

**The Polytechnic Ibadan Students' Social Media Use, Engagement in Citizens Journalism and Security Challenges in Nigeria**

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## **Abstract**

Constant use of social media by citizens has played a significant role in fostering both positive and negative relationship among people of all ages. Also, engagement in citizen journalism through the use of social media has a broad impact on the security of every nation. This study, therefore, investigated The Polytechnic Ibadan students' social media use, engagement in citizen journalism and security challenges in Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. Multi-stage sampling technique was used to select 403 respondents. A validated instrument named "Citizen Journalism Social Media Questionnaire" (CiJoSoMeQ) was used for data collection and data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Findings revealed that students of The Polytechnic Ibadan made use of eight popular social media platforms and were mostly engaged in online discussion to a large extent through the use of *Facebook* (93.5%) , (Weighted mean = 1.40) *Whatsapp* (93.1%), *Instagram* (86.1%) and *Twitter* (61.3%). Again, students involvement in citizen journalism was very high (weighted mean 1.85), and majority of the students had good perception on the use of social media in discussing national security challenges (weighted mean 2.83). There was no significant difference ( $r = 0.053$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ;  $r = 0.941$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ) in the level of engagement in online discussion and perception of social media use in discussing security challenges in Nigeria. Thus, the study concluded that The Polytechnic Ibadan Students' social media use, engagement in citizen journalism does not have any influence on security challenges in Nigeria. The study recommends that the use of other social media platforms should be accessed and recommends that important security information should be disseminated on social media in order to avoid misuse and spreading false security news.

**Key Words:** Use, Engagement, Social Media, Citizen Journalism, Security Challenges.

**Word Count:** 265

## Chapter One

### Introduction

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

Social media is growing into a media convergence that allows people to share information online through the creation of virtual networks and communities. Social media is a computer-based application that enables the exchange of ideas, views, and knowledge. Social networking is Internet-based by nature, allowing users to share content quickly using electronic means. Personal details, notes, photographs and images are also included in the material. Users interact with social media via web-based software or applications on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.<sup>1</sup>

Social networking began as a means to connect with friends and families, but it was quickly embraced by companies looking to reach out to consumers using a common new contact tool. The freedom to communicate and exchange knowledge with everyone on the planet, or with a large number of people at once, is the strength of social media. There are over 3.8 billion social media users worldwide.<sup>2</sup> The number of people using social media in the United States is expected to reach 257 million by 2023.<sup>3</sup> Younger people are most likely to use social media. Between the ages of 18 and 29, almost 90% of people used a form of social media.<sup>4</sup> As of January 2021, Nigeria had approximately 33 million active social media users.<sup>5</sup> WhatsApp is the most popular platform used in the country, with over 90 million users. Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram followed as the most used media platforms in Nigeria.<sup>5</sup>

A multitude of tech-enabled practices can be used as part of social media. Picture posting, tweeting, social gaming, social networks, video sharing, business networks, virtual environments, feedback, and several other practices are examples of these activities. Even governments and politicians use social media to communicate with constituents and voters.<sup>6</sup> Social media plays a significant role in

assisting businesses. It enables the blending of social experiences on e-commerce platforms by facilitating contact with consumers. It helps in promoting products and services, as it enables the distribution of targeted, timely, and exclusive sales and coupons to would-be customers. Further, social media can help in building customer relationships through loyalty programs linked to social media.<sup>6</sup>

Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, WhatsApp, Google Plus, Yahoo Messenger, Instagram, Pinterest, Classroom, Wikipedia and others are examples of social media networking sites. The use of social media, as well as its tools and applications, has had an influence on the social, economic, educational, and political facets of human endeavors.<sup>7</sup> Events and knowledge related to politics, society, morals, philosophy, and other subjects are practically debated, drawing huge crowds. In Nigeria, social media has played a significant role in fostering both positive and negative facets of insecurity; on the one hand, it has encouraged stability and, on the other hand, it has induced insecurity.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, social media can be defined as the technologies that enhance social interaction, make possible cooperation and enable sharing of any information. Undoubtedly, social media can be seen as the most widely accepted technological invention in the 21st century. SM is now a social communication norm in developing countries as it promotes positive and negative agendas.<sup>7</sup>

Terrorists, separatists, government organisations, religious parties, people, and others use social media to distribute their knowledge and ideas around the world. They send videos of how they murder, torture, and even relay their plan and demand for ransom from the government and the public. In this situation, Boko Haram (BH), Fulani herdsmen, Niger Delta avengers, and the agitation of the Sovereign Citizens of Biafra (IPOB) are all threatening Nigerian national security.<sup>9</sup>

Social media is a free-for-all communication medium that government officials have no leverage

over. Invariably, social Media has been used by the Boko Haram and IPOB communities to promote their practices.<sup>9</sup>

The social media platform has revolutionised peer-to-peer, business-to-business, government-to-government engagements, and so on. Social media outlets are being used to advance social and national insecurity, such as in Nigeria's Northern and South-Eastern regions.<sup>7</sup> Insurgent forces have engulfed the northern part of Nigeria with terrorism and propaganda for many years, while separatist groups have staged protests in the southeast. Any of these organisations uses different types of online media to further their agenda, and the general public often uses social media sites to spread advertising, some of which are false.<sup>7</sup> This study seeks to ascertain the social media use, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and other Social Media (SM) platforms, engagement in citizen journalism and security challenges in Nigeria among The Polytechnic Ibadan Students.

Since independence, there have been reports of conflicts, unrest, ethnic cum communal clashes, religious clashes in history and these have affected Africa's most populated country, Nigeria. The nation has failed to tackle the problems of significant ethno-political and religious threats. The nation Nigeria had co-existed as a heterogeneous group since independence, after the colonial amalgamation of 1914.<sup>9</sup> This colonial arrangement saw over 500 ethnic groups, (the majority of which were the Igbo, Hausa, and Yoruba) who spoke over 1,500 dialects and held diverse socio-cultural and religious values, with a population of 170 million people, faced with the challenges of living together in peace. To date, this arrangement has led to lack of national identity and integration among Nigerians.<sup>9</sup>

Therefore after 61 years of both military and democracy, Nigeria's greatest problem remains insecurity. However, after the Nigerian civil war, history has demonstrated that insecurity began with civilian access to weapons. The ongoing security challenges in Nigeria can be traced back to the wake of the civil war, which encouraged people to buy and use weapons and ammunition.<sup>10</sup> Following the war, the weapons passed into the hands of civilians and ex-military men who had lost their jobs and needed to survive.<sup>10</sup> In reality, Nigeria's insecurity has become a global issue, with no end in sight. In Nigeria, insecurity is multiple faced. It can be as easy as a political abuse, or it can be as hard as a decade-long extremist. As a matter of fact, Nigeria's security problems have grown into many strains over time<sup>10</sup>.

Between 2012 and 2020, the security challenge resulted in as much as 70,000 deaths.<sup>10</sup> The following are some of the losses of lives and properties insecurity have caused in Nigeria: insecurity caused over 70,000 deaths was reported in Nigeria between 2012 and 2020 because since 2011, Boko Haram insurgency has led to 37,500 deaths, 2.5 million displacements, and 244,000 refugees; in just two years, farmer-herder clashes claimed 10,000 lives and resulted in the displacement of 300,000 people, Nigeria has one of the world's worst kidnap-for-ransom with 685 kidnaps reported in the first quarter of 2019 alone, between June 2011 and March 2020, Nigerians paid about \$18.34 million as ransom, militancy in Nigeria's Niger Delta has resulted in kidnapping, unrest, and economic distortion.<sup>10</sup> Other security concerns include the ongoing conflict within Nigeria's Northeast and Southwest regions, as well as increasing instability in the northeast and southwest regions, as well as other areas of the country, which has resulted in an increase in violent crimes, banditry, and kidnappings. Inter-tribal conflicts, religious divisions, unemployment, and a slew of other social and political frustrations are all fueling instability in Nigeria, generating flash points for violence and insecurity.<sup>7</sup>

However, there are some causes of insecurity in Nigeria which include; imposing bad Policies, unemployment, poverty, terrorism/suicide bombing, kidnapping amongst others.<sup>10</sup> A nation's elected government should be responsible for ensuring that the security sector is operated in compliance with democratic best practices and that security is delivered as a public need. The government is also responsible for the defense sector's operations from a strategic perspective and as a result, policy makers may need clear and comprehensive strategies as well as management systems to ensure that security policy and procedures are consistent and accountable. Government must therefore ensure that the regulatory bodies for each security sectors operation is comprehensive.<sup>10</sup>

The regulatory system for ministers, directorates and security agencies must be established in accordance with standard practices and also ensure rule of law continuity.<sup>11</sup> Legislation must specifically describe each security institutions duties and obligations, determine authorization protocols for administrative, establish the applicability of internal rules and procedures and also make sure the internal rules and procedures are followed. In addition, they should ensure that instruments exist for all stakeholders to communicate with and track security institutions, define the legislative framework for each components operation and ensure that security institution personnel are held responsible before the legislation.<sup>11</sup>

Legal system must therefore integrate and promote civic and political authorities access to information. Since the establishment of press freedom, citizen journalism has made unprecedented use of mass media.<sup>11</sup> As such, citizen Journalism may be described as an individual's capacity to contribute significantly to the process of acquiring, researching, reporting, and disseminating information.<sup>11</sup> It refers to any endeavor undertaken by those who are not professionally educated or employed as journalists to publish news or information based on actual surveillance, research, or investigation. Globally, residents of communities and civilizations have become more unified and

powerful. By adopting and performing certain societal obligations, the mass media has played a critical role in society. Accepting and carrying out these citizen journalism duties requires the mass media element to be self-regulating, within the bounds of law and recognised institutions.

Thus, citizen journalism is a method of disseminating information, ideas and views from the media to a diverse audience.<sup>11</sup> It is widely accepted that the mass media has been infiltrated by certain unqualified persons with their own political agendas rather than serving the nation and resolving the many crises brought about by the Boko-Haram terror in the country.<sup>11</sup> Citizen journalism is a rapidly emerging kind of journalism in which individuals who are not trained in journalism or mass communication report on events in their communities or express their opinions on them. The conventional media outlet has embraced cyberspace to retain or regain importance, owing to its independence and accessibility.<sup>11</sup>

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Insecurity in Nigeria and the deliberate destruction of lives and properties have become a major threat that has portrayed itself as the greatest enemy of the nation till date because the nation, Nigeria, has failed to tackle the issue of ethno-political and religious conflicts happening on a daily basis. The media, which is important in the global war against terrorism and insecurity, has been used to fuel various types of terrorism and other illegal acts. Kidnappings, insurgency by Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsmen-community clashes have recently wrecked the Nigerian security infrastructure, with Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsmen group using social media to disseminate information to the general public because of less cost and easy access. As a result, the nation has faced multiple forms of ethnic, religious, socio-political, and cultural security threats, resulting in property damage, loss of lives, orphaning of many children, rendering many people homeless, known as Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and many people now live in fear of the unknown in Nigeria.

Citizen journalism on the other hand, has broad impact on security challenges in every nation because of its flexibility to use by anyone through technology to research, gather, process, report news and information. Also, engagement in citizens' journalism has a lot to do with security or insecurity in every nation. Therefore, this study investigated Social Media Use, Engagement in Citizen Journalism and Security Challenges in Nigeria among The Polytechnic Ibadan Students

### **1.3 Aims and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this study is to investigate Social Media Use and Engagement in Citizen Journalism regarding Security Challenges in Nigeria among The Polytechnic Ibadan Students.

The specific objectives are to:

1. identify the social media platforms used for online discussions on security challenges by The Polytechnic Ibadan students.
2. ascertain the extent of The Polytechnic Ibadan Students' social media engagement through online discussion of security challenges in Nigeria
3. find out the extent of The Polytechnic Ibadan students' involvement in citizen journalism regarding security challenges in Nigeria.
4. determine the perception of the Polytechnic Ibadan Students on the use of social media in engaging in citizen journalism on security challenges in Nigeria.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

1. What are the social media platforms used by The Polytechnic Ibadan Students for online discussions on security challenges in Nigeria?
2. What is the extent of The Polytechnic Ibadan Students' social media engagement through online discussion on Security challenges in Nigeria?
3. What is the extent of The Polytechnic Ibadan Students' involvement in citizen journalism regarding security challenges in Nigeria?
4. What is the perception of The Polytechnic Ibadan Students on the use of social media in discussing citizen journalism regarding security challenges in Nigeria?

#### **1.5 Research Hypotheses**

The alternative hypotheses of this study will be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

$H_0^1$ ; There is no significant relationship between social media engagement and security challenges in Nigeria

$H_0^2$ ; There is no significant relationship between citizen's journalism and security challenges in Nigeria

#### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The focus of this study is to investigate Social Media Use and Engagement in Citizens' Journalism regarding Security Challenges in Nigeria among The Polytechnic Ibadan Students and the set of students deemed suitable because it is assumed that they are familiar with each other and the school environment and would have shared information through social media.

### **1.7. Significance of the Study**

This research work will be of significance because it will identify the influence of social media on security issues, thereby assisting to make necessary policies and decisions on curtailing insecurity or regulating the use of social media on security engagements.

Also, it will help Nigerians to improve their attitude towards security challenges in Nigeria, enlighten them to know the importance of citizen journalism in tackling insecurity. This research will be of importance to media houses in harnessing the power of the new media to contribute their quota to security improvement in Nigeria.

Academically, the study would contribute to the literature regarding the use of social media and citizen journalism in curbing insecurity. The findings of this study would also serve as a reference material for mass communication students, lecturers and researchers. It would serve as a catalyst for additional study on the subject. The study's findings may result in the development of new ideas in the field of communication about the advantages and disadvantages of social media

### **1.8 Limitation to the Study**

Researching on insecurity, social media engagement and citizen journalism has met with different criticisms. Tribalism, politics and religion have been the major limitations in gathering information. Some believe it is their party that's ruling hence nothing is wrong with insecurity, blaming it on past administrations. For some, it is about tribe and the religion of the ruler. While other people do not want to comment due to what they called "hate speech" that is trending, being careful of their lives.

### **1.9 Operational Definition of Terms**

This section provides concise explanation of technical terms used during data collection

**Boko Haram (BH):** This refers to an Islamic terrorist group created to wage war against "false muslims" in the nation

**Banditry:** This is an act of robbery and violent attacks

**Citizen Journalism:** It refers to a situation whereby people use the press tools (observation, conversations etc) in their possession to inform one another and to circulate information without professional training

**Conflict:** This means a disagreement between groups or individuals

**Culture:** This refers to the ideas and social behavior of people/society

**Engagement:** This refers to the level of connection/participation of people in activities

**Extremism:** This is the opposition of political or religious views

**Fulani Herdsmen:** This refers to nomadic or semi-nomadic men, mostly cattle rearer turned kidnappers and killers

**Hate speech:** This refers to the illegal use of word against someone or a group based on religion, nationality etc

**Insecurity:** This is the state of being subject to danger or injury. The anxiety that is experienced when one feels vulnerable and insecure.

**Media Convergence:** This refers to the meeting point of all media (broadcast, print, traditional)

**Militancy:** refers to the act of using violent or aggressive means to support a cause

**Nigeria:** This is a republic in western Africa, the most populous black nation with its capital in Abuja

**Perception:** This refers to the awareness or view of students on the use of social media

**Political:** This refers to activities pertaining to politics, or the administration of the government.

**Ransom:** This is a sum of money demanded in exchange for something that has been taken

**Religion:** This refers to religious belief, Christianity, Islam, Traditional and others

**Social media:** This is an internet-based collection of technologies used by people to communicate e.g. Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp etc

**Social Media Engagement:** This is a measure of how people interact on social media contents

**Terrorism:** This refer to the use of violence to create fear in Nigeria for political, or ethnical reasons

**Utilisation:** refers to the act of using something

**Violence:** this means unrest, killing and other vices that disrupt peace.

## Endnotes

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## Chapter Two

### Literature Review

This chapter is reviewed under the following headings:

- 2.1 Conceptual Framework
- 2.2 Theoretical Framework
- 2.3 Review of Empirical Studies
- 2.4 Conceptual Model
- 2.5 Appraisal of Reviewed Literature

#### **2.1 Conceptual Framework**

##### **2.1.1 Concept of Security**

Security has risen to prominence as a primary concern in the current international order. Continents, regions, and governments are all trying to enhance their direct domestic and international security position, both directly and indirectly<sup>1</sup>. Security will always be a significant policy concern for decision makers as well as communities and groups worldwide. This is because security is a complicated phenomenon that unquestionably requires not only countermeasures but also concrete preventive and resilient decision-making in order to avert loss of life and property. Therefore, security necessitates not only physical protection against existing harm, but also the construction of robust socio-political and economic frameworks capable of coping with its complexity.

Globalisation and technologies is increasing interdependence and security risks have given it a new meaning, scope, perspective, and dimension in this era<sup>1</sup>. As a result, policymakers in various

countries throughout the world have gradually recognised that protecting states and their citizens requires a fully integrated, multidimensional, and comprehensive approach to security issues, which has a direct impact on the civil, social, cultural, political, environmental, and economic sectors of society<sup>1</sup>. This acknowledgment has resulted in a slew of security-related measures and countermeasures. The fundamental reality, however, is that security is the state of being free of risk or harm. It is the degree to which a nation is protected against danger, destruction, crime, and loss. It encompasses a state's protection against illegal activity<sup>1</sup>. Obviously, there is no universally acceptable definition of state or national security, given the variety of ways in which nations and states are defined.

The variety of definitions offers context for the concept's numerous applications. The idea continues to be unclear, having evolved from simpler definitions emphasizing independence from military threat and political coercion to more sophisticated ones that now encompass other forms of non-military security present in ordinary life throughout the world. National security is thus a state of abundance and suitability in terms of political, military, human, economic, technological, scientific, and natural resources inside a country<sup>1</sup>. It encompasses the capacity to safeguard the nation's physical integrity and territory, as well as to safeguard it against undesirable internal and external control. It is thus a state of being able to regulate and overcome a variety of external and internal threats while maintaining the complexity and ambiguity of security. This evident recognition that security involves more than military security highlights the critical necessity for the government to integrate other critical security areas into critical national security interests in order to maintain the Nigerian State's long-term development<sup>1</sup>. These security domains are predicated on a thorough understanding of the dynamics of internal conflict. Nigeria cannot be said to be immune to present global security challenges. As a result, the country cannot afford to continue living in denial of these present global security trends. However, it is critical to recognise the existing spectrum of Nigeria's

national security interests, which have performed admirably in a variety of categories, most notably in protecting Nigeria's unity and the majority of its territory, with the exception of those lost to Cameroon, which prompted the Bakassi people to demand a sovereign state<sup>1</sup>.

Security as a fundamental idea is frequently related with the averting of dangers to treasured values, most notably the immediate existence of persons, communities, or items. Thus, as the name implies, security entails the capacity to pursue valued political and social goals<sup>2</sup>. There is a correlation between security and survival; whereas survival is a necessary condition, security is defined as the absence of danger, anxiety, or doubt. Thus, security is "survival-plus," with the term "plus" referring to the ability to enjoy some independence from life-threatening risks and some life choices<sup>2</sup>.

However, without a critical debate about something relevant to secure, the concept of security is worthless. Indeed, security is best understood in relation to a referent object's context. Throughout human history, the primary focus of security has been on individuals<sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, other scholars, particularly those specializing in international politics, have maintained that when considering security, nations should be the primary reference point. On the other hand, other analysts have argued that any intellectual discourse on security should prioritise human beings, as security makes no sense without reference to particular humans<sup>2</sup>.

In an objective sense, security refers to the absence of dangers to the acquisition of values; in a subjective sense, it refers to the absence of fear of such values being attacked. Despite its conceptual complexity, security is critical for national cohesiveness, peace, and sustainable development. Thus, security refers to the absence of risk or dangers to a nation's ability to protect and develop itself, advance its treasured values and legitimate interests, and improve its people's well-being<sup>2</sup>. Also, internal security can be defined as the absence of or freedom from tendencies that threaten the nation's internal cohesion, cooperative existence, and ability to maintain vital institutions necessary

for the promotion of the nation's core values, sociopolitical, and economic objectives, as well as meeting the legitimate aspirations of the people, it also entails the absence of threats to life and property<sup>2</sup>.

