

ABATING INSECURITY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

BLESSING OSAYEMWENRE OMOROGHOMWAN*

ABSTRACT

Nigeria is rated among the most insecure countries globally, mainly because of its weak, inactive, monotonous and debilitating policing structure. However, with the current logistics and funding intervention in the Nigeria Police, there was a positive effect on abating security challenges in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Effective utilization of security intelligence gathering could possibly resolve security threats if Nigerian Police operational and tactical strategies are enhanced. This article upholds that despite the positive effect that security intelligence collection and evaluation have on abating insecurity, security threats still stands tall in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region and the unwillingness of community stakeholders to give police security details concerning their community is sequel upon their lack of trust, confidence and uninformed nature of how they could intervene. We recommend that stakeholders should be fully encouraged in all ramifications to involve in policing activities such as becoming police informants and assisting the police with security intelligence in the communities of the Niger Delta Region.

Keywords: insecurity, policing, intelligence gathering, community, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Security stands as an essential concept for alleviating threats on cherished values, objects or groups to pursue socio-political ambitions of human survival. (Williams, 2008, Andrejevic, 2017, Edwards, Urquhart, 2016, Levine, Tisch, Tasso, Joy, 2017) Security, hitherto, has always been connected to human survival; conceptualizing it was the essential condition for safety, confidence, free from danger and fear. (Booth, 2007, Van Brakel, De Hert, 2011, Tayebi, Glässer, 2016) Security has no meaning when we do not understand what is to be secure. There is a controversial debate whether security should be centered on the state or on the

* PhD, Department of Sociology, Federal University of Kashere, Kashere, Gombe State; e-mail: omoroghomwanblessing@fukashere.edu.ng; blessynet@yahoo.com; blessynet@gmail.com.

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people and while some scholars make reference to the state, other social analysts challenge it with intellectual discourse and prioritized humans' security without which security makes no sense. (Rothschild 1995, McSweeney, 1999, Heaton, 2000, Hipp, 2007, Nadal, Davidoof, 2015) Whether it be state or humans' security, dealing with its challenges is essential towards actualizing human dignity.

The gamut of security challenges blistering Nigeria's survival, co-existence and national integration has currently mired the nation to a state of obfuscation. The country has long been faced with severe security challenges critical to its preparedness to attain its desires, its political, social and economic height as pertaining to the largest economy in Africa. Global rating of its ability and capacity of protection has placed Nigeria in the range of the most insecure countries in the world. (Imhonopi, Urim, 2012, Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015) This position is underestimated considering the vast threat to human existence, the absence of safe environment, the presence of prevailing dangers preventing goal achievement, the loss of confidence in governance, the desecrated health care and social services provision and, the ultimate, the debilitated policing structure Nigeria currently is faced with. (Ukeje, 2010, Imhonopi, Urim, 2012, Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015, Andrejevic, 2017)

Insecurity has caused untold hardship for Nigerians, leaving nothing behind but ruins of loss reaching alarming dimensions. Evidence abounds in the death toll of innocent civilians and security personnel; agencies and government workers being engaged in mitigating the wanton effects of this malady. In the nation's six geo-political zone, there is an increasing number of insecurity-laden violence and crime, such as kidnapping, rape, prostitution, child trafficking and molestation, ritual killings, car hackings, suicide bombings, religious aggression and killings, politically-motivated killings and violence, ethnic clashes; also, attacks of armed bandits and others have increased, thus making it a regular signature for living among the people. (Ukeje, 2010, Imhonopi, Urim, 2012, Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015, Menyonu, Orebiyi, Eze, Odii, Onyemauwa, Eririogu, 2015, Andrejevic, 2017)

These security challenges obviously do not only clog sustainable national development, but disrupt social life of the people, regularly coated with fear and worries, unsafe feeling of stranger intruding into their homes, properties, farmlands to harm them and their family members, fear of the clashes in their neighborhood; the fear of attack on them in the church, farm, market, school and other social gathering (Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, CLEEN, 2015).

