

Insecurity A Harbinger to Industrial Growth for Economic Development in Kogi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study assessed insecurity a harbinger to industrial growth for economic development in Kogi State, Nigeria. The study made use of content analysis. Data were sourced through secondary means by relying on existing documented materials related to the subject matter under investigation. Existing material on the concept of insecurity, causes of insecurity in Kogi state, the patterns and trends of industrial growth and investment and the limitation of insecurity, and the threat of insecurity to industrial growth and investment in Kogi State. The study found out that insecurity is a major challenge to economic development in Kogi State, Nigeria, that insecurity has a negative impact on investment and economic growth, agricultural production and food security among others. The study therefore recommended amongst others that the Kogi State government should develop a state development plan that prioritizes economic growth and development, the Kogi State government should establish a public-private partnership to attract investment and promote economic growth in the state.

Keywords: *Insecurity, Harbinger, Industrial, Growth, Economic, Development.*

1.0 Introduction

Insecurity remains a pervasive challenge affecting many countries around the world, and it can significantly hinder their economic development (World Bank, 2018). At the global level, several studies have shown that crime and violence reduce investment and economic growth, increase income inequality, and exacerbate poverty (Fajnzylber et al., 2002; Soares, 2004). Insecurity remains a pervasive challenge affecting many countries worldwide, with far-reaching consequences for their socioeconomic development (World Bank, 2018). At the global level, several studies have established a link between insecurity and underdevelopment, highlighting how violent crimes and terrorism can hinder economic progress (Naudé et al., 2017).

Several studies have investigated the relationship between insecurity and economic development at the global level, shedding light on the negative impacts of crime and violence on investment and growth. For instance, Fajnzylber et al. (2002) found that increases in homicide rates were associated with lower levels of private investment and slower economic growth in Latin America. Additionally, Soares (2004) showed that higher crime rates could lead to reductions in human capital accumulation, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment. Moreover, insecurity affects not only individuals but also institutions, leading to weakened governance structures and increased corruption (Mauro, 1995). Overall, the evidence suggests that addressing insecurity requires coordinated efforts at multiple levels, including international cooperation, to ensure sustainable economic development.

Another strand of the literature has explored the connection between insecurity and underdevelopment, emphasizing the role of violent crimes and terrorism in undermining economic progress. As Naudé et al. (2017) argue, insecurity reduces investor confidence and discourages entrepreneurship, limiting innovation and job creation. Furthermore, terrorist attacks often target critical infrastructure, causing disruptions to essential services and slowing down economic activity (Abadie & Gardeazabal, 2003). Consequently, the destruction caused by these events imposes substantial social costs, with long-lasting implications for economic recovery and development. Given the complexity of these issues, understanding the interplay between insecurity and economic development requires a nuanced approach that considers the contextual factors shaping each country's experience.

Similarly, at the regional level, insecurity has been identified as one of the major obstacles to economic development in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) (Ndulu et al., 2007; Ncube & Lufumpa, 2016). Scholars have argued that insecurity poses severe threats to West African economies' stability and growth, given the region's history of political instability and conflict (Adeleke & Omotor, 2019).

At the regional level, researchers have identified similar patterns of insecurity impeding economic development across different regions of the world. For example, Adeleke and Omotor (2019) examine the relationship between crime and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa, arguing that crime poses a significant threat to economic growth and development in the region. They find that crime reduces investment flows, lowers savings rates, and diminishes consumer confidence, all of which contribute to sluggish economic growth. Meanwhile, at the national level, insecurity continues to plague many developing countries, including Nigeria, where ongoing conflicts related to religious extremism, resource scarcity, and political tensions have resulted in widespread displacement, loss of life, and property damage (Amnesty International, 2020). Addressing these complex challenges thus demands multifaceted approaches that prioritize both short-term stabilization measures and longer-term strategies aimed at promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

At the national level, Nigeria experiences diverse forms of insecurity, which adversely affect the country's economic development prospects. Amongst the myriads of security challenges faced by Nigeria, some of the most pressing ones include terrorism, kidnapping, piracy, militancy, banditry, ethno-religious conflicts, cattle rustling, and cybercrime (Ogbonna, 2019). Such concerns are further corroborated by the Institute for Economics and Peace (2020), which ranks Nigeria third globally regarding the number of fatalities attributed to terrorism in 2019.