Thus, it refers to efforts to avert, prevent, mitigate, or settle violent conflict regardless of whether the threat comes from other states, non-state actors, or fundamental socioeconomic constraints<sup>2</sup>. National security has been characterised by defense experts in two ways: first, as the protection of a nation's people and territories from physical attack; and second, as the safeguarding of political authority against threats to the state's essential principles and vitality. In Nigeria, national security is still regarded narrowly as the preservation of the nation state, its people, and political powers<sup>2</sup>.

In examining the nation's security architecture, beginning with the defunct National Security Organisation, which was established by the military administration of General Olusegun Obasanjo in 1976 pursuant to decree no 27 of 1976 following the aborted Buku Sukar Dimka coup that claimed the life of former head of state General Muritala Mohammed<sup>3</sup>. The National Security Organization was charged with the responsibility of coordinating domestic security, foreign intelligence, and counterintelligence operations. In addition, it was tasked with detecting and preventing crimes against the state's security, safeguarding classified materials, and performing any other security missions designated by the president<sup>2</sup>. The Babangida government reorganized the National Security Organization and divided it into three divisions: State Security Services, National Intelligence Agency, and Defence Intelligence Agency each with distinct responsibilities as specified in the National Security Agencies Act. 2, 4 For instance, Subsection (1) details the Defense Department's responsibilities which are as follows<sup>2</sup>:

(a) Preventing and detecting military-related crimes against the country's security;

(b) The safeguarding and preservation of all military classified information relating to Nigeria's security, both within and outside the country;

(c) Such additional obligations relating to military intelligence, both within and beyond Nigeria, as the President or Chief of Defence Staff, as the case may be, or as may be deemed appropriate;<sup>2</sup>

Subsection (2) specifies that the National Intelligence Agency shall be assigned with the responsibility of

(a) General maintenance of Nigeria's security outside the country, including non-military affairs; and

(b) any additional tasks pertaining to national intelligence outside Nigeria that the National Defence Council or the President, as the case may be, judge necessary.

Subsection (3) mandates that the State Security Service is accountable for the following:

(a) The prevention and identification of crimes against Nigeria's internal security within the country;

(b) The safeguarding and preservation of all non-military classified information pertaining to Nigeria's internal security; and

(c) Any other tasks relating to internal security in Nigeria as the National Assembly or the President may determine necessary.<sup>2</sup>

According to the National Defence Policy, which was developed in June 2006, two factors necessitated its publication: the first is the strategic realignment of the international security environment following the Cold War's end, and the second is Nigeria's embrace of democratic governance following a long period of military rule. The Policy also states that its content is derived from the country's National Security Policy, which is focused on preserving Nigerians' safety at home and abroad, as well as defending the country's sovereignty and the integrity of its assets<sup>2</sup>.

In a democratic regime, the police's role as a security sector actor cannot be ignored; consequently, Section 4 of the Police Act establishes the following general police duties:<sup>2</sup>

- i. The police shall be tasked with the responsibility of preventing and detecting crime;
- ii. Apprehending the offender;
- iii. Ensure the protection of human life and property;
- iv. Compliance with all applicable laws and regulations;
- v. Shall perform any military duties required of them by or under the authority of this or any other Act, whether within or outside Nigeria<sup>2</sup>.

Section 25 of the Nigerian Police Regulations establishes a Police Mobile Force to act as a police striking force in the event of riots or other serious disturbances within the federation. Additionally, in a contemporary democratic society, other actors within the security sector framework include courts, prisons (for the purposes of Nigeria), the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and civil society organizations.

These critical actors have a role in defining, shaping, and contributing to the country's security architecture, as the concept of national security has expanded beyond a narrow military definition since the end of the cold war to encompass human security, which combines elements of defense, economics, and basic human rights<sup>2,4</sup>.

Since 1999, when Nigeria reverted to civil rule, security concerns have posed a serious threat to effective governance, reaching new heights in 2012. Different militia groups have held the country to ransom at various points in the past<sup>2,5</sup>. There are the Egbesu Boys in the Niger Delta; the Bakassi Boys in the South-East; the Odua People's Congress (OPC) in the South West; and now the Boko Haram sect in the North. During each of these distinct periods, the groups ruled, and the nation's security agencies were incapable of dealing with them or quelling their lawless behavior with

superior firepower. The government has always found a way to resolve disputes with these organizations.

In the North, the lingering Boko Haram insurgency, which began in 2009 in Maiduguri, Borno State, in the North East geopolitical zone, has paralysed the region's economy. The distribution chains of major consumer goods companies have been destabilized as distributors of their products in the northern part of the country have been forced to relocate to the south. Telecommunications companies have had their infrastructure destroyed, while bank branches have been attacked and robbed. Numerous road construction companies have had expatriate employees kidnapped and, in some cases, murdered. Although the precise number of deaths attributable to the Boko Haram sect's deadly attacks is difficult to pinpoint, media reports estimate that over 6,600 people have been killed between 2009 and 2014<sup>2</sup>.

Again, the economic cost of violence, on the other hand, may be difficult to quantify immediately in terms of missed investment opportunities and actual damage to existing infrastructure and human lives. To be sure, Nigeria has faced significant security challenges for a long period of time prior to 2007. While the government is concentrating its efforts on Boko Haram issues due to their prominence in the media, it is clear that Nigeria's security challenges extend well beyond Boko Haram<sup>2</sup>. Outside the North, there is widespread violence, which security services appear incapable of addressing. The theft and refining of crude oil in the South constitute a sort of organised crime that the government has not demonstrated it is capable of combating. The South West appears tranquil, but close observers believe the tranquility stems from the Odua People's Congress' political pacification (OPC). Remove that pacification, and the South West may experience a new kind of violence. The similar type of political pacification appears to have been accomplished in the South

East with the Bakassi Boys, who have been transformed into an unofficial police force by the majority of governors<sup>2</sup>.

No country is immune from security risks, these difficulties differ between countries. Thus, Nigeria's security concerns would undoubtedly be unique in comparison to those faced by Egypt, the United States of America, or Russia. For example, in the United States of America today, the hazards posed by firearm possession are arguably the country's largest security threat. Threats/challenges to a country's security can range from minor civil unrest to widespread violence and even armed rebellion or terrorism. These threats might be made against individual citizens or against the state's organs and infrastructure. Foreign powers can also pose a threat to a country's security by committing or financing acts of terrorism or insurrection without declaring war<sup>2</sup>.

#### **2.1.1.1 Security Issues and Nigeria**

There are several issues confronting the nation Nigeria, some of them are discussed as follows:

- **Terrorism:** The most serious and pervasive security threat Nigeria faces today is terrorism or acts of terrorism. The Jarna'atu Ahlis Sunnah Ladda'awatih wal-Jihad, a religiously motivated Islamic fundamentalist group popularly known as Boko-Haram, is the forerunner of terrorism in Nigeria today<sup>2,4</sup>. The sect, which is primarily based in the country's north eastern region, has an ideology that is hostile to western education and everything it represents<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, the cult aspires to establish Islamic (Sharia) rule throughout Northern Nigeria. Boko Haram adherents target government institutions such as the police and military with armed attacks, suicide bombings, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Notable attacks carried out by the sect that resulted in the loss of lives and property include the December 2010 bombing of the Mogadishu Barracks in Abuja, the June 2011 bombing of the Police Headquarters in Abuja, and the August 2011 bombing of the UN

in Abuja<sup>7</sup>. The sect seeks to undermine the government's credibility and legitimacy by demonstrating its inability to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

Mr. President's strategy for countering Boko Haram is multifaceted and encompasses all facets of national power. While security forces actions have garnered the majority of media attention, the government has also undertaken a variety of additional initiatives, including law reforms, a de-radicalization campaign, and targeted public communications<sup>7</sup>.

In addition, the Federal Government, in collaboration with State Governments, is addressing joblessness in the afflicted states identified as a contributing factor to the country's terrorism. Boko Haram maintains worldwide ties with various terrorist organizations, including al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM), al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and al-Shabab in Somalia. The sect has received significant backing from these groups<sup>2,8</sup>. Nigerian involvement in the Malian situation is certain to expose vulnerability for Nigerian interests globally, as Malian terrorists have pledged to retaliate against any country that engages in the operation. They've proved their capability by kidnapping citizens from several countries. Nigeria must therefore take further security measures to safeguard her interests both internationally and domestically<sup>2</sup>.

The difficulty in addressing Nigeria's insecurity stems from a weak and under-trained security apparatus. According to research, the Nigerian police spend an average of 94% of their budget on salaries. Personnel costs account for an average of 76% of the Army and Navy's budgets<sup>9</sup>. This leaves security agencies with insufficient or no resources to acquire advanced weapons and training necessary to combat insurgency, particularly when the insurgency is supported by crude oil theft or foreign interests with vast pockets<sup>9</sup>. Boko Haram and its offshoot the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to pose the greatest security threat to Nigeria<sup>10</sup>. Since 2015, when the government launched a major offensive to drive these groups out of territory they controlled, violent

events linked to these groups have roughly doubled. Since withdrawing from urban areas during that 2015 offensive, the groups have concentrated their operations in Borno State's more desolate areas, particularly the rugged Sambisa Forest bordering Cameroon's northwest mountains (Boko Haram) and the firki ("black cotton") wetlands south and southwest of Lake Chad (ISWAP)<sup>2, 11, 22</sup>.

- **Gangs of Organized Criminals:** Criminal gangs in North West Nigeria have been responsible for an increase in kidnappings for ransom targeting boarding schools. The North West has had the highest concentration of kidnappings in Nigeria during the last five years<sup>13</sup>. The ransoms collected in connection with these mass abductions have developed into a source of revenue for these criminal gangs. Mass kidnappings in Zamfara, Niger, and Katsina states have echoed Boko Haram's historic 2014 abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls, compelling the government to retaliate<sup>14</sup>. Government spokes men denied that the government paid a ransom to ensure the children's release, although on-the-ground reports contradict this<sup>14</sup>. Additionally, government officials may benefit from the high sums of money used to secure the release of hostages. While in the North East, kidnapping for ransom has rendered the region's highways unsafe for travel, and airlines have begun operating short flights between Abuja and Kaduna<sup>15,16</sup>.
- **Conflict between Farmers and Herders:** Conflicts between farmers and herders over land, which mostly impact the Middle Belt and North West states, have resulted in the establishment of ethnic militias, vigilante raids, and extrajudicial killings<sup>17</sup>. Historically, the North West and Middle Belt states have been Nigeria's lush plains and grazing lands, where nomadic pastoralist and sedentary agriculturalist tribes coexisted, traded, and relied on local peacekeeping mechanisms to resolve land conflicts. Desiccation and massive land allocations to estate owners in the North West, on the other hand, have forced herders away from their traditional grazing routes. Similarly, aerial study by the US Geological Survey indicates that territory suitable for open grazing in Nigeria's Middle Belt decreased by 38% between 1975 and 2013, while agricultural land nearly tripled. Climate change,

discriminatory land regulations, and population increase have all contributed to these dynamics. Meanwhile, demand for meat supplied by herders in the country is increasing<sup>16, 17</sup>.

This center stretch of Nigeria also serves as the border between the country's northern and southern sociopolitical zones. This is a zone of cultural interaction, where dozens of languages are spoken and no single group has a clear political majority, the Middle Belt States have the narrowest national election margins. National politicians, major landowners, and their media supporters have pounced on these dynamics to politicise disputes in the region between farmers and herders, as well as between so-called "settlers" and "indigenous" people. Conspiracy theories and allegations of cover ups and ethnic cleansing in the Middle Belt are pervasive and are perpetuated even by well-intentioned humanitarian organizations and academics. Despite this frequent framing of conflict in communal terms, religion and regional membership are not the fundamental sources of contention. This is proven by the fact that Islamist Fulani and Hausa militias frequently face off against one another in these ethnic battles, particularly in the North West<sup>18,19</sup>. The politicisation of communal violence in Nigeria runs the risk of ethnically organized militias spreading their reach. Already, conflict between herders and farmers is erupting in states south of the Middle Belt. In cities such as Ibadan (Oyo State) and Isuikwuato (Abia State), ambitious individuals are exploiting unfavorable Fulani sentiment fostered by southern Nigerian politicians and news sources in the aftermath of the Middle Belt violence to stir anti-Fulani protests and attacks by armed youth groups<sup>20</sup>.

- **Biafran Separatist Militants:** Recent years have seen a resurgence of Biafran secessionist activity, resulting in violent skirmishes between Nigeria's security forces and paramilitary groups that have resulted in scores of deaths<sup>21</sup>. The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), well known for its underground radio presence in the South East, founded what it calls the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in December 2020 to function as a paramilitary force in the region.

According to its language and stated objectives, this group appears to be more concerned with rallying grievances against Fulani herders than with campaigning for regional autonomy. ESN has claimed that it will impose a grazing prohibition in the South East, hence fostering anti-Fulani feeling. IPOB's categorization as a terrorist organization has been maintained by Nigerian courts<sup>22</sup>.

Nigerian security forces and ESN battled in a series of battles in 2021, killing numerous civilians in what has become known as the Orlu crisis. ESN has heightened tensions in the South East by assassinating police personnel at checkpoints.

These back-and-forth raids and attacks threaten throwing the region into a crisis akin to that which exists across the border in southwest Cameroon between Anglophones and Francophones. Former Niger Delta Peoples Salvation Front leader Asari Dokubo predicted the establishment of a Biafra Customary Government in 2021<sup>23</sup>. Dokubo has reportedly associated himself with the violent separatist organisation Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) in a bid to compete with IPOB<sup>23</sup>. These events portend an escalation of hostilities in the South East with Nigerian security forces. South East Nigeria is still haunted by the memories of the country's civil war (1967–70), which claimed more than a million lives, many of them civilians. This heinous conflict has far-reaching consequences for the region and the Nigerian state. To many Igbo people, whose forefathers and mothers were involved in the war for Biafra, the land in the South East is sacred and yet worth agitating for greater control<sup>22</sup>.

However, the majorities of pro-Biafra organisations in the South East region are committed to nonviolence and peacefully protest the Nigerian federal government's corruption, neglect, and arbitrary brutality. Despite disinformation from radical secessionists saying that a return to civil war is inevitable, the problem is nowhere like the magnitude of the 1960s. Human rights organisations have documented the use of disproportionate force by the Nigerian military and police against pro-

Biafran protests, including the deaths of 150 IPOB supporters and members in 2015 and 2016<sup>24</sup>. In 2016, on the 49th anniversary of Biafran independence, security teams comprised of military personnel opened fire on a procession in Onitsha, killing at least 60 people<sup>25</sup>. Nigeria's security forces' violence against civilians has contributed to the region's young men joining terrorist groups.

- **Piracy:** Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea has reached epidemic proportions, accounting for more than 95% of crew members stolen. In 2020, 35 pirate incidents were reported off the coast of Nigeria<sup>26</sup>. These statistics are likely only a fraction of the actual number of occurrences, considering that ship owners have an incentive to minimize risk in order to avoid increased insurance costs. Although the parties responsible for these attacks remain unknown, a number of pirate enterprises are known to be affiliated with the armed groups that have damaged pipelines and kidnapped oil workers in Nigeria's Delta for decades (South South and South East regions). Groups such as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) have proven difficult to combat solely through security operations, owing to their decentralized and leaderless formations, local support, and strategy of striking rapidly and dispersing into the region's riverine labyrinth. Armed with guns and speedboats and backed by oil companies investing millions in private security to protect oil infrastructure, some of these groups have begun venturing out of their swampland hideouts to board international ships in the Gulf of Guinea before retreating to their coastal bases with kidnapped crew members to negotiate ransom payments from abroad<sup>26</sup>.

Historically, Niger Delta organisations have claimed to be motivated by international oil firms' acts, which have contaminated and impoverished the region. There is a long history of justifiable outrage in the Niger Delta about this condition, as expressed by Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni people. Numerous fishermen and farmers in the region have lost their livelihoods as a result of contaminated land and water. Additionally, recent court judgments have held oil companies accountable for environmental destruction. Today, however, it appears as though profit from kidnappings is the

primary reason for piracy's expansion into the Gulf. Due to the decline in oil prices, kidnapping became more profitable than siphoning crude oil from pipelines<sup>26</sup>.

- **Violence against Civilians by the Security Operatives:** Police and military brutality against civilians continues to be a chronic hindrance to Nigeria's long-term stability<sup>28</sup>. In 2020, nationwide #EndSARS rallies spearheaded by young people bridged the country's religious, ethnic, and political divides, calling for an end to police abuses, most notably the disbandment of the unaccountable Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS)<sup>28</sup>. This division of the national police force was established initially to combat organized criminal gangs throughout the country. However, over time, FSARS developed a reputation for extorting Nigerian citizens and committing human rights violations. In October 2020, security forces opened fire on #EndSARS demonstrators, effectively shutting down marches and sit-ins across the country<sup>28</sup>.

While FSARS has garnered recent attention, Nigeria's State Security Service (SSS) has routinely harassed and arrested journalists with impunity, including invading a courtroom to re-arrest a prisoner who had been ordered released by the judge. When protestors or fact-finders come too close to the levers of power and privilege, it is frequently the SSS that intervenes, which is directly directed by the president. Another close-to-the-executive squad, the Presidential Guard Brigade, was reported to have shot and murdered scores of Shia protestors in Abuja in 2018 from the Iranian-backed Islamic Movement in Nigeria. The demonstrators were pleading for their leader's release (who was still detained despite Nigerian courts ordering him freed)<sup>28</sup>.

Due to the complexity of Nigeria's security concerns, a creative set of solutions tailored to each scenario would be required. This will require an awareness of each threat's local dynamics and their integration into a multidimensional national security plan. Given that the majority of Nigeria's difficulties are domestic in nature, any national security policy will require active citizen

participation. In each setting, citizen cooperation may be the most critical component of a successful response. Nonetheless, in practically every situation, Nigeria's security forces begin with a trust deficit. Indeed, violence by security forces against citizens is frequently considered as a component of the security problem. Resolving this and fostering citizen trust will be a primary and ongoing objective of any national security plan<sup>29</sup>.

Domestic challenges underscore the critical nature of an integrated security response that includes improving access to government services, social development, and job creation and integrated security means expanding access to justice. Access to accessible and trusted justice processes can be used to mitigate conflict and defuse tensions between communities or with the government<sup>29</sup>. In turn, security actors must respect and uphold court rulings. This examination exposes several instances of security services violating judicial rulings, aggravating social tensions and weakening the rule of law, particularly in relation to security sector violence against civilians. Another common issue across a variety of security scenarios is the requirement to maintain a security presence in distant locations.

By and large, Nigerian security forces have repeatedly cleared militant groups from territory they have held, whether it was Boko Haram in the North East, criminal groups in the North West, or pirates and armed gangs in the South West or South South<sup>29</sup>. However, the inability to sustain a security presence creates a security vacuum, allowing these militant groups to regroup and resume their predatory activities. Communities caught in the crossfire of shifting security frontlines are left defenseless. Nigeria's government and security forces will need to be able to sustain an ongoing and accountable security presence in these contested regions if it is to turn the corner against this violent groups<sup>29</sup>.

Another intersecting problem that shapes Nigeria's security challenges is land management. Nigeria currently has an average population density of over 500 persons per square mile. The country's

population is expected to quadruple to 400 million in the next 30 years, bringing it closer to Israel and India in terms of population density. Numerous Nigerians are already battling to access the resources and opportunities necessary to envision a secure future for themselves and their families. Nigeria recently overtaken India as the world's poorest country, with a 33 percent unemployment rate. Negotiating access to land will become an increasingly crucial aspect in managing Nigeria's security landscape in the future, reflecting the multifaceted nature of Nigeria's security issues<sup>2</sup>.

