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# Insecurity in the South East and its Possible Solutions: using Anambra State Nigeria as a Focus, 1999-2023

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The South-East region of Nigeria, particularly Anambra State, has been facing a series of escalating security challenges since 1999. These issues have significantly hampered socio-economic development and posed threats to the lives and well-being of residents. Insecurity-marked by violence, kidnappings, political unrest, and social instability-remains the most critical among these challenges. **Objective:** This study aims to examine the causes and effects of insecurity in the South-East, with Anambra State as the focal point, and to propose possible solutions to mitigate the crisis. **Method:** The study employed a descriptive survey design and was conducted in Anambra State between 1999 and 2023. Data were collected through interviews and a validated questionnaire titled *"The Causes of Insecurity, Effect, and Its Possible Solutions in the South-East and in Anambra State in Particular."* The respondents were randomly selected youths from the state. A combination of multivariate regression methods and statistical inference techniques was used to analyze the data. **Result:** The analysis revealed that multiple factors contribute to insecurity in Anambra State, including youth unemployment, political marginalization, poor governance, and the activities of non-state actors. The data also showed that insecurity has profound effects on economic development, education, and daily life. The findings underscore the urgent need for a multi-sectoral approach to address these issues. **Conclusion:** Insecurity in the South-East, especially in Anambra State, is a complex, multifaceted issue requiring immediate and sustained interventions. Understanding its root causes is crucial to devising effective and lasting solutions. **Contribution:** The findings of this study provide relevant insights for policymakers, civil society actors, and especially Nigerian youths, emphasizing their role in fostering peace and development. The study also offers a foundation for further research on regional insecurity and strategic interventions.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

It is not an overemphasis that in recent times, there had been unprecedented level of insecurity in the South-east in general and in Anambra State in particular. The ugly upsurge which threatens lives and brought about loss of public and private properties is alarming. In some towns, inhabitants were afraid of living in their houses and walking on the streets. Armed robbery, kidnapping, and killing became the order of the day, any one may be a victim at any time and place. There is no day that passes in devoid of incidents of insecurity such as kidnapping, killing and armed robbery. The rate at which the unknown gunmen kill soldiers, police, government personalities and common man is perturbing (Mohammed, 2024). Therefore, it's all about internal and not external insecurity in Anambra State in particular.

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Ezeuzo (2021), linked insecurity to a position where through the oil states the country generates a lot of revenue but does not use this revenue to cater for the citizens' needs and to also develop infrastructures and economy. Insecurity lingers mainly amongst the youths who were eager to get on with things in vogue such as wealth, power and fame. The rate at which insecurity upsurge increases with its urgent influences on the youths of nowadays is discouraging and there were no possible solutions provided to it by the government, individuals, groups and organizations.

There is need to understand that forms of insecurity abound, and has risen to its apogee as a result of invention of weapons of various forms (Udeoba & Eze, 2021). There are various incidents of insecurity in the South-east particularly in Anambra State. Example: On 6th of August 2017, St. Philips Catholic Church Ozubulu, Anambra State was attacked by unknown gunmen and a lot of worshippers were killed. The Government did not do anything about that. On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 some rampantly angry men attacked Anambra police station at Oraifite and sadistically killed three policemen. After the above another one occurred on 25/04/2023 some yet-to-be known assailants abducted a man suspected to be a cleric at Nnobi Roundabout in Idemili Local Government Area, Anambra State.

Ezeuzo (2021), "also postulated that insecurity threat in Nigeria discomfort from theft to the armed robbery, to kidnapping, contract assassination, constant invasion of communities, property vandalization and social injustice and rising cost of living". ... Igbuzor (2011), stated that Insecurity in Nigeria is as majorly due to failure in government or associated with injustice.

