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EFFECTS OF INSECURITY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF IGANGAN COMMUNITY IN IBARAPA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OYO STATE

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Abstract

This study examined the effects of insecurity on socio-economic development in Igangan, Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, with a target population of 2,650 adult residents engaged in socio-economic activities in the Idiyan area of Igangan. Using Yamane's formula, a sample size of 348 respondents was calculated, and 348 questionnaires were administered. However, only 155 questionnaires were properly completed and returned, representing a response rate of 44.54%, and these 155 valid responses were used for the analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics and chi-square tests at the 0.05 level of significance. The findings showed that insecurity has significantly disrupted agricultural productivity, reduced household incomes, discouraged small-scale trading and investment, increased youth unemployment, and limited access to education and farmland. Respondents also reported a decline in the overall standard of living and fewer development projects in the community. Chi-square results confirmed statistically significant relationships between insecurity and both economic and socio-economic development. The study concludes that insecurity remains a major obstacle to sustainable development in Igangan and recommends strengthened security operations, youth empowerment programmes, and improved rural infrastructure as key measures to address the challenge.

Keywords: Insecurity, Socio-economic development, Agricultural productivity, Investment, Rural development, Igangan, Oyo State

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1. Introduction

In recent years, insecurity has become one of the most critical challenges threatening Nigeria's socio-economic progress. The country continues to experience various forms of violence, including banditry, kidnapping for ransom, farmer-herder conflicts, armed robbery, communal clashes, and insurgent activities. These security threats are not new, but their frequency, spread, and intensity have increased significantly over the past decade.

Several factors have contributed to the worsening security situation. High levels of youth unemployment, widespread poverty, weak governance structures, corruption, and inadequate security infrastructure have created fertile ground for criminal activities. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the inability of the state to provide adequate protection has led to loss of lives, destruction of property, displacement of residents, and disruption of economic activities.

Igangan community in Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State has not been spared from these challenges. Like many agrarian communities in the Southwest, Igangan has witnessed increasing incidents of violent attacks, threats to farmers, and general insecurity that affect daily livelihoods. Agriculture and small-scale trading remain the main sources of income for most residents. When insecurity rises, these activities are directly affected, leading to reduced productivity, lower incomes, and declining living standards.

Previous studies have shown that insecurity discourages both domestic and foreign investment, increases the cost of doing business, and diverts government resources away from development projects into security management. However, most existing research focuses on national-level analysis or highly affected regions such as the North-East and North-West. There is limited empirical evidence on how insecurity affects socio-economic development at the community level in relatively less-studied areas like Igangan.

This study therefore seeks to examine the effects of insecurity on socio-economic development in Igangan. Specifically, it aims to identify the major causes of insecurity, assess its impact on economic and social indicators, and suggest practical measures to address the problem. The findings are expected to provide useful insights for policymakers, community leaders, and development partners working to improve security and promote sustainable development in rural communities.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Concept of Insecurity

Insecurity, in general, means a situation in which persons, families, or communities (or institutions) face risks to their lives, livelihoods, property, freedom, and overall health and well-being. Settlement insecurity in Nigeria has evolved into multi-faceted and includes issues of kidnapping, banditry, armed robbery, farmer/herder conflict, communal violence, terrorism and other organised and interpersonal violence. A long-term sense of insecurity can have impacts on economic activity, on social relations, on the ability of communities to access public services, and on their long-term development prospects.

Insecurity reasons are also multi-faceted. A number of factors, including poverty and unemployment, weak institutional capacity, corruption, competition over land and natural resources, proliferation of small arms, and a lack of security provision have been identified as drivers that are linked together. But, the literature does not indicate that any of the above factors alone is sufficient to explain insecurity in all communities in Nigeria. The significance of these factors vary among different communities depending on their geographical, economic,

political and social attributes. The study is relevant, as the insecurity experience in an agrarian community like Igangan may be different from that of conflict and insecure areas of northern Nigeria or urban centres.

There is increasing evidence from recent studies of the impact of insecurity on rural livelihoods. With Nigerian time-series data spanning 1981 to 2021, Chima (2023) observed that insecurity negatively influenced the agricultural output both in the short and long run. The study also correlated insecurity to the general economic situations that impact agricultural productivity such as unemployment and investment. Likewise, Anikwudike and Agabi (2024) suggested that insecurity has affected food production and socio-economic activities in the rural communities of Nigeria as they noted that the fear of attack can result in farmers not accessing and cultivating their farm lands.