- **Marine Insecurity:** Nigeria's maritime environment is insecure, posing a significant threat to our national security. These crimes take a variety of forms; including piracy, illegal oil bunkering, oil theft, illegal fishing, and hijacking<sup>2</sup>. They have resulted in income losses for the government and have rendered our ports unattractive to international shipping lines. The administration is attempting to put an end to a variety of marine security concerns; the Nigerian Navy is statutorily responsible for maritime security in Nigeria. Notably, the Navy is being strengthened through training, capacity building, and the acquisition of new platforms to ensure that it is fully equipped to police Nigeria's maritime environment. The Nigerian Maritime Security and Safety Administration (NIMASA) is another government-established entity tasked with addressing safety and security concerns in the country's ports and coastal areas. NIMASA recently signed an agreement with Global West, a private security firm, to safeguard Nigeria's coastal waterways and to combat piracy and illegal oil bunkering<sup>2</sup>.

Nigeria is collaborating with other West African sub-regional countries under the auspices of ECOWAS to develop collaboration, security, and legislative initiatives to combat piracy and other unlawful marine activities at the sub-regional level. The Gulf of Guinea Commission accomplishes the same thing, with eight countries surrounding the Gulf of Guinea, from Angola to Nigeria<sup>2</sup>.

- **Militancy in the Niger Delta:** The advent of MEND and other agitating groups in the fight against the Federal Government's injustice against the region intensified security difficulties not only in the

region, but throughout the Nigerian state<sup>2</sup>. These include Mujahid Dokubo-Niger Asari's Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) and Ateke Tom's Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV). These are their leaders. The agitating groups are members of the Ijaw nation. However, the two groups (NDPVF and NDV) dwarf a slew of smaller militias in the Niger Delta region, estimated to number more than one hundred. These organizations were primarily composed of dissatisfied young men from Warri, Port Harcourt, and Yenegoa, as well as their surrounding suburbs (USIP,2012). Against this backdrop, ordinary civilian life was disturbed, resulting in the closure of schools and economic operations.

Similarly, indigenes' properties worth millions of naira have been damaged. To address the insecurity concerns in the Niger Delta, the Federal Government of Nigeria used minimum force in an attempt to convince these militias to lay down their arms and cease attacks against the government and the local populace. The federal government initiated a strong military campaign on militants in August 2008.

Thus, military personnel scoured the seas, hunted for militants, checked civilian boats for weapons, and raided various hideouts. Additionally, on May 15, 2009, the federal government launched a military operation against MEND and their affiliates in the Niger Delta region, using a Joint Task Force (JTF)<sup>2</sup>. These actions were taken in response to the militia groups' activities, which harmed both local residents and the Nigerian economy<sup>2</sup>.

Ironically, rather than addressing the challenges of insecurity in the Niger Delta through the measures put in place by the federal government, the situation resulted in the constant kidnapping of not only foreign oil workers, but also indigenous people and residents of the region. Thus, in June 2009, the Nigerian government, led by late President Umaru Yar'Adua, announced the unconditional pardon and amnesty of militants in the Niger Delta region. Between August 6 and October 4, 2009, the militants were given the opportunity to surrender their weapons to the federal government in

exchange for training and rehabilitation. Throughout the 60-day period, militants convinced their groups to surrender weapons such as rocket-propelled grenades, guns, explosives, ammunition, and gunboats. Although the federal government's Amnesty Program reduced militancy in the region, the region's constant kidnapping activities eventually had a spillover effect on several states in Nigeria's South-East geopolitical zone<sup>2</sup>.

At the height of the Niger Delta militancy, crude oil production, the country's primary source of revenue, fell to 700,000 barrels per day from over 2 million. This had a detrimental effect on Nigeria's economy, as revenue from oil plummeted. However, since the militants in the Niger Delta were granted amnesty, the militants' threats to oil production and facilities have largely vanished though there are still some residual risks presented by persons claiming to be Niger Delta terrorist remnants trying to benefit from the FG Amnesty Programme while they are requesting inclusion in the third phase of the Amnesty Programme, they have disrupted peace and tranquility in Abuja and other places in the Niger Delta on numerous occasions. The security issues in the Niger Delta region may not be totally attributable to remnants of the Niger Delta insurgents, as the government has begun implementing the third phase of the Amnesty Programme. Criminal gangs are suspected of being responsible, since they seek to earn a livelihood through a variety of unlawful operations in the Niger Delta<sup>30</sup>.

- **Unauthorized Bunkering:** Nigeria has long struggled with illegal bunkering and oil theft, with both crude and refined goods being taken. This event not only generates major economic challenges for the country in terms of revenue loss, but also creates the image that the country's primary source of foreign money cannot be adequately secured. While congratulating the newly appointed Services Chiefs, the President had to charge them with putting an end to the threat of oil theft. The Government is currently attempting to contain the crisis through the Nigerian Navy and NIMASA. It is noted that pirate attacks and marine thefts pose another significant threat to Nigeria's tranquility.

The coastal areas surrounding Lagos and the Bonny waterways are among the most frequent targets of pirates and robbers in the globe, according to him<sup>2</sup>. The attacks are directed at fishing trawlers, oil tankers, cargo vessels, and speed boats transporting passengers.

The level of insecurity in Nigeria's coastal districts is so high that everyday lives are lost in addition to the numerous billions of naira lost to maritime piracy. It's perplexing to consider that between 2007 and 2008, the Nigerian Trawler Owners Association (NITOA) meticulously documented over 20 vessel attacks and the loss of over ten lives<sup>2</sup>.

- **Armed Robbery:** Armed robbery has long been a source of concern in Nigeria's security situation, particularly following the 1967-1970 Civil War, when weaponry was widely available in the country. For a long period of time, it was the nation's primary security challenge, until Niger Delta militancy and later Boko Haram operations forced the 'problem' to the back burner<sup>2</sup>. It has persisted despite numerous attempts to address the underlying causes of this specific security risk. Youth unemployment and the culture of get-rich-quick centered on greed that pervades our society today are widely regarded to be to blame. Proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as well as insufficient border and maritime environment policing, are further contributing causes.
- **Unemployment Among Youth:** Unemployment is being blamed for Nigeria's growing insecurity. While the official unemployment rate is 23.9 percent, some experts believe it might be as high as 50%<sup>2</sup>. The high unemployment rate is contributing to a poverty rate of up to 60% in several states in the North, according to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data. Unemployment is one socio-security issue that successive administrations have noticed and addressed throughout the years. Regrettably, it appears as though the government's efforts are not having the anticipated effect. The government is concerned about these unemployed individuals becoming involved in criminal activity. Several times in Nigeria, numerous youths have been used as thugs during political campaigns and times of crisis. The government is extremely concerned about this issue and has

taken various initiatives in the past, and continues to do so, to teach youth in appropriate skills that will generate jobs. To address the issue of young unemployment, the Federal Government established the Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (You WIN) program. The initiative is cooperation between the Ministries of Finance, Communications Technology, Youth Development, and Women Affairs and Social Development, and will kick off an annual business plan competition for prospective young entrepreneurs in Nigeria. This is consistent with the Federal Government's effort to increase work opportunities for Nigerian youngsters in particular. The plan will be executed in collaboration with the private sector in Nigeria, which will be tasked with providing finance, support, and mentoring to prospective young entrepreneurs.

- **Porous Borders:** One of the country's primary security challenges is the vast length of Nigeria's porous borders with neighboring countries. Numerous border towns have developed a reliance on the proceeds of smuggling over time and, as a result, have come to view such actions as a way of life.<sup>2</sup> Apart from cash lost to smuggling, porous borders result in a massive influx of small arms and light weapons entering the country. This has resulted in a situation in which the country is flooded with various weaponry, many of which end up in the hands of criminal groups. With the recent demise of Libya's Ghadafi dictatorship, heavy weapons from Ghadafi's stockpile, such as those held by Islamists in Northern Mali, could be smuggled into the nation and utilized lethally by armed gangs and members of the Boko Haram sect. To avert this terrifying scenario, the government has strengthened border security by expanding border crossing points and increasing the number of various security organizations stationed at the borders. Nigeria has also inked collaborative border patrol agreements with some of the country's adjacent neighbors.<sup>2</sup> There is currently provision for aerial surveillance of the border by helicopters and planes, as well as electronically assisted security checkpoints for the collection of biometric data on persons entering and exiting the country via land borders. When fully implemented, these steps will significantly

contribute to the security of Nigeria's land borders.<sup>2</sup> However, any nation's elected government is responsible for ensuring that the security sector is operated in compliance with democratic best practices and that security is delivered as a public good.

This implies that the governments are also responsible for the defense sector's operations from a strategic perspective. As a result, policymakers may need clear and comprehensive strategies as well as management systems to ensure that security policy and procedures are consistent and accountable. Governments must ensure that the regulatory basis for each security sector institution's operations is comprehensive. The regulatory system for ministries, directorates, and security agencies must be established in accordance with international best practices and ensure rule of law continuity. Legislation must specifically describe each security institution's duties and obligations, determine authorization protocols for administrative and operating operations, establish the applicability of internal rules and procedures, and guarantee that internal rules and procedures are followed. They must also ensure that instruments exist for all stakeholders to communicate with and track security institutions, define the legislative framework for each component's operations, and ensure that security institution personnel are held responsible before the legislation. Furthermore, legal systems must integrate and promote 'civic and political authorities' access to information. Therefore, government failure at some stage in relation to the above concerns has shown categorically their attitude toward the welfare of their people and insecurity issues.

Some of the major internal security agencies of the government include;

1. The Nigeria Police
2. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)
3. State Security Service (SSS)
4. The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)

5. The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
6. The Nigeria National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
7. The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)
8. The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC)
9. The Nigerian Prison Service
10. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC)

As a citizen, you have a part to play in ensuring effective security. When the people fail in their part, they prefer to blame the government for everything, while their mindset toward security is also critical. As a result, citizens have a role to play in protecting the country's national security. The following are some of the roles of citizens in relation to the issue of security:

1. Being alert of the neighborhood, monitoring and documenting events that could pose a security threat to the security operatives involved.
2. By assisting intelligence authorities with their investigations into such security threatening events, and by supplying them with relevant knowledge about the case.
3. Be a decent person by abstaining from bad deeds that might jeopardize the country's stability. You will also help others by urging them to do the same.
4. Most notably, have a strong sense of patriotism for your country. Being patriotic allows one to commit with all of one's might to his country's protection and prosperity.

- **Cyber Crime**

Cybercrime is a subset of organized crime that occurs in cyberspace, or the domain of computers and the Internet<sup>30</sup>. Due to the evolution of our civilisation toward an information age in which

communication takes place in cyberspace; cybercrime has become a global issue. Cybercrime has the potential to have a profound effect on our personal life, society, and economy. Cyber law refers to any legislation that deals with the internet or related technology<sup>30</sup>. Cyber Law is commonly abbreviated as "Internet Law" or "IT Law." It establishes a legal framework for addressing concerns with the Internet, computers, Cyberspace, and other related areas<sup>30</sup>. Cyber law is a relatively young area of the legal system. This is because internet technology is advancing at a breakneck pace. Individuals who use the internet are protected by cyber law. This is true for both businesses and ordinary persons. Cyber regulations should be familiar to everybody who uses the internet. Cyber law encompasses intellectual property, contracts, jurisdiction, data protection legislation, privacy, and freedom of speech. It is responsible for the online distribution of software, information, online security, and e-commerce. In the subject of Cyber Law, e-documents are granted legal status. Additionally, it offers a framework for electronic commerce and electronic filing<sup>30</sup>.

Alternatively, cyber law is a legal framework for addressing cybercrime. Due to the rising usage of electronic commerce, it is vital that appropriate regulatory processes are in place to prevent malpractice. Cyber security regulations vary significantly by nation and jurisdiction. Penalties vary according to the nature of the offense and may include a fine or jail. Citizens must grasp their own nations' cyber laws in order to be completely educated about any cyber security problems<sup>30</sup>.

## **Categories of Cybercrime in Nigeria**

### **Cybercrimes against People**

Cyber bullying and stalking, e-mail phishing, the broadcast of child pornography, different types of spoofing, credit card fraud, human trafficking, identity theft, and online-related libel or slander are all examples of cybercrime against individuals. The trafficking, distribution, publication, and dissemination of obscene content, such as pornography and indecent exposure, is one of the most severe cybercrimes today. The potential harm that such a crime might do mankind cannot be emphasized. If not addressed, this is one type of cybercrime that has the potential to impede the advancement of the younger generation and leave irreversible scars and disabilities<sup>30</sup>.

Similarly, victims have met a similar fate in Nigeria previous to the heinous murder of Cynthia Osokogu in July 2012, as reported by an online news magazine<sup>30</sup>. For instance, Uzundu, an undergraduate student at a private Christian institution in Ogun State, is accused of contracting the terrible Human Immune Virus, HIV, from a guy she believed to be her partner. The victim contacted the con artist on the popular social networking site Facebook, and before she knew it, she had been swept away to a dream vacation where she was heaped with expensive gifts such as an iPad and the latest BlackBerry phone. The young girl became pregnant during these romantic adventures, but her companion was nowhere to be found. Unfortunately, she has no idea who the man was, no way to contact him, and no knowledge where he worked. Worse yet, she tested HIV positive<sup>30</sup>.

### **Cybercrime against Property**

The second type of cybercrime is cybercrime against all types of property. These crimes include distributed denial of service (DDoS) assaults, hacking, virus transmission, cyber and typo squatting, computer vandalism, copyright infringement, an Intellectual Property Right IPR violations<sup>30</sup>.

### **Cybercrime against the Government:**

Cybercrime against the government is the third type of cybercrime. When cybercrime is directed towards the government, it is deemed an attack on the nation's sovereignty and an act of war. Cybercrime against the government includes hacking, obtaining access to secret information, cyber warfare, cyber terrorism, and the usage of pirated software. The growth of the Internet has revealed that individuals and groups are using Cyberspace to threaten foreign governments and scare a country's populace. When a person breaches a government or military-run website, the crime is classified as terrorism. The Cybercrime Act of 2015 addressed the majority of these sorts of cybercrime<sup>30</sup>.

### **Cybercrime (Prohibition and Prevention) Act 2015**

The Act establishes a comprehensive, effective, and unified legal, regulatory, and institutional framework in Nigeria for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution, and punishment of cybercrime<sup>30</sup>.

**Cybercrimes Highlighted Under this ACT Include:** Offenses against essential national information infrastructure, Unauthorized Access to Safeguarded Systems, Illegal Registration of Cybercafés or Unauthorized Use of Cybercafés, Interference with a system, Electronic communications, email, and electronic money transactions are intercepted, Attempting to tamper with essential infrastructure, Intentional rerouting of electronic messages, Interceptions made in violation of the law, Forgery involving computers, Computer-based fraud, Electronic Device Theft, Unauthorised alteration of computer systems, network data, and interfering with the operation of the system, Falsely Publishes Digital Signatures and Certificates, Cyber Terrorism, Exceptions for financial organizations that post and are authorised to trade options, E-instructions issued fraudulently, Attempting to tamper with Computer Source Documents, Theft of one's identity and impersonation, Child pornography and offenses linked to it, Cyber stalking, Cybersquatting, Racist

and xenophobic offences, Attempt, conspiracy, and aiding and abetting, Importation and manufacturing of electronic tools, Confidentiality and Privacy Breach, ATM/POS Terminal Manipulation, Phishing, spamming, and the transmission of computer viruses, Fraud involving electronic cards, Utilisation of a fake device or attachments to e-mails and websites<sup>30</sup>.

### **Administration and Enforcement Cyber Law in Nigeria**

The National Security Adviser's office serves as the coordinating body for security and enforcement authorities under the 2015 Cybercrime Act<sup>30</sup>. The Attorney-General of the Federation seeks to strengthen and improve Nigeria's existing cybercrime law frameworks. All law enforcement, security, and intelligence agencies build institutional capacity necessary for the effective implementation of the 2015 Cybercrime Act's provisions and, in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser, initiate, develop, or organise national or international training programs for officers charged with cybercrime<sup>30</sup>.

The main reasons why cyber laws are essential to Nigeria Businesses are:

**Employee Protection:** When a firm is covered by cyber laws, its workers are protected from cyber-attacks.

**Business Protection:** This guarantees that an organisation's personnel may access the internet without fear of assault. A corporation can send and receive critical and crucial data between networks according to cyber rules<sup>30</sup>.

**Protection of Personal Data:** Cyber laws safeguard a user's personal information. Numerous hazards exist in the digital world; cyber laws help maintain the confidentiality and security of personal and sensitive information sent through the internet<sup>30</sup>.

### **The Notable Areas of Cyber Law in Nigeria**

Cyber laws serve a variety of functions. Certain regulations protect individuals from becoming victims of crime as a result of unethical online behavior. Other statutes regulate how individuals and corporations may use computers and the internet. These statutes address a wide variety of topics and behaviors, but they all come under the category of cyber law. The key aspects of cyber law are as follows:

**Fraud:** Consumers rely on cyber regulations to protect them against online fraud. Legislation exists to protect consumers from identity theft, credit card fraud, and other financial crimes perpetrated online. A person who takes another's identity may face criminal charges on a federal or state level. Additionally, a victim may bring a legal action against them. Cyber attorneys strive to prosecute and defend against internet fraud allegations<sup>30</sup>.

**Copyright:** The internet has facilitated the infringement of intellectual property rights. In the early days of internet communication, copyright infringement was as simple as clicking a button on a file-sharing website. Individuals and corporations alike seek the assistance of attorneys when it comes to enforcing copyright rights. Copyright infringement is a subset of cyber law that safeguards the rights of people and corporations to profit from their creative works<sup>30</sup>.

**Defamation:** Many people express themselves through the internet. When individuals use the internet to distribute incorrect information, they may cross into defamation. Defamation laws are civil laws that protect persons from false public statements that can be detrimental to a business's or an individual's reputation. When individuals use the internet to make remarks that violate civil laws, this is referred to as cyber law<sup>30</sup>.

**Stalking and Harassment:** Online statements can occasionally constitute a violation of criminal legislation against harassment and stalking. When someone makes repeated or threatening online statements about another person, they may be violating both civil and criminal statutes. When

stalking happens over the internet or other forms of electronic communication, cyber lawyers represent both the victim and the perpetrator<sup>30</sup>.

**Freedom of Expression:** The freedom of expression is a critical component of cyber law. While cyber laws impose restrictions on some online behaviors, freedom of speech laws allows individuals to express themselves. Cyber attorneys must counsel their clients about the limits of free expression, particularly those imposed by laws forbidding obscenity. Additionally, cyber attorneys may represent their clients in disputes over whether their action constitutes authorized free speech<sup>30</sup>.

**Trade Secrets:** Cyber law is routinely used by businesses that conduct business online to protect their trade secrets. Google and other internet search engines, for instance, invest considerable effort in developing the algorithms that generate search results. Additionally, they dedicate considerable effort to developing other features such as maps, intelligent help, and airline search services, to name a few. Cyber attorneys assist their clients in taking appropriate legal action to protect their trade secrets<sup>30</sup>.

**Employment and Contract Law:** Each time you click a button indicating that you agree to the terms and conditions of a website's use, you have broken cyber law. Individuals and corporations are protected by contracts when they use technology and do business online. For example, non-compete clauses in employment contracts used to apply exclusively to a small, local geographic region. As more firms conduct their activities online, the way attorneys draft and courts enforce these agreements may change. Lawyers must strive to represent their clients' best interests in unsettled areas of law<sup>30</sup>.

**Patents:** In the majority of circumstances, patents are used to safeguard an innovation. For two reasons, they are often used on the internet. The first category is dedicated to brand-new software. The second category is for innovative techniques of conducting business online<sup>30</sup>.

**Trademarks and Service Marks:** In both the online and offline worlds, trademarks and service marks are used interchangeably. Trademarks will be used to defend websites. For websites that provide services, service marks are used<sup>30</sup>.

**Domain Name Disputes:** Domain name disputes are specifically about determining who owns a certain web address. For instance, the person responsible for a website may not be the same as the person who owns it. Additionally, because domains are affordable, some individuals acquire many domains in the intention of profiting significantly<sup>30</sup>.

**Contracts:** The majority of individuals assume that contracts cannot be applied for online transactions. This is incorrect. When you register for a website, for example, you are often required to agree to the website's terms of service. This is a contract<sup>30</sup>.

**Privacy:** Online firms must safeguard their clients' personal information. The applicable law may vary according to your industry. These regulations become more critical when more information is transferred over the internet<sup>30</sup>.