It is important to note that there are root causes of insecurity in the South-east which were among the key motivators of reconstructing this research. Recently, the nature of insecurity in Anambra State in particular has deteriorating effect on the lives and development. Ezeuzo (2021), "observed that the causes of insecurity in Nigeria can be deduced from the material inequalities and unfairness". In the same vein, Adagba, Ugwu & Eme (2012) have thus opined that: "unemployment and poverty among the youth is a major cause of insecurity and violent crimes in Nigeria". According to Onuoha (2011), it is as follows asserts that a greater proportion of the Nigerian population are frustrated and had lost hope especially the youths. There is also the need to identify how insecurity has impacted on the South-east and more pointedly Anambra State.

Furthermore, in the search for the possible solution of insecurity upsurge, the achievement should be to limit insecurity, and to improve economic development and welcomes foreign investment in an atmosphere devoid of breakdown of law and order. It is important to study the past mistakes in order to correct the present and reconstruct better future. In the whole, this search tends to explore the insecurity in the South-east, causes, effect and its possible solutions, Anambra State as a focus.

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

There was increase in the rate of insecurity and problems it created in the South-east and in Anambra State in particular. Evidence shows that there was no articulated body of literature about insecurity, causes, effect and the possible solution in the South-east. Though many references made were on the individual towns, which did not cover areas of insecurity and the range of stipulated period under study. Therefore the present study intends to cover and present the real and actual forms of insecurity, causes, effects and the possible solutions in the South-east and in Anambra State in particular from just 1999 to 2023 to fill the existing gap in the study.

#### Objective of the Study

This research is intended to investigate the forms of insecurity and why insecurity is at its apogee, and there are no effort made by individuals groups and government to put to an end the upsurge. To uncover why it is mainly found amongst the youths who were graduates and undergraduates of various universities in Nigeria. This research at the end targeted at;

- Identify forms of insecurity practiced in the South-east and in Anambra State in particular
- Enumerating the causes of insecurity in Anambra State
- explore the effects
- Discussing the possible solutions to the problems of insecurity in Anambra State.

### 1.2 Project Impact

The achievement of the research will be useful in many ways. First of all, when the work is concluded, it will be an available articulated body of literature on this area of study and especially in printed form concerning insecurity, causes, effect and remedies in the South-east and in Anambra State in particular. This study will be relevant to the youths in Anambra, to policy makers, in matters related to it.

It will become an additional resource material for research, especially Nigerian youths. Furthermore, findings of this research will be useful for students from local, regional, national and international schools for research on this area of study (Nzubechukwu et al., 2021). Scholars and researchers working on the history of South-east and Anambra State, Nigeria, would find the present effort very necessary and useful. It would also be an added contribution to the existing literature on insecurity amongst Nigerian youths and add to general knowledge on the South-east, Anambra State and Nigeria as a whole. It will serve as a guide on how to eradicate insecurity perpetuating in Nigeria, looking at the past mistakes and correcting the present for the reconstruction of better future of the Nigerian youths. It will help to elicit the problems created by insecurity and also the possible solutions to them. Finally it will be an eye opener to the Nigeria government towards putting to an end the problems of insecurity in order to achieve sustainable development.

### 1.3 Research Questions

- a. What form of insecurity lingers in South-east and in Anambra State in particular?.
- b. What are the causes of insecurity in the South-east and in Anambra State in particular?.
- c. To what extent had insecurity endangered lives and sustainable development
- c. What are the possible solutions to insecurity in the South-east and in Anambra State in particular?.

### 1.4 Literature Review:

Vomanen et al (2009) defined Insecurity as “a feeling or inferiority by the individual threat of loneliness, a subjective and objective experience which may affect connection between inner experience and outer conditions such may be as a result of environmental threat or risk”.

Patterson et al (2022), Insecurity is “an overall sense of uncertainty or anxiety about your worth, ability, skills and value as a person, conveying the message that you’re at risk or in danger of something or someone”. It is a threat transmitted from one generation to another by temperament and personality. New Limited edition Cambridge Dictionary Mercharndise (2023), Insecurity is “a feeling of lacking confidence and not being sure of your own abilities”.