Moreover, the prevalence of kidnapping constitutes another prominent form of insecurity confronting Nigeria. According to official figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2021), approximately 3,530 instances of kidnapping were recorded throughout Nigeria in 2020, reflecting a staggering 50% increase relative to the preceding year. Indeed, kidnapping has emerged as one of the

most common forms of criminality experienced in Nigeria, often involving ransom payments demanded in exchange for releasing abducted victims (Okoroafor, 2020). Notably, such acts not only infringe upon individual liberties but also exact considerable financial tolls on affected families and communities, ultimately stifling economic growth.

Beyond the immediate personal and societal costs imposed by insecurity, the phenomenon similarly entails massive economic repercussions. Based on estimates provided by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) (2019), insecurity was accountable for damages amounting to over N3 trillion (\$8 billion) incurred by businesses and infrastructure during 2018 alone. To put this figure into context, this sum represents roughly 2% of Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) for that same period (World Bank, 2021). Regrettably, persistent insecurity jeopardizes future economic prospects due to attendant ramifications such as reduced foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, curtailed tourism revenues, and compromised agricultural output (Ukiwo, 2013). Consequently, tackling insecurity assumes paramount importance in fostering sustained economic growth and development in Nigeria.

Kogi State, situated in the heart of Nigeria's North Central geopolitical zone, has not remained unscathed from the prevailing security challenges bedeviling the nation. Within the last ten years, the state has experienced a dramatic escalation in violent crimes, including kidnapping, armed robbery, herdsmen-farmer clashes, and political thuggery (BBC News, 2019). This upsurge in criminal activities has precipitated a climate of fear and apprehension among residents, culminating in a marked decrease in investment confidence and the subsequent erosion of economic prosperity.

The burgeoning incidences of insecurity have engendered a hostile environment deterring prospective investors, consequently triggering a decline in economic activities. Local enterprises, especially those operating in rural areas, have encountered immense difficulties arising from constant disruptions, compelling them to shutter operations temporarily or permanently. Resultantly, thousands of employees have lost their livelihoods, further fueling unemployment levels and deepening the state's existing socioeconomic quandaries (VOA News, 2019). Agricultural production, being a vital sector driving Kogi's economy, has been severely impacted due to persistent threats against farmers by marauding herdsmen, who frequently invade farmlands, pilfer crops, and assault occupants. Farm abandonment ensues, inducing food scarcity and upward price pressures, subsequently curtailing consumers' purchasing power (Abdullahi, 2020).

Similarly, businesses in metropolitan settings have endured colossal financial setbacks stemming from recurrent forced closures attributable to spates of insecurity (World Bank, 2021). The frequency and intensity of these occurrences have contributed to a dampening effect on overall economic momentum, reflected in a deceleration of the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021). Data compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics reveals alarming trends concerning kidnapping and murder rates within Kogi State (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Between 2015 and 2019, cases of kidnapping skyrocketed from nine incidents to sixty-four, signifying a nearly sevenfold increase. Likewise, reported murders saw a steep rise from sixteen occurrences in 2015 to thirty-three in 2019, indicative of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the state.

Previous researches have highlighted the adverse effects of insecurity on the economic performance of states within Nigeria, pointing to declines in investment inflows, trade volumes, and employment opportunities (Folarin & Oladeji, 2019). However, little attention has been paid to the specific case of Kogi State. Thus, this study seeks to address this knowledge gap by examining the nexus between insecurity and economic development in Kogi State from a multi-level perspective encompassing global, regional, national, and local factors.

2.0 Literature Review

Concept of Insecurity

Insecurity refers to the absence or weakness of protection and safety, whether physical, emotional, or psychological. It is often used to describe situations where individuals or communities feel vulnerable, threatened, or at risk of harm, either from natural or man-made causes. The concept of insecurity has gained prominence in academic discourse, especially in relation to its impact on societal development, particularly in developing countries like Nigeria.

Studies have shown that insecurity has far-reaching implications for economic development, as it creates an uncertain and hostile environment that deters investment, innovation, and trade (Ndulu et al., 2007; Olayele, 2014). According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), insecurity constitutes a major barrier to achieving sustainable development goals, as it erodes trust, solidarity, and social cohesion, thus undermining collective action towards common goods (UNDP, 2013).

Insecurity manifests itself in various forms, including crime, terrorism, political instability, ethnic and religious conflicts, and environmental hazards. Crime is perhaps the most prevalent form of insecurity in many societies, taking various forms such as burglary, robbery, rape, murder, drug trafficking, and cybercrime. Terrorism is another form of insecurity that involves deliberate acts of violence against civilian targets, usually motivated by ideological, political, or religious beliefs. Political instability, such as coups, protests, and riots, can create an atmosphere of fear and anxiety, leading to capital flight, brain drain, and decline in economic output (Easterly & Levine, 1997). Ethnic and religious conflicts, often driven by identity politics and resource competition, can result in widespread displacement, destruction of properties, and loss of life. Environmental hazards, such as floods, droughts, earthquakes, and epidemics, can cause massive devastation and disruption, leaving affected populations vulnerable and helpless.