The Niger Delta Region of Nigeria is globally known as the 'Speedy Wealth Hub Region' of the nation. The region, with over 25 percent of Nigeria total population and occupying a 7.5% Nigeria's land mass, is made of nine states of which six states from the South-South region and the additional three states from South-East (2 states) and South West (1 state) respectively. (CLEEN, 2015, Olodo, 2015). Despite its rich and vast human and material resources, the region is

characterized by the large absence of infrastructural facilities, by limited social services, weak prospect of economic growth and development, inadequacy in educational facilities, living and neighbourhood distortion, failure in rule of law and governance. (Imhonopi, Urim, 2012, Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015, Menyonu, Orebiyi, Eze, Odii, Onyemauwa, Eririogu, 2015, Andrejevic, 2017), all this instigating underdevelopment and poverty in the region. The state of poverty and underdevelopment caused by these aforementioned features has continued to foster insecurity in the region. Intra-communal crises, inter-ethnic clashes, inter-state boundary conflicts and wars are signatures of the growing level of insecurity in the region. (Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015) The complexity of insecurity in the region has the ability to continually breed large number of young adults and men, who no longer have hope of achieving and fulfilling their ambition through legitimate means, into violent crimes most especially in the rural communities of the region. The general security challenges of the rural communities in the Niger Delta Region have twisted the people's safe haven to where fear and insecurity define their social life.

A nation's inability to protect and provide necessary security for her people indicate a sign of weak policing apparatus. There is therefore a strong indication that Nigeria as a nation, with the growing security challenges roving round, has shown to the global community that she lacks the capacity to discharge its security mandate to the people. Nigerian Policing apparatus, the Nigerian Police Force, over the years even till now operates a monotonous and a non-strategizing policing system. (Ukeje, 2010, CLEEN, 2015, Olodo, 2015) The Force is clogged with its dogmatic and rigid structural approach towards policing the nation. The open structural, institutional and functional information dissemination channel which ought to invoke a strong consultative intelligent gathering procedure is currently not practicable in the Nigeria Police Force because they still uphold to the obscure operational policing values and ethics as operated by the colonial policing structure where they see themselves as sole provider of security with or without sensitive security information from the people. Partnership lacuna between police and the public creates gap in Nigeria current policing activities. Nigerian Police inability to access security intelligence from the public results from the existing distrust for the Nigeria Police. The Force has difficulty in developing partnership with stakeholders in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region for constructive information sharing. The dearth and lack of intelligent gathering on critical security details constitute a major problem why insecurity has not been abated in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. Police intelligent gathering is consequential on the long existing cultural and communication sharing relationship between the police and the public. Acknowledging the role of effective intelligent gathering in addressing insecurity, this article propose making an initial effort to advanced knowledge on how effective is Nigerian Police Force intelligent gathering in abating security challenges in the rural communities of the Niger Delta

Region of Nigeria with critical emphasis on stakeholders involvement in assisting the police to gather intelligent. If the knowledge advanced shows positive effect, hypothesis will be formulated and tested on to what extent the involvement of stakeholders in intelligent gathering would abate insecurity in the region.

1. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

The concept of policing signifies the process of governing a city or a state. It could also refer to an institutional function performed for social regulation and reproduction process that governs the everyday lives of the citizens. (Rosenbaum, Schuck, Graziano, Stephens, 2007, Van Brakel, De Hert, 2011, Tayebi, Glässer, 2016) Policing is not associated with the particular activities of a specific institution but rather with multiple but interrelated activities likely performed either separately or collectively to achieve the goal of social regulation. (Santos, 2014) Policing is needful because it helps to regulate society and maintain order, preserve security, prevent crime, respond to crime and restore order. (Inayatullah, 2013, Kump, Alonso, Yang, Candella, Lewin, Wernick, 2016, Edwards, Urquhart, 2016) Policing is use as instruments of coercion only by the state because as citizens, our right, power and privileges have been surrendered to the state for collective management and control. (Nadal, Davidoof, 2015)

