

GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN ANAMBRA STATE

By

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Abstract

This paper examined the relationship between governance and security in Anambra state. The study is a cross sectional survey design and the multi stage sampling technique was adopted for selection of the 240 respondents chosen from Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha. It was found that government in Anambra state has failed in its basic responsibility to the people of the state. This led to increase in crime rate and the springing up of vigilante groups in the state. The paper therefore recommended among others accountability on the part of public office holders and prosecution of corrupt ones to enhance good governance.

Introduction

Every society strives towards creating a level playing ground for all and sundry. This has been echoed severally in different context in the Nigerian society. In spite of the spirited but not well directed efforts by successive governments from independence, the Nigerian nation is still battling with issues of maladministration, misappropriation, nepotism and other vices which negate good governance. The ideal human society is achievable when there is good governance. However, this is not always the case in reality. This is against the backdrop that good governance is not exactly the norm in the contemporary Nigerian society but the exception. Entrenchment of good governance at all levels of the society will lead to the provision of the basic needs of the people including the safety of their lives and properties.

This paper therefore examined the relationship between good governance and provision of security of lives and properties of people resident in Anambra state of Nigeria. It is the opinion of this paper that good governance is a necessary condition for the provision of security of lives and properties of people of Anambra state in particular and Nigeria in general. Owing to the need for conceptual clarification, Okeke (2010)

defined governance as the process of exercising political, economic and administrative authority, especially over a state. Embodied in governance are also mechanisms, processes and institutions put in place through which citizens articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. The distinguishing features of good governance include the following:

(i) Accountability; (ii) Inclusiveness; (iii) Equity and Social Justice; (iv) Observance of the Rule of Law and Due Process; (v) Legitimacy of Political, Economic and Administrative Authority; (vi) Effective Institutions; (vii) Purposeful Leadership and (viii) Security and Order. Governance effectiveness is also predicated on effective coordination of sectoral interventions which are critical to the objectives and targets of the Government. This requires the right blend of persons, at various levels of authority, with the right mix of technical, conceptual, political and administrative skills and competencies, to effectively drive the engine of governance. (p. 10).

However, Akpam (cited in **Beetseeh and Chiba , 2012**) views governance as the manner in which power is exercised by governments in managing a country's social and economic resources. In this sense, good governance is the exercise of power by various levels of government in a manner that is effective, honest, equitable, transparent and accountable. Good governance according to the scholar, involves absence of abuse and corruption and the existence of the rule of law and the extent to which it delivers on the promise of human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. This is not exactly feasible in the Nigerian society where impunity by public office holders and corruption have not only discredited all efforts to move ahead but crippled the Nigerian nation in all its ramifications. It is in this light that Akpa (2011) defined good governance as basically bordering on issues of integrity, efficiency, effectiveness and economy of government in the management of public affairs and meeting government's expectations of the society. Furthermore, Rukah (cited in Beetseeh and Chiba , 2012) maintained that good governance is development oriented. Interestingly, Beetseeh (2011) submitted that good governance involves being responsible, accountable, responsive and transparent. This is summed up in Mansaray (cited in Beetseeh and Chiba, 2012) who stressed that good governance requires that governments or the leadership should be politically and financially accountable. It becomes unambiguous that accountability is a vital ingredient needed for good governance to thrive in any given human society.

It has been argued by scholars all over the world that good governance leads to provision of security of lives and property. It has to be stated however, that security of lives and properties is tenable when there is good governance. Terriff (cited in **George-Genyi, 2013**) opined that security is the condition of feeling safe from harm or danger, the defence, protection and preservation of values, and the absence of threats to acquire values. Simply put, security is about survival and the conditions of human

existence. Security is not necessarily solely military in nature. Security is broadly viewed as freedom from danger or threats to an individual or a nation. It is the ability to protect and defend oneself, cherished values, legitimate interests and the enhancement of wellbeing (Mijah, 2009). Scholars like McNamara (1968) and Mijah (2009) see security as tantamount to development. Security is not just about the presence of a military force, although this is encompassed.

There can be no development without security. The nonconventional conception of security lays emphasis on human security. Security according to Fayeye (2011) implies the maturation of the structures and processes that can engender and guarantee political space and sufficient conditions for the realization of among other things, personal, group or national aspirations. Security means much more than the absence of conflict. It involves also lasting peace. An inherent ingredient of security will encompass areas such as education, health, democracy, human rights, the protection against environmental degradation and the proliferation of deadly weapons. Indeed there can hardly be security amidst starvation, peace building without poverty alleviation and no true freedom built on the foundation of injustice.

