Enhancing National Security and Combating Insurgency in Nigeria: The Role of the Library

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Abstract

This study underscores the integral role of libraries in promoting transparency, resilience, and collective efforts towards a more secure and stable nation. Libraries are positioned as dynamic information repositories, housing a diverse array of materials that range from academic research to intelligence analyses providing valuable insights into the complexities of insurgency. Through systematic literature reviews, articles were harvested from databases including Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia, and ProQuest. The study examines the pivotal role of libraries in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria. Findings reveal that libraries play a crucial role in public education and awareness, promoting literacy and critical thinking skills essential for citizens to resist extremist ideologies. Findings further indicate that the collaborative nature of libraries as neutral grounds facilitates cooperation among diverse stakeholders, fostering the exchange of insights and experiences that contribute to the development of innovative strategies. Findings recognise the contributions that libraries have made in generating new knowledge and cultivating an informed citizenry to address the root causes of insurgency and foster sustainable peace in Nigeria. The study highlights that libraries in Nigeria can play a vital role in enhancing national security and combating insurgency by serving as hubs for disseminating accurate information, fostering critical thinking skills, countering extremist propaganda, building community resilience, providing professional development opportunities, advocating for effective policies, and preserving national identity. The study recommends leveraging resource and community networks that can contribute significantly

to peacebuilding efforts in the country. The study recommends the need not to overlook the role of libraries in national security and counterinsurgency efforts, offering insights into innovative approaches and strategies for addressing these challenges.

Introduction

The continual and widespread prevalence of insecurity across the nation has emerged as a significant cause for concern among conscientious Nigerians, given its profound impact on peace, security, and the overall economy. The destruction of lives and property has unfortunately become a distressingly commonplace occurrence in Nigeria, fostering an environment characterised by pervasive threats and fear. Such a climate, in turn, deters both national and international investors. Insecurity has transcended being a mere apprehension; it has become a ubiquitous topic of discussion whenever groups of Nigerians convene. This phenomenon encapsulates a state of constant vulnerability and unease, where individuals grapple with the persistent fear of danger and harm. The manifestation of insecurity in Nigeria is evident through various illegal armed groups, ethnic militias, religious fundamentalists, and fanatics. These groups have been responsible for a series of destabilising incidents, including bombings, murders, kidnappings, arson, armed robberies, corruption, and societal injustices. The adverse consequences of these occurrences extend beyond mere physical threats, as they have begun to exert a detrimental influence on the political, religious, and cultural fabric of Nigeria. Notably, religious organisations and humanitarian agencies are gradually losing confidence in law enforcement agencies, as highlighted by Udoh (2015).

Security is an encompassing phenomenon that is paramount to individuals, entities, communities, and even nations. Security has to do with self-preservation which is the first law of existence. Security implies a stable, relatively predictable environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends or objectives without disruption, harm, danger, and fear of disturbance or injury (Dasuki 2013). A country's national security, therefore, is concerned with the well-being, welfare, and interest of its citizens, the preservation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity against external aggression and attack. The importance of security to the economic well-being of a country and its citizens cannot be over-emphasised. The nation's security is so important that it is embedded in the Nigerian Constitution of 1999. Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution states that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government." Invariably, the Constitution has saddled the Government with the responsibility of safeguarding the lives, property, and welfare of Nigerians against both internal and external threats, including other forms of danger. Thus, it is incumbent on the Government to monitor public order and safety, including law and order.

Nigeria, a nation rich in cultural diversity and economic potential, has grappled with persistent challenges to its national security caused by insurgency. The threat posed by various extremist groups, including but not limited to Boko Haram, has not only disrupted the socio-political fabric of the country but has also cast a shadow over its economic development. Addressing these security concerns requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that goes beyond conventional measures. The function of libraries, which is sometimes undervalued in the field of national security, becomes significant in this setting and has the potential to be revolutionary. This paper explores the vital but little-known role that libraries play in bolstering national security and ending insurgency in Nigeria. The distinctive contributions of libraries have been eclipsed by more traditional security methods in the current environment of security concerns. Libraries, which are typically thought of as knowledge centres and repositories, have the capacity to be vibrant hubs for community involvement, information sharing, and building resilient cultures. Recognising the library as an active participant in the national security discourse requires a paradigm shift that acknowledges its capacity to influence public opinion, disseminate counter-extremist narratives, and serve as a catalyst for community cohesion. As Nigeria grapples with the complexities of insurgency, the library emerges as an untapped resource that can empower communities with knowledge, counter extremist ideologies, and contribute to a more informed and resilient citizenry. This paper aims to shed light on the specific ways in which libraries can play a pivotal role in Nigeria's national security efforts, offering insights into their potential contributions and advocating for a more inclusive and integrated approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by insurgency.

