# Undermining Socio-cultural Values: Nigeria's Path to a State of Insecurity

**By**

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***Abstract***

*This study aligns with the league of scholarly articles on the subject of security, as it relates to human society in the 21st century. The study draws its focus from some social science related theories, basically on values and attitude as core elements of human conduct. It therefore adopted a survey of opinions of a set of subjects. The sample was purposively selected among local government workers, students and teachers. The convenient sampling technique was adopted. Five self – developed instruments were used for data collection, while answers were provided to four research questions and two null hypotheses were tested. The study adopted the mixed method approach for its analysis. The statistics formulae of means and cluster analysis were used to test the null hypotheses and to answer the research questions. The findings showed that respondents strongly believed that security is a joint responsibility of citizens and government, that there was preponderance of valueless conditions in the country where there is no respect for human rights; that there is poor performance of the economic sector heightened with high prevalence of tribalism and favoritism in governance. There was a significant difference in the perception of respondents to the insecurity variables based on class and a significant difference in values and value orientation according to class among Nigerians. It was recommended that.*

***Keywords:*** insecurity, values; virtue ethics; human conduct

## Introduction

Man is the central focus of security rather than the state. In as much as the state is essentially the composition of human beings, as such, the survival and continued existence of human beings is of paramount importance for discourse (Nwagboso, 2013; Palme, 1992; McSweeney, 1999; Booth, 2007 & Williams, 2008). Security is an essential concept which is commonly associated with the alleviation of threats to cherished values, especially the survival of individuals, groups or objects (Nwagboso, 2013). The concept derivable here suffice that human lives should be cherished and preserved with utmost attention. It then means that every human activity should be designed in such a way that it doesn't jeopardize or threaten human lives, just like Booth (2007) and Nwagboso (2013)

submitted that security is viewed as safety, confidence, freedom from danger, fear and doubt among many others. However, government institutions and people in general have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a way that will foster security of lives and properties. Meanwhile, the different structures in human society such as health, food, housing, transport, businesses, education and governance to mention but a few, that could act as avenues to accord security to human lives and properties have all posed serious security threats owing to the existing absolute disregard for human lives coupled with culture of impunity.

Aside the three basic fundamental human needs of food, clothing and shelter, the necessity of security to even enjoy these basic needs is not negotiable. The policies and principles of governance are supposed to articulate utilitarian qualities. Where this is not feasible, there could be a preponderance of insecurity as it eventually spells hopelessness (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpor-Robaro, 2013; Adagba, Ugwu, & Eme, 2012; Imhonopi & Urim, 2012; Nwagboso, 2012; Onifade & Imhonopi, 2012 and Nwolise, 2006).

The characteristics of any people may be ascribed to their orientation and values. Then it is not out of place to conjecture that societal influences form the basis for individual actions and reactions. The human society is confronted with lots of threat which can jeopardize human existence, sustenance and attainment in life (Akinrolabu, 1999). The symbiotic frame work of every human society depicts an interdependence of conjoining systems on one another such that there is an impactful effect of one on the others. The style of governance may impact either positively or negatively on the people in different dimensions. However, every decision, policy, action, enactment, policy implementation and administration without satisfactory effect on the governed can be said to lack merit of acceptance; hence absence of values (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpor-Robaro, 2013).

The malady which had hitherto bedeviled the Nigerian society over the past decades can summarily be conjectured into the foregoing. The absolute collapse of values in the Nigerian society runs across the very core centre of leadership and political administration. It is not clear yet whether governance is for the people, the elites or for the politicians. In the face of multi and dynamic ethno-religious and cultural

diversities with a quantum of natural resources to adequately cater for the entire citizenry; many of the citizens still groan in perpetual abject poverty and gross lack of quintessential necessities of life. Meanwhile, many people in positions of power continue to live in pleasant luxury at the expense of public fund thereby leaving the governed in a state of hopelessness.

