



Financial Security and Peacebuilding in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract

The quest to be financially, emotionally, and psychologically secure against the necessities of life; what to eat, drink, where to live, and the quest for a better life is one of the major reasons why people unite or disunite for resources that cannot go around. The struggle for these resources that cannot go around has resulted in some people being better off to the detriment of others, while others are worse off. The activities of the have not, including the unemployed and the poorest segment of the society are capable of posing challenges to peacebuilding in a modern democratic society like Nigeria. It is on the above premise that this study seeks to examine Financial Security and Peacebuilding in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects. The study employed a documentary research method, using secondary sources of data. Thus, the study adopted content analysis as a method of data analysis. The study employed needs theory as the theoretical framework of analysis. The finding of this study reveals among others that financial insecurity like a high rate of illiteracy, low standard of living/high mortality rate, and insecurity/violent conflict pose challenges to peacebuilding in Nigeria. The study recommended among others that the government at all levels in Nigeria should ensure that every Nigerian has access to education, healthcare services and a decentralised security system. The suggested solution will address financial insecurity like high rate of illiteracy, low standard of living and high mortality that have posed challenges to peacebuilding.

Keywords: Financial insecurity, Financial security, Nigeria, Peacebuilding, Poverty, Unemployment.

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Introduction

Financial security is the ability of individuals to meet up with the living expenses and other speculative needs that might arise. In doing this, the role of government is germane in providing an enabling environment for such individuals to achieve the task of financial security. This informs the reason why the framer of the 1999 Constitution inserted in the



Constitution the idea of security and welfare of the people. Section 14, sub-section 2 (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically states that the security and welfare of its people shall be the primary purpose of government. The 1999 Constitution implies that the financial security of the people shall be the priority of the government in power through policies and programmes that are developmental-oriented to meet the basic needs of the citizens.

Howell, Kurai and Tam (2013) who carried out a study in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom respectively submit that financial security should improve life satisfaction through higher wealth and income as well as lower debt. The study finds out that, through greater financial security and the fulfilment of psychological needs, money can buy happiness. The above observation revealed that financial security brings happiness and satisfaction to people who have it, hence a good way to build peace in society. On the other hand, Oluwatayo (2014) observes that the challenges to financial security include poverty, increasing unemployment, and diminishing incomes. The foregoing challenges that make financial security an uphill task have consequences for society as unemployed or poor people are less happy and healthy than employed individuals (Ouweneel, 2002).

Even though the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides for the welfare of Nigerian citizens which is akin to enhancing the financial security of the citizens, the reality on the ground as we write is a negation to the aspirations of the framer of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution. Successive governments seem to have failed in their responsibility to provide an enabling environment for the financial security of their citizens to enable them to meet their basic needs. The role of financial security in enhancing peacebuilding cannot be underestimated; this is the main reason why the absence of it can have implications for national security by posing a challenge to peacebuilding.

Flowing from the above, the need to investigate whether the quest for financial security can pose a challenge to peacebuilding necessitated this study. This study, therefore, investigates, 'Financial Security and Peacebuilding in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects.



The following research questions were formulated to guide the study: 1) What are the challenges that financial insecurity poses to peacebuilding in Nigeria? 2) What prospects does financial security have for peacebuilding in Nigeria? The objectives of the study are as follows: 1) To investigate the challenges that financial insecurity poses to peacebuilding in Nigeria; 2) to examine the prospects of financial security for peacebuilding in Nigeria. The study employed a documentary research method, using secondary sources of data. Consequently, textbooks, journals, newspapers, magazines, and conference papers, among others were consulted. Thus, the study adopted content analysis as a method of data analysis. This study is significant for Nigeria's policy-making and peacebuilding efforts because it highlights the challenges of peacebuilding that have their root causes in an attempt for people to meet their survival needs that their satisfactions are not negotiable, hence the need to urgently address those human needs to prevent a relapse to conflict in the society that pose challenges to peacebuilding.

Literature Review

Financial Security and Peacebuilding

The concept of financial security defies an acceptable definition; this might not be unconnected to the diverse background of scholars who have investigated the concept at either the state level or at individual levels. At the level of the state, financial security has been defined as the condition of the financial system of a nation that maintains the integrity and coherence of the nation's financial system while also fostering steady economic progress in the face of shocks and imbalances in the financial system (Onyshchuk, Onyshchuk, Petroye & Chernysh, 2020). The financial system at the state level means the provision of infrastructural facilities and socio-economic policies that enhance national prosperity and human security to complement internal security and external defence.