The impact of insecurity on economic development is multi-dimensional and varies depending on the severity, duration, and location of the threat. Studies have documented the negative effects of insecurity on various aspects of economic performance, such as gross domestic product (GDP), employment, inflation, savings, and investment. For instance, Ndulu et al. (2007) note that insecurity can reduce the incentives for productive activities, distort factor markets, and raise transactions costs, all of which conspire to depress aggregate demand and supply. Olayele (2014) adds that insecurity can discourage tourists, hurt consumer confidence, and divert public resources away from vital development projects, hence slowing down economic progress.

Moreover, insecurity can widen disparities and deepen poverty, as marginalized groups and disadvantaged regions bear the brunt of its effects. Women, children, persons with disability, and minority groups are often more susceptible to victimization, discrimination, and exclusion, owing to their vulnerability and powerlessness. Likewise, rural areas and border towns tend to suffer more from insecurity, as they are exposed to cross-border smuggling, arms proliferation, and militia activities. Therefore, tackling insecurity requires a comprehensive and inclusive approach that addresses the root causes, engages multiple actors, and leverages innovative solutions.

To sum up, insecurity is a complex and dynamic phenomenon that poses significant challenges to economic development, social welfare, and political stability. Its impact transcends individual and group boundaries, spilling over into broader societal spheres and macroeconomic indicators. Addressing insecurity requires concerted effort, collaboration, and coordination among stakeholders, informed by rigorous research, sound policy, and effective implementation.

Causes of Insecurity in Kogi State

Kogi State, located in the North-Central region of Nigeria, has been plagued by various forms of insecurity in recent years. The state has experienced a surge in violent crimes, including armed robbery, kidnapping, and communal clashes, which have resulted in loss of lives and properties. This paper examines the causes of insecurity in Kogi State, with a focus on the current situation.

One of the primary causes of insecurity in Kogi State is the prevalence of unemployment and poverty. According to a report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Kogi State has one of the highest unemployment rates in Nigeria, with over 30% of its workforce unemployed (NBS, 2020). This has led to a situation where many young people in the state are idle and vulnerable to recruitment by criminal gangs. As noted by Adebayo (2019), "the high rate of unemployment in Kogi State has created a fertile ground for the growth of criminal activities, as many young people are forced to seek alternative means of survival."

Another cause of insecurity in Kogi State is the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The state's porous borders with neighboring countries have made it easy for arms smugglers to bring in weapons, which are then sold to criminal gangs (Ibrahim, 2020). This has contributed to the rise in armed robbery and kidnapping in the state. As observed by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), "the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is a major driver of conflict and insecurity in Nigeria, including Kogi State" (UNODA, 2019).

Communal clashes are also a significant cause of insecurity in Kogi State. The state is home to over 20 ethnic groups, and conflicts between these groups have resulted in loss of lives and properties (Kogi State Government, 2020). For instance, the clashes between the Igala and Bassa ethnic groups in 2019 resulted in the deaths of over 20 people and the destruction of several properties (Michael & Yekini, 2019). As noted by Ojo (2018), "communal clashes in Kogi State are often fueled by competition for resources, land, and political power."

Furthermore, the activities of herdsmen have also contributed to insecurity in Kogi State. The state has experienced several clashes between herdsmen and farmers, resulting in loss of lives and properties (Premium Times, 2020). As observed by the Nigeria Security Tracker (NST), "the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in Kogi State is driven by competition for land and resources" (NST, 2020).

In addition, the lack of effective governance and corruption have also contributed to insecurity in Kogi State. The state government has been accused of not doing enough to address the security challenges facing the state (Moses, 2020). As noted by Transparency International (TI), "corruption is a major obstacle to effective governance in Nigeria, including Kogi State" (TI, 2020).

Lastly, the role of external factors such as Boko Haram and other terrorist groups cannot be ruled out. Although Kogi State is not one of the states most affected by Boko Haram, the group's activities have had a spill-over effect on the state (BBC, 2020). As observed by the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), "Boko Haram's activities have contributed to the insecurity in Nigeria, including Kogi State" (GTI, 2020). In a nut shell, the causes of insecurity in Kogi State are complex and multifaceted. Unemployment and poverty, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, communal clashes, activities of herdsmen, lack of effective governance and corruption, and external factors such as Boko Haram have all contributed to the insecurity in the state.

