

THE IMPACT OF INDISCRIMINATE ARREST OF SUSPECTS, TARDY INVESTIGATIONS AND POOR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE ON EFFECTIVE ADJUDICATION OF INSECURITY MATTERS BY THE DELTA STATE JUDICIARY

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the challenges of the judiciary in the adjudication of insecurity cases in Nigeria with a focus on the Delta State Judiciary. This was motivated as a result of the human and infrastructural challenges affecting the adjudication of insecurity cases in Nigeria. The research addressed the problem of judiciary's inability to effectively adjudicate on insecurity cases and bring perpetrators to justice, as a result of inadequate security in courts, tardy or inefficient investigation, loss of case files, exhibits, delay in adjudicatory process, lack of deployment of ICT tools and other trials logistics needs. The challenges created by these factors on the efficient and effective adjudication of insecurity cases in Nigeria, with Delta State as a case study, is the gap this study seeks to fill. Several related literatures were revealed in line with the sub-themes of the study. The situational-action theory, the frustration-aggression and group system theory were used to explain facts generated in this study. A descriptive survey was used to collect quantitative data about the 697 objects of the population, while the sample size was 350. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents that participated in the survey. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Technique was used to test the hypothesis to determine whether or not the independent and dependent variable in the study are linearly associated. Version 2023 of the Statistical package for social science (SPSS) was used to carry out the analyses. The study concludes that the challenges of judiciary in the adjudication of insecurity cases in Nigeria are caused by indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police, amongst others. The study recommends that the state government should carry out reforms and training to tackle the problems of indiscriminate arrest of suspects and tardy investigations.

Keywords: Indiscriminate Arrest, Tardy Investigation, Insecurity Matters, Delta State Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION

Globally, the judiciary is one of the three arms of government, which includes the executive and the legislature. The existence of the three arms of government, especially in democratic societies is evidently in tandem with the doctrine of separation of powers (Peterson, 2016). The formal adoption of the principle of separation of powers was heavily influenced by the writings of French philosopher Baron de Montesquieu, who penned that -when the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty. Montesquieu stressed that for rule of law and justice to prevail, and to avoid arbitrariness and abuse of power, the powers of government have to be separated and balanced among the three branches of government, which by implication creates an enabling environment for each arm of government to use its power to check and restrain the power of the other organs. By so doing, this doctrine that has constitutional coloration will not only define the scope of power, but restrain them from abusing their powers to the detriment of individual liberty (Garry, 2022). This principle was widely applied in Western Europe and later in the

United States and the colonized states in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The above arms of government derive their powers and authorities from the constitution and they are expected to exercise same without exceeding their boundaries and to avoid arbitrariness and breach of the constitution. This has given rise to many challenges like insecurity cases owing to the tardy behaviour of police officers in the delay of criminal cases that affects the activities of the judiciary.

In specific terms, Awe cited in (Ojelu and Dania, 2021) decried that the most issue of challenge to the judiciary is that of being heavily overlaboured as many of them suffer -huge work-related illnesses|| resulting from writing about 20 to 30 articles daily using longhand and sitting on one spot for about five or six hours at a stretch under a poorly illuminated hot courtroom. The judges and judicial officers' lives have in recent times been thrown into danger. There are reports of attacks on the courts and judicial officers thereby raising worries about the security of the court premises and the lives of judges in the administration of justice in Nigeria. For instance, Robert (2017) reported that in May, 2016, Hoodlums invaded Rivers judiciary Complex, killing two persons in the attack while many escaped; again, in November 2016, there was another attack on courts in Benue State and many case files were taken away. Also, on February, 2016 there was a reported case where hoodlums invaded the Imo State Magistrates' Court III for refusing to grant bail to one David Ndulo while on 27th January 2017, some hoodlums suspected to be loyalists to one Vampire also described as King of the underworld, attacked the Owerri High court in Imo state, leading to the killing of some persons while others sustained injury. The same story goes for Niger State where the Chief Justice of the State, Justice Halima Ibrahim Abdulmalik disclosed that the activities of armed bandits have resulted in the forceful shut down of four magistrate and 11 Sharia courts in the state. Furthermore, during one of the attacks, the Registrar of Sharia Court, Ibbi, Mallam Mohammad Namaru was kidnapped by gunmen to an unknown location on April 11, 2023, and later killed by his abductors (Dennis, 2023).

The Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, in Delta State under the regime of Governor Okowa, Isaiah Bozimo and the former Chief of Defence Staff, General Leo Irabor have decried the continued delay of trial of arrested and detained suspected terrorists, bandits and other terror-related crimes suspects as undermining efforts aimed at mitigating security threats in the country. According to Irabor cited in Abdulsalami (2022) only 359 out of about 5,359 suspected bandits and terror-related actors arrested by security forces between 2017 and 2020 have been prosecuted in court. For Bozimo cited in Onabu (2023), the difficulties in the implementation of the recently passed Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) of Delta State have resulted in the continued slow pace of trial of suspects and awaiting trial syndrome leading to a situation where about 80 per cent of inmates were persons awaiting trial while only 20 per cent had been convicted. He joined forces with the United Nations Children's Fund Representative in Nigeria, Cristian Munduate to call on the federal and state governments to further restructure their judicial systems to ensure proper prosecution and punishment of bandits for their various crimes before the courts of law (Abubakar, 2023). In view of the above observations, this paper examines the impact of indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations and poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police on effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to investigate the challenges of the judiciary in the adjudication of insecurity cases in Nigeria, while the specific objective is to:

1. Examine the impact of indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations and poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police on effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State

Judiciary.

Research Question

1. To what extent will indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations and poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police Force impact on the efficacious adjudication of insecurity cases?

Research Hypothesis

1. There is no significant relationship between indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police and effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary.

Literature Review

Conceptual Literature

Concept of Separation of Powers and Independence of the Judiciary

The philosophical foundations of separation powers could be traced back to the Ancient Rome, when the Greek statesmen and historian, Polybius identified it as -mixed regime with three branches: monarchy (the consul, or chief magistrate), aristocracy (the Senate) and democracy (the people). This idea of the working of government highly influenced the modern concept of separation of powers, particularly, Montesquieu during the Enlightenment period. Thus, as posited by Onion, Sullivan, Mullen and Zapata (2023), at the peak of the Enlightenment period (1730-1780) Baron de Montesquieu built on the earlier ideas canvassed by Polybius and scientifically developed the doctrine of separation of powers via his famous work: -The Spirit of the Laws|| where he argued that the best way to prevent tyranny and despotism was through a separation of powers. In which case, different bodies of government should exercise legislative, executive and judicial power subject to the rule of law as enshrined in the constitution.

The principle of separation of powers has been found to be one of the concepts applicable to all major constitutional democracies in the world since the era of the enactment of -Magna Carter||. Be that as it may, the United States is deemed to be the first nation to adopt this doctrine of separation of powers in its constitution (Vincent, 2015 cited in Lexforti Legal News Network, 2020). It was on the strength of Montesquieu's doctrine of separation of powers that the framers of the USA constitution shared the powers of the federal government among the three branches of government: the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the judicial branch. The framers of the constitution also guarded the separation of powers with a system of checks and balances in order to prevent tyranny to the extent that none of these three arms of government would exercise excessive power (Onion et al., 2023).

