

**SECURITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN A SOVEREIGN STATE:  
A STUDY OF THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR IN NIGERIA, 1999–2023**

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**Abstract**

The paper, explores security challenges confronting Nigeria and solutions for achieving meaningful development in education that can contribute to overall national development. The research adopts historical research method and relies on secondary sources such as textbooks, journals, newspapers, magazines, monographs, and internet materials. Nigeria's uninterrupted democratic experience since 1999, spanning about twenty-four years, provides a useful period for examining the relationship between security and national development, particularly in the educational sector. However, this period has been marked by persistent insecurity across the country's six geopolitical regions. Adequate security implies peace, stability, and freedom from fear. The absence of these conditions in Nigeria has hindered national development, especially in educational sector of the country. During the period under review, five presidents from two major political parties have governed the country, yet insecurity has remained a major challenge with serious consequences for the educational sector. Although political leaders often promise to provide adequate security as a means of promoting development and improving education, the reality after assuming office frequently falls short of these expectations. However, the paper recommends adequate means of security in the entire region. This will bring improvement in the educational sector and as well attracts socioeconomic development in the federation.

**Keywords:** Democracy, Development, Government, Leadership and Security, Education

**Introduction**

The central theme of this paper centers on development as the foundation for good living in any society. Inadequate development makes life difficult for citizens, while adequate provision of developmental project allows people to feel the tangible impact of government on their lives. When citizens entrust their mandate to a government through democratic institutions, they expect good governance that ensures a basic standard of living nationwide, including the free movement of people, goods, and services without hindrance.

National development refers to the overall improvement in the political, economic, and social well-being of a country and its citizens. It involves the process through which a nation improves the living standard, infrastructure, governance, education, health, and economic opportunities of its people over time. In the field of Development Studies, national

development is viewed as a multidimensional process that includes economic growth, social progress, political stability, and equitable distribution of resources (Todaro and Smith, 2000). Scholars often describe national development as the ability of a country to utilize its human and natural resources effectively to improve the quality of life of its citizens. It goes beyond economic growth to include social justice, security, good governance, and sustainable development. However, the key components of national development include the following issues: economic development, social development, political development, infrastructure development and human development with standard education devoid of threats.

Education as the bedrock of national development means that it serves as the fundamental foundation upon which a country's growth, progress, and prosperity are built. In other words, a nation cannot achieve meaningful and sustainable development without investing in the education of its citizens. Education equips individuals with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for them to contribute positively to both society and the economy.

Education is considered a cornerstone of development because it influences several key components that drive national progress. Five major components that demonstrate the importance of education in national development include the following:

**Human Capital Development:** Education equips citizens with the skills and competencies required for employment, innovation, and increased productivity.

**Economic Growth:** An educated population strengthens industries, promotes entrepreneurship, and contributes to higher national income.

**Social Stability:** Education promotes discipline, tolerance, moral values, and responsible citizenship, which help maintain peace and unity within society.

**Political Awareness:** Educated citizens are more aware of their rights and responsibilities and are better prepared to participate actively in governance and democratic processes.

**Technological Advancement:** Education encourages research, creativity, and innovation, leading to scientific discoveries and technological progress (Ananya, 2025).

To sum it up, education is regarded as a bedrock of national development because it provides the knowledge, skills, and values that enable individuals to contribute effectively to the economic, social, political, and technological advancement of a nation. Nigeria, as a

sovereign nation, is contending with insecurity of different categories, hindering the interest of young Nigerians in the educational sector, which really calls for concern in this study.

### **The Significances of Key Words to the Study**

Democracy is a system of government where power is vested in the people, either directly or through elected representatives. Academically, it emphasizes equality at key decision-making stages, popular sovereignty, and protections for individual rights. Democracy involves collective decision-making with equality among participants, often binding on group members. It derives from Greek roots meaning "rule by the people" (demos + kratos), encompassing both direct forms (citizens vote on laws) and representative forms (electing officials). Essential academic concepts include political equality, where every eligible citizen has equal say; majority rule balanced by minority rights; and freedoms like speech, assembly, and fair elections. Rule of law, transparency, and human rights guarantees further define robust democracies. Strict adherence to the principle of the rule of law, transparency, and the guarantee of human rights is linked to development, and these are key objectives of any government.