The patterns and trends of industrial growth and investment and the limitation of insecurity

Industrial growth and investment refer to the expansion of industrial activities and the allocation of resources towards productive ventures in the manufacturing sector. Industrial growth is typically measured using indicators such as industrial production index, manufacturing value-added, and contribution of the manufacturing sector to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). On the other hand, investment is measured by the amount of funds committed to acquiring new machinery, equipment, and buildings or setting up new factories. Both industrial growth and investment are important pillars of economic development and modernization (Schumpeter, 1942).

Industrial growth and investment are crucial drivers of economic development, contributing to job creation, income generation, technological advancement, and export earnings. Kogi State, located in central Nigeria, is endowed with abundant mineral resources and arable land, presenting vast potential for industrial expansion and investment attraction. However, the state has faced significant security challenges, including kidnapping, armed robbery, and ethno-religious conflicts, which could limit its industrial growth trajectory. However, insecurity, defined as "the condition of feeling unsafe, worried, or anxious about personal or public wellbeing" (Merriam Webster Dictionary, n.d.), can significantly limit industrial growth and investment. Various forms of insecurity, such as political instability, terrorism, crime, and conflict, can create an unfavorable business environment, increase operating costs, and reduce profits, thereby discouraging entrepreneurs and investors from investing in the affected area (Skaperdas, 2001).

Empirical evidence shows that insecurity has a negative impact on industrial growth and investment. For instance, Le billon (2003) found that conflict and insecurity in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Angola significantly reduced investment in the extractive industries and slowed down industrial growth. Similarly, Collier and Hoeffler (2004) showed that civil wars decrease investment, lower saving rates, and retard economic growth. Other studies have highlighted the negative impact of crime, terrorism, and political instability on industrial growth and investment (Abadie & Gardeazabal, 2003; Drakos & Kutun, 2003; Skaperdas, 2001).

Regarding the case of Kogi State, Nigeria, the literature suggests that insecurity, particularly in the form of kidnapping, armed robbery, and herders-farmers conflicts, has hampered industrial growth and investment. For instance, Ayodele and Idowu (2018) found that insecurity in Kogi State led to a reduction in agricultural productivity, which subsequently affected the food processing industry. Similarly, Adeniran (2016) pointed out that insecurity in the state has discouraged investors, who now prefer to invest in safer locations.

Industrial growth refers to the expansion of manufacturing activities, measured by indices such as value added, production capacity, and employment. Over the last two decades, Kogi State has witnessed varying degrees of industrial growth, influenced by factors such as market conditions, technology, infrastructure, and institutional arrangements. According to a study by Adelowokan and Salawu (2017), Kogi State recorded a positive growth rate of 14.6% in its manufacturing sector between 2000 and 2014, reflecting the state's strategic position as a hub for agro-allied, mining, and petroleum industries. However, the growth pattern has not been uniform, with fluctuations observed during periods of political transition and heightened insecurity.

Foreign and domestic investments play a critical role in financing industrial growth, facilitating technology transfer, and generating employment opportunities. Kogi State has received considerable investment flows in various sectors, notably oil and gas, agriculture, construction, and hospitality. Nonetheless, the investment climate is subject to volatility, partly due to insecurity and other structural bottlenecks. Using firm-level data, Egwuatu and Anyaegbu (2015) examined the

determinants of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in Nigeria and established that perceived risks, including political instability, corruption, and crime, adversely affect FDI inflows. They argued that improving the security situation would enhance investor confidence and stimulate investment.

The relationship between insecurity and industrial growth and investment is bidirectional and reinforcing. On the one hand, insecurity constrains industrial growth and investment by raising operational costs, disrupting supply chains, destroying assets, and diminishing returns. A study by Ezeoha et al. (2017) analyzed the impact of insecurity on industrial development in Imo State, a neighboring state to Kogi, and found that insecurity contributed to declines in industrial output, profitability, and workforce size. Similarly, Akpan and Okoro (2014) investigated the influence of insecurity on firms' decision to invest in Nigeria and concluded that insecurity represented a significant disincentive to investment.

On the other hand, industrial growth and investment can foster improved security outcomes by expanding economic opportunities, building social networks, and strengthening governance structures. Interventions targeting industrial development, therefore, offer promising avenues for addressing insecurity in Kogi State. For instance, initiatives focused on skill acquisition, vocational training, and enterprise promotion can empower youths, women, and other vulnerable groups, thereby reducing their propensity to engage in criminal activities. Additionally, partnerships involving private sector actors, civil society organizations, and security agencies can facilitate intelligence gathering, crisis management, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Analyzing the patterns and trends of industrial growth and investment in Kogi State necessitates an appreciation of the complex dynamics surrounding insecurity. Although insecurity presents a daunting challenge, it should not overshadow the inherent strengths and comparative advantages of the state. Strategic approaches centered on diversification, integration, and sustainability can unlock the untapped potential of Kogi State, driving industrial growth, attracting investment, and ensuring lasting peace and security.