**Data Retention:** Data management is a significant priority in the internet era. Litigation is one area where this has developed into a significant concern. Electronic and physical records are becoming increasingly common in litigation. However, there are currently no restrictions requiring electronic records to be retained in perpetuity. With actual records, this is not the case<sup>30</sup>.

### 2.1.2 The Social Media

Through the creation of virtual networks and communities, social media enables the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and information. By design, social media is Internet-based and enables people to communicate via electronic means. Social media is a term that refers to a collection of technologies that are connected together to facilitate quick information sharing via highly accessible online

venues<sup>31</sup>. Blogs, Facebook, Instagram, my place, eBay reputation, Flickr, YouTube, Google maps, Amazon, and user reviews are all popular social media platforms<sup>32</sup>.

The numerous social media platforms enable millions of people to build online accounts and share personal information with their large networks of friends and, in many cases, an unknown number of strangers. In comparison to the past, there has been a consistent increase in social networking in the modern era. For example, Facebook presently has over 600 million active subscribers and this number is anticipated to grow, while Twitter has over 200 million global users<sup>32</sup>. With the advent of social media, broadcast media monologues have been turned into numerous community dialogues, transforming the information producer-consumer model into one in which each user has the opportunity and aptitude to make and consume internet content.

The characteristics of social media platforms are well-known. For example, they enable users to connect with one another using a variety of content types, including videos, photographs, images, text, and sound. Additionally, they aid in the development and support of growing networks in a variety of domains, whether professional, familial, social, cultural, religious, or political. Additionally, the platforms stated before establish and define an individual's social identity. They contribute to the development and definition of an individual's social identity.<sup>32</sup> Social media tools have been discovered to generate far more engagement amongst their users than traditional media tools, which are believed to have a one-way communication flow<sup>32</sup>.

Personal information, documents, films, and photographs are all examples of content. Users interact with social media using web-based software or applications on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

While social media is pervasive in the United States and Europe, Asian countries such as Indonesia rank first in terms of social media consumption<sup>33</sup>. Over 3.8 billion people use social media,<sup>34</sup> and there are numerous types:

- **Social Networks:** These websites let individuals to create their own web pages and then connect with others to exchange material and communicate. MySpace, Facebook, and Bebo are the three largest social networks. Perhaps the most mature of the popular networks is LinkedIn, which enables users to develop an online network of business and professional relationships. It has been criticised for not being sufficiently transparent and for charging for too many of its features - yet it is still the most popular online social network for persons aged 25 and over, second only to Facebook.
- **Blogs:** These are online journals, with the most current entries appearing first. At its most basic level, a blog is an online journal in which entries are written in a conversational, personal tone. Typically, they are the product of a single author or a collection of authors.
- **Wikis:** These websites enable users to contribute content and change existing information, thereby serving as a community document or database. Wikis are websites that enable users to contribute to or update their content. A wiki can be as private or as public as its creators like. The most well-known wiki is Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia with over 2 million articles in the English language.
- **Podcasts:** Subscription-based audio and video files available through services such as Apple iTunes.
- **Forums:** Areas for online conversation, frequently centered on certain themes and hobbies. Forums are a vital and well-liked component of internet communities. Internet forums are the earliest form of online social networking. They are frequently organized around particular subjects and hobbies. Each conversation in a forum is referred to as a 'thread,' and multiple threads might be active concurrently. This makes forums an excellent resource for locating and engaging in a range of in-depth topics. They are frequently included into websites as an added function, while others exist independently.

The sites are regulated by an administrator who has the authority to delete inappropriate posts or spam. A moderator, on the other hand, will not direct or influence the discussion. This is a significant distinction between forums and blogs. While blogs have a clear owner, forum topics are initiated by forum members.

- **Content Community:** They organise and distribute specific types of content. Content communities are similar to social networks in that you must register, receive a home page, and then connect with friends. They are, however, focused on sharing a specific type of content. The most popular content communities are those centered on photos (Flickr), bookmarked links (del.icio.us), and videos (YouTube).
- **Micro-Blogging:** Social networking is a kind of communication in which little bits of content ('updates') are distributed online and via mobile phone networks. Twitter is unquestionably the market leader in this space.

Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are the most popular social media platforms. Typically, social media platforms feature user-generated content and customized profiles. There are over 3.8 billion social media users worldwide<sup>35</sup>. Social media is a constantly changing and evolving field, with new apps like TikTok and Clubhouse seemingly appearing every year to join the ranks of established social networks like Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. Social media, in its broadest sense, refers to a web-based application platform that enables users to create and share content interactively and responsively. The following are some examples of social media platforms: blogs such as WordPress and Type Pad, image and video sharing platforms such as YouTube and Flickr, micro blogs such as Twitter and Tumblr, and social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and LinkedIn. Facebook is the world's largest social media platform, with a clear advantage over other platforms, despite having comparable audiences to Twitter and Instagram.

As of January 2021, the following are the most popular social media platforms: Facebook (2.74 billion users), YouTube (2.29 billion users), WhatsApp (2 billion users), Facebook Messenger (1.3 billion users), Instagram (1.22 billion users), Whatsapp (1.21 billion users), TikTok (689 million users), QQ (617 million users), Douyin (600 million users), and Sino Weibo (511 million users)<sup>35</sup>. In January 2021, Nigeria's population was 208.8 million.<sup>35</sup> Between January 2020 and January 2021, the population increased by 5.2 million (+2.6 percent). In January 2021, Nigeria had a total of 104.4 million internet users, an increase of 19 million (+22 percent ) from 2020 to 2021. Nigeria's internet penetration rate was 50.0 percent in January 2021. In January 2021, Nigeria's social media users will account for 15.8 percent of the total population<sup>35</sup>.

Also, more recent data as of January 2021, reported that Nigeria had 22 million social media users. Between 2020 and 2021, the number climbed by 6.0 million (+22 percent)<sup>36</sup>. The common denominator is that the conversations or materials are primarily created and managed by users. The impact of social media networks is rapidly evolving. It is transforming the ways in which people interact, generate, store, share, and respond to data. In addition, it is transforming traditional news media into a more participatory and engaging medium in which audience members may contribute remark, discuss, and even further distribute content. Additionally, social media's strength stems from its ability to establish extremely effective platforms via which people may participate and communicate freely anywhere, at any time, and in real time, as well as on a worldwide scale. Social media has evolved into a tool for establishing a brand's reputation, recruiting employees, earning income, and gaining customers' trust. Governments have embraced social media as a critical component of their strategy for engaging citizens and enhancing democratic dividends.

In the time past, during, and after numerous crises, social media has been used to distribute a variety of public safety information, numerous disaster management organizations provide individuals with preparedness and readiness information via social media prior to (or in the absence of) a

catastrophe<sup>38</sup>. Social media has grown in popularity in recent years as a means of giving new sources of information and speedy communication, particularly during natural catastrophes. Twitter is one such service that enables users to broadcast brief textual messages, or tweets, of up to 140 characters to a following via Web- or mobile-based platforms. A significant feature of Twitter is its real-time nature. Users regularly share what they are doing and thinking and return to the site frequently to see what others are up to. This results in a large number of user updates, from which we can glean useful information about real-world phenomena, such as earthquakes, bushfires, and cyclones. Social media users are regarded as distinct individuals who use media technologies to interact, share information and material, network, enhance their personality, and strengthen their social identity. Individuals utilize social media platforms to meet a variety of goals, including security, membership, appreciation/esteem, and self-fulfillment<sup>38</sup>. People may now explore their hobbies, share ideas, and increase their knowledge more quickly and effectively than ever before thanks to social networking networks. Social media networking services provide users with virtually endless opportunities to engage, share, collaborate, and correspond online, limited only by their privacy preferences or security concerns. As a result, social networking is somewhat more effective for individuals than it is for corporations and government entities, which face various preferences and frequently more stringent security concerns<sup>37</sup>.

This increased usage of social media during crises provides new information sources from which the appropriate authorities can increase public awareness of emergency situations. Survivors in affected areas can provide real-time information about what they see, hear, and experience during natural disasters. Residents in the immediate vicinity can contribute near-real-time views of disaster events, such as aerial shots and photographs. This is especially advantageous during severe emergency situations, when those living in blackout zones would have restricted communication capabilities. By using the collective intelligence of the public, emergency responders can gain a greater

understanding of the "big picture" during crisis circumstances, enabling them to make the best, most informed judgments possible about aid, rescue, and recovery operations<sup>38</sup>.

By monitoring the flow of information from various sources during an event, social media could be utilized to alert emergency managers and officials to specific circumstances. Monitoring information flows may aid in the development of "situational awareness"<sup>38</sup>. Situational awareness refers to the capacity to recognize, process, and comprehend important components of an incident or circumstance. Acquiring real-time information during an emergency can assist officials in determining the location of victims, assessing victim requirements, and alerting residents and first responders to changing conditions and new dangers<sup>38</sup>. Additionally, social media may improve the public's ability to communicate with the government. While present emergency communication methods are generally centralised and rely on one-way communication from agencies or organisations to individuals and communities, social media has the potential to alter emergency communication by allowing information to flow in various directions (known as backchannel communications)<sup>38</sup>. And the majorities of government officials, from the president to his special advisers and ministers, have active twitter accounts and use them to disseminate information to the general public. Because these accounts are updated on a regular basis, they have access to information faster, which they cannot claim not to see.

Many believe social media complement traditional news media, (85% in 2009 versus 72% in 2008) but even greater proportions believe blogs and social media have an influence on traditional news media coverage. The majority feel blogs and social media have increased the speed of communication by encouraging organisations to reply more swiftly to criticism<sup>38</sup>. The results continue to indicate that traditional news media obtain higher marks for accuracy, credibility, speaking the truth, and being ethical than blogs and social media. Additionally, the findings indicate that the majority (80% in 2009 and 75% in 2008) want traditional news media to be honest, convey

the truth, and act ethically. Fewer than half (41 percent in 2009, 44 percent in 2008) of Americans had the same expectations for blogs and other forms of social media<sup>38</sup>.

For a variety of reasons, social media appears to be making inroads into emergency management. For starters, accurate, dependable, and timely information is critical for public safety prior to, during, and following an incident. As people embrace new technologies, their use of social media is certain to grow<sup>38</sup>.

Therefore, as social media's popularity develops, an increasing percentage of people will undoubtedly use it as their primary source of information they may also come to assume that organizations will utilise social media to suit their informational demands. Numerous emergency managers and organisations have already incorporated social media into their operations to meet this expectation. They have, however, begun using social media as another means of disseminating critical public safety information<sup>38</sup>. Beyond informational objectives, the usage of social media enables people to interact and communicate in ways that are not feasible with other forms of media, and in certain circumstances, it enables response organisations and victims to interact and communicate when traditional media is inaccessible. Some argue that social media may be used to strengthen emergency management capacities and that the prospect of such beneficial outcomes justifies continued use of social media for emergencies and disasters.

Apart from strictly personal use, individuals can also utilise social media to advance the interests and goals of organized groups<sup>37</sup>. Thus, while social media use is strongly associated with interaction and communication between individuals and the information medium, organised entities such as government agencies, kingdom movements, businesses, and terrorist groups also use social media networks<sup>37</sup>.

#### **2.1.2.1 Use of Social Media and National Security**

Social media platforms are web-based services that allow users to create profiles inside a defined system and communicate with other users from across the world. Social networking is the process of establishing connections amongst people who share common interests and aims. Recently, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Skype, WhatsApp, TikTok, Telegram etc, have cemented their positions in the hearts of many users worldwide, prompting hackers and other individuals to leverage them to accomplish their malevolent goals<sup>39</sup>.

While social media has created numerous opportunities and benefits, it has also introduced social and security threats that can have a detrimental effect on society and national security. For example, social media platforms facilitate the dissemination of false information, espionage, subversion, sabotage, propaganda, data and intellectual property leaks, hate speeches, incitement, bullying, social and political mobilisation, and the spread of dangerous software (malware)<sup>39</sup>. Recent incidents throughout the world have demonstrated that the use of social media, like other traditional media, can jeopardize a nation's security<sup>37</sup>. It is worth emphasizing that a nation's security is critical to the maintenance of peace and harmony. Countries throughout the world have recently faced a slew of security concerns, one of which stems from the misuse of social media platforms. It is important highlighting that social media platforms do not constitute security risks in and of themselves; rather, it is its users who pose security risks through their anti-social behavior<sup>37</sup>.

This means that, while social media has tremendous benefits for both individuals and nations, it may also contribute to a nation's destabilisation, among other well-known security dangers<sup>37</sup>. For example, through prolonged messages of hatred and propaganda, people's use of social media platforms may result in bloodshed and war. As a result, debates over the usage of various social networking platforms should focus on the broader issue of national security and information flows. Numerous examples have been documented in which criminals used social networking sites to spread malicious

cryptograms in order to compromise users' systems or obtain access to personal information such as location, contact information, and professional relationships.

Facebook is the most vulnerable social media network to cybercrime, according to a poll. Cyber criminals use this site, as well as other social media platforms, to disrupt security by spreading malware, third-party programs, conducting social engineering attacks, and committing identity theft, among other risks<sup>40</sup>. Any country's security can be jeopardised by social media, which can manifest itself in a variety of ways. The use of social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter can have a number of negative ramifications for state security and the nation's strategic interests<sup>41</sup>. For example, the extensive use of social media has resulted in a surge in recent instances of terrorism, since terrorist groups use these platforms to recruit members and propagate their ideology<sup>37</sup>. In addition, terrorist groups use social media platforms to plan and coordinate criminal activity, as well as to communicate with other terrorists located throughout the world. Currently, the terrorist organisations that make extensive use of social media tools to enhance their operations are Islamic-jihadist organisations<sup>37</sup>. For example, the AL Qaeda makes extensive use of YouTube and Facebook to recruit new recruits and solicit support from sympathisers and supporters worldwide. Jihadists are able to share images and video footage of successful terrorist strikes on social media sites in order to gather support.

Apart from for recruiting potential fighters, extremist groups utilise social media channels to disseminate propaganda, highlight successful assaults, and sow terror. Jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda have devised a well-thought-out plan for utilising social media to accomplish their objectives and spread false information and propaganda throughout the world in order to motivate people to commit terrorist activities. Social media has risen to prominence as a critical tool for terrorist cells and organisations to conduct their operations. With the proliferation of current information and

communication technology, cyber terrorism has arisen as a significant threat to the security of government's worldwide<sup>50</sup>.

As of today, terrorists use social media networks to destabilise individuals, organisations, and national peace. Simultaneously, terrorists have extensively used social media networks, particularly Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, to propagate their ideology and gather worldwide support<sup>42</sup>. The groups are now utilising social media to plan and organize attacks, to connect with other linked terrorist cells and criminal organisations, to broadcast false information and propaganda, and to incite hatred that can harm the public's sentiments<sup>43</sup>. Terrorist organisations today have their own websites through which they may propagate their ideology and propaganda, as well as a variety of social media channels through which they can collaborate to further their causes. At the moment, social media chat platforms such as Skype, which supports both voice and video, have grown extremely popular among numerous terrorist organizations. The militants can interact and communicate with one another and with sympathizers from all over the world via chat rooms and e-forums. In addition, this enables them to recruit new members and share information with little or no fear of being identified by security agents<sup>37</sup>.

Terrorists are heavily utilising social media platforms for radicalisation, recruiting, and training new recruits and members throughout the world in the present period, which is defined by online connectivity and widespread use of social media networks. Social media platforms are critical in persuading individuals to take collective action. They enable social engagement and bonding, which has a long-term effect on behavior and attitudes. Due to the widespread dissemination of extremist ideology and materials, susceptible individuals may feel driven to join jihadist organisations. Apart from the tactics outlined previously, insurgents use social media platforms to cooperate with other criminal gangs and to solicit financing from various sympathisers worldwide.

For instance, in March 2017, Boko Haram produced a 27-minute video in which the group's commander, Abubakar Shekau, pledged to continue his insurgency until he established an Islamic empire spanning western and central Africa<sup>46</sup>. Through WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter, among other channels, new media has boosted social and political contacts<sup>47</sup>. Terrorist organisations utilise social networking networks in conjunction with dedicated servers and webpages to propagate their propaganda<sup>48</sup>. They utilise the media to recruit, fundraise, train, and commit various types of cybercrime. This platform contributes to the promotion of domestic and foreign terrorist organisations, as well as the insecurity that accompanies them. International and domestic terrorist groups use Social Media to plan and execute attacks and escape routes<sup>48</sup>.

Locally, Nigerian insecurity is escalating, with daily threats to lives and property, this insecurity is exacerbated by Social Media's penetration and spread. Due to social freedom and a lack of internet law, Social Media cannot be easily controlled or censored from the broader public<sup>48</sup>. The social freedom of speech linked with Social Media enables users to create and publish content at any time. Not alone are terrorist groups utilising social media to undermine a country's peace and stability; civilians are also using it to instill fear in one another through the use of fake news and phony postings that spread propaganda and fear. A case in point is the increased volume and variety of unconfirmed news or information circulating on social media platforms from the northern and south-eastern Nigeria corridor. The majority of the time, this news and information is neither confirmed nor verified, resulting in the spread of fake news. However, when any type of incident or terrorist news is published, thousands and millions of people quickly react violently, attacking one another on the basis of ethnicity, religion, and tribe. Simultaneously, such news immediately instills dread, tensions, and violence across society.

As a result, the presence of Social Media has an effect on the nation's insecurity conditions in the following ways<sup>48</sup>: Terrorists and other criminal organisations utilize the site to carry out attacks,

kidnaps, rapes, and robberies, among other crimes. In developed countries, the medium is also utilised to combat terrorism and other sorts of crime. According to a study, social media platforms such as Facebook have been utilized in Nigeria to combat human trafficking and other crimes<sup>48</sup>. Insecurity is currently viewed as a barrier to social progress in Nigeria<sup>47</sup>.

### **2.1.2.2 Revolutionary Activities and Social Media**

The rapid dissemination of information via social media platforms is a primary reason why platforms such as Facebook and Twitter play a significant role in civil society, even igniting revolutions. People can now obtain information in real time and in many cases with the assistance of digital video proof, thanks to social media. Thus, protests as we know them are evolving in response to digital technological breakthroughs, and many protests will be influenced by technology. This was demonstrated at the recently finished #EndSars rally, which was the largest social media protest in Nigeria's history. The video depicted how the shooting of a man by a Special Anti-Robbery Squared (SARS) official on social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter sparked significant demonstrations across Nigeria. As previously said, many young people never attempt to check any information; instead, they believe and react, even if the information is false.

According to a tweet, SARS officers shot a young man, left him by the roadside, and stole his Lexus SUV on October 3, 2020, in Ughelli Delta state, Nigeria. This sparked an online outcry, which grew into large live demonstrations across Nigeria's streets<sup>49</sup>. Several requests for a stop to SARS and their unjust operations have been made on social media (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram), but the Nigerian government has given little heed to these online agitations. This pattern lasted until the recent shooting of the young guy in Delta state, which precipitated the current statewide protests, which have resulted in around 12 further deaths across Nigeria, with the potential for significant civil unrest<sup>49</sup>.

Facebook, Instagram, and, most importantly, Twitter played a critical role in the protests that began with young Nigerians demanding that the government dismantle SARS, put a stop to police brutality, and reform the Nigerian police force. Numerous Nigerians are now sharing their personal tales and those of their relatives and friends on social media, which continues to fuel the protests. The protest takes place on two fronts: online, via social media platforms, and on the ground, in Nigeria's streets. Although both the Inspector General of Police and the President have announced that SARS will be dissolved immediately and the Nigerian police will be rebuilt in the aftermath, the protests have not subsided.

However, many social media news sources are unconfirmed, which results in fake news. The propagation of fake news on the internet is facilitated further by the internet's continuous growth and connectivity, as well as the preference for speed over accuracy and impact. Because online content creators and distributors compete for attention and patronage on a zero-sum, winner-takes-all basis, they do everything possible to increase traffic. Unlike the print media, which conducts due diligence prior to reporting any news, the online media is frequently overwhelmed by the frenzy of new technology's opportunities, to the point where many journalists would rather publish first and verify later<sup>50</sup>. This is what is fueling the spread of fake news in Nigeria and throughout the world, with its attendant negative security implications. Social media platforms were heavily utilised during the Libyan revolution to disseminate information and provide coverage of local events<sup>51</sup>. Because the mainstream media platforms were controlled by the state, social media networks became reliable sources of information for the masses involved in the revolutionaries<sup>52</sup>. YouTube was heavily utilised during the demonstrations to broadcast what was happening on the streets, and as a result, social media and mobile tools such as cellphones and tablets were critical in the revolution, as they assisted in garnering additional supporters, which ultimately compromised and worsened the nation's security<sup>52</sup>.

