

**INSECURITY MANAGEMENT REVIEW ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN IMO STATE,
NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Leveraging management for insecurity elimination, socio-economic activities and industrial investments can thrive in a state. But the absence of security can deprive the state from experiencing deepened economic growth. The paper deliberated on insecurity management review on industrial development in Imo State. The objectives of the paper are to investigate the effect of internal insecurity that negatively affects industry and economic growth as well as to determine the insecurity management strategy that positively impact industrial and economic growth in Imo State. The strain theory, and cross-sectional research design were adopted while purposively administering 60 copies of questionnaires designed in four Likert format to an observed number of 60 respondents from Imo State. The finding of this study reveals that the effect of internal insecurity negatively affects industry and economic growth in Imo State as most businesses are on lock down in the State every Monday, and that insecurity management positively impact industrial and economic growth in Imo State. Based on the findings, the study recommends that Government should recruit and train internal security operatives for intelligence gathering, who will supply the law enforcement agencies with relevant information, and to empower the operatives with necessary security gadgets, and to charge the internal security operatives to sustain peacebuilding efforts for a peaceful environment that promotes investment, economic and industrial growth in Imo State, and that Government should establish a security management commission that will periodically initiate policies, strategies and processes that can de-escalate insecurity threats, and to evaluate the efforts of the internal security operatives to promote industry investment and economic growth in Imo State.

Keywords: Insecurity, Management, Review, Industrial, Development

Introduction

The Imo State government, under the governance of distinguish Senator Hope Uzodimma in recent times seems to have achieved some level of security stability in the state after being unwavering in its aim for industrial development, economic improvement, infrastructural development, and making conscientious effort in safeguarding people's lives and property, even as it addresses ethno-sectorial crises, political instability, security challenges, and the attainment of peaceful co-existence, implementing innovative development and economic policies which have recorded viable, stable and higher investment opportunities for economic growth in the southeast region of Nigeria. The Imo State government is viewed as taking important preventive and proactive steps in reeling out policies that can deter bandits, internet fraudsters, kidnappers, assassins, herdsmen farm invasion, drug dealers, armed robbery, and witch doctors, as well as other potential criminal elements that can ravage the entire residential and industrial areas of the state.

As it is known that in any contemporary habitation of humans, it is the prerogative of government at all levels to secure lives and property for the industrial and socioeconomic growth and survival of peoples in the society. Insecurity is a threat to human existence, even as security remains the most crucial demand for all humans (Zubairu, 2020). The absence of security in any given society can bedevil such society from experiencing social cohesion, economic growth, industrial investment, political stability, and development will elude such society (Charas, 2015). Therefore, securing people's lives and properties at any time, and in any country is the evidence of a responsible government. Moreover, this responsibility is enshrined and recommended in Section 14(b) of the

1999 Nigerian Constitution as amended, which postulates that the primary purpose of the local, state and federal government is to adhere to the provision of security as well as being concerned about the welfare of every citizen of the country (Ewepu, 2021).

Leveraging management for insecurity elimination, socio-economic activities and industrial investments can thrive in the state. But the absence of security can deprive a state from experiencing deepened economic growth (Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim, 2013). Furthermore, insecurity in all ramifications possesses destructive consequences on infrastructures and resources required for industrial investment and economic growth in a state. Therefore, managing insecurity obviously requires huge government spendings and resources. Curbing insecurity and all of its effects on existing infrastructure, investments, industries, and lives of citizens needs the combine efforts and commitment of government in outlining policies commensurate to fighting insecurity, mobilizing of security operatives, engaging of traditional rulers, community people, peacebuilding education, and youth leaders. Insecurity management should be viewed as a critical issue that must be addressed across countries. The negative effects of insecurity are far-reaching because it defeats efforts toward improving industry investment, socioeconomic growth, development as well as political stability.

Looking at the devastations that are caused by insecurity, and the significant social costs on the industries as well as the long-lasting implications it may have on the economy, it becomes imperative to saddle long-lasting policies, and enforcement of rules and regulations for security as well as the full engagement of relevant security operatives at the grassroots levels for security sustainability. In addition, having understanding on the impact of insecurity on industry investments, it requires calculative approaches that puts into consideration the encumbrances to effective control of the menace of insecurity. It should be known that at all levels, insecurity is a major setback to economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa. More significantly, insecurity poses serious threats to industrial investments, economic stability and growth, social and political stability amid associated conflicts that erupts consequentially (Adeleke & Omotor, 2019). The incidences of insecurity can keep deterring businesses as well as prospective and potential local or foreign investors, thereby triggering economic collapse. In addition, several rural and urban economic activities are disrupted by insecurity, compelling them to operate with fear. Insecurity have resulted to many employees losing their means of livelihood, making others to remain unemployed, and declining the state's socioeconomic activities.