The results, however, do not imply that insecurity is experienced by rural communities in the same way. There is a lot of literature that focuses on the high banditry, high terriorism or farmer-herder conflict areas. Therefore, it is imperative to explore insecurity in communities where small-scale trading and agricultural activities are important livelihood sources, but have been little researched, such as the Igangan community.

2.1.2 Insecurity and Rural Development

Rural development is the development of rural communities, which includes development of their economic, social, infrastructural, institutional and human conditions. It includes agricultural productivity and employment, income earning, education and health services, infrastructure, investment, social cohesion and betterment of living standards. In this context security is certainly one of the prerequisites for rural development as a relatively stable environment is needed for productive economic activities.

There is a strong recent link between insecurity and rural economic performance. Chima (2023) showed that insecurity has a negative impact on agricultural productivity in Nigeria and this shows that the effect of insecurity reaches to the food production and investment. In the same vein, Nwankpa (2024) in a study on the causes and impact of rural banditry on food security and alleviation of poverty in Nigeria, also concluded that banditry hampers food security and poverty alleviation efforts in rural communities. The study also involved farmers in six states of Nigeria including Oyo state, showing that the impact of the rural insecurity is not limited to the northern region of the country.

The study by Amadasu and Etinosa (2024) also revealed that insecurity in the rural areas caused by farmer-herder conflict has a negative impact on food security, leading to the destruction of crops and disruption of rural livelihoods. Their study of the Ovia North-East Local Government Area of Edo State is of special interest as it shows how insecurity and disruption of rural livelihood are not exclusive to the northern part of Nigeria.

However, there is a caveat in reading this literature. Some studies focus on rural development in relation to agricultural production and food security while others are more concerned with the rural development in terms of education, infrastructure, employment, investment and social welfare. Such an approach, which focuses exclusively on agricultural production, could therefore underestimate the broader socio-economic impacts of insecurity. The present study takes a wider approach and considers the agricultural activities, household income, small-scale trading, youth employment, education, investment, development projects and standard of living.

2.2 Insecurity, Agricultural Activities and Household Livelihoods

Agriculture is especially a vulnerable sector to insecurity, as farming activities often involve people having to go to relatively remote farm areas, and staying there for prolonged periods. Farmers might then be forced to

give up on distant farms, decrease the size of their crops, switch their cropping patterns or choose a less risky livelihood option in response to threats of kidnapping, attack, theft and violent conflict.

The empirical evidence is largely in support of this relationship. Chima (2023) identified significant negative effect of insecurity on agricultural productivity in Nigeria, whereas Onyele, Ene and Umezurike (2025) investigated insecurity as moderating variable between finance and agricultural labour productivity. The results they report show short- and long-run asymmetries in the relationship between insecurity and agricultural labour productivity, indicating that insecure influences on agricultural performance may be more intricate than a direct influence.

Umeoka and Sakurai (2025) also studied the direct economic and market shock impact of conflict on agricultural production in Nigeria. They have made an important contribution because they have moved beyond just determining if insecurity has an impact on agriculture to identifying the mechanisms by which conflict has impacts on agriculture and markets.

Community-level research also demonstrates that insecurity is not necessarily a destiny for those who live in rural areas. In their study on farmers' security consciousness and its implication for Yoruba farmers in Ondo State, Olutegbe, Iyiola, and Joseph (2024) established that farmers were security conscious and reported the use of some indigenous security measures such as vigilante patrol team, local security guard, and community rules by the farmers. The finding raises an important aspect that is not often discussed in the literature; coping and resilience can emerge in the face of insecurity, particularly at the rural level.

So, despite the overwhelming evidence that insecurity has negative effects on agriculture, the literature is also clear that communities have the potential to respond and implement local security arrangements and adaptive strategies. This distinction is important for Igangan because the impact of insecurity can't be understood without taking account of how residents react to the threat.

2.3 Insecurity, Investment, Employment and Household Income

Uncertainty, lack of investment, economic disruptions, limited mobility and higher economic activity costs are potential ways in which insecurity can affect the local economy. These impacts can have a negative impact on jobs and income to the household. Small businesses such as the farm, shops, markets, etc. that do not meet full demand can result in falling income and subsistence of the household.

