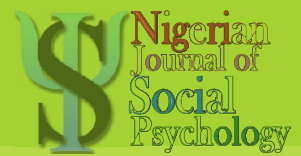


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# THE HOME, INSECURITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract

*The home is the hallmark of human growth, development and sustainability as it is what signifies that an individual belongs to a household. Conversely, insecurity is a sign that one lacks protection and is therefore, vulnerable to threat or danger. Similarly, national development is an indication that a country has the capacity to elevate the standard of living of its inhabitants. This was the central focus of this study, as it explained how these concepts affect the development of our country, Nigeria. Changing demographics and insecurity problems in Nigeria and other vices such as: hunger, inflation, scarcity of cash and absence of social security system have jointly contributed to the challenges of its inhabitants. The study discussed the problems affecting national development as well as strategies for achieving sustainable development in Nigeria. It also utilized secondary data as sources of information. It concluded that judicious implementation of development strategy, commitment on the side of the leaders and absence of corruption are needed for the achievement of sustainable development in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *The home, insecurity, and National development.*

## Introduction

The home has been conceptualized as the place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household. It can even be something abstract, a place in one's mind. It is also defined as one's place of residence; the social unit formed by a family living together; a familiar or usual setting; a place of origin; and an establishment providing residence and care for people with special needs. A home or domicile can also be seen as a permanent or semi-permanent residence for one or more human occupants, and sometimes various companion animals. It is a fully or semi-sheltered space and can have both interior and exterior aspects to it. Homes provide sheltered spaces, for instance rooms, where domestic activity can be performed such as sleeping, preparing food, eating and hygiene as well as providing spaces for work and leisure such as remote working, studying and playing.

Indications of the definitions of home can be obtained from a number of commercial, social, academic and literary roots. Regrettably, they tend to offer a set of rather dissimilar intentions and inspections. For instance, Gans' (1962) explorations in Boston, and the study of

London's East-tenders by Willmott and Young (1957), emphasize the home as a social component, where strong relationship bonds glue the meaning of home. Researchers view the home from five dimensions: a place to retreat; a site of psychological and emotional wellbeing; meaningful relationships; routines and rituals; and a physical dwelling (Natalier and Fehlberg, 2015; Mallett, 2004). Home is crucial for the development of trust in the constancy of people and things, a sense of self and belonging, the capacity for agency, and psychological wellbeing (Giddens, 1993; Easthope, 2004). While it follows that children and young people may suffer when their need for home is overlooked (James, 2013; Fehlberg et al., 2018), their experiences of home and homemaking have remained largely unexplored in family law research.

Insecurity is conceptualized as uncertainty or anxiety about oneself and lack of confidence. It is viewed as the state of being open to danger or threat and lack of protection. It is also seen as the quality or state of being insecure, such as: a state or feeling of anxiety, fear, or self-doubt; lack of dependability or certainty; and lack of safety or protection.

Insecurity is defined by Ewetan (2014) as "the lack of safety, risk, hazard, uncertainty, lack of defense, and lack of security." In contrast, Achumba et al. (2013) explored insecurity from two angles. First, insecurity, according to them, was when anything is in danger and is said to be in a vulnerable condition because one was exposed to it or is more likely to be in it. Second, insecurity is the feeling of risk or anxiety, whereas anxiety is a common uncomfortable feeling experienced in advance of any bad luck. The concept of insecurity highlights a vital element because when it shows up, individuals affected by it are constantly exposed to the dangers and threats that they may present. According to Ajodo-Adebanjoko and Okorie (2014), "insecurity is a scenario where there is fear or something that produces fear, harm or has the potential to create someone's fear or harm." Ajodo-Adebanjoko and Walter (2014) also noted that insecurity is the state of being subject to all forms of terrorism, threat, risk, molestation, bullying, and harassment. For instance, insecurity might be viewed as a threat to the state, which constantly aroused a rush to manufacture new weapons of total destruction.