The Arab Spring is another example of how social media platforms were used to assist revolutions. The globe was thrown into pandemonium as a result of this happening as a result of tweets, YouTube videos, and numerous entries on Facebook and blogs by the masses seeking to have their voices heard<sup>51</sup>. In this case, the revolution began in Egypt and quickly expanded throughout Northern Africa and the Middle East.

### **2.1.2.3 Propaganda and Social Media**

Propaganda is a term that refers to a type of communication that is intentionally deceptive and biased in order to promote or support a particular point of view. Propaganda is a method of persuasion helped by the planned dissemination of one-sided information via the media, particularly social media platforms<sup>59</sup>. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks report, one of the significant growing concerns is the rapid spread of deceptive and false information via social media networks. Unlike in the past, when communication and information sharing took place through traditional media, the internet's rapid expansion has changed the art of information distribution, which propagandists have exploited<sup>37</sup>.

The internet is an information wasteland that, in comparison to traditional media, is nearly impossible to oversee and regulate. Due to stringent social media regulatory frameworks, terrorist groups, criminal gangs, and ill-intentioned individuals are now exploiting the convenience and widespread coverage of social networks to spread propaganda, which has emerged as a major threat to global national security<sup>37</sup>. The al Qaeda group, for example, has a well-defined strategy that leverages social media. A good example of this is when the Syrian extremist group Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) went live on social media to demonstrate how they severed a man's hand<sup>63</sup>.

### **2.1.2.4 The National Security Implications of Propaganda and Fake News**

At the moment, nothing appears to be a greater threat to the Nigerian State's peace and tranquility than the issue of fake news, which has arisen as a propeller for the forces of instability. Nigerian Minister of Information Lia Mohammed acknowledged this position, stating that fake news endangers the country's peace, security, and business existence, portraying it as a ticking time bomb<sup>53</sup>.

The security challenges that nations face are inextricably linked to their history, culture, social structure, and economic conditions.<sup>53</sup> The implications of fake news cut across almost all of Nigeria's social vices, fueling one form of crisis or another, ranging from electoral disruptions/violence, ethno/religious conflicts, economic instability, and leadership mistrust. In Nigeria, fake news supports these vices and insecurity in the following ways:

- **Election Violence:** Elections are a necessary component of an authentic and meaningful democratic process. It fosters competition in politics, ensures political participation, and solidifies the rule of law. However, elections in Nigeria have been marred by interruptions and violence over the years, resulting in the loss of numerous lives and property. The regrettable aspect of some of the violence is that it was sparked by fake news. Unlike other forms of information, news plays a unique role in democratic societies;<sup>54</sup> it serves as a critical source of accurate information about political and social issues, informing public opinion and deliberative processes. If news is 'fake,' it misinforms the public and pollutes democratic debate at its source, resulting in the unpopularity of electoral victories and the attendant risk of popular rejection and revolt. The majority of the panics and anxieties that characterise Nigerian elections are generated and spread by purveyors of falsehoods who have no incentive to be truthful. They use the social media to generate fake insightful information about political parties, political actors, and electoral bodies in order to sow discord in the country. They even go to the extent of fabricating and disseminating fabricated

election results that have not been validated by the electoral umpire, so fuelling widespread violence when the original results contradict the already disseminated fabricated ones.

The detrimental effect fake news has on electoral processes is not unique to Nigeria. Fake news is frequently accused for disrupting election and referendum outcomes and for skewing democratic public debates, with the 2016 US Presidential election and the Brexit referendum frequently mentioned as examples. Indeed, fake news has been implicated in the propagation of propaganda, hate speech, and election violence<sup>54</sup>.

- **Conflicts between Ethno/Religious Groups:** Ethno/religious conflicts are without a doubt the most violent source of conflict in Nigeria. There are around 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria, speaking over 500 different languages. The majority of Nigerians pledge their devotion first to their tribe/ethnic group, then to their faith, with little regard for the entity known as Nigeria. Nigeria's ethno/religious fabric is so fragile that it is at the heart of every outbreak of mass violence in the country<sup>54</sup>. Fabricated lies masquerading as news endanger Nigeria's delicate ethno-religious fabric<sup>55</sup>. Of particular concern is the fabrication of stories pitting the predominantly Muslim north against the predominantly Christian south, a traditional fault line frequently invoked by proponents of restructuring or even dismantling the current federal system<sup>55</sup>.

There are a variety of false stories being spread on social media with the stated goal of generating fear, worry, distrust, and discord among Nigeria's ethnic groups. A recent statement attributed to Alhaji Gidado Siddiki, the leader of the Miyetti Allah Group, with the bold headline "south east will boil any moment now due to their stubbornness"<sup>53</sup> claimed that he stated that "since they (the south easterners) claim to be stubborn and have refused to give them their lands in peace, they will be taken by force and the entire south east will be annihilated" (when headlines or captions do not support the content).

This passage was trending on a WhatsApp platform; “General (T. Y.) Danjuma (a former military President of Nigeria) has stated unequivocally that President Buhari is the direct founder and sponsor of Miyetti Allah and has concluded plans to establish safe havens for all West African Fulanis throughout the south and middle belt (part of Nigeria). He made it quite plain that war had already been declared, citing a wave of unrelenting atrocities and bemoaning the plight of the defenseless victims, the majority of whom are Christians. The retired General warned that Buhari has used Tinubu to divide the south-west and that plans are underway to subjugate the Yoruba kingdom to the Hausa-Fulani Oligarchy...(there is) information that Imo State will be the hotbed due to its central location, and that once captured, the entire SE/SS (South East and South South) will be lost. And the Imo governorship election would serve as the ignition source for the Holocaust”<sup>57</sup>.

Similar fabrications exist on Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Instagram, as well as in print media in some circumstances. To attribute such falsehoods to a past President like T.Y Danjuma absurd, but it is also doubtful. The Imo State governorship election of 2019 had come and gone, and there had been no holocaust in Imo or any other region of Southern Nigeria. The disastrous consequences of spreading such fake news are that it creates panic and has the potential to spark violence across ethnic and religious lines, jeopardizing national security<sup>57</sup>.

- **Leadership/Public Mistrust:** Fake news is also utilized to achieve political benefit, particularly during electioneering. In this environment, political actors and their followers sell all sorts of lies and falsehoods in order to discredit and tarnish their opponents' public image. In other words, they engage in meticulously planned and systematic character assassination in order to undermine public perception of individuals perceived as impediments<sup>57</sup>. If this 'unholy project' is successfully carried out, it has the potential to turn the populace against their leaders, resulting in widespread violence.

A good illustration of this scenario occurs in January 2012, when the Federal Government of Nigeria, led by Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), announced the

elimination of fuel subsidies, resulting in a slight increase in the prices of petroleum products. The opposition party almost immediately mobilized Nigerians against the then-Government, alleging that there was no such thing as a fuel subsidy in Nigeria and that it was a plot by the PDP-led government to rob the nation's purse. What followed were a tremendous uprising, riots, and crisis that paralyzed the country's economic activity for days; and Dr Jonathan's subsequent defeat in his re-election campaign in 2015<sup>57</sup>.

Following the opposition All Progressive Party's (APC) electoral victory, the majority of Nigerians were taken aback when President Buhari's administration announced a price increase on petroleum items, claiming subsidy as the cause. Although the opposition achieved their primary objective of winning the 2015 presidential election, the January 2012 crisis, with its accompanying economic consequences, loss of life and property, and character assassination, could have been avoided if not for propaganda and selling of fake news. A recurring charge leveled against incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari, a northern muslim, is that he is pursuing a "Islamisation and Fulanisation" agenda aimed at extending Sharia law throughout the country and establishing Fulanis as landowners in every nook and cranny of Nigeria<sup>57</sup>.

Several of these stories have the potential to instill suspicion in the President among the country's inhabitants. The proliferation of fake news undermines public trust in the media in general and makes it easier for unscrupulous politicians to peddle half-truths, which is always damaging to the public good<sup>58</sup>.

Security is a complete protective system put in place to ensure the safety and security of citizens' lives and property. In recent years, the phenomenon known as jungle justice has grown in popularity, leading in the unnecessary death of civilians in bizarre ways. It is a type of public extrajudicial execution in which an alleged criminal is humiliated, beaten, or abruptly executed in front of a crowd. The dissemination of fake news is undoubtedly one of the elements supporting the rise in

jungle justice instances. A dozen people were lynched in India solely as a result of fake news and hoax messages<sup>59</sup>. The victims were wrongly accused of child abduction based on fake news distributed via WhatsApp platforms. Such situations abound in Nigeria, where individuals are victimised as a result of unconfirmed charges propagated via social media.

Indeed, the dangers of fake news to national security are numerous and pernicious. Recognising the dangers of fake news, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Representative on Freedom of Expression, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Representative on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information issued a joint declaration on 'Freedom of Expression and Access to Information. According to a recent BBC article, fake news contributed to the escalation of the herdsman and farmers dispute in Nigeria<sup>53</sup>.

In Nigeria and throughout the world, the negative consequences of false news are escalating to the point where some researchers think the issue may be the catalyst for the next world war. The concerns of false news became a serious concern for the United Nations (UN) in the organization's early years, with the outbreak of the cold war. The issue was framed in terms of the dangers that systematic dissemination of deliberately false or distorted reports poses to friendly relations between peoples and states<sup>57</sup>. In 2013, the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report warned that misinformation could spark "digital wildfires" in our hyper connected world.

Without a doubt, fake news is a societal phenomenon that contributes significantly to insecurity in Nigeria. As a result, any genuine effort to address insecurity in the country must involve comprehensive tactics for combating the issue of fake news.

#### **2.1.2.5 The Use of Social Media to Prevent, Reduce, or Eliminate National Security Threats**

When used appropriately by civil institutions, and more specifically, by security agencies, social media networks can provide viable avenues for preserving national security.<sup>37</sup> The government may

also employ social media platforms for content development, external collaboration, community building, and other purposes that contribute to national security enhancement. More crucially, social media platforms can be utilised for both defense and non-defense purposes, including prevention, early warning systems, psychological operations, forecasting, strategic communication, open source intelligence (OSI), and counter-propaganda<sup>37</sup>.

When security services employ social media networks to share information and create community policing, they can be used to promote national security. The public's usage of social media and mobile technologies makes it simpler to spread information, send alert messages, and assist with evacuations and rescue efforts during times of crisis. Additionally, it assists in the publication of event-related material, as well as volunteerism and donation collection. Apart from being a means of disseminating information, social media technologies enable the connection of people and information, the creation and maintenance of relationships, the establishment of unofficial networks, and the building of communities without borders<sup>37</sup>.

Social media networking sites also play a crucial role in enhancing national security. For example, in the modern period, social media can aid in military relief efforts. Security agencies that engage in such actions use social media networking sites into their communication procedures to increase not only their communication capabilities, but also their ability to coordinate and share information with other security stakeholders other than civilians<sup>60</sup>. Law enforcement agencies worldwide are able to participate in the collation, analysis, and prediction of intelligence by utilising data obtained through social media networks.

According to research undertaken by the Boston Police Department (BPD), they utilised social media to communicate information and encourage community policing throughout the investigation of the two bomb blasts during the 2013 Boston Marathon. In this case, the BPD successfully used

Twitter to update the public on the status of the investigation on a regular basis, calming nerves, soliciting aid, and correcting misreporting<sup>37</sup>.

### **2.1.3 The Concept of Citizen Journalism**

The term "citizen journalism" refers to an attempt to define the flexibility granted to anyone by network technology to become news producers and publishers. Citizen journalism gathers, processes, researches, reports on, analyses, and publishes news and information, frequently employing a range of tools enabled by the internet to interact with a wide community. The concept of citizen journalism has demonstrated how Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have created significant opportunities for media production and information dissemination outside the confines of established journalism, and thus for bypassing the traditional media business's gatekeepers. Citizen journalism therefore refers to an individual's potential to contribute significantly to the process of acquiring, researching, reporting, and disseminating information. It refers to any endeavor by those who are not educated or employed as journalists to publish news or information based on actual surveillance, research inquiry, or investigation. This participation aims to give the independent, dependable, accurate, comprehensive, and pertinent information that democracy demands. Citizen journalism is distinguished by the fact that it is created by amateurs, sometimes with less editing and rigor. Citizen journalism, curiously, is not restricted to the production of contacts by regular citizens, but may also encompass actions such as reposting, connecting, labeling, rating, altering, or commenting on communication materials produced by others or professional news organizations. Although internet technology serves as a catalyst for citizen journalism. Reporting on stories that were first broken by citizen journalism efforts on the web, or even guessing reporter positions in which citizens contribute to the packaging of an issue for transmission newscasts, qualifies as citizen journalism. The growth of the social networking system (Facebook, twitter, and YouTube, among

others) has significantly increased political involvement in Nigeria and around the world. Users have the option of organizing a forum to debate matters of public concern. However, for the security of any nation to be effective, citizen's participation is very germane. Citizens can supply information or can serve as an informant for security operatives in order to enhance good security effectiveness of a nation. Many criminal acts have been aborted and many successes have been achieved due to adequate information from the citizens using the social media to the security operatives like kidnapping, robbery, hijacking, suicide bombing, and so on.

Many security outfits for example the Nigeria Police needs citizen's participation in order to combat insecurity and also security of lives and properties, that is why the police has a forum which involves community leaders, chiefs, landlords and other community stakeholders to proffer solution to insecurity called and improve security of the community. This forum is called PCRC (Police Community Relations Committee). The PCRC is a community policing based organization established by the leadership of the Nigeria Police Force since 1984 to foster partnership between the police and citizens in for effective policing and security. They use this organisation or forum to report security issues, suspicious movements, give information and activities that may be a threat to the security of the community or the environment so as to take a prompt and swift action to counter the occurrence.

The primary responsibility of PCRC is to provide support and assistance to the police and other security agencies to help prevention, prosecution and fight against crime. This movement has achieved a lot of successes in combating thuggery, armed robbery, kidnapping and others. On the other hand, citizen's negligence and poor attitude to security issues has led to various crimes causing losses to lives and properties. There are many factors that can lead to citizen's negligence.

- **Lack of Trust in the Security System:** Due to corruption in the security sector of the Nation, many of her citizens have lost confidence in the security system. Bribing, sorting has overshadowed the judgment of some bad security personnel which makes them to pervert justice. For example, a thief was arrested and brought to the police, due to the influence and money, the robber was released, and later began to hunt his captors. Many citizens stop informing the security operatives because, the system has already been compromised instead, they will rather look away or do jungle justice if the thief is caught
- **Poverty:** With the level of scarcity in the country, many people can do anything to survive. The high cost of commodities with little or no income to measure up can lead many to compromise. Although, this is not a yardstick for such scrupulous behavior, but a reference point. Many good thinking and behaving citizen might be bought over, due to poverty. A poor man can be tipped by kidnappers known to him or unknown to give information about a rich man in the community. He might be bought over with a promise of cash to carry passenger and drop them in a disclosed location. Also a young lady can be given a target to sell a child without thinking due to poverty. However, the above is not an excuse for those criminal act, but someone hungry can misbehave
- **Unemployment:** This is another factor that makes the mind of a young man or woman idle. Since the people are not engaged, criminality will engage them. The overall effect of unemployed in any nation is dangerous. Unemployed youth can be lured into criminality just as a means to survive. This was very evident in the just concluded EndSars protest, where hoodlums high jacked the peaceful protest to cause chaos in the society.

Security and insecurity in Nigeria are mostly determined by official attitude, or can be attributed to government failure. This is reflected in the government's inability to deliver public services and meet the basic requirements of the populace. The inability of the Nigerian people to obtain basic requirements has created a pool of disgruntled individuals who are readily roused to violence by any

incident. The argument here is that while Nigeria possesses the resources necessary to meet its citizens' demands, corruption at all levels of government has rendered officeholders incapable of focusing on meeting those requirements. Nigeria's condition can be described as a "Paradox of Abundance", a situation in which a country obtains significant cash from oil sales but fails to use this revenue to address the needs of its citizens and develop infrastructure and the economy. When these conditions exist, crime is certain to increase, jeopardising the security of people and property.

The institutional framework in Nigeria is extremely precarious, which has resulted in a deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, effectively paralysing the current set of limitations, which includes formal and lawful regulations nested inside the social order hierarchy.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

The study's theoretical framework is premised on technological determinism and uses and gratification theory

### **2.2.1. Technological Determinism Theory:**

Technological determinism is a reductionist theory that seeks to establish a causal connection between technology and the inherent nature of a civilisation. It makes an attempt to explain who or what might wield a dominating influence over human affairs.<sup>63</sup> The hypothesis casts doubt on the extent to which technical variables influence human thought and action. The term "technological determinism" refers to an approach that emphasises the fact that the way educational technology is used is influenced not only by the user and his environment, but also, and most importantly, by the technology itself.<sup>63</sup> This indicates that technology is not inherently indifferent to the learning process.

Determinism is a reductionist hypothesis that aims to establish a causal link between technology and society's character. This hypothesis attempts to explain the extent to which technological growth has influenced human thought and behavior. According to this view, technical growth defines the nature

of civilisation and determines the course of history.<sup>63</sup> Media logics have had a significant impact on all spheres of social interaction in contemporary culture. The social media platforms that have emerged as a result of technology growth and creativity have brought people together, facilitating information sharing and idea exchange. Technological innovation has resulted in the development of new and improved techniques of production, which has subsequently altered a society's political, economic, and cultural aspects. This has unavoidably altered the nature of civilisation.<sup>63</sup>

Technology determinists argue that society is formed and impacted by technological progress and that society must adjust to and adapt to new and emerging breakthroughs and technologies. While there have been countless benefits associated with modern media, there have also been numerous negative effects associated with this advancement as a result of improper use. Thus, technological growth is a critical factor in determining all the changes that have a significant impact on all sectors of human life. The idea of technological determinism was developed by (Marshall MacLuhan), who was a professor of English at the University of Toronto in Canada and is widely regarded as one of the twentieth century's most famous intellectuals. He stated that the "content" of the media cannot be viewed in isolation from the media's technology. While the manner in which media institutions present topics and the audience to whom they communicate influence what these means say, the nature of the media to which a person is connected shapes societies more than the content of communication, and thus when McLaughan examines history, he takes a position that we can call (technological determinism)<sup>63</sup>.

They structure information in a way that is unique to them (the world is structured differently by the mediums of language and technical picture), they have an effect on the user's psyche, and even influence social change. Technological determinists say that technological growth influences and shapes society. It must adapt and change in response to new technology and advancements. The negative repercussions of technical growth are a result of people's improper use of technology, not of

the technology itself. Toffler viewed technology as a catalyst for all changes that have a detrimental effect on all spheres of human life. The computer is capable of assuming control over the entire mechanical era. Today's condition is referred to as the "third wave," a time of considerable change and acceleration of life's pace, which is accelerated by technology's continual progress. He believes that changing society has a significant effect on the human psyche and speaks of the "future shock"<sup>37</sup>. Negroponte takes a more hopeful, albeit rather idealistic, view of the situation, comparing it to "changing atoms with bits." The characteristics of the digitalisation process (decentralisation, globalisation, harmonisation, and strengthening) make it unstoppable. On the other hand, social determinism maintains that the social domain both influences and dictates technical advancement. The development and application of new technology is a product of social order. Proponents of this concept, on the other hand, emphasise the bidirectional nature of this process in their hypothesis. On the one hand, technology and social aspects do not exist as two distinct worlds or processes. The society is modeled by technological change, and the society creates technological change. Technical innovation occurs within the economic system, as a result of supply and demand, and is not just a response to external changes. As man's work, it will go unnoticed only if he permits it. Thus, the society is defined both by the technologies it is capable of creating and by those it chooses to utilise and develop over others. Technology, in this view, is one of the several social processes<sup>63</sup>.