It is in this sense that the Kampala Document on Security cited in **George-Genyi (2013)** clearly states that:

The concept of security goes beyond military consideration. It embraces economic, political and social dimensions of individual, family, community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his/her society in freedom and enjoying all fundamental human rights. (p. 60).

Elaborating further, Aligwara (2009) submitted that security of the individual citizens is the most important thing. He argued that security is for the citizens and not citizens for security. Thus, for the citizens to live in peace the basic necessities of life such as food, good health, job opportunities, justice, freedom and all other ingredients of life must be provided.

It appears from the above discourse that security of lives and property is seriously threatened by lack of good governance by successive government since the inception of Anambra as a state in Nigeria. The inability of the government of Anambra state to provide responsible and purposeful leadership in terms of provision of the basic security needs of the people led to the emergence of vigilante groups in different communities in the state (Ukiwo and Chukwuma, 2012). The authors are of the view that governance deficits and pervasive insecurity in the region are inter-linked and

mutually reinforcing. The nexus between governance and security in Anambra is to say the least intriguing and disturbing. For instance, *Iwuamadi (2012) found that:*

Anambra state was among the first in the southeast region to experience the gradual take-over of security by vigilante groups following the failure of the formal state security agencies to provide security as armed robbers and other criminal activities virtually took over control of key commercial centres and towns like Onitsha, Nnewi, and the state capital Awka. (p. 68).

This is without mincing words a product of bad governance and maladministration by successive governments in the state. Virtually every community in the state has one form of vigilante service or the other. Recently, the scourge of kidnapping spread to the nook and cranny of the state. People became afraid of their safety and therefore restricted their movements seriously (Ikezue, 2013). Leadership failure which is epitomized by bad governance catalyzed daunting problem of insecurity in the state. In view of the aforementioned problems, these research questions were formulated to guide this study.

- i) What are the problems of governance in Anambra state?
- ii) What is the relationship between governance and provision of security in Anambra state?
- iii) What are the ways to make governance better in Anambra state?

Theoretical Anchorage

The Marxian theory and the Social Exchange theory constituted the theoretical anchorage for this work. The Marxian theory was propounded by Karl Marx and his basic assumption is that the ruling class will always oppress the masses. Marxists argue that the state serves the dominant classes in society. They see the state as "the executive committee of the bourgeoisie". In capitalist society like Nigeria, the state rules primarily in the interest of the capitalist class. For example, the state takes as its top priority increasing economic (i.e. business) activity, when it is clear that this is now accompanied by a falling quality of life and by environmental destruction. The state's most important characteristic is that it has the power to coerce members of society; e.g., to jail, fine or execute, and to make war. It is in this light that the Marxian theory will be adopted in explaining why governance in Anambra state has not exactly provided the needed security for lives and property of the inhabitants of the state. Political office holders use the office to enrich themselves by implementing programmes which will benefit them. The masses benefit minimally from the policies of those in power.

The Social Exchange theory is social psychological and sociological perspective that explains social change and stability as a process of negotiated exchanges between parties. The proponents of the theory are George Homans (1910 - 1989) and Peter Blau.

Central to their views is that social behaviour is an exchange of goods, material goods but also non-material ones, such as the symbols of approval or prestige. Persons that give much to others try to get much from them, and persons that get much from others are under pressure to give much to them. This process of influence tends to work out at equilibrium to a balance in the exchanges.

Social Exchange theory argues that the major force in interpersonal relationships is the satisfaction of people's self-interest. Self-interest is not considered necessarily bad and can be used to enhance relationships. Interpersonal exchanges are thought to be analogous to economic exchanges where people are satisfied when they receive a fair return for their expenditures. People occupying public offices most often use the offices to pursue personal interests. It is this emphasis on self in exchange to the needs of the people that results in maladministration and other corrupt tendencies by public servants. This theory therefore sees failure in governance especially in Anambra state as a result of the desire by people in government to satisfy their personal interest to the detriment of the needs of the people in the state.

Methodology

The study location is Anambra state. The total population of the state according to the 2006 national population census is 4,177,828. The population of the study however is comprised of youths who are 18 years and above in the state. It is from this population that a sample size of 240 respondents was drawn from the three cities in the state; Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha using the multi stage sampling technique. The major source of data for this study is the structured questionnaire which addressed the specific objectives of the study. The quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics while the chi square statistics was used for testing relationship between variables.