The security situation in Nigeria today is very shallow, dicey, worrisome and alarming that our homes and national development are adversely affected. However, as the home is the bedrock of human and national development, parents have a lot of work to do in the training of their children to facilitate a stabilized development that is void of the problems of insecurity. In other words, insecurity is a product of bad home training which reversibly affects national development in bringing about vices like: theft, armed robbery, embezzlement of public funds, bribery and corruption, etc.

Therefore, the psychological root causes of lack of home training, insecurity and national development is not farfetched. Since all these are man-made, humanistic psychologists and psychotherapists are duty-bound to first, make our children, parents, security personnel and leaders see themselves from the perspective of having great strength as human beings and they also possess the light they have in them to shed on positive dimensions of their personality.

As Maslow (1968) posits, “Human nature is not nearly as bad as it has been thought to be. It is as if Freud supplied us with the sick half of psychology and we must now fill it out with the healthy half.” Lastly, they must ensure that they utilize these causes to guarantee that the individuals who happen to be victims of any are made to perform better in having a change of attitude, behaviour and lifestyle in order to have prolonged emotional well-being and healing. The integral component of the implications of insecurity and epileptic national development is vital to the overall hardships, untimely deaths, poor quality of life and well-being, but often times it is underrated and demands that we concentrate more on it.

Changing demographics in Nigeria, in addition to insecurity, and some other vices, such as: hunger, inflation, scarcity of cash and absence of social security system, present outstanding challenges to the inhabitants. Further unraveling and understanding of the complex interplay of these vices is highly essential with regard to the development of effective prevention strategic plans for homes, insecurity situation, and national development especially in the Nigerian setting.

National development is the capacity of the country to raise the standard of living of its residents. It can be achieved by providing individuals with basic livelihood requirements and supplying them with employment, etc. It is also the process of improving a country’s standard of living and overall well-being through a variety of efforts, including: economic growth, social progress, modernization, peaceful coexistence, disaster risk management and conflict resolution.

National development can be measured by a country’s ability to improve the quality of life for its citizens. The process of national development involves several stages, including: formulation, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review. World superpowers can also influence a country’s national development through diplomatic pressure, financial aid, and other means.

However, for there to be national development of any nation, country or people, the concept of development cannot be overemphasized. This is further explained in the conceptual clarification below.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

Just like in the case of national development, development as a concept is a victim of definitional pluralism. It is a hard word to comprehend its meaning. However, efforts have been made by erudite scholars to conceptualize development. Some of these definitions were examined for the purpose of this study.

Therefore, it is on this premise that Gboyega (2003) captures development as an idea that embodies all efforts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material well being of all citizens, not the most influential and wealthy alone, in a sustainable manner such that the present rate of consumption does not affect the future. It also requires that poverty and inequality of access to good livelihood be

eradicated or drastically brought down. It encourages the improvement of personal physical security and good things of life and enhancement of life opportunities.

Naomi (1995) believes that development is normally regarded to comprise not only economic growth, but also some assumption of equitable distribution, provision of health care, education, housing and other vital services, all with a target to improving the individual and collective quality of life (Naomi, 1995). It is sensible to realize that development is not only an economic performance, but also entails both socio-economic and political problems and covers all facets of societal life.

### **National Development Plans in Nigeria**

Nigeria is perpetually hunted by the shadow of development. Its forty-nine years of independence actually are passing by daily in search of development. The fallacy of growth and development is so ingrained that the country's history goes for the history of development strategies and growth representations from colonial times up to date. No term has been in persistent variability as development. This appears to be the only country where almost all assumptions and representations of development have been experimented (Aremu, 2003).