A catalogue of hopelessness has pervaded the Nigerian society in its entirety and has assumed a consequential norm of practicable standard leading to manifestations of life threatening situations. Noteworthy here is that human lives and properties are not only threatened by the insurgence of some rebel groups through indiscriminate bombings, kidnappings, heightened terrorism and political charade (Imhonopi & Urim, 2012) among many others which are consequentially caused largely by practices and policies that lack general utilitarian propensities. The above underscores the mismanagement of resources required for the overall utilitarian satisfaction of the people. Over the years, there has been a growing disconnect between the people and government. Government, whether military or civilian, have not tried to bridge this chasm, thus creating misunderstanding, mistrust and resentment. Consequently, because the people do not understand government or their perception that government does not care about their welfare, they become easy preys to centrifugal forces capable of propelling them to vent their anger on perceived enemies of the people and sometimes go to the extent of destroying national totems and even themselves (Onifade, 2013). The long held socio-cultural values of respect to human dignity, respect to constituted authorities, orderliness, sincerity, prudence, hard work, honesty, chastity, responsibility, trustworthiness, national interest and accountability and so on seem to have become old fashions.

The foregoing has assumed an indication of absence of acceptable values and utilitarian undertone in the system. Therefore, this study seeks to further justify or refute literature submissions and findings from past studies on the subject matter with the view of determining the extent of satisfaction derived by the governed from governmental policies and value influence on their daily conduct through an investigation of the prevailing human conduct as it affects security in Nigeria with

the aim of establishing the values implication of this orientation in the society.

**Theoretical Orientation**

The recommendations of democratic peace theory are clear. According to this theory, security largely depends on encouraging liberal institutions to discharge their responsibilities creditably; and any security policy must have as its long-term feature, the spread of liberalism (Doyle, 1998). Therefore, it may be conjectured that the route to peace and orderliness is to encourage the democratic system, the universal respect for human rights and the development of a civil society within the spheres of every associated segments in the country. This calls for value re-orientation and respect for the laws of the land.

***The Non-consequential or De-ontological Approach***

This approach is the antithesis of the utilitarian approach. This theoretical paradigm is associated with Emmanuel Kant (1724–1804) and is sometimes referred to as "duty ethics". Kant sought to establish a set of absolute moral rules, developed through the application of *reason*. He also suggested an acid test for evaluating the quality of moral rules. This he termed the *categorical imperative*. It states that "I ought never to act except in such a way that I can also will that my maxim should become a universal law" (Hart, 1993 in Onifade, 2013). In other words, moral rules should follow the principle of reciprocity, i.e. do unto others as you would want them to do unto you. This premise can be found in the moral principles of the dominant religions like the Ten Commandments in Christendom. Kant further stated: "Act in such a way that you always treat humanity . . . never simply as a means, but always at the same time as an end" (Hart, 1993 in Onifade, 2013). The defining characteristics of this approach are the universal applicability of its principle to all humanity and basic respect for human beings. A key notion for Kant's idea was that of intentionality. It might well be that the outcome of an act leads to very bad consequences for the people.

**The Theory of Differential Association**

This theory was propounded by Edwin Sutherland (1960). He propounded that people learn to be deviant through contact and association. This theory established that whatever any person associates with is what he becomes. An association with the wrong

values becomes part of such individual. Therefore, it can be averred that the prevailing values within an individual's proximate environment forms part of his disposition.

In the Nigerian situation therefore, the attendant threats to human existence and national unity that manifest in form of emerging rebel groups, indiscriminate bombings, kidnappings, terrorism, assassination, armed robbery, one million boys syndrome, militant groups and so on are consequential manifestation of thwarted hopes, a failed state and misplaced priority.

**Statement of the Problem**

There has been very conspicuous audible cry over the level of insecurity prevalent in the Nigerian society from every quarter, young, old, rich and poor alike. The common denominator in the content of the people's voice is lavish indiscriminate concentration of blames, accusation and counter accusations on Government and its policies. However, the state of insecurity is basically traceable to the cumulative interactions between members of the society and their environment. Every action creates an effect but majorly of such actions could be informed by the content of the actors' values. Nevertheless, irrespective of the direction from which the deficiencies are emanating, every member of the society has a measure of contribution to the existing and prevailing condition of insecurity in the country.