Data Analysis

The study participants were asked to assess the manner in which government of Anambra state has performed its basic responsibility to the people and their responses are as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Respondents' assessment of the performance of government in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Good	10	4.4
Fair	60	26.5
Below average	150	66.4
Don't know	6	2.7
Total	226	100.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

It is shown in table 1 that 66.4% of the respondents believed that the performance of government in Anambra state has been below average, 26.5% of them stressed that it is fair while 4.4% of them said it is good. It therefore implies that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that the government of Anambra state has not live up to its responsibilities to the people. Respondents to this study were asked to mention the most serious problem working against government in Anambra state and they responded as shown in table 2.

Table 2: The most serious problem working against government in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Corruption	92	40.7
Lack of security	83	36.7
Maladministration	37	16.4
Incompetence	14	6.2
Total	226	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The table shows that corruption is seen by 40.7% of the respondents as being the most serious problem working against government in Anambra state; 36.7% of the respondents see lack of security as most serious problem working against government in Anambra state while 16.4% of them said maladministration is the serious problem working against government in Anambra state. It therefore implies that corruption and lack of security are the major problems working against government in Anambra. Respondents were further asked to assess the state of security in Anambra state and they responded as shown in table 3.

Table 3: Respondents' views on the state of security in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Very poor	115	50.9
Poor	89	39.4
Good	16	7.1
Very good	6	2.7
Total	226	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2014

Majority of the respondents 50.9% believed that security in Anambra state is very poor, 39.4% of the respondents said it is poor while 7.1% and 2.7% of the respondents said the state of security in the state is good and very good respectively. Respondents were asked to state the factors responsible for the state of security in Anambra state and their responses are shown in table 4.

Table 4: Factors responsible for the state of security in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Bad governance	67	29.6
Insensitivity of political office holders to the plight of the masses	60	26.5
Corruption	54	23.9
Unemployment	45	19.9
Total	226	100.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

It is shown in table 4 that 29.6% of the respondents see bad governance as the factor responsible for the state of security in Anambra state, 26.5% of them stressed insensitivity of the political office holders to the plight of the masses, 23.9% of the respondents believed that corruption is responsible for the state of security in Anambra state while 19.9% of them stated that unemployment is responsible for the state of security in Anambra state. Opinion of the respondents on whether or not the government has done enough to improve the security of the state was sought and details are shown in table 5

Table 5: Respondents' views on whether or not government of Anambra state has done enough to improve security in the state?

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Yes	70	31.0
No	117	51.8
Don't know	39	17.3
Total	226	100.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Majority of the respondents 51.8% said government has not done enough to improve security in the state while 31% of them said government has done enough to improve the security of the state. However, 17.3% of the respondents could not say whether or not government has done enough to improve security of the people in the state. It follows therefore that the government of Anambra state has not done enough to improve the security situation in the state. Furthermore, respondents were asked to state whether or not their security is guaranteed and they responded as shown in table 6.

Table 6: Respondents' views on whether or not the safety of their lives and properties is guaranteed in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Yes	33	14.6
No	166	73.5
Don't know	27	11.9
Total	226	100.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Most of the respondents 73.5% said the safety of their lives and property could not be guaranteed while 14.6% of them said the safety of their lives and security could be guaranteed. Respondents were then asked to state how to improve the security of the state and they responded as shown in table 7.

Table 7: Respondents' views on how the state of security in Anambra state be improved

Responses	Frequency	Percent
By entrenching good governance	93	41.2
By provision of employment opportunities	66	29.2
By empowering the youth through skill acquisition programmes	27	11.9
By provision of necessary infrastructure	40	17.7
Total	226	100.0

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

It could be seen that 41.2% of the respondents see entrenching of good governance as the way of improving the security of the state, 29.2% of the respondents see provision of employment opportunities as the way of improving the security of the state. Furthermore, 11.9% and 17.7% of the respondents said the security of the state could be improved by empowering the youths through skill acquisition and provision of necessary infrastructure respectively.

This paper investigated the relationship between governance and security in Anambra state. Relationship was found between governance and security in the Anambra state. Using the chi square (χ^2) statistics for testing relationship between the two variables, it was found that a significant relationship existed between governance and security at $P=.004$. This implies that good governance has the potency to influence the security situation in a society positively. The testing of the relationship is shown in table 8.