In the case of Africa, the three main models of separation of powers, the American type, which is considered to come close to a -pure|| system of separation of powers, the British, which adopts an extensive fusion of powers; and the French model, in which the executive tends to predominate the other two arms of government, have influenced development in democratic jurisdictions in Africa, particularly their erstwhile colonies. The combination of Anglo-American (common law) and French (civil law) models were imposed during the colonial period and are widely applicable till date (Fombad, 2019). While the French easily transplanted their model to Africa with few changes; the British by contrast tried to adjust and adapt the model which they transmitted to Africa to the realities of a written constitution. In view of this, many features of American model were incorporated into the British model that were copied in Africa, thus, what obtains in Anglophone Africa can more appropriately be referred to as an Anglo-American model while the French model dominated the Francophone Africa with many civilian aspects of this model adopted in Hispanophone and Lusophone Africa (Fombad, 2016).

From the foregoing, we can decipher that the emergence of the Nigerian version separation of powers sprung from the received fusion of the British and American version of separation of powers which came into play in the first republic and second republic onward. While Nigeria practiced the British Westminster version of separation of powers during the first republic, the country switched to the American presidential version from the second republic to the present. This fusion has influenced to a considerable extent, the administration of criminal justice system and by extension adjudication of insecurity cases in the country. The Challenges Posed by the various stakeholders in the Administration of Criminal Justice System

A. The Nigerian Police

The Nigerian Police Force has a statutory duty to investigate any criminal allegation and take all necessary actions they think fit upon investigation. Police investigations are mainly criminal, aimed at gathering evidence for use in the proof of a criminal offence, such investigations may include taking statements from the complainants, the witnesses; collecting and securing exhibits; both real and documentary. However, it is a common knowledge that a lot of criminals walk away free from the court rooms because of some improper and shoddy performance of these duties of the Nigerian Police; the key areas of inefficiency of the Nigerian Police force include the following:

1. **Tardy investigation of cases:** Most of the complaints reported by the public to the police for investigation are not handled professionally with due diligence. They do not pay proper attention or devote much time for proper investigation that will aid prosecution. However, it must be highlighted that some of the Investigating Police Officer (I.P.O's) lack the basic legal education to ascertain the legal requirements for the proof of the elements of an offence.
2. **Indiscriminate Arrest before investigation:** The police, commonly arrest suspects before they begin to conduct any investigation in most cases. Once a complaint is lodged at the police station, some police investigators are quick to visit the crime scene and arrest every able-bodied male around there, who may not by their judgment have given reasonable explanation of their presence there. It is only after such massive arrests and manhandling of people, that the police begins interrogations and proper investigations to decipher who should be charged to court, thereby putting the cart before the horse. The result is that often times, it is difficult to adduce enough evidence to ground a conviction. Consequently, this kind of situation renders the court helpless and incapacitated because, once the court subsequently discharges and acquits the defendant, the general public would wrongly perceive that the judicial officer involved has been compromised.
3. **Arraignment of many and unnecessary persons:** The recent rise in the wave of criminality in the country today has no doubt put a lot of pressure on the Police. Therefore, when lawyers of detained suspects inundate the Police with requests for bail or procurement of charges against them in the law courts, they mostly prefer to charge all the arrested suspects to the court in a hurry, without carrying out diligent investigation.
4. **Obtaining statements from a defendant under duress or through coercion:** The resultant effect of obtaining statements involuntarily from a defendant is that, most of these statements are rendered inadmissible or of little evidential value having been obtained by inducement or coercion. The main function of the police is to elicit statements from the complainant, his witnesses and also the defendant, in line with laid down rules and established guiding principles of the law. It has been observed that in most investigations, the police rarely adhere to these rules which ensure that such statements are voluntary to avoid miscarriage of justice. The Police also have a duty to educate a defendant on his constitutional rights, before obtaining his statement whether confessional or otherwise. The consequence is that the Defendant during trial always objects to the admission of

the statement on the grounds that it is involuntary. This would then require the court spending more time in adjudication, as the Rules of the Evidence Act (2011) insists that in such a situation, the court must stop proceedings and conduct a trial within trial to ascertain the voluntariness of the statement, before continuing with proceedings. This is one of the causes of delay in the process of adjudication in the courts.