Development is a multifaceted process of positive structural, economic, social, political, and cultural transformation aimed at improving living standards, expanding human capabilities, and enhancing well-being (Solomon & Ferdinard, 2005; Todaro & Smith, 2011). At the individual level, it fosters skills, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility, and material well-being; at the societal level, it involves equitable resource distribution, sustainable growth, and liberation from exploitation (Cocktail, Frank, & Johnson, 1972). Scholars emphasize multidimensional progress beyond GDP, including structural shifts from agriculture to industry/services, human development (expanding freedoms per Amartya Sen), inclusivity, sustainability, and agency (Ikejiani-Clark, 2009). Key indicators encompass health, education, gender equality, environmental resilience, and reduced poverty, enabling self-perpetuating use of people's potentials in a peaceful, progressive context.

In my view, development represents methods to fulfill national aspirations through progress, where equitable systems -balancing elite interests with the vast majority's needs drive societal transformation toward reduced inequality and empowered futures. This aligns theoretical frameworks like modernization, dependency, and human development paradigms with practical outcomes. These are key indicators of development that are expected of government leaders to harmonise for the benefit of citizens in a country. While development refers to a

multifaceted process of positive change in economic, social, political, and human dimensions, often framed in academic discourse as improving living standards and capabilities, scholars emphasize sustainable growth, equity, and empowerment over mere economic expansion (Solomon and Ferdinand, 2005). Another scholastic analysis sees development as a process of changing and becoming larger, stronger, or more impressive, successful, or advanced, of causing somebody or something to change in sustained economic development. Development is an incident that causes a situation to change or progress (Ikejiani-Clark, 2009).

According to Cocktail, A.G Frank and D.L Johnson, development is the coincidence of structural change and liberation of men from exploitation and oppression perpetuated by the international capitalist bourgeoisie and internal collaborators (Cocktail, Frank and Johnson, 1972). Furthermore, real development involves a structural transformation of the economy, societal polity and culture of the state that permits the self-generating and self-perpetuating use and development of the people's potentials.

Walter Rodney sees "development in human society as a many-sided process". At the level of the individual, it implies skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being (Walter, 1972). M. P. Todaro and S. C. Smith see development as one of the most widely used terms, and it is widely believed that the new nations may be able to develop their economies at some time in the not-too-distant future so as to improve their national standard of living (Todaro and Smith, 2011). The word development represents in this context the idea of methods being found to fulfill the aspirations of a nation, group or state. In theoretical terms, the idea of development is closely connected with the idea of progress, when there is a state of calm in the land, which is the main characteristic of peace.

In view of the foregoing analyses, I summarize development as the ability of the few rich to protect and accommodate the interests of the vast majority who are known as less privileged in society. In development theory, it is a collection of frameworks explaining societal transformation toward desirable outcomes like reduced poverty and enhanced well-being. Key academic concepts include structural change (shifting economies from agriculture to industry/services), human development (expanding freedoms and opportunities per individual), and multidimensional progress beyond GDP metrics (Todaro and Smith, 2011). Academic views highlight inclusivity (equitable resource distribution), sustainability (balancing present needs with future generations), and agency (people's ability to shape their

destinies). Indicators often encompass health, education, gender equality, and environmental resilience alongside income growth, as mentioned earlier.

Government is the institutional apparatus through which a political community exercises authority, makes binding decisions, and maintains order within a defined territory. Academically, it embodies sovereignty, legitimacy, and coercive power to enforce laws and policies for the common good. In political science, government refers to the group of people or system that governs an organized society, typically comprising legislative, executive, and judicial branches. It acts as the state's active agent, translating sovereignty into policy, administration, and enforcement while balancing power with accountability. Core concepts include authority (formal right to command), legitimacy (public acceptance of rule), rule of law (governance under constitutional limits), and public goods provision (security, welfare, infrastructure) (Bangbose, 2001).