At the global view, scholars have established linkage between insecurity and industrial development, indicating how violent conflicts, internal crisis as well as terrorism can prevent economic growth (Naudé et. al., 2017). Studies have also observed the link between insecurity and economic investment at the global perspective, revealing the negative consequences of crisis and violence on industrial and economic growth. Meanwhile, Fajnzylber et. al., (2022) observed that increases in insecurity rates were linked with low industrial investment, and a decline in economic advancement in Latin America. More still, insecurity can have negative effects on individuals and institutions (Mauro, 1995). In overall, studies also suggests that in addressing insecurity, it may require the coordinated efforts of government and security institutions at all levels, and the affiliation with international agencies to promote a collaborated playground for sustainable economic development. For Naudé et. al., (2017), insecurity prompts reduction on investors trust, confidence, as well as discouraging of entrepreneurs, limits innovative drives and prevents job creation goals. To this end, insecurity also affects critical infrastructures, results to disruptions of vital services as well as causes low economic progress (Abadie & Gardeazabal, 2003).

It is a necessity to improve industry investment and economic advancement. To achieve this, the role of government in policy making and implementation cannot be overemphasized. The provision of safe environment and peaceful atmosphere for manufacturing of goods and services through strategic enforcement of rules and regulations by security agencies are all important for economic growth. It is therefore pivotal perhaps, to increase public security for public investment. This effort can ensure efficiency and confidence in attracting local and foreign investors for industrial and economic growth. In another perspective, management of internal insecurity may also require the

participation of local vigilante groups that are knowledgeable and well informed of the local terrain. However, vigilante groups are regarded as non-state internal security actors. In general, the involvement of vigilante groups alongside other non-state security actors can also provide security in the State.

Studies have shown the negative impacts of insecurity on economic growth across states in Nigeria, indicating a total decline on local and foreign investment rates, trade, and job creation. Moreover, the pace of industrial investment in Imo State appears to have received little attention in research. It is against these backdrops that the study seeks to fill in this knowledge gap as it examines the influence of insecurity on industry investment for economic growth in Imo State from a wider perspective, encompassing security policies, collaboration of security operatives as well as roles and participation of local leaders in ensuring the management of insecurity for industry investment. Beyond this, the study also intends to offer a more comprehensive interrogation on causes of internal insecurity, outcomes of internal insecurity on industries investments, the influence of government on security management as well as the advantage of security management in Imo State.

Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate the effect of internal insecurity that negatively affects industry and economic growth in Imo State.
2. To determine the insecurity management that positively impact on industrial and economic growth in Imo State

Research Questions

1. What is the effect of internal insecurity that negatively affect industry and economic growth in Imo State?
2. What is the insecurity management strategy that positively impact on industrial and economic growth in Imo State?

Conceptualizing Internal Insecurity

The term internal insecurity describes the lack of internal safety, exposure to danger, and the failure to offer protection to individuals, infrastructures and resources in given location. Insecurity is also a condition of fear, feeling of anxiety and worry due to absence of security. Insecurity exposes people to danger, and other conditions that can harm, injure or put individuals at risk and other misfortunes (Achumba, 2013). Insecurity is on the rise across the Nigerian states, and the governments are left to carter for the intense pressure toward guaranteeing the security of individuals and properties of citizens of the nation (Adegbami, 2013). Therefore, tackling insecurity situations such as kidnapping, terrorism, human trafficking, armed robbery, banditry, hostage taking, and Islamic extremism can pave the way for industrial and economic improvement.

In Imo state, the previous incidences of insecurity that were reported appears to be multifaceted and multidimensional. The killings of prominent politicians and businessmen by unknown gunmen are the few cases indicating the internal insecurity level. This suggest that the forms of insecurity in the state are the activities of assassins, alleged separatists, and aggrieved politicians (Lister, 2012). Insecurity attest to the weakening of potential investors, prospective businesses as well as existing businesses that are struggling to survive. In other words, insecurity deeply affect business activities. A study by World Bank on investment in 9 different African countries observed that 29% of investors as well as 36% of local and foreign investors across Nigeria affirmed that insecurity is the key factor to the decline of investment level in Africa and Nigeria (World Investment Report, 2018).