5. **Framing of wrong Charges and the Duplication of Counts by the Prosecution:** The Prosecutor, whether it is the Police, that is the Officer in charge of legal matters (OC Legal) or Counsel from Ministry of Justice often times duplicates the offences with which the Defendant is charged to court. This wastes the time and energy of the trial court and equally orchestrates delay in the administration of criminal justice, as most defence counsel would opt to make a no case submission at the end of the prosecution's case which would require a ruling of the court before proceedings may continue.

6. **Lack of Modern Forensic Knowledge:** Most of the officers deployed in the Nigeria Police force to investigate matters lack basic modern training on forensic science and methods of crime investigation. Crime detection will be made easier if the police officers investigating crimes are taught modern forensic science, it will help to develop some accuracy in the areas of identifying the culprits of crime and effectively connecting them to the crimes, thereby, securing more convictions.

7. **The Nature of the Nigerian Investigative System:**

The system of investigation in Nigeria is mainly reactionary, rather than being proactive. These security agencies do not work on intelligence reports from communities and people in the neighbourhood, but wait until after the commission of crime and the hoodlums have long gone before they arrive the crime scene to begin investigation.

8. **Lack or inability to deploy Information Technology Tools in investigation and prosecution:** The Nigerian Police force sparsely deploys digital technology tools for the investigation and prosecution of high-profile insecurity cases. Considering the recent attacks on the Black Marias of the Nigerian Correctional Centres that takes Defendants in high profile cases to the courts for trials, it has become necessary to seriously adopt virtual means of conducting trials where possible. This would reduce to the barest minimum the risk of moving the Defendants in high profile security cases from one location to another. Most times, the movement of such persons to the Court for trial requires a large deployment of heavily armed soldiers and police officers, which may not always be available and thereby, stalls and prolongs trials. Such situations create an impression that some judicial officers are always in the habit of adjourning cases before them and asking the lawyers and litigants to take a date, which creates a wrong image for the judiciary.

9. **Frequent loss and misplacement of case files:** In most states, including Delta State that have enacted/domesticated the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (2015), the police officers who are not lawyers can no longer prosecute criminal matters. But often times in the process of duplicating the case files for transmission to the Ministry of Justice, some files got lost or misplaced. The Nigerian Police basically lack a digital means of tracking case files in the process of transmission to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution. The effect is that some of the files in the process of duplication and transmission are not properly accounted for; resulting in Defendants being left in detention for a very long period, while such issues are being sorted out.

10. **Constant transfers of Investigating Police Officers (IPO's):** It is common knowledge that most junior officers in the police force can be transferred from one geo-political zone of the country to another easily, because of the federal nature of the Nigerian Police Force. Equally, their transfers are more frequent than those of the senior officers. However, little or no consideration of the cases they

are presently handling is taken into account in conducting such exercises, as oftentimes, such cases have to be started de-novo, and this always has a prolonged negative effect on cases. This is such an unfortunate situation as the signals always provides for immediate redeployment and the affected officers hardly have enough time to handover properly before leaving. This could really frustrate proceedings as the new officers may not be able to continue the prosecution diligently as required.

11. **Extra-judicial Killing by the Police:** There have been widespread reports of some Police Officers being involved in the killing of suspects, especially before the disbandment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). When the Police most times finally arrest a notorious criminal suspect that they have been trailing for a long time, even if it is for a simple offence, they get so impatient, and most times do not want to wait for the due process of the law to take its course, but take the laws into their hands by alleging that such a suspect while attempting to escape custody was shot dead. When a suspect is killed extra-judicially by the police, it ends the case against such person, and as a result, the revelations, information and disclosures that would have been exposed by such a person are permanently lost.

