

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA IN VIEW OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

BY

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Abstract

The study examined the strategic implications of inter-agency collaboration on national security in Nigeria in view of information technology. The population of the study consisted of all staff of Operation Save Haven in Plateau State and Operation Whirl Stroke in Benue State and Plateau State. Other members from State capitals of selected states also formed part of the population of the study. 250 respondents were randomly selected for the study using non-proportionate stratified sampling technique. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. The instrument was validated by two experts in test and measurement and evaluation. Data from 250 completed questionnaires was subjected to regression analysis. The findings showed that there is significant effect of the implication of Inter-agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria. The study however recommended that the Nigerian security agencies provided with the necessary facilities that would enable them to efficiently network among themselves and with similar agencies in other countries. This approach will assist in no small measures in the prevention and control of terrorism.

KEYWORDS: **Inter-Agency, Collaboration, National Security, Nigeria, Information Technology.**

Introduction

Over the years, government administrations have invested in credible resources, both human and non-human, into human and environmental crisis from all forms of insecurity in the Nigerian society. Security and is the value of life of the people of a particular society. Anything that reduces the quality of life, which could include; conflict, scarcity of vital resources, environmental degradation or demographic pressures, and infringes on human security and is considered a threat (Dhirathiti, 2011, Arnold, 1960). In its simplest form, issues ranging from poverty, unemployment, conflict, violence, sicknesses and diseases, to environmental degradation, natural disasters, domestic violence, transnational crimes and human rights abuses constitute factors which cause insecurity to individuals, such can lead to displacement of these persons from their habitual homes (Betts, 2006).

According to Oladeji (2015), one of the significant symptoms of human insecurity crises is internally displaced persons. As opined by the United Nations Guiding Principles, internally displaced persons are 'persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or

natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (Oladeji, 2015).

Perrault (2011) and Rothschild (2017) assert that collaboration among security agencies in the fight against insecurities and other related social ills bring about the need for some if not all the agencies to collaborate in order to produce a better and formidable synergy. Collaboration is a durable relationship that brings previously separate organizations into a new structure with commitment to a commonly defined mission, structure, or planning effort. Through collaboration, security organizations can deliver services in a more effective and excellent way (Leung, 2013).

The introduction of Inter-agency in the fight against national insecurity and other related anti-social behaviors is yet to be appreciated in Nigeria (Prabhakaran, 2008). Inter-organizational collaboration is also seen as any joint activity by two or more agencies working together that is intended to increase public value by their working together rather than separately' (Bardach and Vij, 2012). It constitutes benefits for all parties and well-defined relationships between two or more organizations aiming to attain common goals by these organizations. In addition, the identification of conditions for inter-organizational collaboration itself poses a challenge, because in each case unique considerations and elements are required. Sienkiewicz-Małyjurek, (2014) opine that even well formulated collaboration principles may not bring anticipated outcomes. Possibilities and effects of collaboration may be constrained by, for instance, opportunism resulting from asymmetrical structure of dependencies among organizations, supervision systems diminishing capabilities for effective management of interpersonal relationships or by increased centralized coordination shrinking flexibility of relationships and their innovativeness (Young and Denize, 2008).

Forging appropriate relations within inter-agencies collaboration is a challenging process which requires continuous supervision and cultivation. This process is modelled by numerous elements and determinants, both at the phase when joint actions are orchestrated as well as when they are executed.

Statement of the Problem

Security operatives are a creation by the state to checkmate personal and group excesses among members of the society. This is so because only in the atmosphere of peace and tranquility can social life be ordered and development of the society achieved. However, the provision of security is a herculean task, as it requires the synergy of members of the society along with security operatives, for this social virtue to be enjoyed. More critical to the provision and enjoyment of security in the society is the cooperation of security agencies saddled with security duties at different domains, since security is ubiquitous.

Today, the civil society in Nigeria is economical with vital information needed by the police to control crimes in Nigeria. In fact, it has been stressed that most Nigerians lack confidence in the police and other law enforcement agencies and thus prefer private security outfits or vigilante groups to public security operatives. Similarly, the prolonged case of insurgencies and incessant insecurities seem to have taken a toll on the people. There is the need to find the strategic implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria.