This can be confirmed from the recent Nigerian proof. Onunwa (2025) noted that security problems impact negatively on investment, business closure, inflation, unemployment, and overall economic instability. The same situation was reported by Ezeala, Agwaramgbo and Okeke, who also noted the negative impact of insecurity on the socio-economic life of Nigerians.

Much however, of this literature has its own limitation. Many studies concentrate on regional or national insecurity and focus on macroeconomic variables like GDP, foreign direct investment, inflation or unemployment. Such studies are valuable to the understanding of the overall economic impacts of insecurity, however they offer little information on the impact of insecurity on individual households and small businesses within individual rural communities. In the present study this is remedied by using community-level data on household income, small-scale trading, employment, investment and living standards.

2.4 Insecurity, Education and Social Development

The impact of insecurity is not just economic, it is also on human development. Communities that are not safe can result in school closure, drop in attendance, teacher movement, and parent objections to sending children to school. Insecurity can thus have long-term effects on the development of human capital.

Armed violence, banditry, abductions, and communal conflicts have affected livelihoods, social cohesion, displacement, and access to education, basic services and other basic social services, according to the latest assessment by UNICEF conducted in Katsina, Zamfara and Niger States in 2025. The report also noted community resilience, alternative ways to continue education in the face of insecurity.

The results of these are geographically limited but are a reflection of the wider human-security issue of insecurity. The effects of such consequences has however to be assumed from evidence in the north and does not necessarily apply to the situation in rural communities in the south. This gives an impetus to study the education and social implications of insecurity particularly in the case of Igangan.

2.5 Community Security and Socio-Economic Resilience

One of the increasing themes of the recent literature is the ability of communities to react to insecurity. Community security is the protection of people's security and livelihoods, both through formal security institutions and through community-based mechanisms. Socio-economic resilience, however, is about the ability of people and communities to withstand shocks, respond to shocks, sustain key functions and bounce back from shocks and stressors.

New data show that community responses can be used to supplement formal security measures. According to Olutegbe et al. (2024), farmers had resorted to indigenous security measures as a result of insecurity, such as local security guards and vigilante patrolling. Likewise, the United Nations Development Programme's 2025 report on the reconstruction of Ngarannam provides an example of the multi-sectoral nature of response after protracted conflict that can include security, governance, infrastructure, livelihoods, education, health and economic opportunity.

These studies provide a valuable addition to the literature. More than one point of view has been raised, one of which focuses on the negative effects of insecurity, and another one points out that coping and resilience strategies can be developed by communities that are affected. These two points don't have to be mutually exclusive. A community can be resilient and experience a decline in the contribution of agriculture to agricultural output, income, education or living standards. Thus, resilience should not be understood as a failure of insecurity to have negative developmental effects.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

Securitization Theory and Human Security Paradigm are the two theories employed as a basis in this study. The two perspectives are complementary, but highlight different aspects of insecurity.

Based on their work, Securitisation Theory was developed by Buzan, Wæver and de Wilde (1998), who define security as a socially constructed process that transforms an issue into an existential threat that calls for exceptional measures. It is effective in elucidating the process of what makes a threat a security problem and how that process affects policy and resource allocation decisions made by governments. But the theory has been criticized for its focus on the political articulation of security threats rather than the lived impact on ordinary citizens. Securitization is therefore useful in the sense of accounting for the manner in which insecurity

becomes a security issue in the context of Igangan, but not enough to account for changes in the livelihoods, education or farming in the household.

The Human Security Paradigm provides a broader people-centred perspective. In the UNDP 1994 Human Development Report, the emphasis moved from state security to the security of persons and communities – freedom from fear, freedom from want. This view is especially apt for the current study as insecurity is measured by its impacts on the livelihoods, education, economic opportunities and living standards of people.

The two theory views are thus complementary, and not mutually exclusive. Securitization Theory provides an account of the way insecurity is 'framed' as an existential threat to security, which necessitates security interventions, while the Human Security Paradigm focuses on the impact of insecurity on individuals and communities. This latter is especially useful for the interpretation of the socio-economic indicators that are studied in this research.

2.7 Empirical Review

Studies in Nigeria broadly suggest that insecurity is negatively linked to socio-economic development at the local level and in different sectors, although the level of the impact and the pathways remain place and sector-specific.