Policing and its strategies are as old as human existence. Modern Policing principles and practices ideation emanate from Sir Robert Peel Metropolitan Police principle of 1829. The history of policing is permeated with the idea that society should police itself and that citizens are jointly and severally responsible for the maintenance of law and order in their locality. (Darroch, 2009) African policing functional and structural architecture is rooted in adopted British colonial style of policing which is still a reflection of today's modern policing style at large in the continent. (Alemika, Chukwuma, 2000, Dike, 2010) The adopted British colonial style of policing, that subjugated and dominated Africans, permitted little or no representation from ethnic communities both in physical participation, decision making and intelligent information gathering. The British policing mandates were to protect trade route, expatriates and expatriate interest, called up for military tasks particularly for border protection, undermining Africans safety and protection. (Alemika, Chukwuma, 2000, Hazen, Horner, 2007, Dike, 2010) The policing ideology inherited by Nigerian Police from the colonial policing was brutal, hierarchical, centralized system, separated from the people and their communities which they serve; basing their mandates on the ruling elite and not the people. (Alemika, 1988, Alemika, Chukuma, 2000) This disconnect between the police and the people they serve promoted lack of community trust and belief in the policing architecture driven by a non-linear progression towards Western Policing Model. (Darroch, 2009, Santos, 2014, Tayebi, Glässer, 2016) Western policing model of

addressing security challenges accents more on intelligent gathering and proactive policing. Understanding what Police Intelligent gathering is could help us thrust further on the need for Nigerian policing architecture to incorporate collaborative and consultative policing with community stakeholders in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

Intelligent gathering is an act of gaining more than useful knowledge of an event before adequate response is made towards that event. (Maguire, John, 1995; Maguire, 1999; Rosenbaum, Schuck, Graziano, Stephens, 2007; Darroch, 2009) Intelligent gathering refers to a systematic process of building up detail knowledge of an event. Intelligent gathering is frequently used in the area of security. Security Intelligence sees intelligent gathering as a process of possessing detailed knowledge of security threat patterning to a country. (Oliver, 2004) When security agencies saddled themselves with gathering relevant information to protect an organization and a country from external or inside threat, they are undergoing intelligent gathering. Intelligence, in this context could be referred to as actionable information that helps organization make decision and take strategic advantage over security event. Assessing and investigating security intelligence avail organizations the opportunities to respond to threats and take protective measures. (Ratcliffe, 2003, Olujinmi, 2004, Darroch, 2009) Intelligent gathering goes beyond having access to publicly available information that could be useful and helpful to exposing intended and actual security threats. (Ratcliffe, 2003, Darroch, 2009) Obtaining useful information about possible security threats is to obtain secret intelligence both in content, structure and context of the activities of the threats. Engaging intelligent gathering can possibly be covert surveillance, direct surveillance, security operative reconnaissance, intrusive and communication surveillance, etc. (Ratcliffe, 2003, Booth, 2007, Darroch, 2009, Van Brakel, De Hert, 2011, Tayebi, Glässer, 2016) Intelligent gathering process does not only help to address security threats, but handle the mechanism fueling the threats. (Ratcliffe, 2003) The police use of intelligence gathering could be referred to as Intelligent-led Policing. (Ratcliffe, 2003, 2004) Using intelligent gathering, the police could assess useful information needed to prevent insecurity from occurring. Intelligence-led policing applies criminal intelligence analysis as decision making tool to facilitate insecurity reduction and prevention with effective policing strategies plus external partnership projects drawn from an evidential base. (Ratcliffe, 2003, 2004) Intelligent-led policing starts from the police ability to interpret the dynamic security threat environment with a strong reliance on information source within and outside the police service, and follows by critical decision-making strategies on threat reduction. (Ratcliffe, 2003, 2004, Oliver, 2004)

Intelligence gathering in the Nigerian Police Force is more reactive than proactive to security threats in the country, and we exemplify here with what a Senator representing Kogi West Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria in 2019 stated in the House of Senate on Security Matters: “Security *events will*

happen, there will be signs that the events will happened and they will happen and there will be no remedy". Despite the numerous police training and awareness for the Nigerian Police Force, evident abound that they are quiet far from reaching the goal of effectively gathering useful security intelligence. (Ukeje, 2010, CLEEN, 2015, Olodo, 2015) The colonial policing philosophy and ideology driving the Nigerian Police Force make it difficult for them to gain access to useful security intelligence. The force internal bureaucratic dogmatism and external distrust and loss of confidence from the public cover up detailed security threat information they could have acted upon to abate insecurity. (Alemika, Chukwuma 2000; Dike, 2010) The threat of insecurity still stands tall in the rural communities of the Niger Delta region as a result of poor intelligent gathering, despite the recurrent placement and posting in the force. (Dibie, 2000, CLEEN, 2015) Stakeholders in the community are unwilling to give security details to the police, complicating matters for them to understand the security threat terrain in the various communities.

