

IMPLICATIONS OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE ON HUMAN SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper is on Implications of Democratic Governance on Human Security in Nigeria. Any form of government must prioritize human security, and democratic administration is expected to fulfill its duty to have a major influence on development. Creating the culture or environment required for the survival, livelihood, and dignity of the individuals in the society; safeguarding people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations; and addressing threats to socio-economic, political, food, health, environmental, community, and personal security—all of which are essential components of all human lives—are all part of human security. The goal of human security is to transform Nigerian society both qualitatively and quantitatively, and if democratic governance is effectively incorporated, it can be used as a means of accomplishing this goal. Since corruption, religion, ethnicity, and mediocrity have all contributed to Nigeria's poor democratic governance and subsequent setbacks in human security, this paper used an explanatory design and secondary data collection to provide an explanation. The Liberal Democratic Theory was used to analyze this paper. It concludes that democratic governance must not be overlooked in order to achieve human security, but that Nigerian democratic governance has not been fully incorporated over the years because of issues with corruption, ethnicity, and mediocrity. Based on this, the paper makes recommendations that A key component of any leader who gains power through democracy should be the ability to adapt human security so that it can grow as our understanding of the causes of global insecurity deepens and our ability to address these causes improves people's quality of life. The adoption of multifaceted solutions based on an inter-disciplinary approach that involves the private, public, and international dimensions should be actively pursued. Human security also necessitates the recognition of the connections between development, security, and human rights.

Keywords: *Democracy, Democratic Governance, Security, Human Security, Development.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The widespread belief that democracy is the ideal form of government cannot be overstated. This is based on the democratic process of selecting and electing representatives and leaders. It ensured some degree of effective management and the fundamental human rights of all law-abiding people. Thanks to these ideal attractions and a global desire, Nigeria returned to democracy on May 29, 1999, after a long and terrible military rule. Nigerians breathed a sigh of relief when the restrictions of unilateralism and arbitrariness that defined military rule were finally eliminated. However, it appears that the expected promise and optimism have been replaced by uncertainty and illusion nearly 25 years after the experiment (with democracy). This can be attributed to the corruption, greed, selfishness, religion, and ethnicity of political leaders. The complex issue of human security lies at the heart of government, and democratic governance is likely to have a big worldwide impact on human security. Nonetheless, it is thought that there has been a threat to the significant influence that democratic government has on human security in Nigeria, especially in relation to the fourth republic. After years of military dictatorship, it was said that the country's high unemployment rate and lack of drinking water, which signalled the beginning of its fourth republic on May 29, 1999, crushed aspirations for a return to democratic governance.

Objectives of the paper

The objective of this paper is, among other things, to:

- i. Analyze the fundamentals of democratic governance in Nigeria.
- ii. Investigate the relationship between human security and democratic governance.
- iii. Assess the impact and challenges of democratic governance on human security in Nigeria.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The concepts to be reviewed in this paper are; (i) Democracy, (ii) Democratic Governance, (iii) Security, (v) Human Security, and (v) Development.

- i. **Democracy:** Democracy is the belief that the government (Kratos) gives the most power to the people (demos). Democracy is defined by the government as "government of, by, and for the

people." Naturally, democracy can be simple in small-population countries when people discuss topics and make decisions based on their own interests. However, in nations with sizable populations, such as Indonesia, the people are represented by individuals who sit in their place and have the responsibility of making sure that all government activities are carried out in the best interests of the people. According to contemporary thought, democracy requires that certain moral principles—such as justice, integrity, representation, and alignment with the interests of the general public rather than those of certain social groups or organizations—be applied (Shaibu M. T., Victoria A. & Okeme P.U, 2021)

ii. **Democratic Governance:** The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE, 2021) defines democratic governance as a participatory control system that allows citizens to have a voice in decision-making to guarantee that all members of society have an equal opportunity. According to Fye (2015), in order to execute laws, regulations, and programs that promote environmental preservation, human welfare, and the protection of natural resources, democratic governance must be set up and operated to promote justice and equality of opportunity for all without discrimination. In support, the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC, 2021) asserts that democratic administration requires professional, politically neutral security forces that act in the public good, a legislature that represents the people, and independent, nondiscriminatory courts that can uphold the rule of law for all residents. Therefore, according to Okoroafor (2010, p.176), The principles of good governance, such as meeting people's needs and goals while maintaining the rule of law and avoiding corruption and abuse, are meant to be included in democratic governance. In other words, good governance entails delivering concrete basic needs and bolstering human security to promote people's overall well-being without sacrificing or violating international and national human rights and security accords (Shaibu M. T., Victoria A. & Okeme P.U, 2021).