Chima (2023) investigated the effect of insecurity on agricultural productivity using time-series data from 1981 to 2021, and found that insecurity was a negative influence on both short-run and long-run agricultural productivity. The study is of macro-level and does not reflect the priority or experience of the individual rural households.

However, Olutegbe et al. (2024) in Yoruba farmers of Ondo State Nigeria, came to a different but complementary finding, which is rural dwellers counter security using indigenous protective measures. Their work indicates that those who are impacted by insecurity are not simply bystanders, but have some ability to adapt and take action collectively.

Amadasu and Etinosa (2024) studied the rural banditry and food security challenges in Ovia North-eastern LGA, Edo State and concluded that farmer-herder conflict is a threat to food security and rural livelihoods. The study contributes evidence for southern Nigeria but the main thrust is food security as opposed to the wider aspects of socio-economic development that form the basis of the present study.

The same could be said of food production and socio-economic activities in rural Nigeria according to Anikwudike and Agabi (2024). The study, however, was based to a large extent on secondary data and an appraisal approach, not on a community level survey of the residents. This methodological distinction is relevant because primary survey evidence might reflect residents' impressions of the impact of insecurity on the welfare and development of their households.

The impact of rural banditry on food security and poverty alleviation was explored by Nwankpa (2024) in the farmers of six selected states in Nigeria including Oyo State. The study further reaffirms the thesis that rural insecurity negatively affects food production and poverty alleviation. But it is difficult to see how it works in a particular community like Igangan because of its multi-state nature.

Recent research also has come a long way in overcoming the dichotomy between insecurity and development. Insecurity was found to exert a moderating effect between finance and agricultural labour productivity by Onyele et al. (2025) who investigated the topic and found both short and long run asymmetries. Umeoka and

Sakurai (2025) also looked at the economic and market (EM) shocks that link conflict to agricultural outcomes, which also underscores the mechanisms that link conflict to agricultural outcomes. These studies suggest that the impact of insecurity can be indirect as well as direct, such as on markets, finance, labour or investment.

The recent literature, therefore, indicates that a lot of things have converged to the conclusion that insecurity has a negative impact on economic and social development. Convergence is especially high on its adverse impact on agriculture, livelihoods, investment, jobs and access to basic services. Concurrently, there are some gaps in understanding of mechanisms of impact and community adaptability. Different studies highlight direct destruction/displacement and/or community-based security arrangements, coping mechanisms, and community-based resilience.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design and Study Area

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to examine the effects of insecurity on socio-economic development in Igangan, Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State, Nigeria. The design was considered appropriate because it enabled the collection of data on respondents' experiences and perceptions regarding insecurity and its effects on socio-economic activities. The study focused specifically on the Idiyan community of Igangan, an agrarian community where farming, livestock rearing, and small-scale trading constitute important livelihood activities.

3.2 Population, Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

The study population comprised 2,650 adult residents engaged in socio-economic activities in the Idiyan area of Igangan. The population included farmers, traders, artisans, business owners, civil servants, youths, and other residents involved in socio-economic activities.

The sample size was determined using Yamane's formula for finite populations, thus, 348 questionnaires were administered to eligible respondents. Of these, 155 were properly completed and returned, representing a response rate of 44.54%. The 155 valid questionnaires constituted the data used for the final analysis.

3.3 Instrument and Data Collection

Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed in line with the objectives of the study. The questionnaire comprised closed-ended and open-ended items. The closed-ended items were measured using a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree, while the open-ended questions allowed respondents to provide additional opinions concerning their experiences of insecurity.

The instrument covered respondents' demographic characteristics, perceived causes of insecurity, and the effects of insecurity on socio-economic development. Questionnaires were administered personally by the researcher, with assistance from research assistants where necessary. Secondary information was obtained from relevant academic journals, textbooks, government publications, official reports, and other credible sources relating to insecurity and socio-economic development.

3.4 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The questionnaire was subjected to face and content validation to ensure that the items were clear, relevant, appropriate, and adequately aligned with the objectives and variables of the study. The instrument was reviewed to ensure adequate coverage of the dimensions of insecurity and socio-economic development investigated.

With respect to reliability, the available study records do not contain a documented pilot-test result or Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Consequently, a numerical reliability coefficient is not reported rather than introducing an unsupported value. This limitation is acknowledged in reporting the methodological procedures of the study.