Objectives of the Study

This study seeks to investigate the role that libraries play in promoting national security in Nigeria. Specifically, the following objectives were used to guide the study, namely:

i) Examine the emergence and causes of insecurity in Nigeria as a nation;

ii) Determine the security information needs of different groups;

iii) Determine the roles played by policymakers, security agents, citizens, and children/youths; and

iv) Explore the role the library plays in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Literature was reviewed systematically on the role the library plays in promoting national security in the context of Nigeria. It focused on the emergence of insurgency in Nigeria, the security information needs of different groups, and the roles the library plays in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria.

Emergence of Insurgency in Nigeria

The challenges of insecurity in Nigeria can be traced back to the early years of military rule when a substantial quantity of arms and ammunition was imported into the country for military use during and after the Nigerian Civil War. Unfortunately, some of these weapons found their way into the hands of civilians, leading to misuse. The aftermath of the civil war saw the proliferation of arms among civilians and ex-military personnel, contributing to issues like armed robbery. Unemployment, particularly among youths who lost their jobs during the civil war, further escalated insecurity. The prolonged era of military rule from 1970 witnessed an increase in arms procurement for personal defence, with unemployed and mischievous youths acquiring weapons for deviant purposes. Researchers attribute youth violence to various factors, including peer group influence, psychological elements of growing up, and political and economic factors such as ethnic/religious agitation, political unrest, unemployment, and the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) (Olabanji 2014). The origins of insurgency or terrorism attempts in Nigeria can be traced to Major Isaac Jasper Adaka Boro's movement to liberate the Niger Delta people. Major Boro, an Ijaw ethnic extraction from the Niger Delta region and a student at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, rebelled against the exploitation of the region's oil and gas resources by federal and regional governments. Leading the Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF), he declared the Niger Delta Republic on 23 February 1966. Several insurgent groups persist to this day, including the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Oodua People's Congress (OPC), North AREWA, Boko Haram, and most recently, the Killer Herdsmen.

Causes of Insurgency

The causes of insurgency in Nigeria are multifaceted, stemming from a combination of historical, socio-economic, political, and religious factors and long-standing socio-economic and political issues such as poverty, ideology, unemployment, ignorance, social exclusion, inequality, and external factors (Sule et al. 2019; Adedire et al. 2016; Ikeanyibe et al. 2020; Enweonwu et al. 2022). Understanding these root causes is crucial for addressing the complex and persistent challenges posed by insurgent groups. The major contributing factors to the insurgency are:

Marginalisation and Economic Injustice

Marginalisation and economic injustice stand out as crucial factors contributing to the persistent insurgency in Nigeria. Historically rooted disparities in the distribution of resources and development projects have generated feelings of neglect and frustration among certain regions and ethnic groups, creating an environment conducive to insurgency (Igwela and Nsirim 2018). The unequal distribution of economic gains has increased societal unrest and created circumstances that support insurgent organisations' recruitment attempts. The purpose of this essay is to examine how economic inequality and marginalisation contribute to the insurgency in Nigeria and highlight how these factors are linked to social discontent and violence. In Nigeria,

marginalised communities sometimes feel left out of the political and economic mainstream, which feeds into their frustrations and serves as a recruiting tool for insurgent organisations. A sense of injustice and disenfranchisement has resulted from the historical marginalisation of areas like the Niger Delta, which has been linked to economic exploitation and environmental deterioration (Akinola and Tella 2013). This marginalisation has made these regions susceptible to the influence of insurgent groups seeking to capitalise on local grievances and recruit individuals who feel alienated from the broader society. The nexus between economic injustice, regional disparities, and insurgency underscores the importance of addressing these root causes to foster stability and security in Nigeria.