Two years after independence, the first National Development Plan policy was prepared between 1962 and 1968 with the goals of development chances in health, education and employment and improving access to these chances, etc. This plan was unsuccessful because fifty percent of wealth required to support the plan was to come from external sources, and only fourteen percent of the external support was received (Ogwumike, 1995). The fall down of the first Republic and the beginning of civil war also broke the plan. After the civil war in 1974 was initiated, the plan priorities were in agriculture, industry, transport, manpower, defense, electricity, communication encompassing the period of 1975 to 1980 was considered more ambitious than the second plan. Emphasis was laid on rural development and efforts to renovate agricultural sector. The fourth plan 1981 to 1985 acknowledged the part of social services, health services, etc. The plan was targeted at bringing about change in the living conditions of people. The major goals were: an increase in the real income of the average citizen, more even spread of income among individuals and socio-economic groups, increased dependence on the country's material and human resources, a decrease in the degree of unemployment and underemployment (Ogwumike, 1995).

### **The problems of National development in Nigeria**

In spite of series of development strategies put in place by successive governments, and sometimes with good intentions, all attempts to generate meaningful development proved futile. Based on this, one is now confronted with these puzzles: "Were those previous development plans or strategies bad in their context, or wrongly projected?" If nothing was wrong with the plans, then why is it still difficult to generate meaningful development in spite

of the huge resources at our disposal? The solutions to these puzzles are not farfetched. A lot of factors have combined together to fetter nation's development.

One, there are in most cases, no executive capacity responsible for the formulation and implementation of the plan. What we usually see are officials entrusted to such a position but without any meaningful executive authority. Some of the previous development plans failed because there was little or no consultation of the general public. Planning is meant to involve even the peasants in the villages. Even, the Local Government officials who are close to the people were not consulted. Planning is not an edifice where technocrats alone operate (Mimiko, 1998).

Lack of good governance also militates against national development. Where there is no good governance, development becomes a mirage or delusion. This is as a result of bad leadership in the country. Most of our leaders have no sense of commitment to development. Mimiko (1998) captures the situation this way: *"The decolonization allowed the crop of leaders that aligned with colonial power to take over Nigeria. This ensured the sustenance of a neo-colonial economy even after political independence. These leaders on assumption of power quickly turned up the repressive machinery of the colonial state rather than dismantling it. Significantly, they have no vision of development to accompany the efficient instrument of repression they inherited. All they were interested in was access to power and privileges and not development"*.

High level of corruption and indiscipline is another barrier to development. Nigeria state is corrupt, managed by corrupt leaders who have made the state an instrument of capital accumulation, rather than using it to project the interest of the citizenry. A very good plan supervised by a thoroughly corrupt state can hardly do a thorough good job (Mimiko, 1998). Corruption and development are contradictory to each other, the two cannot cohabit, and so, where one is present, the other suffers.

Another important dimension is the mono-economic base of the country. The country largely depends on crude oil for her survival to the detriment of other resources. All other sectors of the economy are ignored. For instance, agriculture, which constitutes the mainstay of the Nigerian economy in the 1950s and 1960s, has been thrown into limbo over the years. How would government encourage export promotion when there is virtually nothing to export? The economy is not diversified and this is not suitable for a sustainable development (Mimiko, 1998).

### **Strategies for National development**

The attracting force of any development plan is the judicious implementation of such plan, which its success lies with the implementers. Most of the past development plans did not succeed as a result of implementation challenge and lack of leaders who are committed, etc.

Consequent upon this fact, new development laws and strategies are recently in place as substitute strategies for development, such as Seven Points Agenda, Vision 2020, etc. These

laws and vision appear to be all encompassing but they are not hallowed in their entity. But if judiciously implemented, the nation at least will move towards the terrain of development.

To fully implement the Seven Point Agenda of the previous regime, which may or may not be feasible now, due to how terrible and corrupt the system is currently, resulting from bad leadership, there are some lessons to be learnt from Asian models of development.

First, development needs total commitment on the side of the leaders. The requirement for discipline and truthfulness on the side of the project implementers cannot be jeopardized as such officials are expected to display enough discipline, interest, willingness, dedication and honesty. Without these characteristics and the will to go after set economic objectives, all other mixtures of current development would lead to a state of nothingness.

