

## PERISCOPING URBANISATION AND EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN ENUGU METROPLIS

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### ABSTRACT

*There has been a serious increase of insecurity in the country making it a prominent issue in recent times. Lives are lost on daily basis, population depleted, businesses in comatose, investments are nose-diving, multinationals closing shops and vacating the country, unemployment soaring and the populace in fears. Clearly, it poses a threat to governance and economic growth in troubled nation. There is no doubt that these security challenges pose serious threat to the socio-economic development of Nigeria. The study examined the urbanization and security challenges in Enugu State. The specific objectives were to: determine the relationship between urbanization and the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis, examine the relationship between urbanization and armed robbery in Enugu metropolis and investigate the relationship between urbanization and cybercrime in Enugu metropolis. The study was guided by three research questions and three hypothesis. This research employed a descriptive research design. The population of the study is 2,636,630. Taro Yamani's statistical sampling formula was used to obtain a sample of size of 400. The data collected were analyzed through the use of men scores. Mean score statistics were utilized in analysing of the data. The correlation analysis method was applied in the test of the hypothesis. The finding revealed that urbanization has a significant relationship with the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis (where  $r = 0.875$ )*

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*and  $p=0.00$ ). This means that the high level of kidnapping in Enugu urban scares away investors in the states. It was found that Urbanization has significant relationship with armed robbery in Enugu metropolis (where  $r=0.61$  and  $p=0.00$ ) and that urbanization has a significant relationship with cybercrime in Enugu metropolis (where  $r=0.14$  and  $p=0.00$ ). The study concluded that urban insecurity which often manifest in the way of kidnapping, armed robbery and violent agitations etc, influenced negatively the economic development in Enugu State. The study recommended that government at all levels should put in place mechanisms that encourage financial institutions to provide soft loans to aspiring young entrepreneurs who want to start small businesses, allowing them to sustain themselves and avoid engaging in criminal activities such as kidnapping for ransom, which has become the norm in many Nigerian states.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

There has been a serious increase of insecurity in the country making it a prominent issue in recent times. Lives are lost on daily basis, population depleted, businesses in comatose, investments are nose-diving, multinationals closing shops and vacating the country, unemployment soaring and the populace in fears. Clearly, it poses a threat to governance and economic growth in troubled nation. Since the exit of the military from the political scene and the enthronement of democracy in Nigeria about 24 years ago, Nigeria has witnessed an unprecedented security challenges that have put Nigerians and foreigners on their toes. More particularly, since 2007, the state of insecurity in the country occasioned by the activities of different groups has assumed an alarming dimension. Such activities include militancy in the south south region, kidnapping in the south east, violent armed robbery, political assassination, ritual killings and more recently suicide bombings in some parts of the northern region especially north east (Ezeajughu, 2022).

Lately, in the quest for greener pastures people migrate from the rural to urban areas. This rural-urban migration seems to have constituted an overcrowded urban environment in most African countries. Evidently, there has been a sporadic increase in number of people living in urban areas ranging from 13% in 1900 to 49% in 2005. It is further submitted that rural-urban migration increased to three billion as at 2012 and will continue to skyrocket by 2050 to about five billion or more (The United Nations, 2017). Globally, urbanization is the driving force of the economy especially in developing nations. Urban areas offer individual a lot of opportunities to improve one's standard of living. It was further maintained that urbanization is characterized with improved access to good housing facilities, transportation, employment, merchandise and other basic amenities for inhabitants in creating a better livelihood. Collaboratively, it is clear that urbanization is the crux for individual development and societal

change that offer business opportunities, affluent, security and social incorporation among others (Ahmed, 2018). However, urbanization in Africa has shifted from achieving those developmental components of social and economic sustenance to conglomerates of social unrest and economic despondency (Sasu, 2022). Sadly, not only have these issues of insecurity caused societal unrest and economic decay, it has as well triggered mental health problems among these migrant youths in urban areas.