Popular opinions suggest that with the current government intervention towards rebranding the police image and operation, intelligence gathering could be effective in abating security threat. (Ukeje, 2010, Imhonopi, Urim, 2012, Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012) Continuous efforts have been made by government towards changing the Nigerian Police in operational style and context. The police receive much funding and personnel, though not enough compare to the population they serve. (CLEEN, 2015, Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015) Policing gadgets and security surveillance equipment is provided. The police agency is undergoing image rebranding in what regards protecting and safeguarding Nigerians. In the rural communities of the Niger Delta region, vehicle and foot patrol police men are deployed to different localities. The Force, now called Nigerian Police Service, has engaged in community collaboration and consultation with key stakeholders to find a lasting solution to the security challenges in the region. These recent happenings could suggest some significant changes in the operational and tactical strategies employ by the police to abate insecurity in the region. At first, this article is hypothesizing that has the significant changes in the operational and tactical strategies of the police changed their intelligence gathering process and that has the innovation of involving community stakeholders into policing improved police access to useful security intelligence in the region? Secondly, if these changes are truly effective and operational, what security intelligence process is contributing towards abating insecurity in the region?

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A theory best suited for the police developing operational and tactical strategies towards security intelligence gathering should centered on environmental dynamistic approach rather than criminal justice approach. This is presumed on the

fact that environment place different requirements on organizations. The environmental uncertainty and the rapid changes present different demands that needs to be fulfilled. Lawrence and Lorsch in 1967 proposed a Contingency theory to suggest that organizational design decision depend on changing environmental condition and not the structural composition of the organization (Donaldson, Preston, 1995). Dependency on the environmental conditions enhances adaptation to changes confronting the organization. Police organization must adapt to environmental changes in the process of gathering intelligence. Intelligence gathering is a secretive activities police undergo and there are peculiar uncertainty and risk associated with the players. Contingency approach distressed and undermined organizational structure for effective intelligence gathering. Certain changes must be attained like decentralized decision making, flattened hierarchies in the force to enhance cooperation between police and the public. Police officers could be active in gathering intelligence when they are encouraged to develop cooperative relationship with community stakeholders guided by environmental conditions, community values and purposes rather than constrained rules, internal and external excessive supervision and regulation. Applying the above disposition, the heart of effective intelligence gathering is conscious community collaboration with the police force, guided with the changing values and purposes driving the communities and not what the force expect intelligence gathering should be in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region.

3. DATA AND METHODS

The entire rural communities of the Niger Delta Region have constituted the population of the study. Because of the abovementioned problems, cross sectional data were adequate for explaining the significant changes in policing operations using perceptual approach (Creswell, 2009). Three states, namely Edo, Bayelsa and Akwa-Ibom States from the nine states in the region, were randomly selected consequent on geographical and cultural adaptive peculiarities towards insecurity threats in the nation. 400 samples size, drawn from a projected population of 11,674,876 (NPC, 2019 est. pop.), comprises 148 respondents from Edo, 84 from Bayelsa and 168 from Akwa-Ibom. Strongly resting more on primary source of data, two sub-sections of the questionnaires titled “*Policing and Insecurity in selected Rural Communities of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria (QPISRCNDRN)*” constructed and validated for a Doctoral Research Studies in the Department of Sociology, Delta State University, Abraka, in 2017, were administered to respondents in 27 randomly selected communities from the 3 states.

Dependent variable measures the extent insecurity threats have been abated in the region. Measurement was scaled from 1–4 on respondent’s worries about being victimized, insecurity threat changes in the past two years and the feeling of

living in safety, proxy security threats in the region. The explanatory variable refers to police intelligence gathering proximate operational and tactical strategies for accessing security intelligence. Measured items, scaled from 1 to 4, were used on operational strategies in accessing and collecting security intelligence, evaluating security intelligence, analyzing security intelligence and integrating security intelligence. Cronbach's alpha reliability test produced an overall alpha of 0.784 and separate variables test showed 0.787 for police intelligence gathering and 0.765 for prevalence of insecurity. Analysis was based on descriptive and inferential statistics. The patterns of socio-demographics and explanatory variable items were described by using mean and standard deviation while the statement of hypothesis that Nigerian police security intelligence gathering is instrumental to abating insecurity threats in the region was tested using linear regression analysis on 5% level of significance.

4. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

394 of the 400 respondents responded accurately, they representing 98.5% of the response rate. The average age of the respondents was 36 ± 13.5 , with over two-third of them falling in the age interval of 18–37 age bracket (66.8%). As shown in *Table 1*, male respondents willing to participate in the survey (68.8%) were one-third greater than female respondents (31.2%). Following their educational attainment, more than two-third of them had secondary education (66.8%) justifying the fact that secondary educational attainment is adequate for citizens to understanding a nation's state of affairs most especially in the area of security (Ukeje, 2010; CLEEN, 2015; Olodo, 2015). Regarding occupation, more than half (53.1%) were currently not employed, justifying why the spongy reasons availing them to criminal and anti-social behavior. (Imhonopi, Urim, 2012; Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012)

Table 1

Socio-demographic characteristics

	Edo		Bayelsa		Akwa-Ibom		Total		
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Age	18–37	100	67.6	56	66.7	107	66.0	263	66.8
	38–57	21	14.2	15	17.9	24	14.8	60	15.2
	58–77	24	16.2	11	13.1	28	17.3	63	16.0
	78 and above	3	2.0	2	2.4	3	1.9	8	2.0
Gender	Male	103	69.6	61	72.6	107	66.0	271	68.8
	Female	45	30.4	23	27.4	55	34.0	123	31.2
Educational Attainment	No formal education	4	2.7	3	3.6	10	6.2	17	4.3
	Primary	31	20.9	15	17.9	30	18.5	76	19.3

	Secondary	98	66.2	57	67.9	108	66.7	263	66.8
	Tertiary	15	10.1	9	10.7	14	8.6	38	9.6
Occupation	Unemployed	76	51.7	46	54.8	86	53.4	208	53.1
	Public servant	24	16.3	11	13.1	24	14.9	59	15.1
	Self-employed	45	30.6	26	31.0	48	29.8	119	30.4
	Private sector	2	1.4	1	1.2	3	1.9	6	1.5
	Total	148	100.0	84	100.0	162	100.0	394	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2019.

Operational and tactical strategies for accessing security intelligence by the Nigerian police were analyzed based on accessing, collecting, evaluating, analyzing and integrating security intelligence.

Analyzing police operational strategies on the access to and collection of security intelligence, *Table 2* results show that Nigerian police have adequate skills and training for the intelligent gathering of relevant data and are equipped with the required equipment for the job. There was an agreement among respondents that in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region, drinking bars, sporting centers, markets residential areas, river banks, farms and schools were threats hotspots where security intelligence can be collected. However, there was an agreement that the force still has problem with the proper record keeping of collected information. This may affect the whole process of engaging intelligence for abating insecurity.

Table 2

Knowledge on Police Intelligence Collection (4–0 Rating)

	Edo		Bayelsa		Akwa-Ibom		Total	
	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD
Police having relevant skills and training to gather insecurity intelligence	3.51	.78	3.51	.80	3.57	.66	3.54	.73
Police having the required equipment and tools to gather insecurity intelligence	3.62	.62	3.48	.65	3.50	.64	3.54	.64
Most frequent security threat hotspots for gathering intelligence								
Drinking bars	3.26	.84	3.24	.83	3.14	.80	3.21	.82
Sporting center	2.66	1.08	2.75	1.03	2.72	.96	2.70	1.02
Markets	2.86	.93	2.96	.88	2.86	.88	2.88	.90
On patrol along residential areas	3.30	.78	3.43	.63	3.49	.71	3.41	.72
River banks	2.56	.96	2.70	1.03	2.80	1.00	2.69	.99
Farms	2.92	.89	2.86	.87	2.91	.81	2.90	.85
Schools	3.41	.73	3.37	.76	3.32	.69	3.36	.72
Others	2.87	.88	3.08	.85	2.89	.80	2.92	.84
Police keeping adequate records of intelligence gathering	2.47	.68	2.40	.75	2.38	.69	2.42	.70

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

(Criterion Mean=2.50)

Analyzing police operational strategies on the evaluation of the use security intelligence gathered, *Table 3* results show there was a collective agreement that Nigerian police have, working in the rural communities, improved in the response rate, reduced the level of social tension and conflict in these communities, but with no confidence in the support coming from the community members.