Religious and Ethno-Regional Divisions

Religious and ethnic-regional divisions have emerged as significant catalysts for insurgency in Nigeria, shaping the landscape of conflicts and contributing to the rise of groups such as Boko Haram. The country's diverse religious composition, with a predominantly Muslim north and a largely Christian south, has been a source of tension that insurgents exploit to mobilise support and advance their agendas. Ogu and Areji (2022) note the impact of ethno-religious conflicts on the development of Nigeria. The role of religious and ethno-regional divisions as causes of insurgency in Nigeria is imperative in how they fuel radicalisation and communal conflicts. The Boko Haram insurgency, marked by its extremist interpretation of Islam, underscores the impact of religious divisions on insurgency in Nigeria. The group's goal of establishing a strict Islamic state has led to numerous attacks on both civilian and military targets, contributing to widespread insecurity. Additionally, ethno-regional tensions between the northern and southern parts of the country further complicate the socio-political landscape, providing fertile ground for the recruitment and mobilisation of insurgent groups. Understanding the intersectionality of religious and ethno-regional divisions is crucial for developing strategies to address the root causes of insurgency in Nigeria (Gana 2023)

Corruption and Poor Governance

Corruption and poor governance have entrenched themselves as major contributors to the persistent insurgency in Nigeria, creating a fertile ground for the emergence and sustenance of various insurgent groups. The widespread prevalence of corruption within the Nigerian government has eroded public trust and undermined the effectiveness of state institutions, facilitating the growth of insurgencies (Ojo et al. 2020). In particular, corruption in Nigeria's security forces has made it more difficult to combat insurgency. The military and law enforcement organisations' ability to effectively battle rebel groups has been undermined by resource mismanagement, corruption, and bribery. Due to the misappropriation of funds intended for counter-insurgency operations, soldiers are demoralised and lack appropriate equipment and training. In addition to impeding security forces' capacity to react appropriately, this systemic corruption adds to the tenacity and adaptability of insurgencies in Nigeria. Addressing corruption and

implementing good governance practices are imperative for restoring public confidence in state institutions and fostering an environment conducive to long-term security and stability

Youth Unemployment and Poverty

Youth unemployment and poverty stand out as critical factors contributing to the emergence and persistence of insurgency in Nigeria (Adedire et al. 2016). The nation's demographic bulge has led to a significant youth population facing high levels of unemployment and economic hardship, creating a vulnerable demographic that is susceptible to recruitment by insurgent groups (Lekunze 2023) The recruitment tactics used by different insurgent groups demonstrate the connection between poverty, youth unemployment, and insurgency in Nigeria. In an environment where social mobility and economic opportunity are limited, young people are more vulnerable to radicalisation and recruitment into the ranks of insurgents. For many young people without jobs, joining insurgencies is an appealing option because of the promise of better economic circumstances, the attraction of cash incentives, and a feeling of purpose. Therefore, it is imperative to address youth unemployment and poverty to improve the socio-economic environment generally as well as to reduce the attractiveness of insurgency and reduce the likelihood of radicalisation among Nigeria's youth population.

Security Information Needs by Policymakers, Security Agents, Citizens, Children/Youths

Security information needs refer to the essential requirements for timely, accurate, and relevant information to ensure the effective functioning of security systems and the protection of individuals, organisations, and nations. In the contemporary landscape, characterised by diverse and evolving threats such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, and geopolitical tensions, the demand for comprehensive security information has become increasingly critical. Security information needs encompass a wide spectrum, including intelligence on potential threats, risk assessments, situational awareness, and updates on emerging security challenges. Meeting these information needs is vital for formulating sound security policies, making informed strategic decisions, and implementing proactive measures to safeguard national interests and public safety. It involves harnessing a combination of human intelligence, technology, and analytical capabilities to stay ahead of potential risks and challenges, reflecting the dynamic nature of security environments globally.