3.5 Ethical Considerations and Informed Consent

Ethical considerations were observed throughout the data collection process. Respondents were informed of the academic purpose of the study and the general nature of the information required. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were not compelled to participate. The information obtained was treated confidentially and used strictly for academic purposes.

Respondents were informed that participation was voluntary and that they could decline participation. Only respondents who agreed to participate provided responses to the questionnaire. The available study records do not contain a formal institutional ethical approval number or reference; consequently, no specific approval number is reported.

3.6 Response Rate and Non-response

Of the 348 questionnaires administered, 155 were properly completed and returned, resulting in a response rate of 44.54%. The relatively low response rate represents a limitation of the study. The fieldwork records do not systematically document the specific reasons for the non-return of the remaining questionnaires. Therefore, no particular cause of non-response is attributed to respondents without empirical evidence.

A formal statistical assessment of non-response bias was also not documented in the available study records. The potential for non-response bias is therefore acknowledged as a limitation, and the findings are interpreted with caution regarding their generalisability. Nevertheless, the 155 valid responses provided usable data for the descriptive and chi-square analyses undertaken in the study.

3.7 Data Analysis

Data obtained from the 155 valid questionnaires were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequencies, percentages, and mean scores were used to summarise respondents' demographic characteristics and responses to the questionnaire items. Chi-square ((\chi^2)) tests were employed to examine the relationships between insecurity and selected socio-economic development variables.

The hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of significance. The null hypothesis was rejected when the calculated chi-square value exceeded the critical value at the appropriate degrees of freedom or when the associated probability value was less than 0.05.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic profile shows that 54.8% of respondents were male and 45.2% were female. A majority (58.7%) were single, while 41.3% were married. Most respondents (50.3%) fell within the 31–50 years age bracket, indicating that the views captured largely represent economically active adults. In terms of educational qualification, 48.3% held HND, 32.3% held ND, and 19.4% held BSc degrees. This suggests that respondents were reasonably educated and capable of providing informed responses.

4.2 Effects of Insecurity on Socio-Economic Development

The study found strong evidence that insecurity has negatively affected various aspects of socio-economic life in Igangan.

Agricultural Activities and Farmland Access

A combined 76.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that insecurity has reduced farming activities and limited access to farmland. Many farmers reported avoiding distant farmlands due to fear of attacks, leading to reduced cultivation and lower agricultural output. This finding is consistent with studies showing that insecurity in rural areas directly undermines food production and rural livelihoods.

Income Levels and Small-Scale Trading

Approximately 68.5% of respondents indicated that insecurity has led to a decline in household income, while 78% agreed that it has discouraged small-scale trading. With reduced farming and trading activities, many households have experienced lower earnings, affecting their ability to meet basic needs.

Youth Unemployment

A high proportion (78%) of respondents believed that insecurity has contributed to increased youth unemployment. When businesses and farms scale down or shut down due to insecurity, job opportunities reduce, leaving many young people idle and potentially more vulnerable to criminal recruitment.

Access to Education

An overwhelming 90% of respondents agreed that insecurity has negatively affected access to education. Fear of attacks has led to irregular school attendance and, in some cases, temporary closures. This has long-term implications for human capital development in the community.

Investment and Development Projects

78% of respondents noted that insecurity has reduced investment opportunities, while 68.5% observed fewer government and private sector development projects. Investors and development partners are generally reluctant to operate in high-risk environments, leading to slower infrastructural and economic growth.

Standard of Living

90% of respondents reported that insecurity has negatively affected the overall standard of living in Igangan. Reduced incomes, limited access to services, and general uncertainty have contributed to declining welfare among residents.

Interestingly, 78% of respondents disagreed that insecurity has significantly affected the prices of goods and services. This may be because local markets still operate, albeit at reduced capacity, and price changes are influenced more by broader economic factors than by local insecurity alone.

4.3 Test of Hypotheses

The hypotheses were tested using the chi-square ((\chi^2)) goodness-of-fit test at the 5% level of significance. The analysis was based on the 155 valid responses. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Chi-square Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis	χ^2	df	p-value	Effect size (Cohen's w)	Decision
H_{01}: There is no significant relationship between insecurity and economic development	71.91	3	< .001	0.68	Rejected
H_{02}: Insecurity has no significant effect on socio-economic development	40.70	3	< .001	0.51	Rejected
H_{03}: There is no significant relationship between the causes of insecurity and its prevalence	113.04	3	< .001	0.85	Rejected

Note. N = 155. The chi-square tests were conducted using four response categories, with an expected frequency of 38.75 for each category. Cohen's w was used as the effect-size measure because the analyses were one-sample chi-square goodness-of-fit tests.