Table 3

Knowledge on Police Intelligence Evaluation (4–0 Rating)

	Edo		Bayelsa		Akwa-Ibom		Total	
	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD
Improvement in Police Response	3.26	.66	3.26	.76	3.16	.62	3.22	.67
Reduction of social tension and conflicts	2.94	.91	3.08	.84	2.91	.82	2.96	.86
Police lacks confidence in and support for community	2.61	.96	2.51	1.04	2.63	.86	2.60	.94

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

(Criterion Mean=2.50)

Police operational strategies on analyzing security intelligence gathered shows, in *Table 4*, a collective agreement that Nigerian police promptly respond to taking actions based on available security details, but they make little or no commitment towards educating community stakeholders on security matters, thus giving room for citizen rating their commitment to the fight against insecurity as poor.

Table 4

Knowledge on Police Intelligence Analysis (4–0 Rating)

	Edo		Bayelsa		Akwa-Ibom		Total	
	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD
Police are swift in taking action on available security intelligence	3.53	.71	3.48	.75	3.48	.80	3.50	.76
Intelligence available to the police is adequate to tackle insecurity	3.43	.60	3.32	.56	3.38	.62	3.38	.60
Police keep community educated on security issues	2.16	.79	2.02	.73	2.12	.79	2.11	.78
Police lack efforts and commitment towards resolving insecurity	2.46	.92	2.30	.88	2.49	.86	2.48	.88

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

(Criterion Mean=2.50)

Analyzing police operational strategies on integrating security intelligence gathered, *Table 5* results show there was a collective agreement regarding a tightened effort for continuous intelligent gathering. With the growing security needs, the police are too loaded with work to meet security demands, thereby

widening the policing scope differently from what was obtainable hitherto. Respondents agree that the overall efforts made by the police on gathering and utilizing security intelligence have not, in any way, changed their feeling of safety in the rural communities. What then is respondents' perception on safety and that is why this article analyzes whether there exists a causative effect from the above on their feeling of safety, form the next stage of this analysis.

Table 5

Knowledge on Police Intelligence Integration (4-0 Rating)

	Edo		Bayelsa		Akwa-Ibom		Total	
	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD
Police have tightened their effort for continuous intelligence gathering	2.92	.86	2.86	.95	2.92	.86	2.91	.88
Police are too overloaded with work to meet security demands	3.57	.62	3.71	.55	3.48	.64	3.56	.62
Intelligence gathering have widened the scope of the police	2.93	1.03	3.11	.98	3.00	.98	3.00	1.00
Intelligence integration has not reduced the fear of crime and insecurity	3.27	.72	3.18	.63	3.28	.72	3.25	.70

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

(Criterion Mean=2.50)

On scaling the fear of insecurity among respondents in the rural communities of the region, more than two-third of them feared being a victim of insecurity (68.5%) and 67.2 percent worried about being victims of insecurity. On a positive note, about 90% agree that the security architectures in the communities have changed drastically over the last 2 years. This could have resulted from the changing operational and tactical policies on insecurity in the nation.

Table 6

Worried of being victimized and the amount of security change in the past 2 years

		Edo state		Bayelsa		Akwa-Ibom state		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Being a victim of insecurity	Yes	104	70.3	57	67.9	109	67.3	270	68.5
	No	44	29.7	27	32.1	53	32.7	124	31.5
	I do not know	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Worried of being victims	Not at all worried	33	22.3	14	16.7	36	22.2	83	21.1
	Not very worried	15	10.1	14	16.7	17	10.5	46	11.7
	A little worried	61	41.2	37	44.0	68	42.0	166	42.1
	Very worried	39	26.4	19	22.6	41	25.3	99	25.1

Amount of changes on insecurity in your community	I do not know	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Not at all likely	20	13.5	2	2.4	18	11.1	40	10.2
	A little less	49	33.1	27	32.1	40	24.7	116	29.4
	A little more	58	39.2	31	36.9	72	44.4	161	40.9
	A lot more	21	14.2	24	28.6	32	19.8	77	19.5

Source: Fieldwork, 2019.