Insecurity has not only resulted to decline of over 50% of small and medium scale businesses, but it has contributed to the limitation of distribution of raw materials. In addition, it has also affected the labour market force as well as increasing the cost of doing business in the state. It has been observed that consumer goods producing firms are affected directly by insecurity because of inaccessibility to raw materials as well as low customer's patronage. At the state and local

governments levels, the imposition of curfew lead to early closure of businesses, and this can pause financial inflow and transactions from most financial institutions (Somendra & Mahapatra, 2018). According to Imobighe (2003), the conditions of internal insecurity across Nigeria include: religious extremism, political intolerance, unequal management or control of natural resources, sabotage, subversion, espionage, marginalization, terrorism, smuggling, armed robbery, mutiny, civil unrest, and herdsmen disruption of farming activities that affect agriculture produce. Meanwhile, some common descriptions of insecurity opined by Achumba et. al., (2013) are, want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of safety, doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, lack of safety and stability, lack of protection, and ethnic and political intolerance.

Accordingly, Igbuzor (2011) opined that the boisterous atmosphere of insecurity in a nation is a symptom of failure in governance. This also reveals government inability to deliver to the public basic services such as infrastructures, good transport systems, roads, security, food security, employment, and educational facilities. The insufficiency and inaccessibility of these basic needs in the country has generated a pool of frustrated individuals that can easily be tossed to adapt to violent acts. The bedeviling corrupt behaviour of personnels in government who holds various offices has contributed in making it difficult for government to provide the basic necessities that advances a nation forward. According to Hazen & Horner (2007) Nigeria is classified as a very rich country with plenty of resources and lots of poor citizens. As there are more poor persons in the country, the level of insecurity can keep rising overtime. Therefore, insecurity of lives and properties can penetrate to every corner and fabrics of the society. In addition, the pervasive nature and unfair distribution of scarce material resources, and the inequalities in the distribution of public offices is viewed by certain individuals as deprivation of basic rights and necessities.

The inequality and disparity in accessibility to opportunities, and the accumulations or control of material, financial and economic resources are viewed as probable causes of insecurity across Nigeria. The unfair and unjust treatment given to fellow citizens by those who indulge in primitive accumulation and embezzlement plunges most youths into violent crises as well as making a number of individuals to resort to insecurity mayhem. Furthermore, certain persons may also have the perception of being marginalized by certain government policies that may not favour them. On the other hand, delay of infrastructural development, and lack of employment opportunities may contribute in causing disaffection, grievance or resentment. However, Onuoha (2011) opines that majority of individuals in Nigerian feel frustrated or may have lost hope in the country. A bunch of youths in south east Nigeria have begun to tread the path of secession which have been viewed to be the alternative to a better country. As a result of this approach, insecurity level has risen and violence has interfaced this struggle.

Role of Government in Managing Insecurity and Maintaining Security

Ever in history, the managing and maintenance of security in society has broadly remained the responsibility of both local, state and federal governments. As insecurity erupts at any given time and place, the duty of a legitimate government is to install the measures that are capable of eliminating the menace of insecurity. Through proper intelligence gathering as well as tactical surveillance, the law enforcement personnels can become more proactive and well ready to quell present day and potential incidences of crime. In addition, interventional training of these security and law enforcers can offer the capacity to prevent potential crime as well as to halt the spreading of crime and violence. Confronting insecurity requires a more formidable force against the perpetrators of crime rather than compromising with criminals against the security and safety of all citizens in the society. It is obligatory for government and its security agencies to stand tall against insecurity rather than just being reactive to occurrences of insecurity. More so, Achumba et. al., (2013) opines that the condition of insecurity requires evolutionary approaches on the basis of creditable and sufficient intelligence gathering to enable the identification, technique and equipment needed to combat the prevalent causes of the insecurity.

The engagement of security personnels must be with the recognition of the need to encourage security intelligence gathering, training for capacity building, acquisition of trending security gadgets, modern facilities, and patrol cars and vehicles. In modern times, most nations and organization have adapted to using Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and drones to assist security personnels. According to the postulation of Achumba et. al., (2013), government are obliged to provide cameras in public places such as markets, schools, industrial areas and streets to properly monitor, manage as well as maintain the security of the environment and citizens. The modernization of security outfits, thorough training, peacebuilding education, and capacity building of law enforcement agents, intelligence gathering and sharing, procurement of modern security technology, funds for logistics, security personnels motivation, regular orientation and incentives that can afford security personnel the capacity to surmount insecurity at any given time.