**Research Questions**

The following questions were answered in the study:

i. What is the opinion of respondents about security assurance measures in Nigeria?
ii. What is the virtue orientation of the Nigerian people?
iii. What is the perceived performance of the Nigeria's socio-economic sector?
iv. What factors mostly threaten human security in Nigerian?

**Hypotheses**

**$H0_1$**:There is no statistically significant difference in respondents' perception of prevailing insecurity variables in Nigeria based on class.

**$H0_2$**:There is no statistically significant difference in the values and virtues orientation perception of respondents according to their class.

**Methodology**

The study is a case study of the prevailing security challenges and contributing factors in Nigeria as perceived by the respondents. The population for the study included all public servants and students of tertiary institutions in Lagos State. There were two participating categories of respondents comprising of public servants (such as teachers, state and local government officials) and students of tertiary institutions in Lagos State. The respondents were of ages ranging from nineteen years to fifty years. The students' sample size was 72 (41 males and 31females) many of whom were from different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds depicting convocation and interplay of cultural diversities and were of different academic disciplines and levels. The public servant respondents were 46 teachers (21 males and 25 females) and 11 state and local government workers of senior cadre status (7 males and 4 females). The total number of respondents was 129. These categories of respondent were thought to be enlightened and knowledgeable about Nigerian social problems including problem of insecurity.

The two categories of respondents (students and workers) were selected because of the different divergent views these groups always have about national issues. Therefore, the purposive and incidental sampling techniques were adopted to select the respondents that participated in the study. Purposively, because students and public servants were specifically selected to obtain divergent views they always hold and incidentally because the respondents available at the period and place of administration of instruments were involved. Five self-designed instruments were used for data collection. These were Value Inventory Interview Guide (VIIG), Values and Virtues Ethic Inventory (VVEI); Sectoral Performance Variables Rating Scale (SPVRS), Insecurity Inclined Variables Ranking Scale (IIVRS) and Perceptual Views on Insecurity (PVI).

The instruments were administered to the respondents personally by the researchers at different times. The values component inventory was administered to the subjects in order to determine their moral values outlook. The values and virtues ethics inventory was to determine their supposed actions under varying circumstances. The sectoral performance rating scale was to determine the contribution of the socio-economic sector to the state of hopelessness

in Nigeria. While the insecurity inclined variable ranking scale was meant for determining the degree of contribution of each variable to state of insecurity in Nigeria. Respondents were asked to score each of the variables with a score range of 1 to 15.

The value inventory interview guide was conducted with responses recorded and later transcribed qualitatively. It involved five respondents consisting of three workers and two students. The five respondents interviewed (three workers and two students) had similar views hence only one was included in the paper. The administration spanned for a period of two months to allow for ease of data collation and analysis. Items in the instruments were validated and reduced to cogently relevant ones through factor analysis. The VIIG and VVEI were validated by applying the factor analysis formula. The KMO test value (0.943 > 0.05) and the Bartlett's test value (0.000< .05) were significant which is an indication that the principal components analysis proved the adequacy of the samples used for the study and thereby validates also, the instruments. The reliability of the VIIG and VVEI was done using the split half reliability method which gave a coefficient of 0.94 and 0.67 respectfully.

**Results**

**Research question 1**:

What is the opinion of respondents about security measures in Nigeria? The responses generated from the PVI (Perceptual Views on Insecurity) questionnaire were used to answer this research question. The analysis is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Analysis of respondents' views on security assurance measures in Nigeria (N=129)**