At the level of individuals, financial security is defined as the ability to generate the revenue required to support a household and to set aside funds in the event of unforeseen events like illness, unemployment, or family dissolution (Piotrowska, 2017). The above is corroborated by the view of Ayeni (2024, p. 230), who defines financial security as the



“capability of people” to afford their basic human needs through legitimate endeavours.

The foregoing demonstrates the fact that financial security is the ability of individuals to provide for their basic needs, now and in the future.

The concept of peacebuilding is not a new phenomenon; however, it has defied an acceptable definition. One of the foremost definitions of peacebuilding is the one given by Galtung (1975), the scholar defines peacebuilding by saying that the progressions that peace is instituted on should be built into the structure that removes causes of wars and offers substitutes for war in circumstances where wars might occur. The above explanation of peacebuilding entails that society should focus on the peace process that addresses the root causes of violent conflict and war in the society among others. Validating the above is the definition of peacebuilding that was given by Boutros-Ghali, the then UN Secretary-General (Boutros Boutros-Ghali) defines peacebuilding in his Agenda for Peace as ‘action to recognize and support structures which have the propensity to strengthen and solidify peace to evade relapse into conflict (United Nations, 1992).

The foregoing definitions see peacebuilding as everything that is done to empower institutions that build peace and discourage conflict in society. Related to the above line of thought is the definition of peacebuilding given by Ayeni, Uzoigwe, Sani and Dubu (2019), who define peacebuilding as all the procedures used to guarantee peaceful interactions between members of society, free from tyranny, extortion, exploitation, extreme poverty, and violations of basic human rights. This definition is related to the previous definition because they intended to have a society where there is no absolute poverty that leads many to violent conflict, or violation of a fundamental human right that leads to serious conflict among people in the society. The above development also entails support for the guiding rules that support equal rights and opportunities among people in society.

Financial security is a means to achieving peacebuilding because it strives to satisfy human needs that can pose a challenge to peacebuilding if not addressed, while



peacebuilding is an end in itself because it strives to achieve a peaceful and prosperous society which can only be achieved when survival needs have been satisfied. Following the above, it is pretty good to say that there is a causal and effect relationship between the independent, financial security and dependent variables, peacebuilding of this study.

Researchers have written extensively on the dependent variable (peacebuilding) of this study while leaving out the independent variable – Financial security. Onyshchuk, Onyshchuk, Petroye, and Chernysh (2020) who investigated ‘Financial stability and its impact on national security’, explain that not having financial security or facing financial insecurity is connected to ineffective laws, a high credit rate, and financial sector's incapacity to ensure the equitable distribution of funds in the economy that has detrimental effects on national security. The above study blamed the challenges of financial security that hurt the national security on the government. The above study is relevant to the present study in as much as it examines financial stability, a phenomenon that is very close to financial security that the present study intends to interrogate.

However, the study is inadequate because the study was carried out outside the nationality of this study, Nigeria and the fact that this previous study failed to examine peacebuilding, as the present study intends to do. In another development, Green, and Leeves (2013), who examined ‘Job security, financial security, and worker well-being’, argue that one type of financial instability that impacts living standards is not having a reliable source of income or earning less money. This study blamed the challenges of financial security on not having a steady income which hurts living conditions. The above study is relevant to the present because it examines job security as an independent and financial security as an intervening variable respectively, the subject matter that is similar to the independent variable of the present study. However, the study is inadequate because the study was carried out outside a nationality like Nigeria and also fails to interrogate peacebuilding. Close observations of the above studies show that there is no agreement on the above studies on the implications of financial security and the factors responsible for financial insecurity. These disagreements inform the present study, hence the thinking that financial insecurity which is the direct opposite of financial security



might pose a challenge to peacebuilding. This study is unique in the sense that few available literature that touched on the independent variable of the present study were carried out outside nationality like Nigeria, however, the few available literature neglected the dependent variable (peacebuilding) that the present study intends to examine. The present study intends to fill the above gap.