Governments derive moral responsibility from ethical ideals like social upliftment, preventing tyranny through periodic change and citizen oversight. While the government is known for the above-mentioned key issues, the head of government used the instruments of government for good governance. The moment the apparatus of government is used for the benefit of a few rich, confidence reposed in government begins to erode. Then, the ability to make and galvanize people for efficient service delivery for the benefit of people will be rendered nullity. This brings the characteristics of quality leaders into question (Ojo, 1973).

Leadership is the ability to influence, guide, and inspire individuals or groups to achieve a common goal. It involves setting a clear vision, making decisions, motivating others, and taking responsibility for outcomes. Leadership is not just about holding a position of authority- it is about earning trust, modeling values, and helping others perform at their best. The key elements of making leadership an all-inclusive is ability to use key elements of leadership effectively, which connotes the following elements: Vision, Communication, Integrity, Empathy, Decision-making, and Accountability. The central driver of development in any society is accountability. Once accountability is eroded in the government circle, people lose confidence in the government (Uzoije, 1984).

Security is centripetal in national development; it serves as a radiator that aids and boosts national development in any society. To understand the connotation of security better, it is imperative to examine its literary meaning. The concept is a relative term that has different

dimensions in various fields of study, such as Religion, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, History, etc. Similarly, it is relative to societies and individuals because what a given society may consider as security may not be so in another society (Geddes & Grosset, 2003).

Notwithstanding these varying considerations, the central idea about security is safety from harm. It is a state of being secure; a protection or safeguard (Maclean & Mcmillan, 2009). The state, as a legal entity, has the constitutional power to provide security for its citizens. In other words, the primary function of any government is the provision of adequate protection to life and property. Nigeria, as a state, is made up of different nationalists with different divergent interests in political and economic activities that take place in the country. The peaceful coexistence of people across different regions within a sovereign state is essential for national development. This shows that for development to thrive in any society, adequate protection of life and property is required, devoid of ethnic bias, nepotism and nativism.

### **Geographical Setting and People of Nigeria as a Sovereign State**

Nigeria is home to a large and diverse population. The country has a population of about 140 million (National Population Census, 2006), though current estimates place the figure at around 227 million people (Worldmeter, 2026). Nigeria's cultural diversity makes it unique within the West African sub-region. The country has 532 languages, of which 520 are living languages while 12 are extinct. Among the living languages, 12 are institutional languages, 341 are stable, and 167 are in danger (Ethnologue [Language, 2026]). The Federal Republic of Nigeria lies at the inner corner of the Gulf of Guinea and is the largest geopolitical unit in West Africa. The country is located between latitudes 4°N and 14°N, entirely within the tropical zone (Eluwa, Ukagwu, Nwachukwu & Nwaubani, 2005). It occupies a strategic position where the western part of the African continent meets equatorial Africa.

Nigeria extends northward from the coastline for about 1,170 kilometres. From the western border to the eastern border, the country measures approximately 1,260 kilometres at its widest point. In the south, Nigeria is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, particularly along the Bight of Benin and the Bight of Bonny. The coastline stretches for about 900 kilometres. To the north, the country gradually approaches the Sahara Desert. Nigeria is bounded in the west

by the Republic of Niger, while in the east it shares a border with Cameroon (Eluwa, Ukagwu, Nwachukwu & Nwaubani, 2005).

Nigeria covers an area of 356,669 square miles/ 923,768 square kilometres, making it roughly one-seventh of the settled and productive area of West Africa (Lily and Gabriel, 2022). Also, making it almost four times the size of the United Kingdom, its former colonial master. The country measures about 1,200 kilometres from east to west and approximately 1,050 kilometres from north to south. One of the most prominent physical features of Nigeria is the Niger River, from which the country derives its name. The river rises in the highlands of Sierra Leone, flows northeastward and then enters Nigeria from the northwest. It meets the Benue River at Lokoja, after which the combined waters flow southward into the Gulf of Guinea. Near its mouth, the Niger River breaks into numerous channels to form the extensive Niger Delta, a vast swampy area covering about 45,000 square kilometres. Together, the Niger and Benue rivers form the main drainage basin for much of the country (Ayemgor, Ibrahim and Suleiman, 2021).