Udeuhele (2018) opine that the economic cost of insecurity is enormous. Displacement of people reduces the production of exports, thereby reducing foreign exchange earnings, import potentials and consequently further constraining output, leading to a decline in employment and earnings. The reason for government failure to address this issue of insecurity satisfactorily may not be unconnected with government failure in meeting the developmental needs of the people which has forced them into forming alliance in different forms that has succeeded in breeding what Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim,(2013) refers to increasing ethnic hate, religious bigotry, political rivalry and a growing population of disgruntle citizens in the country who feel they have been short-changed and given very limited or no access to the common patrimony. The continuous increase and frequent occurrence of acts of violence and lawlessness including issues such as kidnapping arms insurgence, cultism, assassination, ritual killings, violent robbery, murder, cattle rustling, and militancy among others have called for serious concern.

In Enugu metropolis, car vandals are on the increase on daily basis as motorists lose their car batteries, wind screen, side mirrors, brain box, and tires among others to armed robbers. Those who withdraw cash from the banks are not safe, as hoodlums follow and snatch such monies from them at gun point even in broad day light. Nevertheless, insecurity in Nigeria and Enugu State in particular is not a recent phenomenon as there have been various forms of insecurity. Most of these insecurity is both economically, and politically motivated and have existed for a long time. To address the economically motivated violence and insecurity in the country, various governments have come up with different initiatives aimed at curbing the menace. At the national level, government has initiated such programmes as, Poverty Eradication Programmes, Community and Social Development Programme as well as the establishment of National Directorate of Employment and the most recent N-Power programme, while at the State level, government has been more focused in forming vigilante groups, youths Assembly, Neighborhood watch all aimed at curbing insecurity in the state. With all these efforts, available records still show that the more some of these programmes evolve, the worse the situation gets. There is no doubt that these security challenges pose serious threat to the socio-economic development of Nigeria. The army of unskilled work force in Nigeria and in the Enugu State in particular has led to the large number of unemployment in the nation because the enabling environment for the youths to acquired skills is lacking and therefore the youths themselves have turn into crime and criminalities and causing violence and conflict in the state (Nwanbi, 2018). Given these, the study examined the urbanization and security challenges in Enugu metropolis.

### **1.1 Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective of the study was to examine urbanization and security challenges in Enugu metropolis. The specific objectives of the study were to:

- i. Determine the relationship between urbanization and the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis;
- ii. Examine the relationship between urbanization and armed robbery in in Enugu metropolis;
- iii. Investigate the relationship between urbanization and cybercrime in Enugu metropolis.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

- i. What is the relationship between urbanization and the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis?
- ii. What relationship does urbanization have with armed robbery in Enugu metropolis?  
How does urbanization relate with cybercrime in in Enugu metropolis?

#### 1.4 Hypotheses

- i. Urbanization has no significant relationship with the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis.
- ii. Urbanization has no significant relationship with armed robbery in Enugu metropolis
- iii. Urbanization has no significant relationship with cybercrime in Enugu metropolis.

#### • Urbanization

The 2016 definition by Wikipedia of urbanization is the physical growth of rural or natural land into urban areas as a result of immigration to an existing urban areas. While the United Nations defined it as a movement of people from rural to urban areas with population growth equating to urban migration (The Associated Press, 2014). Urbanization is defined as the agglomeration of people in relatively large number at a particular spot of the earth surface (Onyemelukwe, 1977; Agbola, 2004; Olotuah and Adesiji, 2005).

Urbanization is a socio-economic phenomenon that generates movement and migration of people, especially the working force to more viable cities for economic activities. According to Echebiri (2005), urbanization is a social process whereby a sizeable proportion of the population of a country lives in the cities. It denotes the movement of people from rural areas that engage more in agriculture to other large areas whose activities are primarily centred on government, trade, manufacture or allied interests.

Mabogunje (2012), sees urbanization as a process of agglomeration in multi-functional human settlement of relatively substantial size. Urbanization can be seen as expansion of the total population residing in urban areas. However, according to Ujoh, Kwabe and Ifatimehin (2013) in Jiboye (2014), urbanization is the process which refers to the growth in size and numbers of urban area. This process has been responsible for transformation in town and cities, as well as depopulating the rural areas by rural-urban migration (Adesina, 2013). Adegun (2014) describes the level of urbanization as part of a country's total population that resides in urban areas.

#### • Insecurity

Insecurity which is the extreme opposite of security is viewed from both social, economic and psychological angles, prompting Aminu, Hamza, and Ali (2015) to explain insecurity as a condition that exists due to lack of effective measures put in place to protect individuals, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions. It entails a situation where individuals in a given society cannot freely go about their normal daily activities due to threat or fear of harmful disruption of their lives and possessions. In his view, Akin (2008) sees insecurity as the situation not put in place for the protection of persons, information and property against influences, action and hostilities from others. It is a situation where people in society are denied the freedom to go about their normal businesses or daily activities due to fear of threats to their lives and properties. Lack of security therefore brings about insecurity which is its antithesis.