Theoretical Framework of Analysis

This study employs human needs theory to explain financial security and peacebuilding in Nigeria. The human needs theory was originally propounded by Abraham Maslow to explain human needs in an organisation, nevertheless, it was John Burton (1990) who adopted Maslow's need theory into conflict theory and viewed human needs from a different perspective as Maslow had earlier viewed it. Human need theory believes that the fear of retaliation deters a prospective belligerent from using violence against an opponent, and structural violence arises when particular groups of individuals are denied access to resources that meet their needs (Christie, 1997). The needs theory implies two things, one is that a person is likely going to commit a crime to meet his or her basic need; the second point is that a potentially aggrieved person who wants to go into direct violence to satisfy his basic need will cease from doing so when there is a threat of punishment. The following are the tenets of human need theory:

- i. Discouragement as a way of stopping direct violence may not work when human needs for security and identity are not met.
- ii. The satisfaction of human needs for security and identity brings about a peaceful resolution of interstate cycles of violence and prolonged identity conflicts.
- iii. Direct violence can be stopped by fulfilling needs for security and identity before conflicts over satisfiers occur.
- iv. The satisfaction of security and identity needs can be directed in constructive, peace-promoting directions.
- v. A just and sustainable peace demands the equitable satisfaction of human needs for security, identity, well-being, and self-determination (Christie, 1997, pp.320-329).



The perspective of the tenets of human needs theory means that: It is only when human needs for financial security and identity are satisfied or met that direct violence can be stopped to a great extent, hence the satisfaction of financial security and identity needs can promote a peaceful resolution of interstate violence and long term identity conflict. Therefore, to stop direct and structural violence is to meet the needs for financial security and identity that can spark violence over unsatisfied needs. Therefore, peacebuilding can only be achieved when there is the satisfaction of human needs for financial security among others.

Not only that, structural violence occurs when the need for freedom of choice or economic well-being is routinely denied to particular groups within society (Christie, 1997). A study conducted by Ayeni, Sani and Haruna (2023), suggests that human security is at risk because political leaders are unable to meet individuals' basic requirements, such as basic infrastructure. Therefore, non-provision of basic infrastructure means denying people direct and indirect job creation that is supposed to provide people with their survival needs. Infrastructural deficit is a threat to human security that poses challenges to peacebuilding. Structural violence takes place when no needed infrastructure can create jobs to provide for survival needs. Structural violence poses a serious challenge to the peacebuilding process, because of the inability of people to finance their human needs. With the above in mind, it has been noted that money may buy happiness and build lasting peace by eradicating structural violence and ensuring that essential human necessities are met financially (Howell, Kurai & Tam, 2012). From the above observation, discouraging people from stopping direct violence without the provision of financial security to people who are bent on seeking financial security to meet their basic needs might pose a serious challenge to the peacebuilding process in society.

Not only that, Onyshchuk, Onyshchuk, Petroye and Chernysh (2020) also hold that financial system regulators' policies and the effectiveness of the nation's economic and other institutions have an impact on financial security and viability. The most viable way of discouraging direct violence by people who are confronted with financial insecurity



but want to exercise financial security is to provide them with an avenue where they will be able to finance their basic human needs through robust government policies that redistribute income to the masses. Therefore, the satisfaction of human needs for financial security brings about a peaceful resolution. This is why a casual worker who cannot have all his basic needs satisfied because of his nature of appointment will strive for his or her appointment to be permanent. Contract staff favour job security since it can improve their financial security and general happiness, including their capacity to handle money (Green, & Leeves, 2013).

Results and Discussion of Findings

Financial Insecurity and the Challenges of Peacebuilding

The desperation and the disposition of people with financial insecurity might be a threat to peacebuilding in contemporary society if not addressed. The reason is because financial insecurity puts people in a disadvantageous position. The following are the challenges that society can witness in the event people do not have the financial security to live their normal lives.

High Rate of Illiteracy

A high rate of illiteracy is a symptom of financial insecurity that has the propensity of producing poor governance and posing challenges to peacebuilding. For instance, it has been argued that a high rate of illiteracy or low level of access to education has resulted in the absence of popular participation and involvement in the decision-making of government (Ayeni, 2017). This high rate of illiteracy or low access to higher education that produces poor governance has its roots in financial insecurity. People who are experiencing financial insecurity might not have the needed funds to access education or even higher education needed to participate fully in the democratic process that enhances governance. In another development, it has also been argued that financial security enhances access to education and even higher education, while access to education or higher education for people experiencing financial insecurity is an uphill task. Following the above, the Department of Business Innovation & Skills, United Kingdom (2013) has noted that highly educated individuals are found to be more trusting and are more liberal



towards migrants than the poorly educated with consequent benefits for society as a whole. The above observation means that people with higher education have a peaceful disposition with strangers when compared to people without higher education. Of course, it is well noted that it is people with financial security muzzle that can afford higher education and transform into peace-loving people, thereby increasing their propensity to avoid conflict. On the other hand, financial insecurity that hinders people's access to education and even higher education promotes a high level of illiteracy that is not liberal to outsiders.