According to Igbuzo (2011), it can be seen that insecurity in the Nigerian state is closely attributable to government failure or can be associated with injustice. This is insecurity in the sense that the country earns a lot of money through the sale of oil and other resources but the money is not used to cater for the needs of the people and development of infrastructure and economy.

Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpan (2013), opined that the country interconnectivity and a weak border control that allows free movement of people facilitated insecurity in Nigeria. Due to these open borders, there is free flow of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the country to the benefit of militancy and criminals. Life and property are insecurity. Violent acts like killing or maiming, kidnapping, possession, robberies are insecurity.

Insecurity is the act of threatening life. It is a threat or aggression on a society. Any state of lawlessness is a state of insecurity. An illegal confinement of a citizen can be termed insecurity. It is an absence of security emanating from external threat. The inability to withstand any aggression whether internal or external proves lives uninsured.

Possible: According to Mirian Webster Dictionary (2020), possible is something that can happen, something that can be done, or something capable of existing.

Solution: According to Miriam Webster Dictionary (2020), solution is a means of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation.

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1 Research Design

The research adopted descriptive survey design and it covered Anambra State, Nigeria. Youths who are the indigenes of Anambra State who were between thirty (30) years and forty (40) years made up the population of the study. Four Hundreds (400) respondents, but one hundred (100) respondents were randomly selected from each of the two selected towns in Anambra State.

### 2.2 Data Collection

Four research questions were formulated. The data collection techniques used for this research were questionnaire and interview schedules. The researcher used structured interview to elicit information from the respondents to ensure the authenticity of the answers provided by each of the respondents which was done in order to confirm or refute data from the questionnaires that would be administered. The formulated questionnaire was

reviewed by two experts from history and International Studies and Measurements and Evaluation departments, the reviews given were constructive and they helped to improve on the production of the questionnaire.

### 2.3 Data Analysis

A validated questionnaire titled. "Causes of insecurity, effect and its possible solution in Anambra State, Nigeria", designed by the researcher, and constructed using likert scale format would be administered. The reliability of the instrument (questionnaire) would be tested before being applied. In analyzing information collected, frequencies, percentages and statistically, weighted means would be used to answer the four research questions using the likert type rating scale

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Result

This chapter embodies the results or findings of the study. As noted before, mean computation were applied for data obtained research in the questionnaire. The data collected from the respondents presented in tables and according to research questions.

Research Question One: What form of insecurity occurs in the South East, Anambra State in particular?

**Table 1.** Showing the respondents responses on the form of insecurity occurs in the South East, Anambra State in particular

| S/N | ITEMS                                                           | SA  | A   | UD | D  | SD | N   | X    | Remark   |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|----------|
| 1   | Abduction of citizens with or without ransom.                   | 40  | 30  | 5  | 15 | 1  | 100 | 3.75 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 200 | 120 | 15 | 30 | 10 | 375 |      |          |
| 2   | Killing and maiming of innocent citizens                        | 50  | 35  | 0  | 10 | 5  | 100 | 4.15 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 250 | 140 | 0  | 20 | 5  | 415 |      |          |
| 3   | Armed robbery                                                   | 60  | 25  | 5  | 15 | 5  | 100 | 4.50 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 300 | 100 | 15 | 10 | 5  | 430 |      |          |
| 4   | Burning of government properties                                | 45  | 30  | 2  | 13 | 10 | 100 | 3.87 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 225 | 120 | 6  | 26 | 10 | 387 |      |          |
| 5   | Crisis eruption                                                 | 55  | 35  | 0  | 7  | 3  | 100 | 4.32 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 275 | 140 | 0  | 14 | 3  | 432 |      |          |
| 6   | Terrorism                                                       | 30  | 15  | 0  | 20 | 10 | 100 | 2.85 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 150 | 60  | 0  | 40 | 35 | 285 |      |          |
| 7   | Sudden attack on police station and churches by unknown gunmen. | 60  | 25  | 1  | 10 | 4  | 100 | 4.27 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 300 | 100 | 3  | 20 | 4  | 427 |      |          |
| 8   | Invasion of communities by Fulani herdsmen.                     | 60  | 20  | 5  | 10 | 5  | 100 | 4.20 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                 | 300 | 80  | 15 | 20 | 5  | 420 |      |          |