Nigeria has several important rivers, including those that flow through Imo State, Ogun State, and Osun State, all of which eventually drain into the Gulf of Guinea. In the northeastern region, the Yobe River flows into Lake Chad, helping to drain the northern plateau. Interestingly, Nigeria is located between latitude 4°N and 14°N, entirely within the tropical zone. The country occupies a position where the western parts of the African continent meet equatorial Africa. Nigeria shares borders with several countries. To the west, it borders Benin. To the east, it is bordered by Cameroon and Chad. In the north, it is bordered by the Niger. To the northeast lies Lake Chad, while in the south, the country lies along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea. In terms of land area, Chad has 1,284,000 km<sup>2</sup>, while Niger has 1,267,008 km<sup>2</sup>. Nigeria is the third largest among them with 923,773 km<sup>2</sup>, while Benin has a much smaller land area of 114,763 km<sup>2</sup> (Nigeria Land Borders, 2026).

More importantly, Nigeria can be divided into several main regions: the Coastal Plains, which could be found along the southern part of Nigeria near the Atlantic Ocean. It includes swampy areas and mangrove forests. The Niger Delta is also part of the south. The second feature of Nigeria is the Lowland Plains; these are flat or gently rolling lands in the middle part of Nigeria. It is very good for farming and settlements. The third feature is Plateaus

which connotes High flat lands above sea level. The most famous is the Jos Plateau, which has cooler weather and mineral resources. The fourth is Highlands and Mountains. This is found mainly in eastern Nigeria. A good example of this mountain is the highest point in Nigeria, which is Chappal Waddi in the Mandara Mountains. Fifth, the river valleys of Nigeria have major rivers such as the Niger River and the Benue River, which form large valleys across the country (Edward, 2022).

### **Security and National Development in Nigeria, 1999 – 2023**

The broad meaning of security cannot be limited to the safety of lives and property alone. It cuts across all facets of society. When aggregated, it translates to all-around security, which in turn guarantees what could be referred to as all-around development (Akombo, 2020). In this context, the concept of security cuts across the following components (Akombo, 2019): National security, security of life (human security) and property, food security, economic security, job security, environmental security and security to education. The above-mentioned issues serve as a bedrock for national development if well managed by the authority. Different categories of insecurity have ravaged the country since the advent of this unbroken democracy in Nigeria. All six (6) geopolitical zones are trapped in one problem or another. To gain a clearer understanding of this situation, it is necessary to examine the historical evolution of insecurity in Nigeria, particularly from the return to democratic rule in 1999 to the present period. Such an examination helps to establish connections between various forms of insecurity and their underlying causes. It equally gives a deep understanding of the issues affecting education in Nigeria. The remote cause of the contemporary insecurity in Nigeria could be traced to the Niger Delta conflict, which had its roots in the discovery of crude oil in 1956 at Oloibiri, in present-day Bayelsa State (Michael, 2009). The activities of multinational oil companies in the region had significant environmental consequences, and despite numerous peaceful protests aimed at drawing government attention to the plight of the local communities, their grievances were largely ignored. As a result, tensions escalated throughout the 1990s and intensified during the early years of the Fourth Republic.

Scholars such as Okezie and Mathew says that the Niger Delta conflict largely arose from tensions between international oil companies and minority ethnic groups in the region, who believed that they were being exploited without receiving adequate compensation for the resources extracted from their land (Okezie and Mathew, 2023). Consequently, ethnic and political unrest persisted throughout the 1990s and continued for more than a decade.

Moshood and Thovoethin further assert that the government's inability to address the root causes of agitation—including environmental degradation, poverty, unemployment, and the lack of basic social amenities—contributed to the emergence of ethnic militias and the subsequent militarization of the region (Moshood and Thovoethin, 2023).

In response to these challenges, the government introduced several initiatives aimed at addressing the problems in the Niger Delta. These included the establishment of agencies such as the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs. Despite these interventions, however, insecurity and conflict in the region persisted. During this period, several militant groups emerged, including the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) led by Mujahid Dokubo-Asari, and the Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV) headed by Ateke Tom. The emergence and activities of these groups transformed the struggle in the region into a more violent confrontation (Lanre & Ademola, 2011).