| S/N | STATEMENTS | SA | % | A | % | D | % | SD | % | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | The task of securing lives and properties is the duty of both government and the citizens | 77 | 59.68% | 23 | 17.82% | 21 | 16.27% | 08 | 6.20% | 129 |
| **2** | The process of building a secured society is primarily the duty of the citizens | 19 | 14.72% | 43 | 33.33% | 30 | 23.25% | 37 | 28.68% | 129 |
| **3** | In the midst of unfavorable policies, the citizens can make the society favorable | 32 | 24.80% | 23 | 17.82% | 54 | 41.86% | 20 | 16.27% | 129 |
| **4** | The road way to a secured society begins with every member of the society | 76 | 58.94% | 35 | 27.13% | 10 | 7.75% | 08 | 6.20% | 129 |
| **5** | Insecurity in Nigeria is informed by bad leadership and enhanced by the citizens | 67 | 51.93% | 42 | 32.55% | 09 | 6.97% | 11 | 8.52% | 129 |
| **6** | Upholding professional values and ethics at work is a route to socio-economic security of the nation | 42 | 32.55% | 45 | 34.88% | 32 | 24.80% | 10 | 7.75% | 129 |
| **7** | Masses oriented and sincerity in the conduct and implementation of public policies is a factor for social security. | 34 | 26.35% | 43 | 33.33% | 23 | 17.89% | 29 | 22.48% | 129 |
| **8** | Nepotism and favoritism are agents of social insecurity. | 86 | 66.66% | 24 | 18.60% | 20 | 16.27% | 09 | 6.97% | 129 |
| **9** | When official tasks are done conscientiously, security will be ensured | 98 | 75.96% | 21 | 16.27% | 06 | 4.65% | 04 | 3.10% | 129 |
| **10** | Orderliness is the gateway to social security | 65 | 50.38% | 13 | 10.07% | 43 | 33.33% | 08 | 5.20% | 129 |
| | **Total** | **586** | **54.43%** | **312** | **24.19%** | **248** | **19.22%** | **144** | **11.16** | **1290** |

Table 1 reveals that 100 (77.50%) 0f the respondents agreed that security of lives and properties is a joint responsibility of government and citizens; 67 (51.93%) of them disagreed that a secured society is the duty of citizens alone; 74 (58.13%) disagreed that citizens can make positive impact without an enabling governance; 111 (86.07%) agreed that a secured society is the duty of everybody; 109 (84.48%) also agreed that the state of insecurity was informed by the leadership and enhanced by

citizens; 87 (67.43%) of the respondents however agreed that professional values and work ethics could promote socio-economic security of the nation; 77 (59.68%) also agreed that the people should be the focus of every governance in order to succeed; 110 (i.e. 85.26%) respondents will not like to short change or selectively deal with fellow citizens; 119 making 92.23% of the respondents agreed that sincerity in official responsibility will reduce threat to human existence; 78 (i.e. 60.65%) respondents agreed that security will be enhanced with orderliness. In all, 69.62% of the responses are positively in agreement with all the stated items while 30.37% were in disagreement.

**Research Question 2:**

What is the virtue orientation of the Nigerian people? The question was answered with subjects' responses to the values and virtues ethics inventory. The analysis is given in table 2.

**Table 2: Analysis of respondents' views on values attributes N = 129**

| S/N | STATEMENTS | YES | NO | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | If insulted or molested anywhere, one may fight the offender physically to protect oneself | (87) | (42) | (129) |
| | | 67.4% | 32.6% | 100% |
| **2** | One may violate traffic signs in order to meet up an important appointment if running late | (76) | (53) | (129) |
| | | 58.9% | 41.1% | 100% |
| **3** | One can seize the opportunity to reduce quality and double gains if there is no risk of probe | (81) | (48) | (129) |
| | | 62.8% | 37.2% | 100% |
| **4** | You can consider joining a militant group as an unemployed person if offered financial security | (81) | (48) | (129) |
| | | 62.8% | 37.2% | 100% |
| **5** | The best way to succeed is to join the band wagon | (97) | (32) | (129) |
| | | 75.2% | 24.8% | 100% |
| **6** | Needless to disagree when the authority coerces you to deprive you of your rights | (56) | (73) | (129) |
| | | 43.4% | 56.6% | 100% |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **7** | A less qualified person can be employed into public office if it is the opinion of a superior | (53) | (76) | (129) |
| | | 41.1% | 58.9% | 100% |
| **8** | As a leader, there is no crime in developing one's region ahead of others in the same society | (85) | (44) | (129) |
| | | 65.9% | 34.1% | 100% |
| **9** | There is no crime in the policy of oneself before the national interest | (97) | (32) | (129) |
| | | 75.2% | 24.8% | 100% |
| **10** | An under-paid job is better than voluntary service | (96) | (33) | (129) |
| | | 74.4% | 25.6% | 100% |
| | **Total** | **(832)** | **(458)** | **(1,290)** |
| | | **64.5%** | **35.5%** | **100%** |