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

From the table 1 above, it is revealed that responses on item 1-8 showed that respondents mean scores of 3.75, 4.15, 4.50, 3.87, 4.32, 2.85, 4.27 and 4.20 which are above the criterion of acceptance fixed at 2.50 and above. It means that abduction of citizens with or without ransom, killing and maiming of innocent citizens, armed robbery, burning of government properties, sudden attack on police station and churches by unknown gunmen, invasion of communities by Fulani herdsmen are the forms of insecurity experiencing in the south-east, particularly in Anambra State.

Research Question Two: What are the causes of insecurity in the south-east and Anambra state in particular?

**Table 2.** Showing the Respondents Responses on the causes of insecurity in the south-east and Anambra state in particular.

| S/N | ITEMS                                                                      | SA  | A   | UD | D  | SD | N   | X    | Remark   |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|----------|
| 9   | Unemployment among the youth in Anambra state.                             | 60  | 20  | 5  | 10 | 5  | 100 | 4.2  | Accepted |
|     |                                                                            | 300 | 80  | 15 | 20 | 5  |     |      |          |
| 10  | Poverty.                                                                   | 65  | 20  | 0  | 10 | 5  | 100 | 4.3  | Accepted |
|     |                                                                            | 325 | 80  | 0  | 20 | 5  |     |      |          |
| 11  | Inflow of arms and ammunitions in the south-east aided insecurity upsurge. | 75  | 25  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 100 | 4.75 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                            | 375 | 100 | 0  | 0  | 0  |     |      |          |

| S/N | ITEMS                                                                | SA  | A   | UD | D  | SD | N   | X    | Remark   |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|----------|
| 12  | Weaknesses of the security system as a result of inadequate funding. | 50  | 15  | 5  | 20 | 10 | 100 | 3.75 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                      | 250 | 60  | 15 | 40 | 10 |     |      |          |
| 13  | Uncontrollable influx of migrants, especially                        | 50  | 15  | 0  | 25 | 10 | 100 | 3.7  | Accepted |
|     |                                                                      | 250 | 60  | 0  | 50 | 10 |     |      |          |
| 14  | Deficiency in the number of security personnel                       | 45  | 30  | 2  | 13 | 10 | 100 | 3.87 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                      | 225 | 120 | 6  | 26 | 10 |     |      |          |
| 15  | Bad leadership                                                       | 55  | 35  | 0  | 7  | 3  | 100 | 4.32 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                      | 275 | 140 | 0  | 14 | 3  |     |      |          |
| 16  | Ethnic and religious conflict.                                       | 30  | 15  | 0  | 20 | 10 | 100 | 2.85 | Accepted |
|     |                                                                      | 150 | 60  | 0  | 40 | 35 |     |      |          |

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

The result presented in Table 2 above, shows that items 8-16 were rated high by the respondents. This was clearly indicated from their respective mean scores of 4.20, 4.30, 4.75, 3.75, 3.70, 3.87, 4.32 and 2.85 which are above the criterions of acceptance fixed mean of 2.50 and above. It means that the causes of insecurity in the south-east and Anambra state in particular includes: Unemployment among the youths in Anambra state, poverty, inflow of arms and ammunitions in the south-east aided insecurity upsurge, weaknesses of the security system as a result of inadequate funding, uncontrollable influx of migrants, deficiency in the number of security personnel, bad leadership and ethnic and religious conflict.

Research Question Three: To what extent has insecurity endangered lives and sustainable development in the south-east and Anambra state in particular?