The feeling of safety among respondents reveals that members feel safe only when they are at home, in religious gatherings, at school or workplaces and, finally, at social gatherings. The fear of safety comes when they are outside their compound particularly in the market or farm and outside their community. A sense of security is felt when they are in a formal gathering like school rather than any situation when they are in an informal gathering like in the market place. Supportively, most security attacks take place easily in informal gatherings, where security operative presence is less felt. (See *Table 7* for details)

Table 7

Perception of the feeling of safety (4–0 Rating)

Level of feeling safe in	Edo		Bayelsa		Akwa-Ibom		Total	
	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD
When inside my compound	2.66	0.86	2.65	0.72	2.88	0.85	2.75	0.83
When outside in compound	2.32	0.72	2.48	0.87	2.71	0.82	2.36	0.81
When in the market	2.26	0.76	2.6	0.85	2.8	0.86	2.44	0.85
When in the church	2.31	0.87	2.58	0.83	2.5	0.92	2.63	0.89
When in school or workplace	2.51	0.93	2.55	0.74	2.69	0.92	2.60	0.89
When in the farm	2.47	0.62	2.69	0.74	2.5	0.97	2.48	0.80
When outside my community	2.33	0.68	2.51	0.74	2.18	0.87	2.31	0.78
When in the social gatherings	2.26	1.02	2.72	0.81	2.66	0.93	2.65	0.96
Others	2.18	1.05	2.67	0.81	2.62	0.93	2.47	0.98

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

(Criterion Mean=2.50)

Answering the question raised in the introductory part of this article on the effectiveness of intelligence gathering process in abating security challenges in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region and to the extent the involvement of stakeholders in intelligent gathering would reduce insecurity in the region, this article conducted a causative effect regression model test in order to explain how changes in the dependent variable result from the changes in the explanatory variable(s), using a 5% level of significance.

In the first regression model on intelligence gathering process affecting changes in security threats, and on collecting and evaluating security intelligence

exhibited a positive and significant effect on abating security challenges in the region. Positive, weak and insignificant effect exists between security threats and the analysis and integration of police security intelligence. Therefore, if the collection and evaluation of security intelligence gathered significantly affect the reduction of security challenges, it therefore implies that Nigeria police new operational strategies on intelligence gathering are instrumental towards addressing Nigeria security challenges. (see *Table 8*)

Table 8

Regression model on explaining changes in Security threat from effective police intelligence gathering process in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region

Modeling method	Model (Security Threat Y) (Standardized β /r-coefficient/p-value)
Intercept	
X ₁ Police Intelligence Collection	0.071/+0.121/0.016*
X ₂ Police Intelligence Evaluation	0.147/+0.146/0.004**
X ₃ Police Intelligence Analysis	0.045/+0.024/0.632
X ₄ Police Intelligence Integration	0.008/+0.011/0.829

Source: Author's Compilation, 2019; note: *P<0.05, **P<0.01.

Do Community Stakeholders play any significant role in these whole processes? This article, in *Table 9*, asserts that community stakeholders voluntarily provided, on a regular basis, security intelligence to the police spotting areas where repeated offenders are clustered, but had difficulties in retrieving detailed security threats in hotpots zones and in identifying specific offenders due to lack of training and sensitization. This could justify why policing education is needed by the stakeholders in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region.

Table 9

Community stakeholders' involvement in intelligence gathering through the use of informants (4-0 Rating)

	Edo		Bayelsa		Akwa- Ibom		Total	
	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD
Voluntarily provide information for the police	2.58	.93	2.68	.82	2.62	.93	2.62	.91
Help police check repeated offenders	2.86	.92	2.95	.86	2.78	.94	2.85	.92
Patrol specific location to gather information on security threats	1.07	.25	1.05	.22	1.06	.24	1.06	.24
Giving information on specifically known offender	1.28	.50	1.33	.52	1.25	.46	1.28	.49
Giving police intelligence on regular basis	2.72	1.09	2.73	1.00	2.70	1.08	2.71	1.06

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

(Criterion Mean=2.50)

From the second regression model, police joint patrol with community stakeholders and stakeholder giving the police repeated intelligence exhibited a positive and significant effect on abating security threat in the region. Specifically, 15% changes in security threats in the rural communities are consequent of stakeholders' joint patrol with the police, while 13% changes in security threats are consequent of stakeholders giving police repeated intelligence regarding offenders.