In an attempt to restore stability, the Federal Government adopted a strategy that combined military pressure with negotiations, often referred to as a carrot-and-stick approach, in order to persuade militants to accept an amnesty programme. Under the leadership of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the government granted amnesty and unconditional pardon to militants operating in the region. As a result, many militant groups surrendered large quantities of weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades, firearms, explosives, ammunition, and gunboats. Although the amnesty programme significantly reduced militancy in the Niger Delta, the conflict had already created a spillover effect, as practices such as kidnapping for ransom and other criminal activities gradually spread to other parts of the country (Olusegun, 2011).

Kidnappings subsequently became widespread in the South-East, particularly in states such as Abia and Imo. Initially linked to the Niger Delta conflict, kidnapping later developed into a lucrative criminal enterprise. Following the 2007 general elections, many youths who had been recruited as political thugs by politicians redirected their weapons, skills, and networks toward kidnapping as a means of livelihood after the elections ended. Since then, numerous prominent individuals in the South-East—including traditional rulers, school children, and ordinary citizens—have been abducted for ransom (Moshood, 2016).

Around the same period that militancy in the Niger Delta began to decline, another major security challenge emerged in the North-East in the form of the Boko Haram insurgency. This insurgency has become one of the most significant security threats confronting Nigeria as a nation and has had devastating consequences for the country's political, economic, and social stability, particularly in the educational sector. According to Agbiboa, the term "Boko Haram" is derived from the Hausa word *boko*, meaning Western education or civilization, and the Arabic word *haram*, meaning forbidden or sinful, together implying that Western civilisation is prohibited. The group seeks to impose its radical interpretation of Islam in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria (Agbiboa, 2013). Its extremist ideology is evident in its indiscriminate attacks on both Muslims and Christians. Since its emergence, Boko Haram has reportedly killed tens of thousands of people and destroyed both government, schools and private infrastructure worth millions of naira.

### **Security Challenges and Systemic Issues Hindering Educational Progress in Nigeria**

While the South-West is relatively peaceful, insecurity in the region between 1999 and 2023 evolved from relatively localized problems such as political thuggery and armed robbery into a more complex network of criminal activities, including kidnapping, herder-farmer conflicts, and other forms of violent crime. These developments have significantly undermined peace, stability, and economic activities within the region. Although the South-West had historically been regarded as one of the most stable regions in Nigeria, security challenges intensified, particularly in the latter years of this period. The escalation of these threats can largely be attributed to structural or systemic issues such as high unemployment, weak governance structures, and the inability of the government to spend more on education as it was during the era of the Action Group (AG) and Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) governments. Also, gradual collapse of effective community policing mechanisms in the region are common issue affecting education in the region (Ogunsanwo, 2009)

At the same time, both the Southeast and South-south are wallowing in the problem of insecurity affecting the progress of education. In the Southeast, Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) activities have led to a large number of out-of-school children. Children are prevented from going to school on Monday because of the sit-at-home on Mondays as a result of IPOB activities.

In the South-south, it is agitation and armed struggle against the multinational companies, leading to unrest. The south-south are fighting environmental degradation, which makes means of livelihood difficult for poor citizens of the region. This is causing untold hardship on the parent, making it difficult to send their children to school as scheduled.

The main Boko Haram activities that gained international attention were the kidnapping of school girls in Chibok, Borno State, from 14th to 15th April, 2014. This event became a reference point for other criminal elements within northern Nigeria, leading to several kidnappings of school children. Nigeria's security crisis has therefore become increasingly multidimensional. While the government continues efforts to combat the Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast, another major threat has emerged in the North-West in the form of banditry. Initially rooted in disputes between farmers and herders over access to land and grazing routes, banditry gradually evolved into a large-scale security problem affecting several states, including Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Kebbi, and Sokoto (Bulama, 2022). Suddenly, it has spread to North-central states in Niger, Benue, Nasarawa, Kwara and Plateau. Armed bandit groups frequently attack schools, villages, abduct residents, kill civilians, rob travelers, and engage in cattle rustling.