Table 3. Showing the Respondents view on the extent to which insecurity endangered lives and sustainable development in the south-east and Anambra state in particular

| S/N | ITEMS                                                                                          | VHE | HE | LE | VLE | ΣFX | X   | SD   | Remark   |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|----------|
| 17  | It led to the sudden death of innocent citizens, government personalities and security agents. | 50  | 30 | 10 | 10  | 100 | 320 | 3.20 | Accepted |
| 18  | The citizens are under fear of being a victim of abduction and gunshot.                        | 40  | 40 | 10 | 10  | 100 | 310 | 3.10 | Accepted |
| 19  | It prevented foreign investment in the south-east.                                             | 30  | 60 | 5  | 5   | 100 | 315 | 3.15 | Accepted |
| 20  | Destruction of farms and communities by Fulani herdsmen.                                       | 50  | 40 | 5  | 5   | 100 | 330 | 3.30 | Accepted |
| 21  | The use of various kinds of sophisticated weapons amongst the youths for criminality.          | 45  | 45 | 5  | 5   | 100 | 330 | 3.30 | Accepted |
| 22  | Public and private properties were destroyed as a result of insecurity.                        | 60  | 20 | 10 | 10  | 100 | 330 | 3.30 | Accepted |

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Table 3, shows that items 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 were rated high by the respondents. This was clearly indicated from their respective mean score of 3.20, 3.10, 3.15, 3.30, 3.30 and 3.30 respectively, which are above the criterion of acceptance fixed at 2.50 and above. It means that the extent to which insecurity has endangered lives and sustainable development in the south-east and Anambra state in particular are as follow: It led to the sudden death of innocent citizens, government personalities and security agents, the citizens are under fear of being a victim of abduction and gunshot, it prevented foreign investment in the south-east, Destruction of farms and communities Fulani herdsmen, The use of various kinds of sophisticated weapons amongst the youths for criminality, and public and private properties were destroyed as a result of insecurity.

Research Question Four: What are the possible solutions to the problems of insecurity in the South-East L.G.A?

**Table 4.** Mean rating scores on the possible solutions to the problems of insecurity in the South-East

| S/N | ITEMS                                                                                                                                  | SA        | A         | UD     | D        | SD       | N          | X    | Remark   |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|----------|------------|------|----------|
| 23  | Government should provide employment at all levels to accommodate both graduates and none-graduates youths.                            | 55<br>275 | 35<br>140 | 0<br>0 | 7<br>14  | 3<br>3   | 100        | 4.32 | Accepted |
| 24  | Government should endeavor to eradicate poverty which is in line with the Millennium Development Goals (M.D.Gs.)                       | 30<br>150 | 15<br>60  | 0<br>0 | 20<br>40 | 10<br>35 | 100        | 2.85 | Accepted |
| 25  | Government should provide free and functional education to encourage the citizens become self reliant and promote natural development. | 70<br>350 | 20<br>80  | 0<br>0 | 5<br>10  | 5<br>5   | 100        | 4.45 | Accepted |
| 26  | Government should promote the welfare of security agents and equip them for effective defense.                                         | 65<br>325 | 30<br>120 | 0<br>0 | 5<br>10  | 0<br>0   | 100        | 4.27 | Accepted |
| 27  | Good leadership through free and fair election should be encouraged and promoted.                                                      | 75<br>375 | 25<br>100 | 0<br>0 | 0<br>0   | 0<br>0   | 100        | 4.75 | Accepted |
| 28  | Promotion of entrepreneurship education or studies will solve the problems of insecurity amongst the youths.                           | 70<br>350 | 20<br>80  | 0<br>0 | 5<br>10  | 5<br>5   | 100<br>445 | 4.45 | Accepted |
| 29  | Giving measurable punishment to the arrested culprits based on the constitution                                                        | 65<br>325 | 30<br>120 | 0<br>0 | 5<br>10  | 0<br>0   | 100<br>427 | 4.27 | Accepted |

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

The result presented in table 4 show that items 23-29 were rated high by the respondents. This was clearly indicated from their respective mean scores of 4.32, 2.85, 4.45, 4.27 and 4.75 respectively were all accepted because they are above the average fixed mean of 2.50. Therefore, it can be concluded that possible solutions to the problems of insecurity in the South-East L.G.A are as follows: Government should provides employment at all levels to accommodate both graduates and none-graduates youths, Government should endeavor to eradicate poverty which is in line with the Millennium Development Goals (M.D.Gs), Government should provide free and functional education to encourage the citizens become self reliant and promote national development, Government should promote the welfare of security agents and equip them for effective defense, Good leadership through free and fair election. Promotion of entrepreneurship education or studies will solve the problems of insecurity, giving measurable punishment to the arrested culprits based on the constitution.