Insecurity is the fear of the unknown; A feeling of trepidation and unsafe. Also, it is a state of being unable to protect lives and property (Ezeajughu, 2021). In other words, the person is vulnerable to damage, injury or loss from both internal and external causes. Thus, one can deduct from the definition that a nation's sovereignty cannot safeguard the citizen and her resource both within and outside the country (Ezeajughu, 2021). There are various types of insecurity according to (Ezeajughu, 2021) these includes; job insecurity, food insecurity, political insecurity, economic insecurity, financial insecurity, social insecurity, demographic insecurity, gender/sexual insecurity, health insecurity, environmental insecurity, relationship

insecurity, religious insecurity, moral insecurity and insecurity complex. The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. Beland (2005), insecurity is “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.” It refers to lack or inadequate freedom from danger. Achumba et al (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. In the context of this study insecurity is defined as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to wanton destruction of lives and property.

- **Kidnapping**

The most fundamental source of insecurity in Nigeria today is terrorism which is traceable to religious fanaticism and intolerance particularly in Islam dominated states of Nigeria (Achumba et al. 2013). Terrorism is a global phenomenon and it is ravaging the whole world. Fage and Alabi (2017) who conceived kidnapping as “forceful or fraudulent abduction of an individual or a group of individuals for reasons ranging from economic, political, and religious to [struggle for] self-determination”. However, the authors later admitted that the forcefully or fraudulently abducted individuals are carried off as hostages for ransom purposes. This implies that while political and economic factors can instigate kidnapping, the economic reason is the most common predisposing factor of the phenomenon.

- **Armed Robbery**

Armed robbery is a type of robbery aided by weapon(s) to threaten, force, and deprive a person or persons, of the right to private, public, or corporate belongings. It involves the use of an offensive weapon or any weapon (Aigbovo & Eidenoje, 2016; Nwalozie, 2011). Armed robbery, an offense committed using weapons to threaten or inflict injury or bodily harm, remains prevalent in Nigeria. Suspected armed robbers, some of whom are detained in maximum security prisons sometimes without trial for as long as 20 years, constitute a significant portion of the prison population (Olashore, Akanni, & Akanni, 2017; Orjiakor, et al., 2017; Oyeleke, Tanga, & Ishola 2017). The crime has reached an epidemic level in Nigeria, causing instability and negatively affecting foreign investments (Abbas, Bakari, & Abba, 2012; Abdulkabir, 2017; Arinze, 2010).

- **Cybercrime**

Cybercrime is any criminal offenses committed using the internet or another computer network as a component of the crime. They are offences that are committed against individual or group of individuals with a criminal motive to internationally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly using modern telecommunication networks such as internet and mobile phones (Akogwu, 2012). Cybercrime is ever becoming prevalent in developing countries. In Nigeria, for example, the cyber criminals are being nick named the “yahoo boys”.

Cybercrime also includes non-monetary offenses, such as creating and distributing viruses on other computers or posting confidential business information on the internet. Perhaps the most prominent form of cybercrime is identity theft, in which criminals use the Internet to steal personal information from other users.

## **2. THEORETICAL DISCOURSE**

### **The dependency/world system theory.**

The third theory of urbanization is the dependency/world system theory. The theory advanced by Frank (1969) and Wallerstein (1979) among others links recent changes in the roles of organizations of the economies of developing countries to the growth and extension of capitalism in the capitalist world system. From the world system perspective, urbanization is a result of internal locational response to global economy. The theory is based on the assumptions that (i) a unique capitalist development pattern exists, asserting that capitalism is a unique form of social organization, (ii) capitalism requires a certain social structure, which is characterized by unequal exchange, uneven development, individual social inequality, core - periphery hierarchies, and dominance structure, (iii) dependency theory models social organization, technology and population dynamics as endogenous factors in development and urbanization that are constrained by exogenous forces (Timberlake, 1987).

