There is no doubt that the central theme of human needs theory is anchored on well being and a good quality of life (Gough 2003, Jackson 2004, Reader 2006). The central paradigm of good life is germane to the sustenance of society. Deci & Ryan (2000:229) defined needs as the "innate ... nutriments that are essential for ongoing ... growth, integrity, and well-being". Another scholar Braybrooke (1987:31), sees needs as being essential to living, may be taken as a criterion of being a basic needs. Braybrooke notes that the questions about whether needs are genuine, or well-founded, come to the end of the line when the needs have been connected with life or health." Galtung (1980: 56) writes: "In a sense, needs theories are all about well-being. There are the basic nutriments for a good life in the polity.

In the application, Nigeria and Ebonyi State in particular, is presently experiencing artificial difficulties created by alienation of decision makers and from those affected by the decision as succinctly observed by Burton (Burton, 1997). The struggle to eke life and sustenance of individuals or groups is highly based on human survival in

life. An attempt to deny or protect individuals or groups from safety, participation, security, personal fulfillment, distributive justice, belongingness and political inclusion, love, self-esteem, Identity, cultural security, and recognition of freedom is seen by people as an open invitation to violence. The basic essential needs such as shelter, food and water are not only essential needs for survival but the government failure to protect the life and property of individual or groups even the basic needs before talking of other well being for the people not only frustrating but create room for aggressive behaviour which continued to trigger violence in the state.

The government instrument of coercion, punishment, and threat by the use of state power cannot stop individual or group seeking to fulfill their expected needs because there are natural ontological and non-negotiable in nature in the state. It is on this backdrop that violence is escalating new violence threats which continue to emerge to deteriorate the peaceful disposition of the state. The evidence of empirical studies and statistical records of global Peace index and Nigeria Watch Database exposed vividly the high rate of violence human cost in Ebonyi State. (GPI 2023, Nigeria Watch Database, 2022) See, appendix 1&2.

Methodology

The paper in its investigation employed mixed methods of collection of data, by using quantitative and qualitative approaches by the inquirer. In the quantitative, explanatory design was applied. This enabled the researcher to illicit information from closed ended questionnaire from respondents who have cognate experience about human cost of violence in Ebonyi State. The researcher also used instrument of observation as a source of primary data collection to evaluate the trends of violence as well as it human cost in the state.

To compliment and achieve a comprehensive result of the study under review, qualitative approach was also employed as a secondary source of data collection. The paper in this regard used exploratory design. The design enabled the researcher to source data from relevant carefully gathered from edited books, journals, magazine and newspaper. Other secondary sources include documentary materials such as peace Global Peace index, Nigeria Watch Database committee reports, security reports, committee meetings, public and private libraries, internet materials, interviews and group focus discussions. The formation helped the researcher to support or disagree with the

objective or hypothesis of the study.

In the data analysis, content analysis of qualitative approach was used, with emphasis on the narrative analytical techniques which involve data reduction and synthesis therefore information sequence employed for analysis of data. On quantitative analysis of numerical values statistically, The study employed descriptive statistics such as simple percentage, frequency tables, and for easy understand used charts. The test of the hypothesis was done in the study. In the survey design, cross-sectional survey design was applied as a result of the fact that endogenous and exogenous variables to be measured requires experienced respondents that have cognate experiences and relevant information concerning the variables under study.

The application of cross-sectional survey is masterminded by the fact that the population to get the sample sizes are scattered in different locations among the population under study. Primary sources employed include; questionnaire instrument and observation. The population of Ebonyi State is estimated to 3,242,500 being the annual population projection of 2.5% change from 2006-2022 (City Population, 2022). Probability sampling techniques was used by applying stratified and simple random sampling techniques. Ebonyi State government was grouped in line with the existing three strata of three senatorial zones and two local governments each making it six local governments (Ebonyi, Abakaliki, IKwo, Ezza-South, Afikpo North and Onicha).

In each of the stratum, a total of sixty seven (67) questionnaires were randomly distributed in each of the six local governments with two having the 68 each. The respondents were distributed four hundred (400) questionnaire in all the strata. The respondents returned 355 questionnaires while 45 were not returned. The study applied Bowley's proportion allocation formula that is simplified formula for proportion to determine the sample size of the respondents in each of the strata of the two local governments that were administered questionnaire during the field survey study. Yamane (1967, p.886) that provided a simplified formula to calculate sample sizes of the study.