Table 8: Cross tabulation between governance and security in Anambra state

		What is the state of security in Anambra state?				Total	X ² (9, N=226)=24.379 p=.004
		Very poor	Poor	Good	Very good		
How would you assess government of Anambra state?	Good	6	4	0	0	10	
	Fair	33	18	7	2	60	
	Bad	74	66	6	4	150	
	Don't know	2	1	3	0	6	
Total		115	89	16	6	226	

Source: *Field Survey, 2014*

Discussion of Findings

It was found that majority of the respondents see the performance of government in Anambra state as being below average while just few of them said the government is fair. It implies that most people see the government of Anambra state as not doing enough for the people. This could be due to the persistent negligence by successive governments and their inability to be accountable to the people. Governance according to Akpa (2011) is basically bordering on issues of integrity, efficiency, effectiveness and economy of government in the management of public affairs and meeting government's expectations of the society. When this is lacking, there seem to be public distrust to affairs of government. It is in this light that Rukah (1998) cited in Beetseh et al. (2012) maintained that good governance is development oriented. Furthermore, Beetseh (2011) submitted that good governance involves being responsible, accountable, responsive and transparent. This appears to be missing in Anambra state.

This study found that corruption is the most serious problem working against government in Anambra state followed by lack of security and maladministration. This finding portrays the government negatively. This therefore negatively affected the way

and manner people perceive government in the state. Good governance according to Mansaray (2004) cited in Beetsee and Chiba (2012) requires that governments or the leadership should be politically and financially accountable.

Further revelation in this study shows that security in Anambra state is very poor while a good number of them said it is poor. This finding is consistent with Ukiwo and Chukwuma (2012) who earlier stressed that the inability of the government of Anambra state to provide responsible and purposeful leadership in terms of provision of the basic security needs of the people led to the emergence of vigilante groups in different communities in the state. This finding is further corroborated by *Iwuamadi (2012:68) who stated that Anambra state was among the first in the southeast region to experience the gradual take-over of security by vigilante groups following the failure of the formal state security agencies to provide security.*

Bad governance, insensitivity to the plight of the masses by public office holders, corruption and unemployment were found to be responsible for the poor state of security in Anambra state. This is consistent with Aligwara (2009) who submitted that security of the individual citizens is the most important thing. He argued that security is for the citizens and not citizens for security.

It was found that government has not done enough to improve security in the state. The study also found that the safety of lives and property could not be guaranteed. This implies that the government of Anambra state failed in very fundamental area of carrying out its responsibility to the people. That is why Terriff (cited by **George-Genyi, 2013**) **opined that security is the condition of feeling safe from harm or danger, the defence, protection and preservation of values, and the absence of threats to acquire values.**

This study found entrenching good governance, provision of employment opportunities, empowering the youths through skill acquisition and provision of necessary infrastructure as the means of improving the security in the state. The study also found a significant relationship between governance and security in the Anambra state. This is consistent with Ukiwo and Chukwuma (2012) who argued that governance deficits and pervasive insecurity in the region are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing.

Conclusion

This study observed that governance in Anambra state needs to be improved upon. The deficiencies inherent in governance in Anambra state to a large extent necessitated the

proliferation of vigilante services in almost all communities in the state. It is therefore against the backdrop of the inefficiency in government in the state that the following recommendations are made.

Political office holder whether elected or appointed should be accountable to the people. Leaders must lead by example and maintain the highest level of transparency in the discharge of their duties. The vigilante services must be properly supervised by the police and other law enforcement agencies to stem abuse and arbitrary use of power. An unmonitored vigilante service could become a more terrible menace than the problem it tries to resolve.

Recruitment into the vigilante groups should be done bearing in mind the personality traits and integrity of the new intakes. People of questionable characters and mischief makers must not be recruited into the service. The actions and activities of the group should be made to conform to their goals. Extra judicial killings and other vices must be reported accordingly to the constitutionally recognized law enforcement agencies for immediate intervention.

Employment creation must be emphasized and youth empowerment schemes should be made viable. Job opportunities must be advertised and employment should be by merit and performance. Skill acquisition centres should be revamped and made accessible to youths in the state. Micro credit schemes should be put in place to encourage small scale enterprises. Youths should be encouraged to go into farming so as to keep them meaningfully engaged.

Prosecution and conviction of corrupt officials is necessary to forestall increasing incidences of corruption. In this regard, the anti-corruption agencies must live up to the expectation of the people and bring to book corrupt officials whose action or inaction have contributed to the seemingly experienced lack of transparency and accountability in governance in Anambra state.

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