Table 2 shows the value inclination of Nigerians. The responses described a valueless condition where there is no respect for human rights, laws and civil order in the society. The responses indicated a selfish tendency among Nigerians. A total of 832 (64.5%) of the respondents will not consider national interest and preservation of the society by doing what is right with credibility of human values.

**Research Question 3:**

What is the perceived performance of Nigeria's socio-economic sector? This question was answered by subjects' responses to the Sectorial Performance Rating Scale. The analysis is presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Respondents' perception of socio-economic sectorial performance in Nigeria (N=129)**

| S/N | Description | HS (4) | S (3) | FS (2) | NS (1) | AU (0) | Total Score | Mean Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Technological development | (45) 180 | (34) 102 | (46) 92 | (4) 4 | - | (129) 374 | 2.9 |
| **2** | Rule of law, justice and equity | (58) 232 | (32) 96 | (2) 8 | (1) 1 | (36) 0 | (129) 337 | 2.61 |
| **3** | Secondary education | (2) 8 | (55) 165 | (58) 116 | (12) 12 | (2) 0 | (129) 301 | 2.33 |
| **4** | Primary education | (5) 20 | (40) 120 | (49) 98 | (20) 20 | (14) 0 | (129) 258 | 2.0 |
| **5** | Agriculture & food supply | (4) 16 | (17) 51 | (54) 108 | (44) 44 | (10) 0 | (129) 219 | 1.7 |
| **6** | Health care services | (2) 8 | (11) 33 | (57) 114 | (34) 34 | (25) 0 | (129) 189 | 1.47 |
| **7** | Employment | (2) 8 | (13) 39 | (32) 64 | (48) 48 | (34) 0 | (129) 159 | 1.23 |
| **8** | Tertiary education | (1) 4 | (4) 12 | (63) 126 | (17) 17 | (44) 0 | (129) 159 | 1.23 |
| **9** | Housing/accommodation | - | (6) 18 | (8) 16 | (98) 98 | (17) 0 | (129) 132 | 1.02 |
| **10** | Motor able roads | - | (3) 9 | (28) 56 | (56) 56 | (43) 0 | (129) 121 | 0.94 |
| **11** | Social security | - | - | (4) 8 | (96) 96 | (29) 0 | (129) 104 | 0.81 |
| **12** | Security of lives and properties | - | - | (17) 34 | (62) 62 | (50) 0 | (129) 96 | 0.74 |
| **13** | Water supply | - | - | - | (78) 78 | (51) 0 | (129) 78 | 0.60 |
| **14** | Electricity | - | - | (12) 24 | (54) 54 | (63) 0 | (129) 78 | 0.60 |
| **15** | Manufacturing industries | (1) 4 | (1) 3 | (7) 14 | (21) 21 | (98) 0 | (129) 42 | 0.33 |
| | **Total F x** | **(120) 480** | **(216) 648** | **(437) 874** | **(641) 641** | **(516) 0** | **(1935) 2643** | **20.49** |

**Key:** HS= Highly Satisfactory; S= Satisfactory; FS=Fairly Satisfactory; NS=Not Satisfactory; AU=Absolutely Unsatisfactory.

From the table, only four sectors out of fifteen listed had a total mean score of 2.0 and above (i.e. half of the total mean score of 4). These are technological development, rule of law, justice and equity, secondary and primary education. Others fell below 50% of 4points.