Objective of the study

1. To find out the strategic implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria

Research Question

1. What is the implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria?

Hypothesis

1. There is no significant implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria

Conceptual framework

Concept of Security

According to Held (1998), security implies a situation where conditions are favourable to the protection of a nation, state and her citizens against existing or potential threats. Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpo-Robaro (2013) assert that security is the deployment and use of military force to achieve national goals. It cuts across many disciplines covering military protection, surveillance, protection of national values and human rights. It is also seen as the absence of threats to acquired values and the absence of fear that such values will be attacked.

Baldwin (1997) conceptualizes security from the traditional perspective, where he notes that traditional security is equated to state's commitment to enhance its military in the defense of national core values such as sovereignty and territorial integrity. Nwolise (2009) and Asobie (2007) notes that security involves the deployment and use of military resources by society to sustain its values in the face of threats and challenges from both internal and external sources. Richmond (2012) sees the modern perspective of security as a shift from the state-centric to people-centric approach, where the human population are regarded as reference for security. He advocates efforts to neutralize threats to human security by ameliorating the effects of poverty, unemployment, armed conflicts (diseases, hunger, refugee debacles) and human rights violation on the population (Richmond, 2012).

In Nigeria, the constitution unequivocally spelt out a fundamental objective and directive principle of state policy that "the security and welfare of the people (of Nigeria) shall be the primary purpose of government" (Section 14 (2) (b) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. No wonder national security has become an issue for government, prompting huge allocation of the national budget to security.

Insecurity

The menace of ill outcomes of insecurity in our society is becoming alarming and it can never be overemphasized seeing that, it is the apprehension of those tendencies that could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of the nation (Pam Sha, 2005). Insecurity implies the presence or apprehension of danger to life and property, and the presence of a non-conducive atmosphere for the people to pursue their legitimate interests within the society. It embodies the presence, or apprehension of threats to, and or direct violation of security. It implies threat to individual security, state security and security of the environment (Igbuzor, 2011). Imobighe (2003) identified threats to internal security to be: religious/political intolerance is mismanagement of resources, subversion and sabotage, espionage, smuggling, alien influx, armed robbery, mutiny/coup d etat, civil unrest, revolutionary insurgency. Nweze (2004) identified sources of security threats in Nigeria to include: militarism, and military experiences, ethnic/religious pluralism, unemployment, poverty and failure of governance, socio-economic inequalities and demographic factors, small arms and ammunition trafficking, migration and indigene question in Nigeria, Nigeria's socio-economic status in Africa and the illegal alien issues, globalization, porous security heritage and external influence. Iweze (1990) opine that it is necessary to distinguish between different causes as each may require different remedy. Like in other countries, the sources of insecurity in Nigeria can be traced to a number of factors. Beyond the external-internal dichotomy, sources of insecurity can equally be classified as either remote or proximate and immediate.

National Security

The term “National security” in the last three decades has different meanings to different persons, groups and governments across the nations of the world. National security is the absence of coercions or capacity to instigate violence and disrupt the social orders and norms

of the society (Thamos, 2008; Gupta, 2010). In the words of Nweze (2004), national security is the preservation, protection and the guarantee of the safety of life, property, wealth of the citizenry and measures to guard against threats to national sovereignty. Bassey (2004) argued alongside Nweze (2004) that it equally implies freedom from danger to life and property and people to pursue legitimate interest within the society.

Factors Mitigating Against Inter Agency Collaboration in the Fight Against Insecurity in Nigeria.

Schrage (1995) asserts that collaborative management is a concept that describes the process of facilitating and operating in multi-organizational arrangements to solve problems that cannot be solved, or solved easily, by a single organization. According to Philips (2008), collaboration is a purposive relationship designed to solve a problem by creating or discovering a solution within a given set of constraints (e.g. knowledge, time, money, competition, conventional wisdom. There is an emerging recognition of the importance of collaborative strategies in response to humanitarian crises.