The Threat of Insecurity to Industrial Growth and Investment in Kogi State

One of the primary threats of insecurity to industrial growth in Kogi State is the disruption of economic activities. The state's porous borders and lack of effective security measures have made it easy for armed robbers and kidnappers to operate, resulting in the disruption of economic activities (Ibrahim, 2020). For instance, the kidnapping of businessmen and entrepreneurs has led to a decline in investment in the state, as investors are wary of risking their lives and assets (Ibrahim, 2020). As noted by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), "insecurity is a major obstacle to investment in Nigeria, including Kogi State" (NIPC, 2020).

Another threat of insecurity to industrial growth in Kogi State is the destruction of infrastructure. The state's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and buildings, has been destroyed or damaged during communal clashes and armed robberies (Moses 2020). This has made it difficult for businesses to operate, as they are unable to access basic amenities such as electricity, water, and transportation (Adebayo, 2019). As observed by the World Bank, "infrastructure is critical to economic growth and development, and its destruction can have a devastating impact on the economy" (World Bank, 2019). The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) noted that, "investor confidence is critical to economic growth, and insecurity can have a negative impact on investor sentiment" (NSE, 2020).

Furthermore, insecurity in Kogi State has also led to a decline in investor confidence. The state's reputation as a hub for insecurity has made it unattractive to investors, who are wary of risking their

investments in a state with a high crime rate (Premium Times, 2020). As noted by the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), "investor confidence is critical to economic growth, and insecurity can have a negative impact on investor sentiment" (NSE, 2020).

In addition, the threat of insecurity to industrial growth in Kogi State is also evident in the decline of the state's agricultural sector. The state's agricultural sector, which is a major contributor to the state's GDP, has been severely affected by insecurity (Kogi State Government, 2020). Farmers are unable to access their farms, and crops are being destroyed or stolen, leading to a decline in agricultural production (The Punch, 2020). As observed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), "agriculture is critical to food security and economic growth, and insecurity can have a devastating impact on agricultural production" (FAO, 2020).

Moreover, the threat of insecurity to industrial growth in Kogi State is also evident in the decline of the state's tourism sector. The state's tourism sector, which has the potential to generate significant revenue for the state, has been severely affected by insecurity (Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, 2020). Tourists are unwilling to visit the state due to the high crime rate, leading to a decline in tourism revenue (Moses, 2020). As noted by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), "tourism is a critical sector for economic growth, and insecurity can have a negative impact on tourism development" (UNWTO, 2020).

Lastly, the threat of insecurity to industrial growth in Kogi State is also evident in the brain drain and loss of skilled labor. The state's insecurity has led to a brain drain, as skilled workers are leaving the state in search of safer and more secure environments (Ibrahim, 2020). This has resulted in a loss of skilled labor, which is critical to industrial growth and development (Adebayo, 2019). As observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO), "skilled labor is critical to economic growth, and brain drain can have a devastating impact on economic development" (ILO, 2020).

The threat of insecurity to industrial growth and investment in Kogi State is a major concern. The state's insecurity has disrupted economic activities, destroyed infrastructure, declined investor confidence, affected agricultural production, impacted tourism development, and led to brain drain and loss of skilled labor. To address these challenges, the state government must develop and implement policies that address the root causes of insecurity, such as job creation, disarmament, and conflict resolution.

3.0 Conclusion

The study concluded that insecurity is a major challenge to economic development in Kogi State, Nigeria, that insecurity has a negative impact on investment and economic growth, agricultural production and food security, tourism development, industrial growth and development, human capital and labor market, infrastructure and property, social cohesion and community.

4.0 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Kogi State government should develop a state development plan that prioritizes economic growth and development.
2. The Kogi State government should establish a public-private partnership to attract investment and promote economic growth in the state.
3. The state government should invest in education and skills development programs to equip citizens with the skills needed to drive economic growth.

4. The state government should establish a security and justice reform to address the root causes of insecurity in the state.
5. The state government should establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the effectiveness of the security initiatives and make adjustments as necessary.
6. The federal government should provide support to the Kogi State Government in terms of funding, personnel, and equipment to tackle insecurity in the state.

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