Socio-economic down turn of the nation has been tipped by some social critics as the major factor that encourages problem of insecurity in Nigeria. Hence, the subjects' responses in table 3 present a clear indication of respondents' sectorial rating according to their perceived performance in

relation to human lives, existence and survival. The algorithm and frequency show that among all the sectors identified none of them was perceived to be highly satisfactory. The result shows that the flow of responses revolved around fairly satisfactory, not satisfactory and absolutely unsatisfactory with observed frequencies of 516 (AU), 641 (NS) and 437 (FS) while satisfactory and highly satisfactory had observed frequencies of 216 and 120 respectively. The total mean score was 20.49 out of expected 60.00

**Research Question Four:**

What factors mostly threaten human security in Nigerian? The question was answered by the analysis of the subjects' responses to the Insecurity Inclined Variable Ranking Scale. The analysis is presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Ranking of identified insecurity inclined variables in Nigeria ( N = 129)**

| | Description | Mean Score | Ranking |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Tribalism and favoritism | 12.0 | 1st |
| **2** | Assassination, kidnapping and ritual killings | 9.9 | 2nd |
| **3** | Inadequate infrastructure to meet public needs | 9.8 | 3rd |
| **4** | Material aggrandizement among leaders | 9.6 | 4th |
| **5** | Lack of public interest/ self-interest above public interest | 8.8 | 5th |
| **6** | Selfishness among leaders | 8.5 | 6th |
| **7** | Embezzlement of public fund | 7.4 | 7th |
| **8** | Unpaid pensions | 7.4 | 7th |
| **9** | Political insincerity and immorality | 7.2 | 9th |
| **10** | Corruption and fraud(e.g. 419, ATM fraud etc) | 7.1 | 10th |
| **11** | Inadequate welfare for the masses | 6.7 | 11th |
| **12** | Mismanagement of national resources and national wealth | 6.7 | 11th |
| **13** | Injustice against the underprivileged | 6.4 | 13th |
| **14** | Unemployment and under employment | 6.1 | 14th |
| **15** | Unhealthy political struggle | 5.0 | 15th |
| | | **118.6** | |

Out of fifteen factors listed as may be responsible for the state of social insecurity in Nigeria, the summary of respondents' rating showed tribalism and favoritism as the major impediments to security in Nigeria. These in turn lead to tribal mistrust, communal and tribal clashes, insurgency and state of insecurity. Others are assassination, kidnapping and ritual killings; inadequate infrastructure to meet public needs; material

aggrandizement among leaders and so on. However, unemployment and under employment and unhealthy political struggle were rated the fourteenth and fifteenth factors respectively.

**Test of Hypotheses**

**$Ho_1$**: There is no statistically significant difference in respondents' perception of prevailing insecurity variables in Nigeria based on class. To test this hypothesis, the respondents were grouped into clusters. Eleven respondents were in the government workers' cluster, while there were forty-six in the teachers' cluster and seventy-two in the students' cluster. Table 5 shows the mean scores on the insecurity variables perceptions of the clusters of respondents. The mean scores are categorized as 12 –15, high and 11 and below as low.

**Table 5: Classification of Clusters' Mean scores of respondents rating of insecurity variables**

| Status classifications | N | Values and virtues perception (cluster 1) | Impunity perception (cluster 2) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Teachers** | 46 | Low (3.0) | High (13.0) |
| **Gov't workers** | 11 | High (13.4) | low(6.8) |
| **Students** | 72 | Low(4.7) | High(14.2) |

Table 5 shows the mean scores of respondents' perception of the identified aspects that reflect cherished virtues and values and insecurity variables. The teachers and students groups had low mean scores of values and virtues perception while they had a high mean score of impunity (insecurity variables) perception. However, there was a preponderance of high mean score of values and virtues perception with low mean score on insecurity variables for the government workers.

**$H0_2$**: There is no statistically significant difference in subjects' perception of values and virtues orientation according to their class. For testing this hypothesis too, three clusters of teachers, government workers and students were used. The Analysis of Variance was used to determine the different in the virtues orientation of the groups. The result is presented in table 6.