12. **Inability of the Police to respond to distress calls:** The non-existence of dedicated and functional telephone lines for quick responses by the Nigerian Police force all over the country, especially in remote areas to distress calls, in no small way hampers the efficiency of the Nigerian Police. Most of the telephone numbers displayed as police call lines are most times non-functional and not highly publicized. The average educated Nigerian is oblivious of them, thus, crime reporting and the soliciting for the assistance of eye witnesses is thereby greatly hindered. Equally, often times, the Nigeria Police force complains of lack of personnel and operational vehicles to visit crime scenes, and even to apprehend suspects.

13. **Lack of Confidence in the Security Agencies for the Protection of Informants and Witnesses:** The Nigerian Police Force has a serious image problem as many Nigerians are skeptical of supplying vital information to them, because some of them have been known to leak their sources of information to the suspects thereby, endangering the lives of such persons. There is lack of mutual trust between the citizens and the Nigerian Police Force. Consequently, in most court trials, the prosecution finds it difficult to convince witnesses to testify and therefore are unable to adduce sufficient evidence in proof of their cases.

14. **Contamination and tampering with crime scenes:** The late arrival of the Police Personnel at crimes scenes allows time for ignorant on-lookers to tamper with items and would-be exhibits at the crime scenes and thereby distort the investigation processes, and in turn hamper proper prosecution. This consequently, frustrates proper adjudication.

15. **Improper investigation of Alibis, as a defence by a Defendant:** The prosecution has a duty to investigate a defendant's defence of alibi, but this is only when such alibi is set up at the earliest opportunity during the investigation stage, preferably in the defendant's statement to the police. An alibi raised for the first time, at the trial when giving evidence would most likely be considered as an afterthought with little or no evidential value attached to it.

Most times, if the defence of alibi proffered by a Defendant is not properly investigated by the investigating police officers; this becomes a lapse in the case of the prosecution and creates doubt in the mind of the court about the innocence or guilt of the Defendant. This is very frustrating in adjudication because as is trite in law, no court can convict a Defendant when it is not proved beyond reasonable doubt that he committed the said offence.

Theoretical Framework

The Group System Theory is an off-shoot of General System Theory (GST) which was first contrived

by a biologist, Ludwig von Bertalanffy, in the 1940s (von Bertalanffy 1968). von Bertalanffy referred to his theory as “a general science of wholeness” (von Bertalanffy, 1968, p.37), and his basic contention was that there is a similarity of structure across biological organisms that extends from the micro level to the macro level, including cells, human beings, human social groups and organizations, and whole societies (von Bertalanffy, 1951; 1968). His interdisciplinary theory also included views of how systemic structures and boundaries usually function, as well as the need to consider the whole as greater than the sum of its parts (Holism). von Bertalanffy proposed a number of ideas about how systems work (including their dynamic, ever-changing nature), their evolution to greater complexity through a process known as self-organization, and their self-stabilizing energy dynamics, similar to that which later became known as homeostasis.

In the recent times, particularly in 21st century, von Bertalanffy's General System Theory (1951; 1968) has been adapted into what has become known as “Systems Theory,” an interdisciplinary approach that has generated applications in a growing number of fields, including philosophy, mathematics, engineering, ecological sciences, management, social sciences, and family therapy (Heylighen & Joslyn, 2000). There have also been systems-offspring theories such as Autopoiesis (Mingers, 1995), Living Systems Theory, Systems Design, Critical Systems Thinking (Banathy, 2004), and a number of theories that fit under the category of Family Systems Theory, which includes Group Theory, which is the focal theory in this study. Systems theory emphasizes on the holistic nature of organisms and their functioning in that no individual or group operates in isolation, thus, members are dynamically interdependent, and that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts (von Bertalanffy, 1951; 1968). In group systems thinking, a whole group view is more important than the deepest understanding of individual members. Group systems theory holds that the first consideration in examining any group or organization is the good of the whole group, while always bearing in mind the good of its members and the environment; the larger system or systems that sustain it. In short, group systems practitioners focus on “big picture” thinking. Furthermore, group system theory sees elements within the system as interdependent and that systems at all levels are interdependent on each other.