Ogbeche (2012) argued that insecurity management is the primary obligation of government. Hence, the insecurity in Nigeria is really broad to be handled by government alone. Instead of leaving the government alone to tackle the security challenges, the collective participation of business organizations, communities, civil society, youth leaders, religious leaders, and able individuals are highly required to tackle insecurity. Furthermore, insecurity is a global challenge facing developing countries like Nigeria, Sudan, Niger and Libya, and developed countries like United States of America, Russia, United Kingdom and other European countries. There are different approaches used by these countries to tackle their peculiar cases of insecurity. To mitigate insecurity in United Kingdom believes that there are key objectives that guides this effort. They are to pursue or attack insecurity, prevent or stopping criminality, protect or safe guide citizens from criminal elements, and prepare or deal with the criminal squarely. An analysis of these objectives reveals that the strategy in United Kingdom is more proactive than being reactive as in the case of Nigeria. The government security and intelligence agencies such as the police, Army, Navy, Airforce, and Civil Defense must be properly educated and equipped to combat and reduce crime as well as violence in other to promote security of lives and properties. Therefore, the police and other relevant security intelligence organizations must work together to keep the country safe for peaceful habitation.

Industry and Economic Growth

Economic growth is highly sought after by every proactive government across the globe. It is the assurance of stable security that can encourage both local and foreign investment. Without the achievement and assurances of security, investors are most likely going to avoid making more investment in places that have been destroyed and destabilized by insecurity. Industrialization thrives where there is security. This crucial route enhances industry establishment and economic development alike. Furthermore, industrialization creates job opportunities, provides income to employees, increases advancement in technology, and improves foreign earnings. Tackling insecurity becomes imperative for industrial and economic development. However, the neglect of any form of insecurity can pave the way for damaging of investment opportunities. The failure of government to quell insecurity such as crime, violence, terrorism, political instability, conflicts, and vandalism can cause a destabilized business environment. An insecure business place can lead to inflation of goods and services, cost of running the business, reduction of profits, and prevent the movement of materials. All of these negative impacts of insecurity may discourage business owners and potential investors from coming to contribute in developing the economy through making investments in the state (Skaperdas, 2001).

One serious threat of insecurity to industrial investment and growth in Imo State is the fear of the insecurity caused by alleged secessionists and the sit at home order which have been disrupting economic activities every Mondays. The lack of effective policing and inactiveness of security personnels tactical security modalities have softened the path for armed robbers, terrorist, and kidnappers to keep operating undeterred and unhindered. Invariably, the outcome of these acts of crime is viewed to have disrupted the efforts for economic growth and stability (Ibrahim, 2020). The

incessant kidnapping and adoption of businessmen, investors and entrepreneurs in Imo State have led to a decline in investment attraction to the state. This is due to the fact that investors are wary of risking their lives and huge assets to radicals and criminals (Ibrahim, 2020). In addition, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), opines that "insecurity is a major obstacle to investment in Nigeria, including Imo State" (NIPC, 2020). Furthermore, insecurity as a threat to industrial and economic growth in Imo State has enormously contributed to the destruction of major infrastructures such as roads, bridges, power installations, petroleum pipelines, human resource and buildings. The destruction and damage caused by criminals and radicals during communal clashes and armed robbery has led to unnecessary spendings due to repairs (Moses 2020). Insecurity makes it nearly impossible for businesses to operate smoothly. It makes it difficult for businessmen to access essential amenities and facilities such as transportation, electricity, bulk warehouses, and water (Adebayo, 2019). The World Bank, agrees to the fact that basic "infrastructure is critical to economic growth and development, and its destruction can have a devastating impact on the economy" (World Bank, 2019). More so, the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) asserted that, "investors' confidence is critical to economic growth, and insecurity can have a negative impact on investor sentiment" (NSE, 2020). In a nutshell, insecurity has led to several people migrating to new areas of business opportunities resulting to brain drain. Many workers have moved to states that have secured environments and conducive for business activities (Ibrahim, 2020). The migration of skilled individuals has also resulted to a scarcity of skilled labour, and it is downplaying goal of industrial growth and economic development (Adebayo, 2019).

Theoretical Framework

The relevance of strain theory to this study propels its adoption to explaining the subject matter of the study. The theory was propounded by Siegel. Its emphasis is on the elements that induces violence, crime and criminal activities in the society. Further, the theory stipulates that crime is a factor of conflict that is linked to wants and ends, and individuals in society wants a good life having desires for power, authority, wealth, material possession, and recognition. Each individual inclines for the better side of life irrespective of their status and standing in society (Siegel, 2010). The strain theory is deeply related to criminal actions and motivation, and it explains how individuals with the feelings of being socially, economically and politically humiliated react in society (Siegel, 2010). This theory believes that individuals of lower class who perceive that they cannot achieve their goals for livelihood obviously become furious, angry, agitated, violent and frustrated. At this position, most of them resort to criminal actions such as armed robbery, insurgency, banditry, militancy, kidnapping, hostage taking, and hard drugs peddling to satisfy the quest for wants (Chukwueme, Phinos & Agaba, 2019). As a result of this factors, there may be increase in poverty level, rise in joblessness, destruction of public infrastructure and high insecurity in society if not combated.