Low Standard of Living and High Mortality Rate

A low standard of living and a high mortality rate is an indicator of financial insecurity. Thus, it has been noted that reduced incomes, unstable employment, and unstable finances are all signs of a low standard of life that have an impact on well-being (Green & Leeves, 2013). A low standard of living is a recipe for violent conflicts in Africa because it affects survival needs that are not negotiable. It is the quest of addressing survival needs by people experiencing a low standard of living that violent conflict has increased. For instance, it has been argued that many resource-based conflicts (Niger Delta), ethno-religious crises (Jos crisis), and communal disputes resulting from low living standards as direct players threaten Nigeria's restoration to democratic governance (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). Most of the above violent conflicts are caused by people experiencing a low standard of living courtesy of underemployment/unemployment. More importantly is that people without steady occupations have lower well-being because they lack financial security (Green & Leeves, 2013).

More importantly is that the absence of financial security in Nigeria society poses a challenge to peacebuilding, which has been attributed to the Federal Republic of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, which grants state governments the authority to oversee and manage local governments within their borders in addition to State-Local Government Joint Account Allocation (Ayeni, Andeshi & Cinjel, 2020). A low standard of living that is an indicator of financial insecurity has been blamed on the supervisory role that the 1999 constitution gave to the state government which is responsible for a lower standard of



living among the people. For instance, scholars have argued for the idea of development known as participatory development, which promotes residents' involvement in government programmes that directly impact them (Asaju & Ayeni, 2021). The lower standard of living in the country is largely a result of the inability of the local government to participate in the development of the local level because of the way most state governors have hijacked local government allocation coming to their states.

This low standard of living has also resulted in situations where people die because of their inability to afford good healthcare services courtesy of financial insecurity. For instance, Cruwys, Haslam, Steffens, Haslam, Fong, and Lam (2019) submitted that financial insecurity is a decline in financial security that gives rise to risks of social isolation, and subsequent risk of health decline among others. Financial insecurity is a situation where a sick person is not able to access healthcare services because of a lack of funds. This financial insecurity made people seek their survival needs at all costs and even engage in criminal activities to address their survival needs that they feel are not negotiable.

Insecurity and Violent Conflict

In most African countries and Nigeria inclusive, there is a growing consensus that insecurity and violent conflict are a result of the inability of people to meet their basic needs. The inability of people to meet their survival needs has thus become a motivation for engaging in illegal activities for financial gain and financial security that can provide for one's needs. The above is affirmed by Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013, p. 288) who hold that “the failure of the Nigerian leaders to address development problems, distribute state resources equitably, and provide good services to the people seem to be one of the causes of violence”. The above is further corroborated by the fact that the quality of leadership is the bedrock of development in every country of the world (Ayeni, 2018). Insecurity and violent conflict have also been attributed to the failure of leadership to bring about development where people's financial security is provided for. To validate the fact that insecurity and violent conflict have their root in financial insecurity. Scholars have maintained that corruption causes poverty and poverty causes insecurity (Muhammed &



Ayeni, 2018). The prevalence of insecurity has been attributed to the failure of government structures that produce financial insecurity. This is why scholars have contended that when a structure is not performing its function optimally; vices often appear (Joseph, Cinjel & Ayeni, 2017). Insecurity and violent conflict arise because the government fails to provide for the welfare and security of citizens.

In addition to the above, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2018) has affirmed that Nigeria's unemployment rate stood at 23.1 per cent, while the underemployment rate stood at 20.1 per cent as of the third quarter of 2018. The data from NBS showed that 43.2 per cent of Nigeria is unemployed and underemployed. The above observation implies that the high rate of unemployment has the propensity to lead people to do anything and everything that can provide for their financial security to enable them secure access to food, and shelter among others. The motivation to do anything and everything for survival poses a challenge to sustainability. The above submission is validated in this manner, the rising poverty cases in Africa result in conflict and violence (World Bank 2019, cited in Babajide, Lawal, Asaleye, Okafor, & Osuma, 2020). Poverty is a symptom of financial insecurity that causes conflict and violence and poses a challenge to peacebuilding. The failure of the government to enhance the provision of financial security for its citizens manifests through poverty

Prospects for Financial Security that enhance Peacebuilding

Here, the study provides insight into how financial security directly influences peacebuilding. It should be noted that the responsibility of providing support to achieve financial security can be at the individual, group, or government level. This is because of the importance of financial security in enhancing perpetual peace. The reason is because of its ability to provide money or funds that can satisfy basic human needs. Maslow (1943) corroborated the above in this manner, “money is best related to happiness when it is employed to meet basic needs like food, and clean water” (cited in Howell, Kurai, & Tam, 2012, p.4). Consequent to the above, the following are the indicators of financial security that can enhance peacebuilding in every human society, of which Nigeria is



included. The following are the prospects for financial security that enhance peacebuilding.