Interdependence in group systems theory is the assumption that all members of a group are interdependent with each other and that all groups are interdependent within and between system levels (from the individual members to the greater world of concern). In this context, each member of a group plays an essential part in group dynamics and health, and what happens with one member affects them all. Therefore, for there to be optimal functioning of the group, it requires a balance of energy and a relative equality between members. Also, of concern to Group System theorists is the issue of complementarity, which emphasizes that the differences in perspectives and goals that members have within a group will be complementary and that all views provide important information about the system and should be considered, without which there will be dysfunction of the system. Besides, each system has structure and sub-structures with boundaries as defined by power structure that control or guide administrative decisions about input and output in the system.

Under the Group System Theory, systemic structure is conceptualized as every system being a member of another system, and every member of a system as a system in itself. System characteristics apply at every level, from the intracellular level to the individual, to groups, communities, nations and ultimately to the universe. Structural elements within groups include norms, goals, and implicit or explicit decisions about what may be talked about and what may be done or not done. Boundaries. Boundaries are the limits that define an entity or group, and they are dynamically opened or closed to allow, or not allow, input from and export to the environment. Systems theory describes the purpose

of boundaries as maintaining integrity of the group (Caple, 1985) and maintains that separation helps focus group energy to ensure the survival of the group entity. General System Theory maintains that boundaries of living systems must be permeable and flexible to allow in new information, which naturally leads to changes in the structure and dynamics. As the elements or subunits interact, the system receives input from the environment that is both positive and negative in character. Negative feedback is seen as energy or information that supports the current system balance, or homeostasis, while positive feedback is that which stresses or challenges the system, causing it to adapt and possibly develop greater complexity, or change to a higher order (Caple, 1985).

The Judiciary does not operate in a vacuum. Rather it operates in a social system with other stakeholders including the executive whose duty is to enforce the criminal law through the Nigerian Police, other security agencies, the correction centres and the legislative body which makes laws guiding the criminal justice system. Thus, for there to be effective criminal jurisdiction, particularly in the adjudication of insecurity cases, each of these stakeholders must function effectively, without which, the work of the judiciary would be jeopardized. It follows that the criminal justice system under the Group System Theory is viewed as social system with a set of interdependent elements trying to function as a unified whole to maintain order, safe, secure and stable society (equilibrium). The criminal justice system is connected to the judiciary and an aspect of the judicial system, but not the totality of what the judiciary does. By implication, the judiciary does not operate in the criminal justice system (which is just a core aspect of it).

This system of criminal justice is constantly facing continuous challenges in the internal environment and outside of the environment as well. These include the breakdown of the security architecture leading to widescale insecurity, in terms of the spate of violent crimes that seems to overwhelm the security agencies, prison congestion and overwhelming number of insecurity cases to be handled in the court, resulting to series of adjournments.

Research Method

The research design for the study was descriptive survey. A descriptive survey is used to gather quantitative data about objects in a population (people and institutions), and it enables the researcher to gather information from the research subjects (people used in the study) by using instruments like interviews, questionnaires, document reviews, online resources, and participant observation in order to get the pertinent data by closely observing the sample (Gibson, 2019). The population of the study comprised of 40 Judicial Officers, 25 Revenue Court Judges, 112 Magistrates, 104 Area/District Customary Court Chairman, 416 Registrars. The total population of the study is six hundred and ninety-seven (697). The sample of the study consisted of three hundred and fifty (350) officers of the Delta State judiciary that was drawn from the five different aforementioned cadres above. Stratified random sampling technique was used to group the officers into different cadres in the judiciary. The Judges were selected from both the High Courts and Customary Court of Appeal across the various judicial divisions in the three Senatorial Districts of the State. Equally, Revenue Court Judges, Magistrates, Area/District Courts' Customary Chairmen, as well as Registrars were selected from the various judicial divisions of the sampled Local Government Areas in the three Senatorial Districts. The instrument that was used for data collection is the structured questionnaire titled: judiciary and insecurity questionnaire. All the research questions were answered using mean and standard

deviation. While all the research hypothesis was tested for significant relationship at 0.05 level of significance using Pearson Product Moment Correlation technique.