The incessant attacks on the villagers in the different areas had kept many children out-of-school. Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school children in the world (UNICEF, 2018), with approximately one in every five globally residing in the country. Despite the provision of free and compulsory basic education, about 10.5 million children aged 5–14 remain out of school. Nearly half of these children are in the northern region, which has been significantly affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. Additionally, only 61 percent of children aged 6–11 regularly attend primary school (UNICEF, 2025).

In Nigeria, 26 percent of children of primary school age are not enrolled in school. This figure slightly decreases to 25 percent at the junior secondary level but rises to 34 percent at the senior secondary level. Across all stages, children from the poorest households experience significantly higher out-of-school rates than the national average. The disparity between the poorest and richest groups is widest at the primary level, with a gap of 53 percentage points, which narrows to 47 percentage points at the senior secondary level (UNICEF, 2023).

Additionally, children living in rural areas have higher out-of-school rates than the national average at every level of education. Overall, it is estimated that about 8.9 million children of primary school-going age and 3.9 million of junior secondary school age are out of school, while approximately 4.9 million senior secondary school-age children are also not enrolled (UNICEF, 2023).

Over time, the activities of criminal elements have hindered educational progress with inadequate planning by the government. Actually, these groups have become increasingly organized and sophisticated and they direct their main attacks on schools for huge ransoms. Bandits have increasingly targeted schools, abducting students in large numbers to demand ransom payments. This has further affected many school children (Abdul-hafeez, 2025). The table below shows the schools and children attacked since 2014:

S\N	DATE	SCHOOL ATTACKED	NUMBER KIDNAPPED	TOWN	STATE
1	14th-15th, April, 2014	Chibok Girls Secondary School	276	Chibok	Borno
2.	18th Feb. 2018	Government Girls' Technical School,		Dapchi	Yobe
3	24th August, 2020	Prince Academy,	7	Damba=kasaya Village, Kaduna	Kaduna
4	11th Dec. 2020	Government Science School	300	Kakara,	Katsina
5	17th Feb. 2021	Government School	27	Kagara	Niger
6	26th Feb. 2021	Government Girls' Secondary School,	317	Jangebe	Zamfara
7.	25th July, 2021	Bethel Baptist Secondary School	28	Chikun	Kaduna
8.	7th March, 2024	LEA Primary and Secondary School	300	Kuriga	Kaduna
9.	17th Nov.	Government Girls'	25	Maga	Kebbi

	2025	Comprehensive Secondary School			
10.	21st Nov. 2025	St. Mary catholic Primary and Secondary Scholls	303 plus 12 Teachers	Papiri	Niger

Sources: (Ekpali, 2025)

### **Insecurity and the Educational Sector in Nigeria, 1999 – 2023**

A brief analysis of attention given to education by various government leaders since 1999 would proffer an adequate understanding of the educational system in Nigeria vis-à-vis other African countries (Priscilla, 2026). In this segment, the paper examines how the Nigerian government has been giving attention to education in the country since 1999. The table below shows a decline in budgetary allocation to the educational sector in Nigeria, which can be considered an obstacle to the development of education in the country.

**Table 1:** The Percentage Budgetary Allocations to the Educational Sector by the Government in Nigeria from 1999 to 2023

S\N	YEAR	% ALLOCATIONS
1	1999	11.12
2	2000	8.36
3	2001	7.00
4	2002	5.90
5	2003	1.83
6	2004	10.50
7	2005	9.30
8	2006	11.00
9	2007	8.09
10	2008	13.00
11	2009	6.54
12	2010	6.40
13	2011	1.69
14	2012	10.00

15	2013	8.70
16	2014	10.60
17	2015	9.50
18	2016	6.10
19	2017	7.38
20	2018	7.03
21	2019	7.20
22	2020	6.70
23	2021	5.60
24	2022	5.40
25	2023	5.30

(Emmanuel and Samuel, 2023)

**Table 2:** The budgetary allocations to the education sectors by the governments of some other African countries (1999-2021)