Collaboration within and between inter-agencies is essential in the continuous incessant killings in Nigeria. Unfortunately, such collaboration is difficult because of the complexity of the incident and also the diverse composition of people such that is as personnel and agencies working together, all of whom possess different skills, procedures, knowledge, and competencies. A recent example of this can be found in the concluding report on the terror attack in Norway on June 22, 2011, stating that the various emergency agencies (police, army, etc.) were unable to effectively communicate and coordinate their effort (Norges, Offentlige and Utredninger, 2012; Sheehan, 2005).

Also, Hakna (2013) asserts that seniority or superiority struggles among the forces have no basis. The existence, roles and powers of these forces are products of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other relevant Acts. The same constitution did not anywhere define seniority or superiority of the forces. The superiority or otherwise of the weapon used by these forces should not imply seniority/superiority of the users, but they should be seen in the light of the role they are meant to perform to the nation rather than defining the status of anyone carries them. He that carries a weapon should respect the person that does not, as no one carries any weapon outside official duties. Similarly, whatever the status of any security personnel, as soon as they meet one another in their beat, such personnel must be accorded due respect as officer on the duty post (Ammerdown Group, 2016). Furthermore, officers and civilians as well should be seen as superiors in their own right and must be accorded their due respect and dignity while in their official working environment (Charlie, 1996). In this way, superiority struggles will be checked not only among the security operatives, but also in all facets of our social lives, if democracy must be stabilized in Nigeria (Hakna, 2013).

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on structural functionalism or the structural functionalist theory as the framework for analysis. According to Varma (1975), structural functional analysis revolves around certain concepts more important of which are concepts like functions and structures. In using structural functional analysis, three basic questions are usually asked, namely: (a) What basic functions are fulfilled in any given system, (b) By what structures and (c) Under what

conditions? In the words of Merton (1949), “functions are those observed consequences which make for the adaptation or adjustment of a given system; and dysfunction, those observed consequences which lessen the adaptation or adjustment of the system”. A system on its own part has been variously defined as “a set of elements standing in interaction”, (Bertalanffy, 1956); “A set of objects together with relationships between the objects and between their attributes”, (Hall and Fagan, 1956); and “a whole which is compounded of many parts an ensemble of attributes” (Cherry, 1961).

The implication of all these definitions is that a system implies the idea of a group of objects or elements standing in some characteristic structural relationship to one another and interacting on the basis of certain characteristic processes (Varma, 1975). When action takes place in a given system, functional and/or dysfunctional consequences are usually produced. Varma (1975) further notes that beside the concept of function, another very important concept in structural functional analysis is structure. While function deals with the consequences, involving objectives as well as processes of pattern of actions, structure refers to those arrangements within the system which perform the functions. A single function may be fulfilled by a complex combination of structures, just as any given structural arrangement may perform functions which might have different kinds of consequences for the structure.

Structural functionalism is employed as a theoretical framework so that possible ways of survival of a system can be discovered. The analysis is primarily directed towards the amount of change at the structural level that a system can accommodate without seriously hindering the fulfillment of its basic functional requisites.

In applying this theory in the analysis of inter-agency collaboration in the fight against cankerworm eating into the national security, it is important to note that inter-agency comprises of many structures (other military and para-military security outfits), all working or performing certain functions to make the system work. For any inter-agency to work, several activities need to be performed and certain institutions are created to perform some of these roles or functions for the society to keep the system going. Nigeria operates a security system that has different agencies tackling some specified social ills from society. Certain agencies are also created to perform certain roles or functions for the maintenance of the Nigerian society. For the Nigerian security to function according to model and specification in the fight against national insecurity, there is need for all the agencies to come together and form synergy; and for the inter-agency to operate there is need to have the leadership with jurisdiction.

There is also a need to have the structure or institution charged with the role of tackling a specified crime. That institution in the case of Nigeria is the inter-agency. The relationship between the present study is that independent security agencies, being structured within a system must collaborate with other agencies in order to fulfill the responsibility of national security.

METHOD

Research Design

Survey design was adopted in the study. This design was appropriate in the study because according to Osuala (2005), survey research focuses on people, the vital facts of the people and their beliefs, opinions, attitudes, motivation and behaviour.