iii. **Security:** According to Barry Buzan (1991), military considerations might cause misunderstandings since security is a complex and ambiguous concept. Everyone wants to grasp this important concept, yet it is hard to define because it is always changing. To feel comfortable, one must be free from fear (of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, attack, persecution, or death) and desire (of employment, food, and health). Human security is identifying and preventing dangers and reducing their impact when they do occur. It entails assisting victims in coping with the consequences of widespread insecurity brought on by armed conflict, human rights violations, and extreme underdevelopment. These days, the term "security" encompasses two concepts: "safety" that extends beyond physical defense and the idea that people's livelihoods should be protected.^[SEP] The idea of human security was developed

at the close of the postwar period with the aid of empirical research (Shaibu M. T., Victoria A. & Okeme P.U, 2021).

- iv. **Human Security:** The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2006, p.5); African Union Nonaggression and Common Defence Pact (AUNCDP, 2005); Commission on Human Security (CHS), as quoted in a report by the Human Security Unit of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (HSU-OCHA, 2009). Human security is defined as protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations, as well as addressing threats to socioeconomic, political, food, health, environmental, community, and personal security—all of which are essential to every human life—in order to enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. It also entails creating the environment or culture required for people to live, work, and preserve their social standing. Obuchi Keizo (quoted in Hussein, Gnisci, and Wanjiru 2004:13) asserts that human security is "the keyword to comprehensively seizing all of the menaces that threaten the survival, daily life, and dignity of human beings and to strengthening the efforts to confront these threats." (Shaibu M. T., Victoria A. & Okeme P.U, 2021)
- v. **Development:** In essence, development is a positive economic notion that entails the use of particular technological and economic tactics to maximize existing resources in order to support economic growth and raise people's standards of living. In the 1950s and 1960s, the most often used term to characterize progress was economic growth, which denoted a quantitative rather than qualitative change in economic performance. Therefore, development theories were developed to promote and accelerate economic progress and steer emerging nations toward the route laid out by Western industrialized nations, shifting their reliance on agriculture to industrial production and trade (Shaibu, Victoria & Okeme, 2021).

Categories of Human Security in Relation to Good Governance

There are seven (7) categories of human security associated with Good Governance and there are; (i) Economic security, (ii) food security, (iii) health security (iv) environmental security, (v) personal security, (vi) community security, and (vii) political security.

Economic Security; Among the prerequisites for economic stability are work, a guaranteed basic income, and access to a social safety net. The foundation of food security is having access to a basic food supply and nutrition. Health security is more complex and involves many different issues, such as access to safe water, a safe environment, health services, safe and

affordable family planning, basic support during pregnancy and delivery, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and basic knowledge to live a healthy life (Shah et al, 2024).

Environmental security; Is straightforward and addresses issues like protecting irrigated land, avoiding deforestation, preventing air and water pollution, and preventing natural catastrophes like droughts, floods, cyclones, and earthquakes (Madgdalene & Suhatma, 2020).

Community security: On the contrary, it is concerned with the preservation of traditional cultures, languages, and commonly held ideas. It also addresses preventing ethnic conflicts, eliminating ethnic prejudice, and safeguarding indigenous people (Siregar, 2022).

Political security: Is committed to protecting human rights and the welfare of all. Additionally shielded from state repression are the freedoms of speech, the press, and the ballot. Eliminating systematic abuse, detention, disappearances, and political captivity are other aspects of political security. The seven elements of human security have important overlaps and links. However, because it is all-encompassing, human security is an essential part of good governance, and a failure to exercise good governance is almost always associated with a failure to maintain human security in the system (Salsabila & Sasrohadi, 2021)

Essentials of Democratic Governance in Relation to Human Security

i. Equality And Justice: A democratic government's dedication to equality and justice is one of its fundamental principles. Justice and equality are inextricably linked. The legislation now forbids the prior practice of untouchability. This group was denied access to healthcare, education, transportation, and even the opportunity to pray. acknowledged that such behavior needs to end; justice and equity can aid in this by requiring that each individual be treated either identically or differently (Siregar, 2022).

ii. Participation: Democratic administration guarantees political participation since it makes democratic decision-making easier. To choose representatives, voters cast ballots in elections. These politicians are speaking for the people when they make decisions. It is expected that they will consider the sentiment and concerns of the general public in doing so. Every government is chosen for a particular time frame. They must be re-elected by the populace if they wish to stay in power. In a democracy, people feel in control at this point. In other words, democratic governance detests the misuse of authority and forcing people into leadership roles (Olu-Adeyemi & Shaibu, 2019).