Government Empowerment Programme

A government empowerment programme is an indicator of financial security that can enhance peacebuilding everywhere in the world. This type of empowerment programme is what government does to people to enhance their financial security. For instance, the European Union encourages youth to apply for the £5,000 EU Youth Empowerment Fund, which can be used for individual or youth group community projects (Joseph, 2024). This empowerment programme is expected to empower people's capacity to provide for their basic needs. This is why scholars have noted that the provision of financial security for people undergoing structural violence is an attempt to install peacebuilding since a hungry man is an angry man (Ogunode & Ayeni, 2024). Having established earlier that poverty is a symptom of financial insecurity, it is wise to say that every citizen experiencing absolute poverty is undergoing structural violence.

Therefore anybody and everybody undergoing structural violence who cannot afford three square meals a day or afford hospital bills or cannot provide for his or her shelter needs government empowerment. The government empowerment programme should be able to provide people who previously could not afford hospital bills or three square meals a day to do so courtesy of the government empowerment programme. An example of such a government empowerment programme has been noted by Zwolak (2017) who posits that financing of micro, small, and medium-sized businesses in Poland resulted in increased profitability for the relevant businesses. A government empowerment programme is a prospect of financial security that can enhance sustainable peace. This empowerment programme is expected to provide people with the needed financial and material support to start businesses and create financial security through the profit they make from such businesses. This profit can then be used as financial security to provide for their basic human needs.



Massive Infrastructural Development

Massive infrastructural development has been noted as an indicator of economic development. The presence of massive infrastructural development in any society is a good indicator of financial security. The role of infrastructural development in providing financial security is so central that scholars like Babajide, Lawal, Asaleye, Okafor, and Osuma (2020) have posited that the political elite of African states needs to accelerate infrastructure development to eradicate the high levels of unemployment and poverty that are currently prevalent in the region. Massive infrastructural development is noted to be an antidote to financial insecurity. The above is validated by scholars who argue that the government bears the responsibility of securing the economy through infrastructure boost development to give citizens financial stability (Ayeni, 2024). One of the arguments for massive infrastructural development is that it brings about economic development when it is sustained for a very long time. It is the provision of this massive infrastructural development that creates jobs for several people and results in their financial security, either directly or indirectly. This is because infrastructural development empowers (Ayeni, Sani, Idris & Uzoigwe, 2019).

The role of massive infrastructural development in enhancing financial security for people is validated by Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) who submitted that Nigerian security, and consequently financial security, deteriorated due to lack of access to pipe-born water, healthcare facilities, power, and reasonably priced, high-quality education. The absence of massive infrastructural development brings about financial insecurity and poverty, while the presence of it enhances the financial security of the people. The above shows that massive infrastructural development is one of the ways being employed by developed societies to empower the people to enable everybody to have the capacity to provide for their survival needs. This is why it is said that the chief responsibility of securing a peaceful society lies with the state to enhance peacebuilding.



Personal Empowerment Through Security

Effective security of lives and property is an indicator of financial security that can support people to provide for their survival needs without fear from non-state actors. Thus, it is this thinking that informs the reason why the primary role of the government is to enhance the welfare of its citizens by providing a conducive environment that enables people to provide for basic human needs. For instance, Oluwatayo and Oluwatayo (2014) noted that rearing animals like goats and, sheep among others in the house offers financial security, as these animals are sold during production shortfalls, or unexpected contingencies resulting from ill health, changes in government policies. The provision of security to ensure the protection of lives and properties is an empowerment that provides a conducive environment for people to go about their daily activities with the hope that they are secured.

However, this is not a direct empowerment, as it is duty-bound for people to embark on some economic activities to provide for their financial security. Personal empowerment that provides for financial security has its roots in hard work, creativity and the quest for financial freedom as it is more honourable to earn a little than to become a beggar. To maintain their financial and domestic stability, rural women in Nigeria's rainforest region actively participate in the collection of leaves, ropes, mushrooms, fruits, and nuts, as well as in the gathering of medicinal plants, snail collections, and fuel wood manufacturing (Osemeobo, 2005). When there is security of lives and properties, it means there is motivation as some people will be able to provide for themselves to enhance their financial security.