The paper applied content validity and Test-Retest Reliability test. This test enabled the researchers to test and obtain a measure of reliability by administering the same test twice over a period of time to a group of respondents. The same sample size was used for the test. Data was sourced through the instrumentality of structured questionnaire

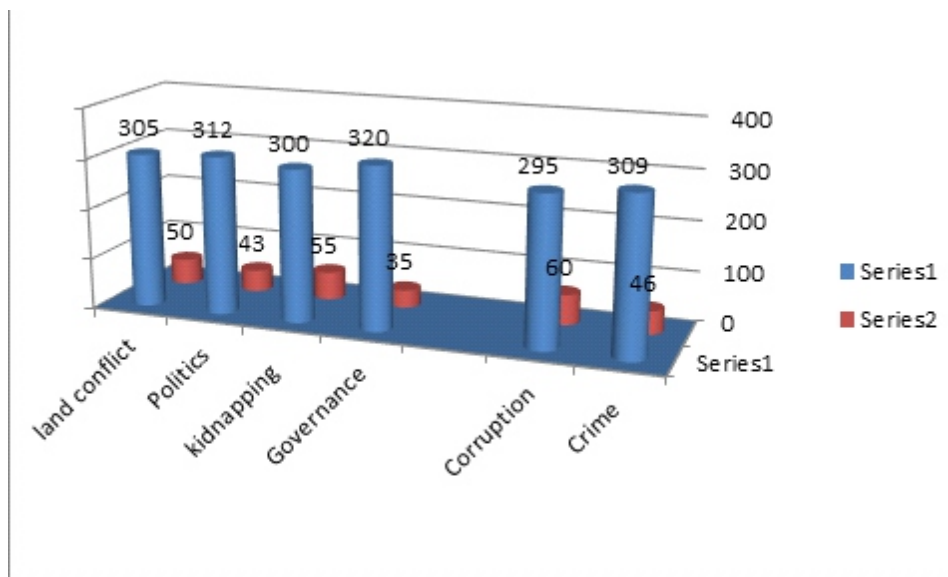
that contains two model of ' Yes' and ' No' which the inquirer distributed to the respondents. The percentage was calculated based on 'Yes' or 'No. the result was represented with histogram for easy interpretation and comprehensive understanding.

Presentation of Data

Research Hypothesis 1

1. There are factors that account for human cost of violence in Ebonyi State.

Table 1: Response of the Respondents



Nwoba et al (2023). Field Work Yes' or agreed Respondents

From the figure 1 above, 305 respondents agreed that land conflict contributed to human cost of crime while 50 respondents said No. out of 355 respondents that were used as sample size, since 45 questionnaire were not retrieved back from the respondents out of the four hundred (400) questionnaire distributed. In the second unit of measurement 312 respondents agreed that politics accounts for human cost of crime in Ebonyi State.while 43 respondent disagree. Again, in unit three (3) 300 respondents supported the fact that kidnapping is responsible for high human deaths in Ebonyi State.while 55 respondents said no. In unit, four (4) 320 respondents accepted that governance is the reason for human cost of violence in Ebonyi State. In unit five 295 respondents agreed that corruption is reasonable for

human cost in Ebonyi State. Lastly, 309 respondents accepted but 46 respondents disagreed that human cost of crime in Ebonyi State.

From the analysis of available data above, it is clear evidence through the responses that high acceptance of the five unit-indicators ranging from 320-295 respondents show the result positively. On the other side, the responses from 60-35 respondents of low non-acceptance indicate negative responses. The percentage of the respondents that said yes is higher as represented in bar chart above for easier understanding and interpretation of data in the paper.

The result of the findings show that the six unit-indicators implicated the factors that are responsible for high level of human cost of violence in Ebonyi State.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The issue of insecurity and violence is twin that is difficult to separate as insecurity leads to violence. Globally and domestically, violence is a hitch to economic growth and development. In Ebonyi State, the raise in human cost or death is responsible as shown by the indicators measured in the paper such as such bad governance, land conflict, kidnapping, and politics for supremacy, corruption, and crimes.

Ebonyi State is facing policy somersault especially in security network as well as human development challenges as educational disadvantage state, therefore, non-state actors almost hijacked the opportunity and engage in criminal activities on daily basis resulting to increase of violence as more deaths or human cost are recorded in the state caused aggressive behaviour. See-appendixes 1&2).

Recommendations

1. The government of Ebonyi State should reposition her security and educational policies and engage the middle class in developing the industrial sectors by encourage digital trade to take the low class out off streets and indirectly reduce criminal activities and human death in the state.
2. There is need for Ebonyi State to create a database that will comprise all the sectors for good governance, transparency, accountability and genuine legislation to plan, contain, protect and combat criminal activities and empower the youths through information communication technology (ICT).
3. Security studies should be introduced in primary and secondary

schools curriculum to avert the danger of violence and technical colleges should as well be equipped to meet the global best practices.

4. The government of Ebonyi State should also introduce Security Trust Fund and Community Security Advisory Committee in the state.

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