Analysis of Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

		Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	180	54.2
	Females	152	45.8
	Total	332	100.0
Educational Qualification	OND	55	16.6
	HND/B.A/B.Sc.	118	35.5
	LL.B & BL	114	34.3
	LL.M/M.A/M.Sc.	40	12.0
	LL.D/PhD	5	1.5
	Total	332	100.0
Official Designation	Registrars	37	11.1
	District Court Chairmen	35	10.4
	Area Court Chairmen	49	14.8
	Magistrates	48	14.5
	Revenue Court Judges	35	10.5
	Deputy/Chief Registrars	47	14.2
	Judicial Officers	81	24.4
	Total	332	100.0
Grade Level/Cadre	Level 5	22	6.6
	Level 8	25	7.5
	Level 9	31	9.3
	Level 10	43	13.0
	Level 12	38	11.4
	Level 13	32	9.6
	Level 14	36	10.8
	Level 15	27	8.1
	Level 16	18	5.4
	Consolidated	39	11.7
	17.00	21	6.3
	Total	332	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2023

Table 4.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents that participated in the survey. On sex distribution, majority of the respondents are males with 54.2% and females with 45.8%. Educational distribution shows that majority of them have HND/B.A/B.Sc. degree with 35.5% followed by those who have LL.B & BL with 34.3%, next is those OND degree with 16.6% and those with LL.M/M.A/M.Sc. with 12% and LL.D/PhD with 1.5%. Official

designation of the respondents revealed that majority of them are judicial officers with 24.4%. Others are registrar with 11.1%, District Court Chairmen with 10.4%, Area Court chairmen with 14.8%, Magistrates with 14.5%, Revenue Court judges with 10.5%, and Deputy Chief Registrar with 14.2%. Grade level of the respondents indicates that majority of them are in level 10 with 13.0%. The level of other respondents that participated in the survey are level 5 with 6.6%, level 8 with 7.5%, level 9 with 9.3%, level 12 with 11.4%, level 13 with 9.6%, level 14 with 10.8%, level 15 with 8.1%, level 16 with 5.4%, consolidated with 11.7% and 17 with 6.3%. The table shows that majority of the respondents are males with HND/B.A/B.Sc. degree working as judicial officers with level 10.

Analysis of Research Question and Test of Hypothesis

To what extent will indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations and poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police Force impact on the efficacious adjudication of insecurity cases?

Table 4.2: Respondents' responses on the extent to which indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations and poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police Force impact on the efficacious adjudication of insecurity cases

ITEMS	Mean	Std Deviation	Remark
The practice of indiscriminate arrest of numerous suspects and arraignment without specific investigation to connect them to the offences charged makes prosecution cumbersome.	2.51	.46351	Positive
Shoddy investigations of crimes, crime scenes, defences of Defendants, e.g. (Alibis), non-deployment of proper legal procedures for obtaining confessional statements mar diligent prosecution and adjudication by the Delta State Judiciary.	2.56	.69774	Positive
The often inadequate or incomplete investigation of crimes before arraignment in courts by the Nigeria Police Force is a main challenge to effective adjudication by the Delta State Judiciary.	2.57	.62779	Positive
The frequent inability of the Nigerian Police Force to deploy modern forensic science in crime investigation makes it difficult to connect suspects with the offences charged in the Delta State Judiciary.	2.67	3.11978	Positive
The minimal deployment of high technological equipment, for investigation, tracking and surveillance by the Nigeria Police Force hinders the successful prosecution of insecurity cases in the Delta State Judiciary.	2.57	.68292	Positive
The police frequent parade or exposure of	2.09	2.59787	Negative

defendants in insecurity cases to press and social media trials affect unbiased adjudication by the Delta State Judiciary.			
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Source: Fieldwork, 2023