Area of the Study

The area of the study was Nigeria. The study area chosen based on the prevalence and the incessant herdsmen and farmers conflict in it.

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised the staff of Operation Save Haven in Plateau State and Operation Whirl Stroke in Benue State. This comprises of the Nigerian Police, Nigerian army, Nigerian Air Force, Nigerian Navy, Department of State Services and Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps from two states (Plateau State and Benue State). Also, other members of the Nigerian society formed part of the population of the study.

Sample and Sampling Technique

250 respondents were randomly selected for the study using non-proportionate stratified sampling technique. This was necessitated by the fact that the questionnaires were administered to the respondents in each of the 6 aforementioned organizations and other members of the Nigerian society.

Instrumentation

Two research instruments were used for data collection. The instruments were a questionnaire titled “interagency collaboration and national security Questionnaire. The research instrument was made up of three sections; A and B. Section A, focused on the personal data of the respondents. Section B measured the constructs of the independent and dependent variables.

Validation of the Instrument

The questionnaire items were subjected to validation by two experts in test and measurement and evaluation in University of Benue.

Reliability of the Instrument

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to determine the reliability coefficient of the instruments. Using the test-retest method, the instruments were administered twice to thirty (30) personnel that were not part of the study within two weeks’ interval between each administration. The average reliability coefficient of 0.93 was obtained proving the instruments highly reliable for the study.

Administration of Instrument

The instruments were administered personally by the researcher to the respondents. This personal administration of questionnaire helped to minimise loss of questionnaire. The respondents were given enough time to complete the questionnaire before returning them for the statistical analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The research question was answered using (mean) descriptive statistics; while hypotheses was tested using the regression analysis at 0.05.

Results and Discussions

Research Question

What is the implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria?

In order to answer the research question, descriptive analysis was performed on the data collected (see table 1).

Table 1

Descriptive analysis of the implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria

Variable	N	Arithmetic mean	Expected mean	r	Remarks
Inter-Agency collaboration		13.09	12.50		
	250			0.56	*Moderately strong Relationship
National Security in Nigeria		12.49	12.50		

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Table 1 presents the result of the descriptive analysis of the relationship between implications of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria. The two variables were observed to have moderately strong relationship at 56%. The arithmetic mean for the extent of inter-agency collaboration (13.09) was also observed to be higher than the expected mean score of 12.50. In addition to that the arithmetic mean for national security to national security in Nigeria (12.49) was observed to be higher than the expected mean score of 12.50. The result therefore means that there is remarkable implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria.

Hypothesis

There is no significant implication of Inter-agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria. Regression analysis was used to analyze the data, (see table 2)

Table 2

Model Summary of implication of Inter-Agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics
					R Square Change
1	.86	.73	.73	.83	.73

$P < 0.05$; $df=248$; $N=250$; Critical R-value = 0.139

The above calculated R-value 0.86 was greater than the table R-value of 0.139 at 0.05 alpha level with 248 degree of freedom. The R-square value 0.73 predicts 73% of the implication of inter-agency collaboration on national security in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the data of analysis of the study, it was concluded that there is significant implication of inter-agency collaboration on National Security in Nigeria.

Recommendations

1. There is need to get the security agents trained on information and communication technology as this will enhance them in their detective jobs and national security.
2. Security agencies should be reoriented to dissociate themselves from the dark days of coercion and ignorance and strive to come to terms with modernity that will get Nigeria the needed recognition among international communities.

3. Terrorist attacks are manifestations of deep-seated conflicts in the society. The conflicts may be economic, political or socio-cultural. Understanding the nature of these conflicts and how to manage them to prevent violence is the surest way to combat terrorism. Consequently, security personnel must be knowledgeable in conflict management techniques such as bargaining, negotiation, conciliation, mediation and arbitration.
4. The Nigerian security agencies should be provided with the necessary facilities that would enable them to efficiently network among themselves and with similar agencies in other countries. This approach will assist in no small measure in the prevention and control of terrorism.

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