iii. Credible Elections: Typically, elections take place every four years. There are additional methods to get involved in politics than voting. Participation is demonstrated by the public's interest in and critique of the government's activities. They organized a signature drive and held rallies. After attempting to defend and justify their action, the government eventually heeded public uproar and canceled the raise. Because it is accountable to the public, the administration must reconsider (Igboho, 2021).

iv. Accountability And Transparency: Being open and honest with the public about its actions, views, and leadership is one of the most important aspects of democratic governance. The real objective of accountability is to increase public trust, and the objective of transparency is to gain public trust. However, because it is about the public's trust and confidence in such administration rather than the individual, it is one of the most important components of democratic governance (Ozohu-Suleiman, 2019).

v. Need To Resolve Conflict: When one group believes it is permissible to use force to stop the other group from protesting, conflicts frequently result in bloodshed and fatalities. When people from various areas, cultures, beliefs, or economic backgrounds do not get along, or when some of them believe they are being discriminated against, conflicts arise. To resolve their disagreements, people may resort to violence. This causes tension and anxiety among the local populace. One facet of democratic leadership is the duty of the state to settle disputes (Salsabila & Sosrohadi, 2021).

Threats to Human Security and the causes in Relations To Democratic Governance.

Human insecurity can be analyzed from the perspectives of Siregar (2020), who pinpoints the following reasons for these problems:

- i. **Threat of Economic Insecurity:** The underlying reasons of this insecurity—poverty, unemployment, and hunger—persisted during Nigeria's democratic governments from 1999 to 2014.
- ii. **Food Security Threat:** Hundreds of millions of people still go hungry worldwide, either because food is difficult to get where they live or, more frequently, because they lack the funds or legal authorization to buy it.
- iii. **Health security threat:** malnutrition, dangerous infectious illnesses, and restricted access to necessary medical care.
- iv. **Environmental security threat:** restricted access to necessary medical care, dangerous infectious infections, and malnourishment.

- v. Personal security threat: crime, domestic violence, child labor, terrorism, and physical violence.
- vi. Community security threat: identity-based disputes, such as interethnic and religious disputes, that may emerge between various groups as a result of competing for scarce resources and opportunities.
- vii. Political security threat: human rights violations and political repression. inhabit a society that does not uphold freedom of expression or basic human rights.

Empirical Review

Scholarly research contributed by Shaibu , Anum, and Okeme, (2020), Leke (2010); Yagboyaju (2011); Ogundiya (2010); Maurice, Emmanuel & Patrick (2012); Omodia & Aliu (2013); Adediran (2015); Ozohu- Suleiman (2018) on governance and human security are empirically relevance to this study.

Anum, Okeme, and Shaibu (2020), Any form of government must prioritize human security, and democratic administration is expected to fulfill its duty to address dangers and have a major impact on human security. However, it is thought that under Nigeria's fourth republic, the substantial influence of democratic administration on human security is in jeopardy. Furthermore, despite the answers provided by earlier relevant investigations, the phenomena and its effects are still unknown. Along with the implications for Nigeria's nation-building and international image, this study explores whether democratic governance has had a substantial impact on human security. Our inquiry is grounded in the theoretical ideas of the social contract. The quantitative research technique (QRT) is a major component of the investigation. 200 Nigerians, both male and female, were chosen for the study using the purposive sampling technique (PST), and their responses were gathered utilizing a self-made Likert-style rating scale measurement tool (Ozohu-Suleiman, 2019).

According to Leke (2010), the democratic government of the fourth republic has not improved human security because the political elite still acts in a militaristic and unconstitutional way on matters that are normally civil in nature. Poor administration made the people impoverished rather than exemplifying the culture of good governance to advance the state in a way that will impact people's lives. However, the study did not assess how democratic government has lessened the threat to human security or how it has affected Nigeria's national prosperity and international status (Olu-Adeyemi & Shaiba, 2019).

The fourth republic's weak institutions and political elites' complete disregard for the people they are meant to represent prevented democratic governance from having a positive impact on human security, despite Yagboaju's (2011) suggestion that the state and its institutions should be strengthened to promote democratic values. In a related study, Maurice, Emmanuel, and Patrick (2012) found that a range of issues, including election fraud, religious crises, intra- and inter-ethnic conflicts, and a lack of democratic institutions, impeded the beneficial effects of democratic government on human security (Tunde & Daramola, 2018).