Country/Percentage Budgetary Allocation

S\N	YEAR	Ghana	South Africa	Senegal	Kenya	Morocco
1	1999	11.73	15.24	16.82	24.55	5.14
2	2000	14.20	18.09	17.62	23.40	8.28
3	2001	19.54	20.47	15.73	22.41	10.11
4	2002	22.07	20.10	16.72	25.63	13.91
5	2003	20.30	19.59	16.12	24.98	16.67
6	2004	26.02	19.93	16.96	26.67	15.16
7	2005	25.85	19.92	21.77	27.47	12.22
8	2006	20.30	18.00	17.95	25.08	16.31
9	2007	26.00	18.03	18.73	21.03	17.27
10	2008	25.85	17.91	19.23	18.64	18.61
11	2009	23.87	18.31	23.30	15.72	19.65
12	2010	20.70	18.04	24.05	20.56	18.29
13	2011	30.63	18.96	21.09	19.25	18.10
14	2012	37.53	20.64	20.80	19.92	17.58

15	2013	31.00	25.76	25.74	19.14	16.93
16	2014	20.99	19.14	24.76	17.08	16.31
17	2015	23.81	18.70	23.76	16.66	17.14
18	2016	22.09	18.05	21.34	17.34	20.18
19	2017	20.10	18.72	25.60	17.88	19.89
20	2018	18.61	18.87	27.80	20.02	20.46
21	2019	26.72	20.00	22.61	21.70	25.77
22	2020	33.54	22.21	26.08	26.70	30.02
23	2021	39.02	23.50	25.81	27.20	31.06

Sources: (Ohaegbulem &Chijioko, 2023)

### **Building an Effective Security Architecture for Sustainable National Development**

The model of security architecture capable of guaranteeing peaceful coexistence in Nigeria must be designed in accordance with the socio-cultural and political peculiarities of the Nigerian state (Talla & Akombo, 2017). A copied or transplanted security model from other countries is unlikely to function effectively in a complex and diverse society such as Nigeria. In addition to national security institutions such as the Army, Police, Department of State Services (DSS), and Immigration Service, Nigeria’s security architecture should also incorporate community-based security structures such as vigilante groups.

These community security outfits can complement the efforts of formal security agencies. Moreover, vigilante groups often enjoy the trust and confidence of local communities because they are composed of individuals who are familiar with the environment and are directly affected by security challenges. As community-driven security actors, they may be less prone to compromising local safety, in contrast to the frequent accusations of misconduct sometimes directed at national security agencies, particularly the Army and the Police.

Despite these arrangements, there are widespread public concerns about the inability of existing security institutions to provide adequate protection for citizens. One of the major challenges lies in the highly centralized control structure of Nigeria’s security system. The current arrangement, which often requires state governors to wait for directives from the federal authority in Abuja before they take decisive security actions, has limited the effectiveness of security operations compared to systems in other societies (Evans & Newnham, 1998).

This over-centralization has created significant bottlenecks for state governments when responding to urgent security threats. Consequently, many governors have advocated the establishment of state police, while several socio-cultural organizations have called for alternative community-based security arrangements.

Addressing these challenges requires the depoliticization of security issues. Political leaders must prioritize the security of the state and its citizens rather than politicizing security for partisan interests. A focus on ensuring the “security of politics,” where governments at different levels deliver good governance, will give citizens dividends of democracy. This is preferable to a situation where security becomes a tool of political competition among politicians during the electioneering campaign.

It is important to note that maintaining peace and security for sustainable development requires the collective efforts of all the actors, which include government institutions, civil society organizations, the military, the police, and other paramilitary agencies. Such efforts must operate at both national and international levels to effectively address contemporary security challenges that are hindering the educational sector in Nigeria.

### **Conclusion**

The inference of this paper is that security is everybody’s business, and it argues that it must not be left in the hands of government and its agencies alone. All hands must be on deck for effective security to be achieved for sustainable development, particularly in the country’s educational sector. If one sees something! One must say something! Adequate information about ugly events in our areas to the appropriate authority in the society at the appropriate time will go a long way to making us have a peaceful environment. We must see ourselves as one entity, irrespective of region, tribe, colour, religion or cultural affiliation. Development goes beyond a particular tribe or religion. People must see diversity in culture as a blessing for the development of Nigeria. A peaceful environment endears investors who will provide good job opportunities to our teeming youth.

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