The mean scores and standard deviation analyses on the extent indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations and poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police Force impacts on the efficacious adjudication of insecurity cases are displayed by the results obtained in table 4.2. The mean result of 2.51 obtained for the first item in the table shows that respondents agreed that the practice of indiscriminate arrest of numerous suspects and arraignment without specific investigation to connect them to the offences charged makes prosecution cumbersome. The mean result of 2.56 for the second item showed that shoddy investigations of crimes, crime scenes, defence of defendants, e.g. (Alibis), non-deployment of proper legal procedures for obtaining confessional statements mar diligent prosecution and even adjudication by the Delta State judiciary. The mean result of 2.57 for the third item in the table reveals that the often inadequate/incomplete investigation of crimes before arraignment in courts by the Nigeria Police Force is a challenge to effective adjudication by the Delta State judiciary. The mean result of 2.67 obtained for the fourth item in the table shows that the frequent inability of the Nigerian Police Force to deploy modern forensic science in crime investigation makes it difficult to connect suspects with the offences charged in Delta State Judiciary. Similarly, the mean result of 2.57 obtained for the fifth item in the table indicates that respondents stated that the minimal deployment of high technological equipment, for investigation, tracking and surveillance by the Nigeria Police Force hinders the successful prosecution of insecurity cases in the courts in the Delta State Judiciary. Data from the table (mean score of 2.09) shows that the police frequent parade/ exposure of defendants in insecurity cases to press and social media trials affect unbiased adjudication by the Delta State judiciary. Based on the results obtained from the table, it can be argued that indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations and poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police Force impact on the efficacious adjudication of insecurity cases. The standard deviation results for the second item (.69774), third item (.62779) and fifth item (.68292) show convergence and that for the fourth item (3.11978) and sixth item (1.09787) show convergence followed by first item (.46351). This implies that although the respondents attested to the factuality of the items, they were surer of item four and six. This can be justified by them having the highest mean results.

Hypothesis

Ho: There is no significant relationship between indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police and effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary.

Table 4.3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation for the relationship between indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police and effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary

	Indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police	Effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary
Indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N 1 332	.233* .002 332
Effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N .233* .002 332	1 332

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The result from table 4.3 shows that the Pearson correlation coefficient value is .233 and the probability value is .002 and this is significant at 0.05 level of significance. The result from the table shows that the P value score of 0.02 is significant at r statistical value of .233 since it is greater than the accepted significant level of 0.05. Therefore the null hypothesis which says that there is no significant relationship between indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police and effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary is rejected. This implies that the indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police affects the effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary.

Discussion of Findings

Findings from the first hypothesis tested revealed that there is a significant relationship between indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian Police and effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State judiciary. Agbor (2015) assessed the role of the judiciary in the promotion of democracy and human rights in Cameroon. The research by Agbor aligns with some aspects of this finding because indiscriminate arrest of suspects, and tardy investigation are areas of fundamental human rights that are frequently being violated by the Police which affects the role of the judiciary to mete out justice appropriately. The work of Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2020) on the challenges confronting the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria, though in contrast with the finding of the study did establish that the criminal justice system that covers both police and court is bedeviled by certain challenges that affect their performance effectively.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that the challenges of the judiciary in the adjudication of insecurity cases in Nigeria, particularly Delta State are caused by the sundry problems itemized below. These are discussed in line with the result of the hypothesis. The study concludes that there is a significant relationship between indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian police and effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary.

RECOMMENDATION

Government should carry out reforms and training to tackle the problems of indiscriminate arrest of suspects, tardy investigations, poor technological capacity of the Nigerian police in order for effective adjudication of insecurity matters by the Delta State Judiciary.

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