**Table 6: ANOVA test of Perception Differentials of Values and Virtues Orientation among Respondents**

| | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Local Government Workers | Between Groups | 137.493 | 2 | 68.746 | 7.32 | .000 |
| | Within Groups | 234.907 | 97 | 6.349 | | |
| | Total | 372.400 | 99 | | | |
| Teachers | Between Groups | 318.040 | 2 | 159.020 | 32.45 | .012 |
| | Within Groups | 121.335 | 97 | 3.279 | | |
| | Total | 439.375 | 99 | | | |
| Students | Between Groups | 86.331 | 2 | 43.165 | 6.63 | .000 |
| | Within Groups | 339.569 | 97 | 9.178 | | |
| | **Total** | **425.900** | **99** | | | |

***F (2, 97) = 7.32; 32.45; 6.63; < 0.05***

Table 6 shows the significance of values and virtues orientation perception of the subjects. The result shows that among the groups, there was a significant difference in their perception. The f values associated with the groups were 7.32; 32.45 and 6.63. The p value of .000 is statistically significant at .05. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant difference is hereby rejected as significant differences existed.

**Qualitative Analysis of Structured Interview**

The qualitative analysis was based on the subject's response to items relating to human conduct and the impact on security of lives and properties in the Nigerian society. The interview was transcribed and summarized as below. It was a discussion between the researchers and a respondent who was a local government worker; his name being referred to as MAL (abbreviated), an indigene of Lagos state

from Ojo local government area. The discussion is presented below.

**Interviewer**: How are you my brother, good morning

**Interviewee**: Ehmm, thank you

**Interviewer**: Sir we are here just to ask you some questions for research purpose from Lagos State University, Ojo (*Researchers presented their identity cards for recognition*)

**Interviewee**: Will it take time?

**Interviewer**: No sir, not at all, just one or two questions about our country. That is all.

**Interviewee**: Okay, no wahala (Yoruba *dialectic slang meaning 'no problem'*)

**Interviewer**: Okay sir. Please sir, what can you say about the behavior Nigerians and our government?

**Interviewee**: Ah, that is a very serious question o, but what I can say is that Nigerians are too lawless and for government they are just selfish.

**Interviewer**: Does it mean that is all you can say?

**Interviewee**: The situation here is that our government is filled with politicians who don't have anything to offer the human society.

**Interviewer**: What areas do you think pose serious security threat to people's life in the country and why?

**Interviewee**: So many areas but let me just mention the ones that pain me most. One, this society allows people to kill innocent Nigerians with fake drugs, and people are working for NAFDAC and are collecting salary. There is lawlessness on the road where okada, tipper, tankers, trucks, pushers and ordinary cars are all plying the same road causing accident. Doctors will strike and lots of patients will die before government intervenes. Pensioners' money in trillions and when caught they bribe their ways out, even our graduates are no longer of good quality because parents influence their performances right from primary school and so they don't have the required intelligence for needed labor for economy. That way the quality of our education and development is affected. I think you get me now? That is all. The society just needs re-structuring. That is what I think on my own you may have your own views too.

**Interviewer**: I am very grateful sir, thank you so much and have a nice weekend sir.

**Interviewee**: No problem o, but I hope am safe? (*asked humorously*)

**Interviewer**: Of course you are sir.

**Discussion of Findings**

The study surveyed the opinion of some members of the society about the state of insecurity in the Nigerian society. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents were of the opinion that security of lives and properties is a joint responsibility of government and citizens; that a secured society is not the duty of citizens alone; that citizens cannot make positive impact without enabling governance and that a secured society is the responsibility of every individual. It was also agreed that the state of insecurity was worsened by the type of leadership and enhanced by citizens; that professional values and work ethics could promote socio-economic security of the nation and that the people should be the focus of every government in order to succeed. They were also of the opinion that sincerity in official responsibility will reduce threat to human

existence and that security can as well be enhanced by orderliness.