Dependency theory also suggests that underdevelopment is a result of the plunder and exploitation of the peripheral economies by economic and political groups in core areas (Hette, 1990). Viewed from the perspective of the dependency/world system theory, urbanization in developing countries, to the extent it occurs and the speed of occurrence is a major spatial outcome of global capitalism and its own spatial organization. Dependency /world system theory more strongly suggests the association between urbanization and capitalist development than proving a causal relationship between them. This is one major factor that has given rise to rural- urban drift in Nigeria. No sooner do urban immigrants arrive in towns and cities than they realise that they are faced with the challenges of survival, as they are unable to secure jobs in the formal sector.

The opportunity costs and losses arising from unemployed and underemployed young people have, and will continue to exert, tremendous impacts on society if these problems are not addressed quickly and sufficiently.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The study employed a descriptive survey design. It was created using qualitative and quantitative methods. The design was deemed suitable since it considerably aided the investigator in acquiring information and recording the respondents' views and opinions. The method also avails researchers the opportunity to select and study a representative sample from the population. The generalizations made on the sample selected will enable the study to arrive at conclusions that can be extended to cover the entire population.

- **Data Presentation and Analysis**

The data collected were presented and analysed in this section. Four hundred (400) copies of questionnaire were distributed and three hundred and sixty copies of questionnaire were returned.

**Research Question 1:** What is the relationship between urbanization and the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis?

**Table 4.1:** The relationship between urbanization and the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis

s/n	Response	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Urbanization is responsible for high level of kidnaping in Enugu urban	160	100	20	40	40	360	3.8	Accepted
2	Urban unemployment contribute to insecurity	120	140	10	50	40	360	3.8	Accepted
3	Kidnaping for ransom increases as urbanization increases	100	130	10	70	50	360	3.4	Accepted

4	Absence of social welfare to urban dwellers increases urban security challenges	130	100	10	60	60	360	3.5	Accepted
5	Kidnapping has become a lucrative profession for Enugu State's unemployed youngsters.	140	120	20	40	40	360	3.8	Accepted

**Source: Field Survey 2023**

The mean distribution of respondents' thoughts on the relationship between urbanization and the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis is shown in Table 4.1. The respondents were all positive in their assessment of the research question, thereby proving that urbanization increases the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis.

**Research Question 2:** What relationship does urbanization have with armed robbery in Enugu metropolis?

**Table 4.2: The relationship does urbanization have with armed robbery in Enugu metropolis**

s/n		SA	A	UD	DA	SD	Total	Mean	Decision
1	Armed robbery is necessitated by increasing urban development in Enugu State	130	120	10	40	60	360	3.6	Accepted
2	The increasing rate of cities expansion and new layout pave the way for armed robbery	120	140	10	50	40	360	3.1	Accepted
3	Inadequate planning to cater for the need of the poor in the society increasing urban insecurity	140	130	15	45	30	360	3.7	Accepted
4	Establishment of shanties as a result of urbanization increases the rate of armed robbery	150	100	10	60	40	360	3.7	Accepted
5	Urban unemployment is responsible for urban insecurity	130	130	10	50	40	360	3.4	Accepted

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

Responses on the relationship between urbanization and armed robbery in Enugu metropolis are shown in Table 4.2. The mean score of above 3.0 is a strong indication that the respondents accepted all the items listed in the table thereby proving that urbanization result in urban insecurity such as armed robbery.

**Research Question Three:** How does urbanization relate with cybercrime in in Enugu metropolis?

**Table 4.3: Urbanization and cybercrime in in Enugu metropolis**

s/n	Response	SA	A	UD	DA	SD	FREQ	Mean	Decision
1	Urbanization have paved the way for high level of cybercrime	120	145	15	50	30	360	3.8	Accepted
2	It helped in proving access to internet fraudsters	160	130	20	30	20	360	4.1	Accepted
3	Urbanization offers the criminal element the needed skills to perpetrate cybercrime	130	140	10	50	30	360	3.8	Accepted
4	It creates avenues for the people to succumb to security threat	150	120	10	55	25	360	3.9	Accepted
5	Urban development increases the rate of cybercrime as yahoo boys reside in the secluded areas of the city	120	150	10	50	30	360	3.8	Accepted

**Source: Field Survey, 2023**

The mean distribution of respondents' perspectives on how urbanization relate with cybercrime in in Enugu metropolis is shown in Table 4.3. (Based on tabulated acceptance mean rating of 3.0), it is pretty clear that urbanization helps in the spread of cybercrime in Enugu metropolis.