### 3.2. Discussion

The result of the analysis of the research question one shows that the various forms of insecurity in the south-east and Anambra State in particular are; Abduction of citizens with or without ransom, killing and maiming of innocent citizens, armed robbery, burning of government properties, crisis eruption, weakness of the state security, sudden attack on police station and churches by unknown gunmen, invasion of communities by Fulani herdsmen. These findings are in concord with the assertion of [Ezeuzo \(2021\)](#) who stated that the treat of insecurity in Nigeria ranges from theft to organize armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, assassination, repeated invasion of communities and canalization of private and public properties.

In line with the above [Ewelukwa \(2021\)](#) stated that on 6th of August 2017, St Philip's Catholic church Ozubulu, Anambra state was attacked by unidentified gun men and a lot of worshippers were killed. She further added that the April 5, 2021 the Owerri Custodian Centre in Imo state was blasted by some unidentified persons using explosives amounting to the break out of up to 1,844 inmates. There had been also several cases of kidnapping in the region. In some cases, the victims are released after a huge amount of money has been paid by their families while some victims are killed even after such payments have been made. In 19th February 2023 hoodlums attacked Anambra Police Station at Oraifite and three police men killed. On 25th April 2023, some yet-to-be assailants abducted a man, suspected to be a cleric at Nnobi Roundabout in the Idemili Local Government Area of Anambra

State. On 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, about 300 Fulani herdsmen invaded Ukpabi Nimbo Community in Enugu State leading to the death of many, destruction of farms and many women were raped.

The examination of research question two's findings reveals that the following factors, in particular, contribute to insecurity in the southeast and in Anambra state: Among them are youth unemployment in Anambra state, poverty, the influx of weapons and ammunition into the southeast that increases insecurity, subpar security equipment and personnel due to inadequate funding, a shortage of security personnel, subpar leadership, and conflicts arising from ethnic and religious differences. These results corroborate the assertions made by [Adagba et al \(2012\)](#) that violent crimes and insecurity in Nigeria are caused by unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, particularly among the youth. The nation's level of insecurity has increased due to the implementation of inadequate measures by previous governments to address poverty, leading to unemployment. [Onuoha \(2011\)](#) noted that many people in Nigeria are frustrated and have lost all the hope they have especially the youths.

Nonetheless, Achumba, Igbomereha, and [Akpan \(2013\)](#), further posited that insecurity in Nigeria is as a result of, the seemingly, open borders where people are free to move without accountability. This has thus led to the free flow of Small arms and light Weapons into the country and which aids Militancy and Insecurity. Figures which are still accessible indicated that Nigeria has more than eight million illicit firearms in West Africa. [Edeko \(2011\)](#). Moreover, the border vulnerability of Nigeria has concretized the chaos like, unregulated flow of immigrant's particularly young men from Niger Republic, Chad and the republic of Benin. It has also positively affected the incidences of insecurity in Nigeria in the course of enhancing the trend. The last source of insecurity that needs to be pointed out is the ethnic/religious conflict. If there is no friendly interaction and inter-religious tolerance among the members of the two ethnic groups to proclaim one God, then we can have a tendency towards ethnic conflict and inter-ethnic war, relapse to frequent ethnic conflict or war, and appearance of ethnic people conflict between two major religions or dominants of the society ([Nnoruga, 2020](#)).