In all, the foregoing justifies the submission of Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpor-Robaro, (2013); Adagba, Ugwu, and Eme, (2012); Imhonopi & Urim, (2012) and Nwagboso, (2012) that the unsatisfactory style of governance has created a platform for a different values orientation in the people. The governed are consistently aggrieved with the way and manner leadership roles are discharged. It may therefore be concluded that, security task is a joint responsibility of the citizens and government. To the second question which asks how virtuous the Nigerian people are (that is, the virtue orientation of Nigerian people), the responses indicated a selfish tendency among Nigerians. A total of 832 (64.5%) respondents will not consider national interest and preservation of the society by doing what is right with credibility of human values. This is a clear – cut display of absence of patriotism which portends serious security threat to the nation. Thirdly, the sectoral performance of the economy has been acclaimed to be unsatisfactory. The algorithm and frequency showed that among all the sectors identified, none of them was perceived to be highly satisfactory, except few that were fairly satisfactory scoring between 2.0 – 2.9 mean score. This also shows an absence of values necessary for social and economic development. Also, relating to factors that threaten human security, out of fifteen factors listed as may be responsible for the state of social insecurity in Nigeria, the summary of respondents' rating showed tribalism and favoritism as the major impediments to security in Nigeria which lead to tribal mistrust, communal and tribal clashes, insurgency and state of insecurity. Others are assassination, kidnapping and ritual killings; inadequate infrastructure to meet public needs; material aggrandizement among leaders and so on. However, unemployment and under employment and unhealthy political struggle were rated the fourteenth and fifteenth factors.

Furthermore, the result of the first null hypothesis showed that, there is a significant difference in the perceptual mean score of respondents regarding prevailing insecurity variables in Nigeria on the basis of their classes. This may not be unconnected to the fact that there is a higher sense of consciousness and urge for better living conditions in the society among the teachers

and students than the local government workers who were more virtuous conscious.

The result of the second null hypothesis showed that, the prevailing insecurity situation in Nigeria could be attributed to the inability to do the right thing at the right time and indiscipline. The life of Nigerians is neither respected nor valued by individuals and even government (Doyle, 1998). There is absence of sincere structures to handle the affairs of Nigerians with utmost concern. The job of security has been taken away from the police into private hands. The health sector has been marred by incessant influx of counterfeited drugs that kill scores of thousands of innocent people. This blame is shared between the government and the people. In the light of all these anomalies, a colossal threat to human lives evolved. It was evident that existing traffic laws are not effective; our roads are death traps and as such, have claimed lots of lives. There were also evidences that retired aged people are not regularly paid their entitlements; to sustain their live becomes difficult after investing so much into national development. The security and state of the nation is a depiction of worthlessness. There runs an element of indiscipline across the various human institutions in Nigeria thereby giving way for insecurity and a bleak future for the entire citizenry. Some feudalists and power brokers have woven around the web of political power. These few live in affluence while majority are in perpetual penury, a state of poverty in the midst of plenty. While a handful well-wishers in government struggle hard to correct the situation, some influential ones attempt to manipulate state machinery to thwart the effort (Hart, 1993 in Onifade, 2013). If the leaders will only adopt the deontological approach to leadership, there will be absolute little or no gap between the poor and the rich. The foregoing findings are quite revealing and as such call for urgent address.

**Conclusion**

It may be concluded that the Nigerian society is bedeviled by indecent attitude and haphazard orientation lacking basic moral and ethical values due to the fact that sociocultural values are undermined. This clearly defines a state of hopelessness with absolute condition of insecurity and threat to human existence.

**Recommendations**

On the basis of the foregoing, this paper suggests that:

i. Our schools' curricula should be fashioned towards laying the foundation of, and inculcation of acceptable values into our future generations through adequate value education.
ii. Ethics and values agencies should be set up at every local government area to regulate the activities of the people in accordance with acceptable ethical standards.
iii. Periodic re-orientation programmes should be organized for members of the ruling class and public servants on social values in order to keep them in tune with the requisites of peaceful co-existence in the society.
iv. All regulatory bodies (law courts and tribunals) should be up and doing and live above board.
v. Meting appropriate sanctions on every illegal warring group will also help in curbing insurgency and militancy.

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