M. Castells took a position similar on this subject. The author opposed to the notion of ICT as something to which society must adapt. He viewed technology as a social process in which the technological change shapes the society and the society shapes the technical change. This bidirectional process is referred to as social embeddedness. Castells also makes the following observation in his publication: "The technology does not define the society; the technology is the society"<sup>63</sup>.

Another theorist also rejected the concept of one-sided technological determination, stating that “technology is an analytical perspective on global socio-technical systems, a perspective that emphasizes the material and artificial aspects of human phenomena, rather than the actual quantity that would exist independently of the rest, would have diverse effects, and would work on its own.” He asserted that cyberspace was an extension of a social movement, complete with group leaders, passwords, and logical ambitions<sup>63</sup>. Again; Levy contends that if one considers any relationship, the situation becomes considerably more complicated than determination. According to him, the condition of social and cultural affairs is an indefinitely complex and partly indeterminate collection of interacting activities that are sustained or suppressed automatically. As an alternative to determination, he thus employs the concept of conditionality. The society is influenced by technological advancements; bad consequences occur from people's improper use of technology, not from the technology itself; and the introduction and usage of new technologies is also a product of the social order.

#### **2.2.1.1. Relevance of the theory to this study**

The above theory becomes relevant to this study in the sense that the level of perception and citizens' journalism on security can be influenced by the power of the social media, since technology is influenced both by the user and his surroundings. Hence technology has a great influence on students' engagement and discussion on security challenges in Nigeria.

#### **2.2.2. Uses and Gratifications Theory**

The second theoretical framework of this study is “Uses and Gratifications Theory” or “need seeking” which is a social communication theory. This theory takes a functionalist approach to communications and media, asserting that the primary goal of media is to satisfy the audience's needs and motives. As a result, the more of these demands met, the greater the enjoyment<sup>64</sup>. Uses

and Gratifications theory is founded on two basic questions: What draws people to particular forms of media and what kind of satisfaction do people derive from media<sup>64</sup>.

This theory begins with an examination of the audience's motives and then moves on to the message and social system<sup>64</sup>. In other words, this theory is concerned with how users seek media and their level of satisfaction with the media's type, content, and method of use. By addressing the two questions raised in "Use and Gratification," the positive and negative consequences of specific media use will be determined<sup>64</sup>.

Uses and Gratifications Theory is established in traditional mass communication study on how a certain media is sought and selected in order to meet their demands<sup>64</sup>. Such study has transformed the course of research from old ways evaluating "What media does to individuals?" to newer approached analysing "what individuals do to media?"<sup>65</sup> The works of Blumber and Kats are recognised as a development in mass communication research and they can be named as the founders of the UGT<sup>64</sup>. Based on their idea, people seek communication to satisfy their needs, which in turn come from social and psychological states and conditions. In other words, their requirements affect their communicative behaviour<sup>64</sup>. Uses and Gratifications theory has completed four developmental phases to be scientifically acknowledged by communication experts<sup>64</sup>. The first developmental stage dates back to the 1940s and featured descriptive research with conceptual and methodological limitations<sup>65</sup>. In this age, most studies were related to identifying the audience of the radio and comparing it with hard copy media. In the 1950s, the trend towards UGT diminished and few studies were done on this subject.

In fact in the 1940s and 1950s, the attention of mass communication scholars was mostly on approaches about the influence of media on the audience rather than the usage and contentment with the media since mass media attempted to affect the direction of people's activities<sup>64</sup>. Another reason for lack of interest in research about this theory was the lack of clear and comprehensive rules about

the theoretical hypotheses of this approach. Uses and Gratification researchers started from the audience's perspective, but since they could not broaden the theoretical framework and psychological principles of this theory to be further investigated, they were unable to create a thorough methodology<sup>65</sup>.

The second phase in the development of this theory was called the practical application of sociological and psychological elements that could establish the varied pattern of media use<sup>64</sup>. At the conclusion of the second developing phase of UGT, more systematic methods for assessing motivation typologies were merged with methods expressing pleasure research materials from media to pave the way for the third developmental phase. In other words, typological efforts were made to operationalize essential variables in a methodical manner<sup>64</sup>. This stage is defined as an attempt to use gratification data to define other components of mass communication that may be tied to the audiences' motifs and expectations. Because defining is a necessary condition for theorising in social sciences, the third developmental phase is critical in the uses and gratification method<sup>64</sup>.

The third developmental stage marks the maturation of thought concerning the gratification process. Numerous hypotheses for this approach were developed, some were amended or merged. Individuals are confronted with their social and psychological requirements, which shape their expectations of mass media or other sources and ultimately result in distinct patterns of media usage or inclination, with the final result being the satisfaction of demands or other desired results.

For the most part, no deliberation is required. This stage was all about developing and testing a theory. Palmgreen and Rayburn stressed the need of distinguishing between "gratification sought" and "gratification attained" in research and theory.<sup>64</sup> Even if people chose a particular medium with the belief that it will be useful, they may not use or like it for a variety of reasons. This conclusion that if people find something fascinating or are willing to pay for it, it will succeed is a fallacy<sup>64</sup>.

Considering the growth of this theory, one can infer that it is one of the most influential theories of communication since it can be used to evaluate a variety of psychological themes and requirements, as well as communicational channels, in a multicultural setting. Additionally, the development of this theory resulted in the introduction of a new paradigm and research approach for communication<sup>64</sup>. At the moment, this paradigm is critical for individuals working in media, given the proliferation of television, radio, video, satellite, and teletext channels, as well as the severe competition between various media<sup>64,65</sup>.

### **Components**

Uses and Gratifications Theory has several components as follows:

#### **Active audience**

Theories concerning the audience have evolved over time. The traits assigned to the audience in literature vary significantly<sup>64</sup>. One perspective views the audience as a huge geographically diverse and socially inert group. Psychological elements have a greater influence on how an audience behaves than social factors do<sup>64</sup>.

The "active audience" does not always choose to accept what is offered in the media. He regards conscious choosing as one of the audience's most distinguishing traits<sup>64</sup>. With the advent of the uses and gratification theory, a sea change occurred in the quality of paying attention to the audience and scholars in this field considered that audiences are aware of and capable of expressing their own motivations for consuming media information<sup>65</sup>.

The uses and gratification theory's central premise is that audiences actively seek content that provides them with the greatest level of satisfaction<sup>65</sup>. In general, the degree of enjoyment experienced by an audience is determined by their wants and desires. The more a person believes that genuine content satisfies his or her demand, the more likely it is that that information will be selected. Audience activity is a changeable notion, with audiences displaying varying degrees and

types of activity.

### **Needs and Motives**

Discussions about the needs and pleasure hypothesis frequently begin with an individual's needs. In early revisions of this concept, needs were equated to basic human wants. Recent improvements in this theory demonstrate that requirements are not restricted to the five basic needs (Maslow's hierarchy of needs) but also include needs for direction, security, reciprocal engagement, and reversing the effects of tension and stress<sup>64</sup>.

As previously stated, According to studies in uses and gratification, needs generate motivation. In other words, motives are derived from and encompass the action components of needs. This classification encompasses consciousness, personal identity, integrity, interpersonal relationships, and enjoyment. As a result, it may be inferred that there are numerous underlying motifs for media use. As a result, the widely held belief that individuals consume media for the purposes intended by media producers is untrue<sup>64</sup>.

### **Gratification**

At the very least, receiving communications should be pleasurable. The uses and gratifications theory frequently focuses on the gratifications associated with usage and disregards use as a goal. Two distinct sorts of satisfaction have been identified by researchers: "content gratification" and "process gratification." While hearing specific messages is more crucial in content gratification, participation in the "use process" is far more valuable in process gratification<sup>64</sup>. Different models of gratification have been offered in the uses and gratification theory, with MacQuail introducing the cognitive and cultural versions<sup>64,65</sup>. The cognitive model most closely resembles the original Uses and Gratification model. The cultural model, on the other hand, cannot be overlooked. In the cognitive model, motivation is defined by shared interests and curiosity, whereas in the cultural model, motivation is defined by an individual's overall expectations and preoccupations<sup>64</sup>.

Additionally, it demonstrates that people utilise media for a variety of reasons that are not always related to their intentions. For instance, an individual may use a certain medium purely out of a sense of dependency and belonging (cultural model), but may be unwilling to use or listen to the content conveyed by that medium (cognitive model)<sup>64</sup>.

There are two components to the uses and gratification model: gratification sought (GS) and gratification received<sup>64</sup>. These two components are conceptually and practically distinct, and failing to recognise them results in misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the results. These two components can be researched independently, but examining them together might enlighten and improve interpretations. When comparing the two notions, the smaller the difference, the more likely the audience will place a higher value on that particular media or communication channel. Additionally, the higher disparity indicates that people are deceived in some way<sup>64</sup>.

### **Use and Effect**

The pioneers of "uses and gratification" sought to accomplish two primary objectives. The first objective, which they have substantially accomplished, was to place a premium on the audience's wants in assessments of audience cognition<sup>64</sup>. The second objective was to determine the effect of media, which is evident in the majority of uses and pleasure models. According to the researchers, because people use media for a variety of purposes, accurately determining the influence of media is achievable only by understanding the purposes for which they are utilised<sup>64</sup>. The pioneers of this approach underlined the reality that people use media for a variety of reasons and are susceptible to its impacts. They believe that one individual enjoys a television programme in order to forget about his or her difficulties, while another enjoys it in order to learn about how a particular group lives in society. Can it be assumed that such a programme has a similar effect on both individuals? In other words, different sorts of uses produce varied results, and the type of use, its content, quantity, and method of use all play a role in forecasting results when consuming content<sup>64</sup>.

## **Uses and Gratification Theory in the 21st Century**

Traditionally, UGT has been used to evaluate how and why individuals utilise mass communication channels such as radio, television, and newspapers. This is despite the fact that some experts in mass communication assert that this theory is not as robust as other social science hypotheses. In a paper titled "uses and gratification theory in the twenty-first century," stating that every theorization in communication science is contingent on the uses and gratification theory<sup>64</sup>. Additionally, with the development of communication technologies, this hypothesis has grown in importance. Because these technologies present users with a variety of media, it is critical to investigate their demands, interests, and levels of satisfaction<sup>64</sup>. Previous research on cell phones and the Internet conducted within the context of the uses and gratification theory supports this findings<sup>64</sup>.

The aforementioned features should be incorporated in contemporary uses and gratification models since each one results in a variety of communication behaviour that should be evaluated and assessed<sup>64</sup>. Given the importance of the uses and gratification theory and its growing popularity in the twenty-first century, it is critical for researchers in this field to employ a holistic methodology and to assess the qualitative and interpersonal aspects of this approach more than ever before in order to more accurately assess communicative behaviour in the twenty-first century.

### **2.2.2.1 Relevance of the theory to this study**

The above theory becomes relevant to the study in the sense that it is concerned with how users seek media and their level of satisfaction with the media's type, content, and method of use. Hence, it addresses the students' choice of using the social media and engagement in journalism in accessing security challenges in Nigeria.

## **2.3 Review of Empirical Studies**

The role of social media in national security in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. For instance, an author reported that the extremist groups frequently used social media platforms to commit criminal

acts, collect support, promote ideology and propaganda, and also coordinate their activities as asserted in other literatures<sup>65</sup>. This bolstered the organization, posing a threat to state security. Apart from being used by terrorists and criminal gangs to coordinate their operations, the study revealed that social media may be used in a variety of ways to limit and prevent terrorist and criminal activity through online monitoring of information sharing and identification of security concerns. In a similar report, ISIS makes extensive use of online cyber warfare, including slick films, online messages propagating hate, and applications designed to radicalise, in addition to training a new generation of cyber jihadists. The group is able to convey their propaganda and ideologies to a large number of internet adherents worldwide via social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube <sup>66</sup>.

A study conducted in Kenya on the relationship between social media and national security risks, affirms that terrorists utilize social media for radicalisation, ideology dissemination, recruiting, communication, and training of their members, implying that terrorist organizations and criminal gangs are also using social media to interact with cybercriminals and disseminate propaganda. Further, increased cybercrime is a direct outcome of social media, and this has resulted in a nation's security being breached. There have been a rise in recent years in the number of cyber-attacks on national networks, and the ever-growing web of social media sites could be problematic for national cyber security. As a result of the growth of social media networks, a number of new problems to government openness and security have emerged<sup>67</sup>. Cybercrime occurs when someone with malicious purpose utilise electronics, mobile phones, and the internet to transmit messages with the intent of creating shame or harming others. Cyber bullies disguise their identity behind a computer. This enables cyber-crime perpetrators to operate anonymously<sup>66</sup>. The capacity to create fictitious or phony profiles has also simplified cyber bullying. These profiles provide you the freedom to say anything to another person without fear of repercussions. This has encouraged the propagation of hate speech and provocation, endangering the public's security and well-being. Anonymous blogging

has also facilitated cybercrime and fueled ethical discussion. This enables bloggers to disseminate material that, if not properly regulated, might jeopardise national security<sup>67</sup>.

In a study titled *The Impacts of Social Media on National Security: A View from Nigeria's Northern and South-Eastern Regions*, the authors used a quantitative research method involving online questionnaires to ascertain the impact of Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp as social media tools on the security challenges confronting Nigeria's northern and south-eastern regions<sup>46</sup>. The study discovered that Nigeria's security climate is extremely poor, that social media does not pose a threat to the country's national security, and that participants are unsure whether Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp have increased insecurity in the country's northern and south-eastern regions, among other findings. The data demonstrate that social media leads to a variety of rumor attacks, including the promotion of hate speech, tribal conflict, and terrorism acts. These factors contribute to a high level of insecurity and dangers to lives and property in the region and throughout the country.

In addition, the study discovered that information and events published on social media may work as a motivator for government security officers to prohibit and classify anti-government movements as terrorist organizations. Additionally, the analysis revealed that Boko Haram and IPOB were labeled terrorist organizations due to the massive amount of material available on Social Media concerning their actions. While the Boko Haram is globally recognised as a terrorist organisation, the IPOB's activities are markedly different from those of the Boko Haram. Their studies demonstrate that Social Media leads to a variety of rumor attacks, including the promotion of hate speech, tribal conflict, and terrorism strikes.

Another related study on *Social Media and Security Challenges in Nigeria* explored social media and security challenges in Nigeria and also proposed a way forward. The work is theoretical in nature, employing both descriptive and analytical techniques and based on the Technological Determinism

Theory<sup>48</sup>. The study highlighted that social media has played a significant role in Nigeria's security concerns. Thus, one of the proposals is that rules and legal frameworks be established to restrict bad social media use, and the government should ensure that such policies are fully implemented<sup>48</sup>.

In an exploratory investigation of the effect of social media on public awareness of police brutality in Nigeria, the purpose of the study was to examine how Nigerians use social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Whatsapp to communicate with the rest of the world and the Nigerian government in order to raise awareness about police brutality in Nigeria, which began with their request to abolish the SARS (Special Anti-Robbery Squad) department. Primary data was obtained from individuals using a Google form to ascertain their level of involvement in the campaign and their perception of the impact social media had on raising awareness<sup>38</sup>.

The findings indicate that social media was a critical factor in notifying the public and pressuring the government to act quickly on the matter, as we know that it was social media's involvement in the campaign that caused awareness to spread at the speed of light and compelled the Nigerian Police to accept responsibility for their actions, which may not have been intentional<sup>38</sup>. The outcome of the study differs from previous research in the sense that it focuses on the public's involvement and the impact of social media platforms in raising awareness<sup>38</sup>. The findings from the research indicated that the vast majority of respondents (95.4 percent) thought that social media is an extremely valuable instrument that has significantly aided in raising awareness about police brutality. While 69.7 percent of respondents agreed that increased awareness resulted in a swift response from the government as a result of social media's involvement, 67.3 percent agreed that social media alerted international bodies and the rest of the world to the Brutality, Torture, and Abuses Nigerians face at the hands of their Police Force<sup>38</sup>.

Another study on Social Media as the Pulse of National Security Threats; Examined effects of Social Media on Young people's safety and security situation picture<sup>68</sup>. The study examined social media as a platform for disinformation spreading, with the goal of reflecting the theoretical evolution of social media in the Finnish debate over national security. The empirical data was gathered by a survey of young Finns who were required to serve in the military. The study established the structure for the study project, which examines the agency of young people in social media. They are concerned specifically with issues of information influence, propaganda, and disinformation. In addition, they wish to explore how social media affects young people's perceptions of their safety and security.

The study also examined if social media conversation affects perceptions about personal and national security<sup>68</sup>. A similar study opposed that sensitive information which can jeopardize national peace and security must not be broadcasted or published in the name of press freedoms or freedom of expression<sup>69</sup>. The study also stated that information which incites one ethnic or religious group against the other or exposes military personnel to danger, especially during military operations should not be aired. This study clearly brings out how social media can jeopardise national security if not properly managed<sup>70</sup>.

Also, another study reviewed the details of security risks, threats and different attacks attached to the use of social media. Social media and Internet have generated different ways to communicate across the world. Tweets, sharing images, likes and comments are several ways to communicate among friend and families all over the world. In the past several years, social networking sites played a vital role to connect via Twitter, YouTube, My Space, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. Social media helps to create network with people, but social media websites possess several security risks to users and

organisations<sup>70</sup>. This paper provides an in-depth detail of threats, security risks and different types of attacks associated with using social media<sup>71</sup>.

The finding of another study revealed that the mass media needs to allocate specific air time and space to reports on terrorism, kidnapping and other forms of crime capable of breeding insecurity in the nation which will serve as a way of emphasising the negative impact of such acts on the society. The allotment of specific airtime and space to reporting terrorism, including sponsorship of reporters to embark on independent investigations of terrorist acts in the country were among the suggestions made by journalists in a study on how to combat terrorism through mass media strategies<sup>72</sup>. This will provide the needed reinforcement of the negative impact of such crimes on the society. The same way another study suggests that acts of terrorism and other acts of insecurity should be mentioned out in the open, describe them, ridicule them in the press and sooner or later, public opinion will sweep them away<sup>73</sup>. This could be a gradual but effective process. Citizens' journalism could play a vital role in the utilisation of the mass media to combat insecurity in Nigeria. Citizens' journalism which is also known as public, participatory, civic or street journalism consists of active participation of members of the public in news gathering and dissemination. It has variously been defined as members of the public playing an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, have really contributed so much in analysing and disseminating news and information,<sup>74</sup> a wide range of activities in which everyday people contribute information or commentary about news, secular process of passing information<sup>75,76</sup>.

In addition, a study on Social Media and insecurity issues in Nigeria revealed that Social media has really contributed so much in tracking perpetrators of crimes in the Nigerian state in the post COVID-19 pandemic era. Examples of such perpetrators of crime include kidnappers, armed robbers, rapists, assassins, among others. One can tell that one area where the social media have continued to

employ right from its assumption within the matrix of media surveillance is in relation to security, thus has contributed towards combating of terrorism. Further, Social Media platforms are used in advancing social and national insecurity, such as the situation in the northern and south-eastern parts of Nigeria. For some years now, terrorism and propaganda have engulfed the northern part of Nigeria by insurgent groups while separatist groups have also carried out demonstrations in the south-east, each of these groups use various kinds of online media to propagate their agenda.

Through the use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, the outrageous activities by these unpatriotic sects in the northern region are reported and the government of all level are usually aware of the daily happenings in the region. The kidnapping of the Chibok School Girls and other kidnapping activities in the region were made known to the general public through the use of Social Media. It is also through the reportage of Social Media that it was discovered that the hideout of the dreaded Boko Haram sect is Sambisa Forest. More so, the recent Fulani Herdsmen and farmers clashes in more than Fifteen (15) states in Nigeria were daily reported, which creates awareness to the general public<sup>77</sup>.