Provision of Social Security

The provision of social security is an indicator of financial security for the people that can enhance peacebuilding in society. Social security has been noted by the government to be a viable means of financial security for some categories of people in society who cannot meet their basic needs. Ouweneel (2002) defines social security as a group-mandated insurance programme for sickness, unemployment, and retirement. Social



security is not necessarily employment where people work for money to meet their basic needs, but a situation where the government gives out financial aid or material support because of their present unpleasant condition that warrants them not to have the capacity to provide the financial security they desire. People are considered poor when they cannot satisfy their basic needs. Ouweneel (2002) argues that in nations that cut down on social security benefits, the well-being of the unemployed deteriorated slightly; but in nations where social security benefits expanded, the unemployed did not become healthier or happier. Social security is not expected to make beneficiaries happier than gainfully employed, but to keep them at equilibrium where they are not worst off or better off. For instance, social security is a social transfer like the N-Power that can only be beneficial to the poor in the short run, but not in the long run (Ayeni, Sani, Idris & Uzoigwe, 2019). The N-Power programme is not fashioned in a way that will make beneficiaries better than fully paid jobs, but to meet crucial survival needs. The people who need social security for peacebuilding to be enhanced are those unemployed, and under-employed among others who usually seek help from friends and family before they can provide for their survival needs.

The finding of this study revealed financial insecurity like high rate of illiteracy, low standard of living/high mortality rate, and insecurity/violent conflict that pose challenges to peacebuilding in Nigeria. This financial insecurity manifests in the form of poverty. The finding of this study correlates with the finding of a previous study that argued that nearly ninety-eight million Nigerians live in extreme poverty, making the country the world's capital of poverty, of this figure, the larger population is the youth and children (Olatunde, 2021). The finding of this study is also corroborated by previous studies that submitted that poverty poses serious challenges to peace and security in Nigeria (Zubairu, 2020; Olatunde, 2021; Udeoba & Eze, 2021). Financial insecurity that manifests through poverty has driven many people into violence and insecurity in their quest to seek financial security at all costs, these activities have constituted serious challenges to peacebuilding in Nigeria.



Further findings of this study showed prospects of financial security like the provision of government empowerment programmes, massive infrastructural development, personal empowerment through security and provision of social security that can enhance peacebuilding in Nigeria. The above finding is validated by previous research where it was argued that the degree of economic development, which is based on significant government-built infrastructure development, is correlated with financial security (Ayeni, 2024). What the above suggests is that the provisions of massive infrastructural development will fast-track economic development that will naturally enhance peacebuilding in Nigeria. This is because poverty has been noted as the root of most violent conflict in Africa. The above prospects signify financial security that has enhanced peacebuilding in every country where they are instituted.

Conclusion

The study has been able to examine 'Financial Security and Peacebuilding in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects'. The study revealed that discouraging people from posing challenges to peacebuilding may not work as a result of financial insecurity which manifests in the form of high rate of illiteracy, low standard of living and high mortality rate.

The prospect of financial security that can satisfy human needs and enhance peacebuilding in Nigeria includes the provision of government empowerment programmes, massive infrastructural development, personal empowerment through security and *the* provision of social security. The study concludes that the importance of addressing financial insecurity for successful peacebuilding efforts in Nigeria is because discouraging people from posing a challenge to peacebuilding will not yield positive results without addressing human needs for well-being and security that are not negotiable.



Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the paper recommends that:

Government at all levels in Nigeria should ensure that every Nigerian has access to education, healthcare services and a decentralised security system. The suggested solution will address financial insecurity like high rate of illiteracy, low standard of living and high mortality that have posed challenges to peacebuilding.

Governments at all levels in Nigeria should work together to ensure the provision of government empowerment programmes, massive infrastructural development, personal empowerment through security and provision of social security. The suggested solution will empower individuals to provide for their financial security (human needs) and demotivate potential belligerents from committing violence against people engaging in legitimate activities.

Research Implications

The research implication is that this present study has vividly expressed the fact that citizens must have access to education, and healthcare services and a decentralised security system to discourage potential belligerents from involving in violent conflict and posing a threat to peacebuilding in the society. The second implication of the research is that the present study revealed how the government at all levels can take the lead in enhancing peacebuilding in Nigerian society through, the provision of government empowerment programme, massive infrastructural development, personal empowerment through security and provision of social security to address the human needs that are not negotiable.

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