A further source of insecurity is a poor security system due to poor funding, failure by the government in power to oversee and enhance the well-being of the security system proves that at the field, the security system is powerless and self-interested ([Onyekelu, 2022](#)). In other cases some security personnel motivated in search of good working environments may transform to selfishness. They might sponsor insecurity upsurge in the state, give out their uniform or weapon for such adventure and also undergo such adventure themselves thereby aggravating the worst situation of insecurity. [Zubairu \(2020\)](#) states weak security system can be blamed on the following causes which include; poor funding of the police and other security institutions, poor provision of modern equipment, poor standard of living of the security personnel, and inadequate number of security personnel, poor governance, bad leadership, or poor utilization of public resources for the benefit of the people which has caused insecurity of lives and property in Nigeria. According to [Desmond \(2004\)](#), the overall core cause for development failure is lack of good governance.

The study of research question three reveals the following about the degree to which insecurity has put lives and sustainable development at jeopardy in the southeast, and in Anambra state specifically: It resulted in the deaths of security personnel, public figures, and innocent citizens; people still live in constant fear of being shot or kidnapped; it deterred foreign investment in the southeast; Fulani herdsmen have been known to attack and kill people on farms and in communities; young people have been using various types of armaments for illegal activity; and public and private property has been destroyed as a result of the ongoing insecurity. [Okon \(2019\)](#) agreed with these findings as he stated that due to insecurity, Nigerian community has caused loss of lives and property, tension and hostility and has further aggravated mutual suspicion and distrust among citizens. The cases of insecurity across various regions of Nigeria have threatened the roots of harmonious living in our societies. [Okwueze \(2001\)](#) also pointed out that insecurity issues also avert the external image of the country and foreign investment in Nigeria. Socio-economic progress is also sharp declined in the country where insecurity upsurges are pervasive, and no development can take place in insecurity and anarchical environment. They feared that they may be kidnapped or assassinated and for this reason do not consider coming into Nigeria to invest, this may lead to the general decline in foreign investment and where such exist, they are not developed to the optimum in order to bring out the best returns on investment ([Agbo, 2023](#)). This incident of insecurity thus deterred the foreign investors from investing in the south east especially Anambra state. Insecurity is a major challenge, which has militated against industrialisation and sustainable development in the south-east and Nigeria in general.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the unknown gunmen attacked police checkpoint and killed one police man at the Atani axis of the local government. Insecurity particularly the insurgency has eventually and recently engulfed Anambra state and has triggered poor attitude to work, and productivity of employees has been negatively tempered with.

Farmers – herders conflicts in various communities in the southeast particularly Anambra state had become an issue. The Fulani herdsmen encroached farms which led to the destruction of crops. This had led to low productivity

in the various farms encroached, farmers fear of being killed and communities fear of being invaded had led to the evacuation of many communities. Many were displaced as a result of invasion of communities by the Fulani herdsmen. Some were raped whereas others were killed. The invasion of farms also led to wide spread of hunger among the population. Between 1996 and 2006, about 121 people lost their lives in Bauchi and Gombe States as a result of conflict between herdsmen and farmers.

The social loss which came as a result of the menace of Fulani herdsmen include loss of human life, sexual abuse or harassment of human life, acquiring of weapons/arms, deterioration of social relationship, reduction in social support and high prevalence of rape while the economic loss which came as a result of the menace of the Fulani are destruction of farm lands making people starve and making the indigenes of the affected places leave their place (Ukiwo & Chukwuma, 2012). 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002 A total of two presidents of Mmiata community in Anambra West local government area of Anambra state have fled their homes due to attack by the Fulani herdsmen. On 10<sup>th</sup> may 2021 armed men suspected to be herdsmen attacked and killed three people and many others were injured in the Awka North local government area of Anambra State. The children that were killed were below 10 years and were killed on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when a Fulani community in Oba, Idemili Local Government Area was attacked. These were the people who were cut short by the insecurity; these were the people who could have offered their best physically, psychologically and emotionally towards the development of our nation. Their potentials may have been beneficial when it comes to sustainable development. The result of the analysis of research question four shows that the possible solutions to the problems of insecurity in the South-East particularly Anambra State includes: The government should create employment opportunities for young people both at the professional and non-professional level. The government should also try to eliminate poverty which is in conformity with the Millenium Development Goals (M. D. Gs). Government must ensure all the citizens has free and functional education in order to produce self employed citizens in order to promote the development of the nation, Government should ensure the welfare of the security forces and ensure they are equipped enough in order to defend the nation.