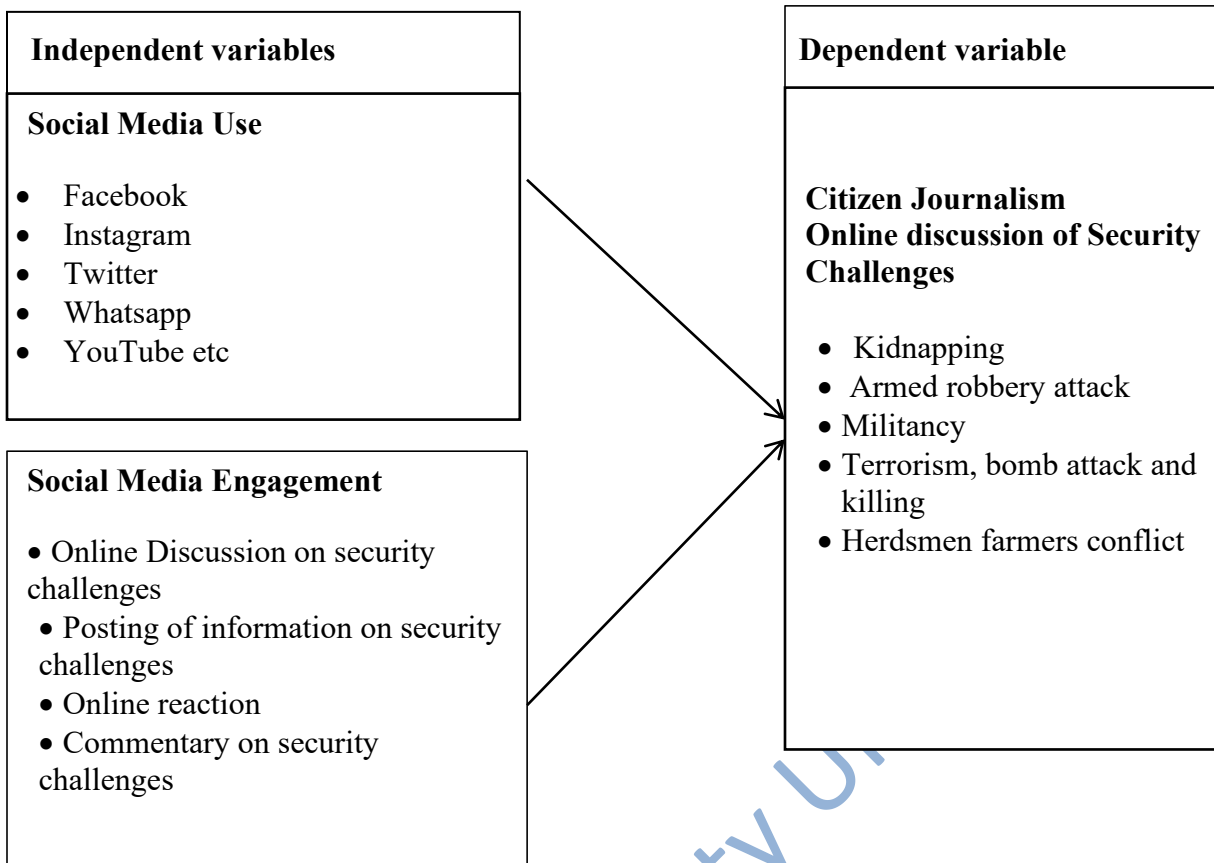
Another study also revealed that the #EndSARS demonstration in the Nigerian major cities by angry youths were captured and made known to the general public through the social media and the heinous killings of over Twenty Five (25) youths in Lekki Toll Gate was captured and immediately circulated through Social Media Platforms even when cameras at the Toll Gate were removed to avoid traces of such activities<sup>78</sup>.

In like manner, another study reported that the malicious attacks of police stations and killing of police and military officials in the Nigerian state by unidentified gunmen that has threatened the peace and harmony of the Nigerian state in the post COVID-19 pandemic were captured by secret viewers who ultimately shared through Social Media, and was subsequently and officially made

known through television and radio broadcast also, the secessionist activism by the members of the Indigenous People of Biafra and the Oduduwa republic agitators were also made known to the general public through elements of Social media. The response by the state government of the affected states and the central government was also made known through Social Media. Most times, the government may not be at peace with the Social Media when the general public uses Social Media platforms to escalate propagandas, which sometimes is fake news<sup>79</sup>.

#### **2.4 Conceptual Model**

The conceptual framework for the study depicts the study's independent and dependent variables; however, the model illustrates the relationship between social media use (*Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram*, for example) and its impact on security, both positively and negatively. Also, citizen engagement and government response are critical components of a good security system. That is, any nation's security is contingent upon or significantly influenced by citizen engagement and governance. Any failed government, such as many African nations, will confront significant challenges in terms of security, since hoodlums and criminals will exploit their casual attitude. The one-way arrow demonstrates that any nation's security is contingent upon public engagement and government response.



**Fig 2.1. Conceptual Model**

**Source: Author's Concept 2022**

In addition, social media can impact the attitudes of citizens. Citizen's participation can be used to create out cry and gather crowds and followers in order to sow instability, or it can be used as a source of information and alertness for increased security. Governments, on the other hand, can utilise social media to keep citizens informed about security issues, and security agencies can use it to provide crucial information about hot targets.

Through the usage of social media channels and messages, citizens are likely to have their attitudes changed; given the majority of Nigerian citizens have access to at least one of the social media platforms. Social media platforms can be used to transmit security alerts and messages across several platforms, as they enable a greater population of citizens to be reached. Social media campaigns can

have a direct or indirect effect on positive or bad changes, as in the case of an insecurity issue among a nation's inhabitants.

## **2.5. Summary of Gaps in Literature**

In the literature review, security challenges in Nigeria and Social Media were defined in terms of their general meaning and specific to the nation at large. Different theories have been discussed in literature to explain both concepts. Technological Determinism theory and uses and gratifications theory were also discussed and how this theory could explain the occurrence of security challenges and social media implications.

It is therefore important to note that all the literature examined social media and security challenges without accessing engagement in citizens' journalism and students social media use. Some of the literature authors discussed about social media involvement in improving security system but failed to communicate a clear understanding of the relationship between the issue of security, social media use and citizens' journalism.

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## Chapter Three

### Methodology

This chapter provides detailed information on the method used by the researcher to obtain data in this study.

#### 3.1. Research Design

The study adopted descriptive survey research design.

#### 3.2. Population of the Study

The population of this study comprises of students randomly selected from four different levels comprising of ND1, ND2, HND 1 and HND2 from the faculty of Business and Communication studies of The Polytechnic having four departments namely: Mass communication, Art and Design, Education and Political Science, Public Administration and Computer Science, but the age bracket ranges from 18 and above. The population according to the preliminary data collected from the administrative department of the institution is estimated at 18,000.

#### 3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample size for this study was determined and worked out using Taro Yamane's formula for determining sample size.

Taro Yamane's formula is presented as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{(1+N[e]^2)}, \text{ where } n = \text{sample size}$$

N = Population

1 = constant

e = Level of Significance chosen  $(0.05)^2$

Using Taro Yamane's formula, we have a sample size of 400:

$$n = \frac{N}{(1+N[e]^2)}$$

$$\frac{18,000}{(1 + 18,000[0.05]^2)}$$

$$\frac{18,000}{1 + 18,000(0.0025)}$$

$$\frac{18,000}{1 + 45}$$

$$\frac{18,000}{46}$$

$$n = 391.3$$

Therefore, the sample for the study was estimated at 391 when approximated to the nearest hundred for lucid and articulated analysis of the study. A sample of 400 was decided upon, as the most conservative for a 5 per cent error tolerance.

Further, the study adopted multi-stage sampling techniques. The first stage, involved the purposive selection of students and a combination of random and convenience sampling technique will be conducted among the students in the institution. The next stage involved the random selection of departments based on their sense/judgment of communication. Sample was drawn from four departments, they are: Mass Communication, Computer Science, Business Administration and Public Administration. Final stage involved the selection of students from the selected departments using snowballing sampling method for ease in identifying student based on referral.

This technique was adopted to make final selection as students are difficult to track down in the school premises and random sampling was employed to limit the administration of the questionnaire to certain level of students, moreover, identifying the HND1 students will be very difficult since the researcher is not familiar with the school environment and her students.

### 3.4 Description of the Research Instrument

The data for the study was collected using a questionnaire titled “Citizen Journalism Social Media Questionnaire (CiJoSoMeQ)”. The questionnaire was divided into five (5) sections as follows:

**3.4.1. Section A:** Contained demographic variables that provide background information about the respondents in terms of their age, gender, occupation, marital status, level of qualification, faculty, course of study and religion. The section comprises eight (8) items.

**3.4.2. Section B:** Gathered information about the social media platforms that were used in discussing Nigeria’s security challenges. The questionnaire included both structured and rating scale questions in addition to structured questions. A variety of rating measures have been developed to particularly examine attitudes. The most prevalent however was the Likert scale which was a five or seven point scale used to allow the individual to express how much they agree or disagree with a particular statement.<sup>3</sup>The rating scale in section B contained two points; Visible(V), Not Visible(NV).

**3.4.3. Section C:** gathered information on the level of participation in online discussions on Nigeria’s security challenges. It contained four points; Regularly (Re), Sometimes (So), Rarely (Ra), Never (Ne).

**3.4.4. Section D:** Included questions on the extent of involvement of students in citizen journalism regarding security challenges. It contained three points; Highly Involved (HI), Minimally Involved (MI), and Not Involved At All (NIAA)

**3.4.5. Section E:** This section gathered information on perception of students on social media use and security challenges in Nigeria. It contained four points; Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD). The questionnaire was self-designed by the researcher. This

research instrument was the most appropriate because it helped the researcher identify the characteristics of the representation of the population and also help in an almost accurate interpretation of the variables in the study.

### **3.5 Validation of the Research Instrument**

The drafted questionnaire was given to the supervisor to criticize and improved upon before the final draft of the questionnaire was tested for validity. Hence, the research instrument was scrutinized and carefully examined in measurement and evaluation for face, content and construct validity.

### **3.6 Reliability of the Instrument**

To ascertain the reliability of the instrument, the researcher conducted a pilot study among a group of respondents who were not part of the main study. The reliability of the instrument was tested using Cronbach's Alpha. The reliability coefficient of the instrument was found to be reliable as presented in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1: Reliability Value of the Research Instrument**

No	Sections in the Instrument	No of Items	Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient Value
1	<b>Section B:</b> Visibility on Social Media Platforms	18	.820
2	<b>Section C:</b> Level of engagement in online discussion on security challenges	18	.929
3	<b>Section D:</b> Extent of social media engagement in online discussion of security challenges	34	.882
4	<b>Section E:</b> Extent of social media engagement in citizen journalism regarding security	34	.902
5	<b>Section F:</b> Perception of students on social media use and engagement	27	.837

### **3.7 Method of Data Collection**

The researcher obtained permission to administer the copies of the questionnaire from the respective heads of departments covered in the study within the study location. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to HND 1 students across the four selected departments and were collected at once.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

The IBM Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) 2.0 was used to analyze the data gathered. The demographics of the participants and the study questions was computed using descriptive statistics comprising frequencies and percentages.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Julie Ponto, “Understanding and Evaluating Survey Research”, in *School of Advanced Practitioner in Oncology*, 6 (2015), 168-171

<sup>2</sup>Hammed Tahardoost, “Sampling Methods in Research Methodology: How to Choose a Sampling Technique for Research”, in *International Journal of Academic Research Management*, 2, (January 2016)

<sup>3</sup>Saul McLeod, “Likert Scale”, *Simply Psychology*, August 3, 2019, <https://www.simplypsychology.org/scale.html>

<sup>4</sup>Finn, T. (2014, June 17). Iraq Islamists Goes on Offensive on Instagram. Retrieved September 5, 2014

## Chapter Four

### Results and Discussion of Findings

This chapter discusses the presentation and analysis of data collected from the various respondents through the use of questionnaire. A summary of the major findings of this study is presented in line with the stated objectives and research questions.

#### 4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The demographic data revealed that four hundred and three (403) The Polytechnic Ibadan students were respondents in this study. Table 4.1 shows that majority 213 (52.9%) of the respondents were male students and 154 (38.2%) were female students while 36 (8.9%) of the respondents did not indicate their gender. Thus, the demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Demographic Information of the Respondents (N=403)**

<b>Variable</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Gender	Male	154	38.2%
	Female	213	52.9%
	Missing values	36	8.9%
Age	18 - 23yrs	234	58.1%
	24 - 29yrs	137	34.0%
	30 - 35yrs	20	5.0%
	36 – 40yrs	1	0.2%
	41 – 45yrs	-	-
	Missing values	11	2.7%
Course of Study	Computer	77	19.1%
	Mass Communication	195	48.4%
	Business Admin	18	4.5%
	Public Admin	113	28.0%
Marital Status	Single	347	86.1%
	Married	33	8.2%
	Separated	1	0.2%
	Divorced	5	1.2%
	Missing values	17	4.2%
Level	ND I	131	32.5%
	ND II	151	37.5%
	HND I	75	18.6%
	HND II	40	9.9%

	Missing values	6	1.5%
Religion	Christianity	256	63.5%
	Islam	130	32.3%
	Traditional	11	2.7%
	Missing values	6	1.5%

**Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).**

Table 4.1 revealed that majority (86.1%) of the students were single and also majority were within the age range of 18 – 23years (58.1). Based on the course of study, larger number of the respondents were from Mass Communication Department (48.5%), while 28.0% were from Public Administration department, 19.1% were from Computer Studies Department while 4.5% were from Business Administration Department.

## 4.2 Presentation of Data

### 4.2.1 Analysis of Research Questions

**Research Question One:** What are the social media platforms used by The Polytechnic Ibadan Students for online discussions on security challenges?

**Table 4.2a Use of social media platforms for online discussions on security challenges by The Polytechnic Ibadan Students?**

S/N	Social Media Platforms Used	Visible	Not Visible	Mean	Std. Dev.
1	Facebook	375 (93.5%)	28 (6.9%)	1.93	.255
2	Instagram	347 (86.1%)	56 (13.9%)	1.86	.346
3	Twitter	247 (61.3%)	156 (38.7%)	1.61	.488

4	WhatsApp	377 (93.1%)	26 (6.5%)	1.94	.246
5	LinkedIn	70 (17.4%)	333 (82.6%)	1.17	.379
6	YouTube	311 (77.2%)	92 (22.8%)	1.77	.420
7	TikTok	261 (64.8%)	142 (35.2%)	1.65	.478
8	Telegram	268 (66.5%)	135 (33.5%)	1.67	.473

**Table 4.2b Use of social media platforms for online discussions on security challenges by The Polytechnic Ibadan Students?**

S/N	Social Media Platforms Used	Visible	Not Visible	Mean	Std. Dev.
9	WeChat	59 (14.6%)	344 (85.4%)	1.15	.354
10	Snapchat	279 (69.2%)	124 (30.8%)	1.69	.462
11	Skype	75 (18.6%)	328 (81.4%)	1.19	.390
12	Pinterest	86 (21.3%)	317 (78.7%)	1.21	.410
13	Reddit	36 (8.9%)	367 (91.1%)	1.09	.286
14	Tumblr	29 (7.2%)	374 (92.8%)	1.07	.259

15	Baddo	41 (10.2%)	362 (89.8%)	1.10	.303
16	Line	25 (6.2%)	378 (6.9%)	1.06	.242
17	Meetup	43 (10.7%)	360 (89.3%)	1.11	.309
18	Vero	24 (6.0%)	379 (94.0%)	1.06	.237
Weighted mean = 1.40					

**Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).**

Table 4.2a and 4.2b shows the use of social media platforms for online discussions on security challenges by the Polytechnic Ibadan Students. The table revealed that only eight (8) social media platforms were majorly and frequently used by the majority of The Polytechnic Ibadan students (mean scores greater than the weighted mean of 1.40).

In summary, the major social media platforms used by the Polytechnic Ibadan Students are as follows: Facebook 375 (93.5%) mean 1.94; WhatsApp 377(98.1%) mean 1.93; Instagram 347(86.1%) mean 1.86; YouTube 311(77.2%) mean 1.77; Snapchat 279(69.2%) mean 1.69; Telegram 268(66.5%) mean 1.67; TikTok 261(64.8%) mean 1.65 and Twitter 247(61.3%) mean 1.61 among others.

**Research Question Two:** What is the extent to which The Polytechnic Ibadan students are engaged in online discussions on security challenges in Nigeria?

**Table 4.3a: Level of Engagement in Online Discussions on Security Challenges**

S/N	Social Media Platforms	Regularly	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Mean	Std. Dev
1	Facebook	297 (73.7%)	69 (17.1%)	18 (4.5%)	19 (4.7%)	3.60	0.784

2	Instagram	232 (57.6%)	92 (22.8%)	37 (9.2%)	42 (10.4%)	3.28	1.005
3	Twitter	167 (41.4%)	73 (18.1%)	53 (13.2%)	110 (27.3%)	2.74	1.254
4	WhatsApp	339 (84.1%)	24 (6.0%)	9 (2.2%)	31 (7.7%)	3.67	0.855
5	LinkedIn	47 (11.7%)	32 (7.9%)	37 (9.2%)	287 (71.2%)	1.60	1.049
6	YouTube	169 (41.9%)	107 (26.6%)	44 (10.9%)	83 (20.6%)	2.90	1.160
7	TikTok	161 (40.0%)	71 (17.6%)	37 (9.2%)	134 (33.3%)	2.64	1.303
8	Telegram	142 (35.2%)	74 (18.4%)	52 (12.9%)	135 (33.5%)	2.55	1.275

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).

Table 4.3b: Level of Engagement in Online Discussions on Security Challenges

S/N	Social Media Platforms	Regularly	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Mean	Std. Dev
9	WeChat	44 (10.9%)	28 (6.9%)	32 (7.9%)	299 (74.2%)	1.55	1.022
10	Snapchat	147 (36.5%)	79 (19.6%)	41 (10.2%)	136 (33.7%)	2.59	1.285
11	Skype	29 (7.2%)	29 (7.2%)	41 (10.2%)	304 (75.4%)	1.46	0.909
12	Pinterest	34 (8.4%)	42 (10.4%)	43 (10.7%)	284 (70.5%)	1.57	0.981
13	Reddit	18 (4.5%)	32 (7.9%)	28 (6.9%)	325 (80.6%)	1.36	0.812
14	Tumblr	22 (5.5%)	16 (4.0%)	26 (6.5%)	339 (84.1%)	1.31	0.788
15	Badoo	21 (5.2%)	14 (3.5%)	32 (7.9%)	336 (83.4%)	1.31	0.772
16	Line	17	15	29	342	1.27	0.726

		(4.2%)	(3.7%)	(7.2%)	(84.9%)		
17	Meetup	19 (4.7%)	24 (6.0%)	23 (5.7%)	337 (83.6%)	1.32	0.788
18	Vero	13 (3.2%)	16 (4.0%)	26 (6.5%)	348 (86.4%)	1.24	0.676

**Weighted mean = 2.11**

**Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).**

Table 4.3a Table 4.3b shows the level of engagement of Polytechnic of Ibadan students in online discussions on security challenges. The table revealed that the Polytechnic of Ibadan students engaged in online discussion to a great extent via the use of WhatsApp 339(84.1%), Twitter 167 (73.7%), Facebook 297 (72.3%) and Instagram 232 (57.6%) (mean scores ranging from 2.55 to 3.60 greater than the weighted mean of 2.11)

However, the level at which students engaged in other social media such as LinkedIn 47(11.7%), WeChat 44(10.9%), Skype 29(7.2%), Pinterest 34(8.4%), Reddit 18(4.5%), Tumblr 22(5.5%), Badoo 21(5.2%), Line 17(4.2%), Meetup 19(4.7%) and Vero 13(3.2%) was at low extent (mean scores less than weighted mean of 2.11). The implication of this is that, students were not only using these eight (*WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, Telegram, TikTok and Twitter*) social media, but also were using them to a very great extent in online discussion on security challenges.

**Research Question Three:** What is the extent to which the Polytechnic Ibadan students involve in citizen journalism regarding security challenges in Nigeria?