The results in Table 1 indicate statistically significant differences between the observed and expected response distributions for all three hypotheses. For Hypothesis One, the result was statistically significant, (\chi^2(3, N = 155) = 71.91, p < .001, w = .68), leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This indicates that respondents' perceptions concerning the relationship between insecurity and economic development were significantly different from the expected distribution.

For Hypothesis Two, the result was also statistically significant, (\chi^2(3, N = 155) = 40.70, p < .001, w = .51). The null hypothesis was therefore rejected, indicating a significant pattern in respondents' perceptions regarding the effect of insecurity on socio-economic development.

Similarly, Hypothesis Three produced a statistically significant result, (\chi^2(3, N = 155) = 113.04, p < .001, w = .85). The null hypothesis was rejected, indicating a significant pattern between respondents' perceptions of the causes of insecurity and its prevalence in the study area.

The effect sizes indicate substantial differences between the observed and expected response distributions, with the strongest effect recorded for the third hypothesis (w = .85), followed by the first (w = .68) and second (w = .51). However, because the chi-square goodness-of-fit test does not establish causal direction, the findings are interpreted as statistically significant associations or response patterns rather than evidence of a causal effect.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

The findings demonstrate that insecurity is significantly associated with economic and socio-economic conditions in Igangan. The significant result obtained for the first hypothesis suggests that respondents perceive insecurity as an important factor associated with economic development. This finding is plausible within the context of Igangan, where farming, livestock rearing, trading, and other livelihood activities constitute important components of the local economy. Insecurity can restrict movement, limit access to farmland and markets, discourage investment, and increase uncertainty surrounding economic activities. The descriptive findings further support this interpretation, as 76.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that insecurity had reduced farming activities and restricted access to farmland.

The finding is consistent with previous empirical evidence reviewed in the study, which links insecurity with disruptions to agricultural production, investment, employment, and household welfare. The present finding

therefore provides community-level evidence that the economic consequences of insecurity identified in broader Nigerian studies are also experienced by residents of Igangan.

The second hypothesis produced another significant result, indicating a substantial pattern in respondents' perceptions of the relationship between insecurity and socio-economic development. The result is supported by the descriptive evidence showing that insecurity affects several dimensions of residents' welfare. The study found that 68.5% of respondents reported declining household income, 78% associated insecurity with increased youth unemployment, and 90% reported negative effects on education and overall standard of living. These findings suggest that the consequences of insecurity extend beyond physical safety to household livelihoods, employment, education, and general living conditions.

This finding has particular relevance to the Human Security Paradigm, which conceptualises security in terms of protection from both physical threats and conditions that undermine human welfare. The result suggests that insecurity in Igangan should therefore be understood not only as a security challenge but also as a socio-economic development challenge. Addressing insecurity requires interventions that protect residents while simultaneously strengthening their livelihood opportunities and access to essential services.

The third hypothesis produced the largest effect size among the three tests, ($\chi^2(3, N = 155) = 113.04$, $p < .001$, $w = .85$). This strong result indicates a pronounced concentration of respondents' views concerning the relationship between the causes of insecurity and its prevalence. The finding suggests that respondents do not perceive insecurity as an isolated phenomenon but rather as a problem associated with identifiable underlying conditions.

This interpretation is consistent with the literature, which identifies factors such as unemployment, poverty, weak governance, competition over resources, and inadequate security capacity as conditions associated with insecurity. Consequently, interventions that focus exclusively on the immediate symptoms of insecurity may have limited long-term effectiveness if the underlying socio-economic vulnerabilities remain unresolved.

The findings also have implications for Securitization Theory. Although insecurity is commonly framed as an existential security threat requiring extraordinary security responses, the present findings suggest that its consequences and underlying conditions extend into the economic and social spheres. Consequently, a security-centred response should be complemented by development-oriented interventions.