Specifically, if there is proper leadership following a free and fair election, the issues of insecurity would be addressed; promoting and sponsoring entrepreneurship education or studies among the youth will effectively eradicate insecurity among the youths. , and has provided tangible retribution to the arrested offenders under the constitution (Adegbami, 2013). These findings are in agreement with Kraay & Zoido (2019) who opined that effective governance, including free and fair elections, is crucial for maintaining security. Corruption, weak institutions, and lack of accountability can create conditions conducive to crime. Adequate resources, training, and welfare for security personnel are essential for effective crime prevention and control. Okoli (2015) asserted that strengthening community policing initiatives can enhance intelligence gathering, early warning systems, and collaborative efforts between residents and security agencies. This approach, as advocated by, can foster trust and cooperation. Investing in youth development programs, skills acquisition, and job creation can reduce unemployment and provide alternative pathways for young people. This aligns with the recommendations of Okoye (2018) on addressing the root causes of insecurity as leveraging the influence of traditional rulers and community leaders can help in conflict resolution, mediation, and promoting peace.

However, Okon (2019) stated that increasing the number of security personnel, providing adequate equipment, and enhancing intelligence capabilities are essential for combating crime. Improving governance, transparency, and accountability can reduce corruption and create a conducive environment for development. Investing in infrastructure, agriculture, and other sectors can create jobs and reduce poverty, thereby addressing the underlying causes of insecurity. Nnaji (2017) suggested that promoting peace education, human rights awareness, and conflict resolution skills can help to prevent violent extremism and foster peaceful coexistence. Implementing social welfare programs, such as healthcare, education, and housing, can improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations and reduce social unrest. Stricter gun control measures and disarmament programs can help to reduce the availability of weapons and prevent their misuse. Overcoming the security challenges in the South-East requires a sustained and collaborative effort involving government, security agencies, communities, and development partners.

#### 4. IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Recommendations offered by the author from the findings of this research include (1) any form of activities of insecurity should be traced, the culprits arrested and published according to the constitution. The type of punishment given to them will help reduce insecurity in the south-east; (2) entrepreneurship education should be adopted in the three levels of education to ensure self reliance and societal development; (3) functional education should also be provided to the citizen to enable them become relevance to their families and country; (4) arms proliferation should be constantly checked; (5) government should provide the basic needs of the citizens in order

to reduce youths involvement in the activities of insecurity upsurge; (6) family should enforce national values and pass it from generation to generations. A good citizen is derived from a family.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The problems created by insecurity in the south-east are alarming and needed urgent attention. Citizens are killed and abducted on daily basis. Armed robbery becomes rampant, really government remains docile and left this unattended to. It is perturbing that citizens are attracted of becoming a victim of insecurity, its also constraint to foreign investment which aids sustainable development. These problems cannot be solved when the citizens folded their hands hatching out who becomes the victim of the day but to join hands together and eradicate the insecurity upsurge. Both government individual and organizations have roles to play in order to possibly put to an end the insecurity problems in the south-east.

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## Author Contribution Statement

The author declares that this article's entire research and writing process was carried out independently. The author is fully responsible for all data related to this research. No other party has participated as an author or made a significant contribution to the content of this work.

## Conflict of Interest Statement

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## Ethical Approval Statement

The author declares that this study was conducted in accordance with research ethics principles and has received ethical approval from the author's institution, including respect for participants' autonomy, confidentiality of data, and ensuring their safety and well-being, as outlined in the applicable research ethics guidelines.

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