**Table 4.4a: Involvement in Citizen Journalism Regarding Security Challenges in Nigeria**

S/N	Dissemination of content on issues relating to:	Highly involved	Minimally involved	Not involved at all	Mean	Std. Dev
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1	Bomb attacks leading to killings	124 (30.8%)	121 (30.0%)	158 (39.2%)	1.92	.833
2	Kidnapping of School children	142 (35.2%)	124 (30.8%)	137 (34.0%)	2.01	.833
3	Kidnapping of commuters / villagers and farmers	115 (28.5%)	127 (32.5%)	161 (40.0%)	1.89	.821
4	Banditry leading to robbery attacks	126 (31.3%)	124 (30.8%)	153 (38.0%)	1.93	.830
5	Political thuggery and gang activities	126 (31.3%)	114 (28.3%)	163 (40.4%)	1.91	.843
6	Brutal killing by Bandits	128 (31.8%)	107 (26.6%)	168 (41.7%)	1.90	.852
7	Religious violence and killing	133 (33.0%)	113 (28.0%)	157 (39.0%)	1.94	.847
8	Unknown gunmen attacks among rural dwellers	118 (29.3%)	113 (28.0%)	172 (42.7%)	1.87	.839
9	Community clashes on boundary issues	104 (25.8%)	118 (29.3%)	181 (44.9%)	1.81	.820
10	Intertribal conflicts at market and local communities	86 (21.3%)	132 (32.8%)	185 (45.9%)	1.75	.783

Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).

**Table 4.4b: Involvement in Citizen Journalism Regarding Security Challenges in Nigeria**

S/N	Dissemination of content on issues relating to:	Highly involved	Minimally involved	Not involved at all	Mean	Std. Dev
11	Freedom fighting e.g. Biafra/IPOB, Odua etc	111 (27.5%)	102 (25.3%)	190 (47.1%)	1.80	.843
12	Oil bunkering and piracy	96 (23.8%)	107 (26.6%)	200 (49.6%)	1.74	.818
13	Car theft and snatching	100	120	183	1.79	.813

		(24.8%)	(29.8%)	(45.4%)		
14	Internet fraud/cybercrime(yahoo yahoo)	140 (34.7%)	100 (24.8%)	163 (40.4%)	1.94	.866
15	Rape and killings	159 (39.5%)	89 (22.1%)	155 (38.5%)	2.01	.884
16	Illegal possession of fire arms by individuals and gangs	91 (22.6%)	130 (32.3%)	182 (45.2%)	1.77	.792
17	Drug peddling and drug dealings	109 (27.0%)	101 (25.1%)	193 (47.9%)	1.79	.841
18	Highway robbery	107 (26.6%)	124 (30.8%)	172 (42.7%)	1.84	.817
19	Armed robbery	126 (31.3%)	113 (28.0%)	164 (40.7%)	1.91	.844
20	Jihadism(militant Islamic movement-holy war)	73 (18.1%)	93 (23.1%)	237 (58.8%)	1.59	.779

**Weighted Mean = 1.85**

**Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).**

Table 4.4a and 4.4b shows the extent to which the Polytechnic Ibadan students involve in citizen journalism regarding security challenges in Nigeria. The table revealed that the level of involvement of The Polytechnic Ibadan students in citizen journalism regarding security challenges is very high in the relation to; Kidnapping of School children 142(35.2%), Rape and killings 159(39.5%), Internet fraud/cybercrime(yahoo yahoo) 140(34.7%), Religious violence and killing 133(33.0%), Banditry leading to robbery attacks 126(31.3%), Bomb attacks leading to killings 124(30.8%), Armed robbery 126(31.3%), Political thuggery and gang activities 126(31.3%), Unknown gunmen attacks among rural dwellers 118(29.3%), Kidnapping of commuters/villagers and farmers 115(28.5%), Unknown gunmen attacks among rural dwellers 118(29.3%)

Findings implies that out of the 20 related issues raised in relations to research question three, students were frequently involved in 11 contents listed in their involvement.

**Research Question Four:** What is the perception of the Polytechnic Ibadan Students on the use of social media in discussing security challenges in Nigeria?

**Table 4.5a: Perception of Students on Social Media Use and Engagement In Online Discussion Regarding Security Challenges In Nigeria**

S/N	Statement	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Mean	Std. Dev
1	Social media popularity is a threat to security in Nigeria	144 (35.7%)	81 (20.1%)	66 (16.4%)	112 (27.8%)	2.64	1.227
2	Social media platforms have contributed to insecurity challenges in Nigeria	119 (29.5%)	111 (27.5%)	79 (19.6%)	94 (23.3%)	2.63	1.137
3	Online discussion of	116	104	95	88	2.62	1.119

	security matters on Social Media has led to several forms of insecurity in Nigeria	(28.8%)	(25.8%)	(23.6%)	(21.8%)		
4	Online discussion on Social Media contributes to reporting crimes in Nigeria	192 (47.6%)	112 (27.8%)	39 (9.7%)	60 (14.9%)	3.08	1.079
5	Social media provides terrorist with opportunities to attack people through online tracking	130 (32.3%)	132 (32.8%)	62 (15.4%)	15.4 (19.6%)	2.78	1.102
6	Online discussion on Social Media encourages misinformation	131 (32.5%)	122 (30.3%)	70 (17.4%)	80 (19.9%)	2.75	1.112
7	Online discussion on Social Media spreads uncontrollable threats	124 (30.8%)	124 (30.8%)	72 (17.9%)	83 (20.6%)	2.72	1.111
8	Information provided by eye witnesses of breaking events are easily accessible through the social media	176 (43.7%)	133 (33.0%)	34 (8.4%)	60 (14.9%)	3.05	1.057
<b>Weighted mean = 2.83, N = 403; Decision mean = 2.50</b>							

**Table 4.5b: Perception of Students on Social Media Use and Engagement In Online Discussion Regarding Security Challenges In Nigeria**

S/N	Statement	Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed	Mean	Std. Dev
9	Citizens have easy access to security personnel (e.g. police) through online discussion on social media.	141 (35.0%)	129 (32.0%)	56 (13.9%)	77 (19.1%)	2.83	1.108
10	Online discussion on Social media provides information on security issues faster than other	207 (51.4%)	106 (26.3%)	30 (7.4%)	60 (14.9%)	3.14	1.080

	traditional sources(TV, radio)						
11	Online discussion on Social media helps in curtailing security challenges in Nigeria through its promptness	140 (34.7%)	145 (36.0%)	51 (12.7%)	67 (16.6%)	2.89	1.063
12	Citizens with negative motives easily mobilize supporters to their side through online discussion on social media	138 (34.2%)	137 (34.0%)	54 (13.4%)	74 (18.4%)	2.84	1.090
13	Social media use aids coordination and recruitment of terrorist groups	102 (25.3%)	111 (27.5%)	100 (24.8%)	90 (22.3%)	2.56	1.097
14	Exposure to sensitive contents(e.g. mutilated body parts by ritualist) on social media can affect viewers emotionally	161 (40.0%)	113 (28.0%)	48 (11.9%)	81 (20.1%)	2.88	1.145
15	Location data on social media can be used to target victims by fraudsters	170 (42.2%)	128 (31.8%)	44 (10.9%)	61 (15.1%)	3.01	1.067
16	Misinformation through online discussion on social media could have negative influence on citizens	168 (41.7%)	118 (29.3%)	47 (11.7%)	70 (17.4%)	2.95	1.109
<i>Weighted mean = 2.83, N = 403; Decision mean = 2.50</i>							

**Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).**

Table 4.5a and 4.5b shows the perception of Students on the use of social media in discussing security challenges in Nigeria. The table revealed that the Polytechnic of Ibadan students have positive perception on the use of social media in discussing security challenges and also agreed that: Social media popularity is a threat to security in Nigeria 144(35.7%), Social media platforms have contributed to insecurity challenges in Nigeria 119(29.5%), Online discussion of security matters on Social Media has led to several forms of insecurity in Nigeria 116(28.8%), Social media provides terrorist with opportunities to attack people through online tracking 130(32.3%)

Again, online discussion on Social Media encourages misinformation 131(32.5%), online discussion on Social Media spreads uncontrollable threats 124(30.8%) and Social media use aids coordination and recruitment of terrorist groups 102 (25.3%) (Mean scores less than the weighted mean score of 2.83). However, in general, students have good and adequate perception on the use of social media in discussing national security challenges (weighted mean of 2.83 greater than the general decision mean of 2.50).

#### 4.2.2 Hypotheses

$H_0^1$ ; There is no significant difference in the level of engagement in online discussions on security challenges by the polytechnic students based on course of study

$H_0^2$ ; There is no significant difference in the perception of the social media use in discussing security challenges in Nigeria based on course of study

**Research Hypothesis One:** There is no significant difference in the level of engagement in online discussions on security challenges by the polytechnic students based on course of study

**Table 4.6: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of Level of Engagement of the Polytechnic Students Based on Course of Study**

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	793.021	3	264.340	2.582	.053
Within Groups	40849.550	399	102.380		
Total	41642.571	402			

**Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).**

Table 4.6 shows the ANOVA of level of engagement in online discussions on security challenges by the polytechnic students based on course of study. The table revealed that there is no significant difference in the level of engagement in online discussions on security challenges by the polytechnic students based on course of study (p-value of 0.053 greater than 0.05 level of confidence).

The implication of this is that, course of study does not determine the level of engagement on the use of social media. In other words, level of engagement does not depend on the course of study of the individual student.

**Research Hypothesis Two:** There is no significant difference in the perception of the social media use in discussing security challenges in Nigeria based on course of study

**Table 4.7: Analysis of Variance (Anova) of Perception of the Social Media Use in Discussing Security Challenges in Nigeria Based on Course of Study**

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	61.137	3	20.379	.132	.941
Within Groups	61614.774	399	154.423		
Total	61675.911	402			

**Source: Researcher's Fieldwork (2022).**

Table 4.7 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of perception of the social media use in discussing security challenges in Nigeria based on course of study. The table revealed that there was no significant difference in the perception of social media use in discussing security challenges in Nigeria based on course of study (p-value of 0.941 greater than 0.05 level of confidence.

This implies that, course of study does not determine how the students perceive the use of social media as it relates to discussing security challenges in Nigeria.

### **4.3 Discussion of Findings**

This study was carried out to investigate Social Media use and engagement in citizens' journalism regarding security challenges in Nigeria among The Polytechnic Ibadan students. This section presents this discussion of the results relating it with prior studies. The demographic information revealed that majority of the students are males when compared to their female counterparts 52.9% of the respondents were male students and 38.2% were female students while 8.9% of the respondents did not indicate their gender. Majority of the students were single (86.1%) and also majority were within the age range of 18–23years (58.1%). Based on the course of study, larger number of the respondents were from Mass Communication Department (48.5%), while 28.0% were from Public Administration department, 19.1% were from Computer Studies Department while 4.5% were from Business Administration Department. Furthermore, it was revealed that most of the students are within 18-23 (58.1%) and 24-29 (34%) years of age. Majority of the students, 151 (37.5%) are in NDII and 131 (32.5%) are in NDI. However, 75 (18.6%) and 40 (9.9%) are HNDI and HNDII respectively. This result agrees with the findings in a work on use of social media for knowledge sharing among students<sup>1</sup>. The study which revealed that majority It was also revealed that majority of the respondents were between age 15-25 (70.5%). Also majority 53(19.6%) in ND I, 105(38.7%) are in ND II. Further, the findings support the work on knowledge, sexual behaviors and

risk perception of sexually transmitted infections among students of the polytechnic, Ibadan, Oyo state<sup>2</sup>. Which revealed that the socio demographic characteristics of the students presented indicate that there were more males than females. The age of the respondents ranged from 15 to 45 years with a mean age of  $22 \pm 3.4$ .

Research question one revealed that only eight (8) social media platforms were majorly and frequently used by The Polytechnic Ibadan students. The major social media platforms used by the Polytechnic Ibadan Students are: *Facebook* (93.5%), *WhatsApp* (93.1%), *Instagram* (86.1%), *YouTube* (77.2%), *Snapchat* (69.2%), was the most frequently used by the students. This corroborates the findings in a work on the use of social media for knowledge sharing among students<sup>1</sup>. Majority of the students used *Facebook* (74.5%) and *Whatsapp* (72.0%).

However, the students did not use the other types of social media tools like they used Facebook and Whatsapp. Thus the students mainly used Facebook and Whatsapp daily whereas the other types of social media tools were minimally used by them. The use of other types of social media (Instagram, Twitter, Telegram, Snapchat etc) by the students in this study was improved compared to previous literatures due the spread of COVID-19 which made social media handles more relevant for information accessibility.

The result is also in line with a research conducted in Federal University of Technology, Minna to explore the use of social networking sites (SNS) by engineering students<sup>3</sup>. 75% of the respondents use *Facebook* for educational purposes. 83% of the respondents were aware that *Facebook* is one of the most preferable social networking sites used by engineers while the other. However, 83% agreed that *Facebook* allows engineers to have access to expert advice and mentorship from professionals in their field of study through a group created for such purpose. 82% agreed that *Facebook* allows engineering student to get noticed as an upcoming professional in their field of study. 82% agreed

that *Facebook* allows engineers to have access to latest technologies shared by professionals in their field of study. 83% agreed that *Facebook* allows upcoming engineers to find influencers/ mentors in their field of study and follow their posts. 80% agreed that *Facebook* gives professionals opportunity to initiate discussions in their field of study. Therefore, an average of 82.9% agreed to be aware of the various usage of *Facebook* by professionals in the field of engineering.

Research question two revealed that the Polytechnic of Ibadan students engaged in online discussion to a great extent via the use of *WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, Telegram, TikTok* and *Twitter*. The implication of this is that, students were not only using these eight (*WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, Telegram, TikTok* and *Twitter*) social media, but also were using them to a very great extent in online discussion on security challenges.

Research question three revealed that the level of involvement of Polytechnic students in citizen journalism regarding security challenges is very high in the areas of; kidnapping of school children, rape and killings, internet fraud/cybercrime(yahoo yahoo), religious violence and killing, banditry leading to robbery attacks, bomb attacks leading to killings, armed robbery, political thuggery and gang activities, unknown gunmen attacks among rural dwellers, kidnapping of commuters/villagers and farmers, unknown gunmen attacks among rural dwellers.

Research question four revealed that students have good and adequate perception on the use of social media in discussing national security challenges. Although, some disagreed that: social media popularity is a threat to security in Nigeria; social media platforms have contributed to insecurity challenges in Nigeria; online discussion of security matters on social Media has led to several forms of insecurity in Nigeria; social media provides terrorist with opportunities to attack people through online tracking; online discussion on social Media encourages misinformation online discussion on Social Media spreads uncontrollable threats; and social media use aids coordination and recruitment

of terrorist groups. This corroborates the findings in a work on students' perceptions of the use of social media in higher education in Saudi Arabia<sup>4</sup>. Which indicated that all of the students were familiar with social media and had used at least one type of social media for learning. It was found out that all students had very positive attitudes towards the use of social media and welcomed using these tools as a supplementary to the curriculum.

Hypothesis one shows there is no significant difference in the level of engagement in online discussions on security challenges by the polytechnic students. This supports the findings that neither Facebook, Twitter nor WhatsApp can be regarded as the root cause of social or national insecurity in the northern and south-eastern parts of Nigeria<sup>5</sup>. Also, the findings prove that social media contributes towards various kinds of rumour attacks, promoting hate speech, tribal clashes and terrorism attacks. These lead to high level of insecurity and threats to lives and properties in the region and country at large.

Hypothesis two revealed that there was no significant difference in the perception of social media use in discussing security challenges in Nigeria based on course of study. This however opposed the findings in a work on students' perceptions of the use of social media in higher education in Saudi Arabia<sup>4</sup>.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Omotayo FO & Salami MO. Use of social media for knowledge sharing among students. Asian Journal of Information Science and Technology. 2018;8(2):65-75.

<sup>2</sup>Oharume IM. Knowledge, sexual behaviours and risk perception of sexually transmitted infections among students of the polytechnic, Ibadan, Oyo state. African Health Sciences. 2020 Apr 20;20(1):39-44.

<sup>3</sup>Victoria OY, Elizabeth AO, Adepeju AO, Ayodeji BO & Abdulbasit OM. Exploring the Use of Social Networking Sites (SNS) By Engineering Students: A Case Study of Federal University of Technlonogy, Minna.

<sup>4</sup>Alshehri O & Lally V. Students' perceptions of the use of social media in higher education in Saudi Arabia. **International Journal of Educational and Pedagogical Sciences**. 2019 Jan 7;13(1):28-31.

<sup>5</sup>Chukwuere JE & Onyebukwa CF. The impacts of social media on national security: A view from the Northern and South-Eastern Region of Nigeria. **International Review of Management and Marketing**. 2018;8(5):50.

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## Chapter Five

### Conclusion

This chapter focuses on the summary of findings, conclusions, recommendations based on the findings of the study, contribution to knowledge and the areas of further research.

#### 5.1 Summary of Findings

This study was carried out to investigate the Polytechnic Ibadan students social media use, engagement in citizen's journalism and security challenges in Nigeria among the Polytechnic Ibadan students. Finding revealed that that majority (52.9%) of the students are males when compared to their female counterparts (38.2%), while 8.9% of the respondents did not indicate their gender. Majority of the students were single (86.1%) and also majority were within the age range of 18–23years (58.1%). Also, larger number of the respondents were Mass Communication Department (48.5%), while 28.0% were from Public Administration department, 19.1% were from Computer Studies Department while 4.5% were from Business Administration Department. Also, majority of the students, 151 (37.5%) are in NDII and 131 (32.5%) are in NDI, while 75 (18.6%) and 40 (9.9%) are HNDI and HNDII respectively.

In summary, findings from the research question shows that the major social media platforms used by the Polytechnic Ibadan Students are: *Facebook (93.5%)*, (Weighted mean = 1.40) *Whatsapp (93.1%)*, *Instagram (86.1%)* and *Twitter (61.3%)*, was the most frequently used by the students. Also, the Polytechnic of Ibadan students engaged in online discussion to a great extent via the use of *WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Telegram, TikTok and Twitter*.

Further, level of involvement of Polytechnic students in citizen journalism regarding security challenges is very high. Moreover, students have good and adequate perception on the use of social media in discussing national security challenges.

The findings from the hypotheses revealed there was no significant difference in the level of engagement in online discussions on security challenges by the polytechnic students. Also, there was no significant difference in the perception of social media use in discussing security challenges in Nigeria based on course of study.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that majority of The Polytechnic Ibadan students' use social media often and also engaged in citizen's journalism. Also, the Polytechnic of Ibadan students engaged in online discussion to a great extent via the use of *WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Telegram, TikTok* and *Twitter*. It was also concluded that the level of involvement of Polytechnic students in citizen journalism regarding security challenges is very high and students have good perception on the use of social media in discussing national security challenges. Further, The Polytechnic Ibadan Students' social media use do not have influence on security challenges in Nigeria and the findings could serve as a theory for further research on the topic

## **5.3 Recommendations**

On the basis of the findings, it can therefore be recommended that:

1. The use of other social media platforms should be encouraged in order to all students have wider access to information.

2. Students level of engagement in online discussions using other social media platforms like Tumblr, Pinterest, Reddit etc should also be assessed;
3. Students should be trained on citizen journalism regarding security challenges in Nigeria to avoid misuse of social media in spreading false news which may jeopardize the country's security;
4. Proper orientation on the use of social media to security challenges in Nigeria should be available for the students as fake news are likely to aggravate insecurity

#### **5.4 Contribution to Knowledge**

This study contributes to knowledge as follows:

1. The study has provided better clarifications on useful concepts and constructs of interest in the study; i.e. social media. Citizen journalism and security.
2. Empirically, this study adds to the pool of studies by showing that there is a no significant relationship between Polytechnic Ibadan students social media use, engagement in citizen's journalism and security challenges in Nigeria. Hence, study closes the gap in empirical literature.
3. The instrument developed and validated in this study is a major contribution to knowledge; this will be of great importance to the researchers exploiting the power of the new media use in measuring citizen journalism engagement on security challenges in Nigeria.
4. The conceptual model designed for this study is a contribution to knowledge as such it can be adopted and/or modified by other researchers for future research studies

## 5.5 Suggestions for Further Research

The following are the suggestions for further research:

1. In order to develop sufficient empirical literature on the topic, it is recommended that additional research be conducted on the effects of social media use on National security.
2. This study was only carried out in Polytechnic Ibadan and thus implying that the findings are only limited to this school in the state.
3. Additional study can be conducted on challenges of social media use on information security and election campaigns
4. More research can be done on the use of social media in curbing election malpractice in Ibadan