4.5 Policy Implications

The findings have several implications for policy and practice. First, security interventions in Igangan should combine conventional security measures with community-based approaches involving local leaders and residents. Improved intelligence gathering, early-warning mechanisms, and timely responses to security threats could improve community safety.

Second, economic empowerment should form part of insecurity-reduction strategies. Programmes targeting youth employment, vocational training, agricultural entrepreneurship, and small-business development could strengthen livelihood security and reduce socio-economic vulnerability.

Third, agricultural security requires particular attention because farming constitutes an important livelihood activity in the study area. Measures that facilitate safe access to farmland and protect agricultural communities may contribute to both improved household income and food security.

Finally, development interventions should continue alongside security measures. Investment in education, healthcare, roads, markets, agricultural infrastructure, and other basic services can strengthen the socio-economic resilience of communities affected by insecurity.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

This study aims at determining the linkage between insecurity and socio-economic development in the community of Idiyan, Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo state in Nigeria. The results show that there is significant relationship between insecurity and economic and socio-economic development results in the study area. The results indicate that insecurity is seen as limiting agricultural production, trade, income, jobs, schooling, investments and living conditions.

The study therefore, concludes that insecurity is an important constraint to socio-economic development in rural communities like Igangan. It has more far-reaching implications than immediate risk to physical safety, such as livelihood and economic disruption. Therefore, sustainable development in insecure communities must be based on a comprehensive plan that incorporates effective security measures and livelihood, job creation, agricultural productivity and access to basic social services.

5.2 Contributions of the Study

The paper has four main contributions to the literature.

Theoretical contribution. The study adds to the application of the Human Security Paradigm and Securitization Theory to a rural context. The results provide evidence of the importance of not only defining insecurity as a threat to state security but also a threat to people's livelihoods, economic welfare, education and standard of living. The study thus underscores the human-security paradigm of protection from fear protection from socio-economic deprivation.

Methodological contribution. The study quantitatively uses a community level approach to insecurity and socio-economic development based on structured survey data and chi-square analysis. The study's focus on residents' perceptions of the community's situation in a specific rural community complements larger national and regional analyses that could mask differences in the experiences of individual communities. Response distributions from observed and expected responses also give an empirical basis for determining statistically significant patterns among residents' perceptions.

Empirical contribution. The study has included community level evidence from Igangan of Ibarape North Local Government Area of Oyo State an agrarian community. The findings give evidence that insecurity is related to disruption of agricultural practices, trading, household income, employment, education, investment, and living conditions. This builds on the current literature by showing that development challenges related to insecurity are perceived and experienced at the grassroots community level.

Policy contribution. The study offers support for the design of security and development interventions which are sensitive to the conditions of rural communities. The results indicate that youth employment, agricultural security, community participation, infrastructure and livelihood support are important elements of security policies, in addition to the deployment of security personnel. An integrated approach can help to enhance the socio-economic resilience of communities living in insecure situations.

5.3 Recommendations

On the basis of these results this study suggests that:

i. There should be enhancements on community level security mechanisms, including better intelligence collection, prompt response to security threats, security force deployment, and community involvement with community leaders and community members.

ii. There is a need to expand the scope of youth employment and economic empowerment programmes in Igangan, especially in the fields of agricultural entrepreneurship, vocational training and skills development, and access to financial support for small businesses. These interventions can increase livelihood opportunities and decrease socio-economic vulnerability.

iii. Agricultural security needs to be placed higher on the policy agenda. Steps should be taken to ensure secure access to agricultural land, the security of farmers and their assets and the rehabilitation of farming operations in insecure areas.

5.4 Limitations of the Study and Directions for Future Research

The study offers some limitations for interpreting its results. The study recorded 44.54% (155 valid questionnaires out of 348 questionnaires given) as the response rate. The possibility of non-response bias therefore cannot be completely excluded. Secondly, the study was conducted among the residents of the Idiyan community of Igangan with some limitations on generalizations of findings to other communities in Ibarapa North Local Government area of Oyo State. Third, the study was based on the perceptions of the respondents and hence does not conclude any causal relationship between insecurity and socio-economic development.

To overcome the challenges, future studies should involve multiple communities in Ibarapa North and other regions of Oyo state, involve larger and more diverse samples of students and include qualitative interviews, focus group discussions and administrative or socio-economic data. Longitudinal studies would also give more robust evidence of the effects of insecurity on socio-economic development over time.

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