Table 10

Regression model on explaining changes in security threats from community stakeholders' involvement in police intelligence gathering in the region

Modeling method	Model (Security Threat Y) (Standardized β /r-coefficient/p-value)
Intercept	
X ₁ Joint patrol with the police	0.152/+0.322/0.006**
X ₂ Giving intelligence on repeated offenders	0.128/+0.283/0.034*
X ₃ Giving intelligence on security threats location	0.035/+0.062/0.713
X ₄ Giving intelligence regularly	0.049/+0.014/0.892

Source: Author's Compilation, 2019; note: *P<0.05, **P<0.01.

Extrapolating from the above analysis, this article still maintain that security threats still stands tall in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region because the majority of the inhabitants fear or do feel unsafe living their abode to known and unknown destinations. (Onyemauwa, Eririogu, 2015, Andrejevic, 2017) The unwillingness of community stakeholders to give police security detailed concerning their community is sequel upon their lack of trust, confidence and uninformed nature of how they could intervene. (Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015, Andrejevic, 2017) The police rarely provide training on the how and what security threat looks like for community stakeholders.

Although government current intervention towards rebranding has improved the operational and tactical strategies in police intelligence gathering particularly in the area of collection and evaluation; engaging in consultative and collaborative strategies with community stakeholders has been waterloo by the force. (Imhonopi, Urin, 2012, Omoyibo, Akpomera, 2012, Olodo, 2015) The high and growing willingness among members of the rural communities to share security intelligence with the police is because they perceived that the NPF is now beginning to have the relevant skills and training needed to gather and utilize security intelligence in tackling insecurity in the region. (Ratcliffe, 2003, Booth, 2007, Darroch, 2009, Ukeje, 2010, CLEEN, 2015, Olodo, 2015) The growing confidence and support for the police by members of the rural communities reveals the swift response of the police in taking action on security challenges, the reduction in social tension and

conflict in the communities and does not show increasing capacity of the police educating community members on security tips. (Ratcliffe, 2003, Olodo, 2015)

The continuous intelligence gathering in the rural communities of the Niger Delta Region has widened the scope of policing, reduced the fear of crime and insecurity and increased police workload in meeting security demands of the communities. (Alemika and Chukuma, 2000, Santos, 2014, Tayebi, Glässer, 2016) Operational strategies police use to collect security intelligence and evaluation of the security intelligence exhibit a positive and significant effect on abating security challenges in the region. (Van Brakel, De Hert, 2011; Tayebi, Glässer, 2016) Police joint patrol with community stakeholders and stakeholders giving the police repeated intelligence exhibit a positive and significant effect on abating security threat in the region. (Rosenbaum, Schuck, Graziano, Stephens, 2007; CLEEN, 2015)

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The lingering insecurity in the rural communities of the Niger Delta region suggests an inappropriate utilization of the available policing strategies. The article makes an important contribution towards linking intelligence gathering and addressing insecurity in the Niger Delta Region. This contribution demonstrated that the police cannot on their fight insecurity. They need the full cooperation from the communities and the first stage of security intelligence gathering starts with the stakeholder in the community. Therefore, Nigeria insecurity problem can be resolved only when the police begin to see and trust the judgment of the people they police and themselves readily available for services in the region. The following recommendations could help resolve security challenges and repositioning policing in Nigeria.

i. Members of the rural communities should be fully encouraged in all ramifications to involve in policing activities such as becoming police informants and assisting the police with security intelligence in the communities of the NDR. The full involvement of community members will not only give the police adequate information surrounding insecurity but members capacity to protect themselves in the absence of the police.

ii. Members of the rural communities in the NDR need adequate knowledge, skills, training and re-training on security tips to encourage and boost their self-believe and action-taken process in curbing insecurity.

iii. Nigeria police should intensify their effort to encourage active police – community relations through regular community meetings, joint police-community patrol, key informant involvement and quality skills on addressing insecurity in the rural communities of the NDR.

iv. Nigeria police should welcome suggestions from members of the rural communities, trust the people's judgments and operate an open-door policy because these attitudes will encourage the people participation in policing activities and the police open channel to classified information.

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