**Hypotheses Testing**

The Pearson's correlation is used to analyse the relationship between the performance of the companies and the employee related variables. A multi-correlation is adopted.

**Restatement of Hypothesis One**

Ho: Urbanization has no significant relationship with the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis.

**Table 4.4: Correlations for Urbanization and rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis.**

		Urbanization	Rate of kidnapping
Urbanization	Pearson Correlation	1	.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.875
	N	630	630
Rate of kidnapping	Pearson Correlation	.006	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.875	
	N	630	630

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**Source: Field Survey 2023; SPSS 16.0 Output**

From the correlation table 17, the result of the correlation value of ( $r = .875$  or 88%) is a strong relationship. The p-value of the variable is less than the level of significance 1% ( $0.00 < 0.01$ ). This shows Urbanization has a significant relationship with the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis which is also significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). This means that we uphold the alternate hypothesis.

**Decision Rule:** We accept the null hypothesis if the correlation coefficient significant is less than the significant value at 1% significant level of confidence.

**Decision:** These values, which are the coefficients of these variables indicated, have shown a significant relationship at both level of confidence and therefore we accept the alternate hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis. Thus, we conclude that urbanization has a significant relationship with the rate of kidnapping in Enugu metropolis.

**Restatement of Hypothesis Two**

Ho: Urbanization has no significant relationship with armed robbery in Enugu metropolis

**Table 4.5: Correlations for Urbanisation and Armed Robbery**

		Urbanization	Armed Robbery
Urbanization	Pearson Correlation	1	.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.125
	N	630	630
Armed Robbery	Pearson Correlation	-.061	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.125	
	N	630	630

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**Source: Field Survey 2023; SPSS 16.0 Output**

From the correlation table, the result of the correlation coefficient of ( $r = -0.61$  or -62%) is depicts a very weak correlation between Urbanization and armed robbery in Enugu metropolis. The result showing that the p-value of the variable is less than the level of significance 5% ( $1.00 > 0.01$ ).

**Decision:** These values, which are the coefficients of these variables indicated, have shown an insignificant relationship at both level of confidence and therefore we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis. Thus, we conclude that, Urbanization has a significant relationship with armed robbery in Enugu metropolis

**Restatement of Hypothesis Three**



Ho: Urbanization has no significant relationship with cybercrime in Enugu metropolis.

**Table 4.6: Correlations for urbanization and cybercrime**

		Urbanisation	Cybercrime
Urbanisation	Pearson Correlation	1	.141(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	630	630
Cybercrime	Pearson Correlation	.141(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	630	630

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

**Source: Field Survey 2023; SPSS 16.0 Output**

As depicted in the correlation table, the result of the correlation coefficient of ( $r = 0.141$  or 14.1%) indicates very weak correlations. The result showing that the p-value of the variable is greater than the level of significance 5% ( $1.00 > 0.01$ ). This shows weak positive and significant correlation which is also significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed) which also implies that the Urbanization has a significant relationship with cybercrime in Enugu metropolis

**Decision:** These values, which are the coefficients of these variables indicated, have shown an insignificant relationship at both level of confidence and therefore we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis. Thus, we conclude that, the Urbanization has no significant relationship with cybercrime in Enugu metropolis.

#### 4 .CONCLUSION

In view of the findings, it was concluded that urbanization is closely related to security challenges in Enugu metropolis. It is Security challenges in any environment constitute threat to lives and properties, hampered business activities, and discourage local and foreign investors, all of which stifle and retards development of a country. It is therefore apparent that national security is a desideratum, sine qua non for business and economic growth and development of any country

##### 4.1 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made for the study:

- i. Government should establish a more viable and result oriented agency capable of addressing the problem of abject poverty/ unemployment among large population of Nigerians, this will aid in reducing the level of crime and violence in the country.
- ii. Government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through training, modern methods of intelligence gathering, and intelligence sharing, logistics and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges. This will add more values in checking incessant bombings, robbery, kidnapping and violent crimes/crises by hoodlums in the country.
- iii. Government should include Security Management in school curriculum at all levels of education in Nigeria. This will enable the Nigerian youths to appreciate the importance of security in a secular state like Nigeria.

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