Materials and Method

The study utilized primary and secondary sources of data such as journal, internet, newspapers, for secondary data. Questionnaires were used to retrieve primary data accordingly, and the cross-sectional research design was adopted. The number 60 copies of questionnaires designed in four Likert format of strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree and disagree were purposively distributed to an observed number of 60 respondents comprising the 20 Nigerian police personnels, 20 Nigeria security and civil defense corps members and 20 business investors in Owerri Municipal, Owerri north local government area, and Orlu local government area of Imo State.

Results and Discussion

The data retrieved from 60 respondents were summarized, analyzed and presented on tables in percentage as thus:

Table 1: Summary of responses that the effect of internal insecurity negatively affects industry and economic growth in Imo State.

Variables	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	26	43.3
Agree	22	36.7
Strongly disagree	08	13.3
Disagree	04	6.7
Total	60	100

Source: (Nworgu & Amadi, 2025)

Table 1 shows that 26 (43.3%) and 22 (36.7%) respondents strongly agree and agree respectively that the effect of internal insecurity negatively affects industry and economic growth in Imo State. while, 8 (13.3%) and 4 (6.7%) of respondents strongly disagree and disagree respectively that the effect of internal insecurity negatively affects industry and economic growth in Imo State. The result indicates that more respondents agree to the stated opinion. Therefore, the study stands to accept that the effect of internal insecurity negatively affects industry and economic growth in Imo State. This finding is in tandem with Nwoye et. al., (2024) that insecurity is a critical problem to economic growth and development because of its negative impact on investment such as agricultural production as well as food availability and affordability in Nigeria.

Table 2: Summary of responses that insecurity management positively impact industrial and economic growth in Imo State?

Variable	Frequency	Per cent
Strongly agree	24	40
Agree	20	33.3
Strongly disagree	6	10
Disagree	10	16.7
Total	60	100

Source: (Nworgu & Amadi, 2025)

Table 2 summarily indicates that 24 (40%) respondents strongly agree that insecurity management positively impact industrial and economic growth in Imo State. But 20 (33.3%) respondents agree to the stated opinion. However, 6 (10%) respondents strongly disagree that insecurity management positively impact industrial and economic growth in Imo State, while, 10 (16.7%) respondents disagree to the stated opinion. The research shows that a greater number of respondents agree that insecurity management positively impact industrial and economic growth in Imo State. Therefore, the study stands to accept that insecurity management positively impact industrial and economic growth in Imo State. This agrees with the findings of Okoro (2019) that managing insecurity prof fers solution to insecurity challenges, and that there will be sustainable economic development in Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study concisely reviewed the drivers of insecurity, and the prevalent outcome of insecurity management in Nigeria. The collaboration of law enforcement agents and other stakeholders have been found to having the capacity to combat the previously rising level of insecurity in Imo State as it is brought under control by the effort of the Imo State government, security personnels, community leaders, youths and other well-meaning individuals that have paid the price for peace and security of the state. Insecurity undermines industrial development, economic growth, political stability, good governance and infrastructural development in Nigeria. Furthermore, the sustainability of security has been observed to offer industry growth, economic improvement, local and foreign investment, creation of employment, prevention of loss of lives, prevention of destruction of infrastructures, prevention of residents' displacement, promotion of food security, prevention of schools' interruption, allows government to provide security for people, and control aggressive agitations by alleged secessionists.

Recommendations

The study provides the following recommendation:

1. Government should recruit and train internal security operatives for intelligence gathering, who will supply the law enforcement agencies with relevant information, and to empower the operatives with necessary security gadgets, and to charge the internal security operatives to maintain peacebuilding education efforts for a peaceful environment that promotes investment for economic and industrial growth in Imo State.
2. Government should establish a security management commission that will periodically initiate policies, strategies and processes that can encourage individuals to supply information regarding insecurity threats and the efforts of operatives around residential and industrial areas under well protected coverage by police personnels, and to evaluate the efforts of the internal security operatives and how it promotes industry investment and economic growth in Imo State.

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