Second, this country should know that extensive free-market capitalism, the type recommended by the defenders of traditional Systems Applications and Products (SAP) is not actually compatible with development. Therefore, it cannot end without saying that a degree of state engagement (heterodoxy) is essential even in the face of the important need for structural adjustment. But whatever the level of state engagement, private ownership of properties must be guaranteed for investment to get stimulated (Mimiko, 1997). Although, it is another question whether Nigerian state as currently inaugurated can play this sensitive part given its shameful degree of corruption, incompetence and disablement by commitment to diverse ancient principles. Be that as it may, the objective should be to evolve a process of reformation of the state to make it able to play the type of highly constructive part that its counterparts are playing in the whole of East Asia (Mimiko, 1997).

Also, firmness and progression of schemes encourage funding and drive development. For instance, in Korea, when Park was murdered, his schemes persisted and were enlarging. Nigeria leadership must understand to build on schemes rather than to discard them for new ones for the sake of party politics and personal elevation.

There is the need for Nigeria to rebuild the agricultural sector: this sector was contributory in the development of Japan. Agriculture used to be the centerpiece of Nigeria economy but the creation of crude oil succeeded in putting agriculture into state of insensibility.

Human resources development is also a sine qua non to Nigeria national development; this was demonstrated in Japan and Korea (Lawal, 2011). Development depends very much on human knowledge and skills. This must be such that a high quality of education and training is achieved for a large majority at a reasonable price and the context and quality of such education and training should be relevant and adequate to the country's development needs. Literature on development stresses the axiom that it is the people who develop and that unless there are large numbers of suitably qualified people, development cannot take place.

There is need for attitudinal change. Nigerians must as a matter of fact change their pessimistic attitude towards development. The idea or belief that "things cannot work in Nigeria or Nigerian factor" should be discouraged. Real development is achieved through internal activities rather than from external influences. Development is seen as a process

generated within a society by forces propagated and invigorated by the actual members of that society. It is believed that true development can neither be started nor sustained by outsiders. Although, no country can develop in isolation, but heavy emphasis should not be placed on foreign resources for the country's development. The models of development of Japan and China show how these countries utilize their internal resources, both human and material for rapid economic development. It is reasonable that Nigerians should inculcate a high sense of patriotism as demonstrated by the Japanese and Chinese.

Importantly, citizenship should be promoted over indigeneity in order to achieve cooperation and participation of all communities in the development process. Omotoso (2008) noted that the 1999 constitution is directly or indirectly promoting indigeneity in the country. For example, section 318(1) of paragraph (IV) supports indigeneity. The constitution sets parameters for indigenes and non-indigenes. It equally gives legal bases to various discriminatory policies and actively promotes indigeneity, contrary to some sections that argue against discrimination. This is very contradictory. Leaders in Nigeria must behave in a way to inculcate the spirit of patriotism in the minds of the people, so that they will be ready to stand with the government in her development efforts. When Nigerians see themselves as one and not as belonging to one section of the country as portrayed presently, the urge to develop Nigeria will be germinated and sustained.

Additionally, the need to reform electoral process is imperative for socio-economic and political development. Electoral fraud is one of the banes of Nigeria's development. The role of leadership in development cannot be overemphasized, as all efforts towards development must be coordinated and directed by the leaders. Therefore, the leaders must be development conscious, have genuine interest for development and the political will to propel such development. The leaders must also have the cooperation of the people, because it is the people that develop a nation.

Lastly, development plan should not be exclusively regarded as economic issue. It should be seen as holistic and encompassing national issue that cuts across economic, social, political and psychological aspects of human behaviour.

## **Conclusion**

This paper has carefully discussed the home, insecurity and national development in Nigeria. It examined the home as the bedrock of human growth and development and narrowed it down to the insecurity issues that we are faced with on a daily basis and then the problems of national development in Nigeria. It also suggested some workable proposals required to bring about sustainable development in Nigeria.

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