Again, Omodia & Aliu (2013) demonstrated how the inability of democratic governance to deliver public goods and services, excessive levels of extravagance, lawlessness, fraud, flagrant national treasury looting, and political corruption have weakened and eroded public trust in government and democratic institutions, undermined accountability and the rule of law, and created insecurity that manifests as social tensions, violence, economic inequality, and a crisis of legitimacy. The stability of the country is seriously threatened by each of these elements. Ewetan & Urhie (2014) concurred with Omodia and Aliu that political violence, institutional and political corruption, and ethno-religious conflicts are the primary causes of human insecurity (Sabrina et al, 2021).

Furthermore, Adediran (2015) claimed that Nigeria's unemployment, poverty, and inadequate healthcare rates have risen rather than decreased in tandem with democracy, economic prosperity, and human security, despite the country's years of unbroken democratic administration. His findings suggest that the legislative, executive, and judicial departments of government should be cognizant of their roles and vigorously defend the values of democracy, good governance, and effective anti-corruption campaigns. Furthermore, the study did not demonstrate how democratic governance affects nation-building and the nation's reputation abroad or how it reduces dangers to human security (Siregar, 2022).

Theoretical Analysis

Liberal democratic ideology places a significant emphasis on political party activity, citizens' rights, and public involvement, among other things. This study made the decision to look at citizens' rights. Democratic governance and human security are the cornerstones of any growth because they encompass a wide range of phenomena that, with proper research, have the power to change society both qualitatively and quantitatively. However, Nigerian society has been and continues to be characterized by a cult of mediocrity. Because they lack the credentials

necessary to be effective leaders and appear to lack competent administration, our federal and local leaders have failed to provide Nigerians the advantages of democratic democracy. Many of them are unprepared for the challenges that the electorate has placed on them, or they lack the tools that are required. Their crazy lieutenants don't either. Such insufficient leaders are not spiritually strong enough to face the socio-political changes that threaten their people. Cheap popularity is another strategy employed by mediocre leaders to conceal their lack of a clear ideology or goal. They try to cover up their shortcomings by mudslinging and witch-hunting since they don't take criticism well. Ineffectiveness, underdevelopment, and a drop in national output are the outcomes of placing a poor leader in charge.

3. BODY OF WORK

This study demonstrates the connections between the issues and shortcomings of democratic government and risks to the economy, politics, health, personal environment, community, and food. To put it another way, democratic administration can handle economic risks if it hasn't failed. Second, Nigeria's democratic government has not had a major impact on human security issues because, among other things, it has caused hardships and public mistrust, which has led to disloyalty and separatist movement for ethnocentric governance. Furthermore, it makes nation-building more difficult, hinders foreign investment and diplomatic presence, and portrays the Nigerian State as a refuge for terrorism and insecurity, all of which would damage Nigeria's standing internationally and make economic progress a pipe dream. Therefore, the problem of threats to human security would not be overcome unless the Nigerian government adopted the modern concepts of good governance (Tunde & Daramola, 2018).

It is unquestionably clear that democratic governance has a significant influence and can lessen threats to human security. However, the topic of human security should not be treated lightly because the primary goal of administration is to improve people's quality of life, something Nigerians have failed to do. Based on the flaws that have hurt Nigeria's democratic government, this study tried to reach a conclusion. Nigerians have obviously suffered so much since 1999, when democracy was demanded, that people have started to question and draw parallels between democratic and military regimes because those elected to democratic offices have failed to adequately address the issue of good governance (Shah et al, 2020). The recommendations made by this study offer solutions that will mitigate the issues that are shown at the conclusion. These problems include patronage, religion, corruption, ethnicity, and—above all—the ineptitude and incapacity of individuals in positions of authority.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This essay has demonstrated that attaining human security requires good administration, a modern byproduct of democracy. This suggests that democratic administration is necessary to achieve human security in Nigeria. However, as was already mentioned, a number of factors, including mediocrity, religion, ethnicity, corruption, and others, have made it difficult for democratic administration to provide human security. To address these issues and help Nigeria's democratic governance achieve human security, the following recommendations are made:

- i. A key component of any leader who gains power through democracy should be human security. It should be flexible enough to evolve as our understanding of the causes of global insecurity increases and our ability to address these causes improves people's quality of life, rather than being unduly particular.
- ii. To restate, human security is being overly expansive and ambitious, since its primary objective is averting the worst. Since political parties have a significant role in choosing candidates for positions in democratic governance, they must espouse an ideology that promotes human security and growth.
- iii. It is important to actively explore the adoption of diverse solutions based on an interdisciplinary approach that integrates the public, private, and international realms; human security necessitates recognizing the connections among development, security, and human rights.

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