Security Information Needs by Policymakers

Policymakers, responsible for shaping and implementing effective security measures, heavily rely on comprehensive security information to make informed decisions and formulate strategic responses to emerging threats. The dynamic and complex nature of contemporary security challenges requires policymakers to access timely, accurate, and relevant information to assess risks, understand threat landscapes, and design effective countermeasures. Igwela and Nsirim (2018) note that security information needs for

policymakers encompass a broad spectrum, including intelligence on potential terrorist activities, geopolitical developments, cyber threats, and assessments of vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure. Access to such information is crucial for crafting policies that not only respond to existing security concerns but also anticipate and address potential future threats, ensuring the resilience and adaptability of national security frameworks. Policymakers often rely on intelligence agencies and security institutions to provide them with actionable insights assessments and official information (Oleksiyuk 2023). Policymakers must have access to timely and accurate intelligence to understand the intentions and capabilities of potential adversaries, evaluate the impact of policy decisions, and allocate resources strategically. This process involves a delicate balance between protecting sensitive information and ensuring policymakers have the necessary data to make informed decisions that promote national security and safeguard the well-being of citizens.

Security Information Needs by Security Agents

Security agents, comprising law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and other entities responsible for maintaining public safety and national security, have distinct and critical security information needs. These professionals rely on a wide range of information to carry out their duties effectively, including intelligence on criminal activities, potential threats, and emerging risks. The work of security agents is dynamic and often requires real-time information to respond swiftly to evolving situations. Thus, security agents would need information on information systems, construction of an information security threats model and a protection system model, which allow them to compile a complete list of threats and methods of protection against them (Shelupanov et al. 2019). Security information needs for security agents involve not only understanding criminal networks and activities but also having insights into the geopolitical landscape and technological advancements that may impact security. Security agents heavily depend on intelligence gathering to enhance their operational effectiveness. This involves collecting, analysing, and disseminating information that is vital for identifying and mitigating security threats. Whether dealing with traditional crime, terrorism, cyber threats, or transnational organised crime, security agents require access to accurate and up-to-date information to make informed decisions and carry out successful operations. Oyewole (2017) hoped that information sharing between security operatives could be one of the most powerful tools to combat crime, terrorism, natural disasters, and other crime-related activities. Furthermore, the integration of advanced technologies and collaboration with other intelligence agencies also play a crucial role in meeting the information needs of security agents, ensuring that they are well-equipped to address the multifaceted challenges of contemporary security environments.

Security Information Needs of Citizens

Citizens have distinct security information needs to ensure their safety and well-being. In an era marked by various security concerns, ranging from public safety issues to

online threats, individuals require access to information that empowers them to make informed decisions and adopt protective measures since security measures are crucial in shaping how to access information (Obi and Oladokun 2023). Children and youths, being vulnerable demographic groups, have specific information needs related to online safety, awareness of potential risks in their surroundings, and knowledge about emergency procedures. For citizens of all ages, security information needs encompass a range of topics, including crime prevention tips, disaster preparedness guidelines, and awareness campaigns on issues such as human trafficking and cyberbullying. Citizens play an active role in their safety, and access to relevant security information is essential for empowering them to take precautionary measures and contribute to community resilience (Horsfall et al. 2020). This information may include guidance on recognising and reporting suspicious activities, understanding the latest cybersecurity practices, and being aware of local emergency response protocols. For children and youths, age-appropriate security information is crucial for promoting safe online behaviour, educating them about potential dangers, and fostering a sense of responsibility in navigating the digital landscape. Empowering citizens with the right information not only enhances individual safety but also contributes to building a more secure and vigilant society

Role of the Library in Enhancing National Security and Combating Insurgency

Many studies have been carried out on the strategies to combat insurgency and suggested that the Nigerian Government and the international community need to cut off Boko Haram's sources of contact (Adedire et al. 2016), collaboration (IAC) among key security agencies (Ikeanyibe et al. 2020), and the use of police, military, and other security assemblage (Kinsey and Krieg 2021). The popular support of Boko Haran in the form of manpower, material, funds, intelligence, arms, and ammunition at the domestic and international levels must be cut off. In the same vein, an empowerment programme that aims at reducing unemployment among young school leavers and university graduates must be effectively implemented. However, the library serves as a vital resource centre, an educational platform, a research facilitator, a collaborative space, and a promoter of literacy each playing a crucial role in enhancing national security and combating insurgency.

Information Repository: Libraries serve as indispensable information repositories, playing a pivotal role in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria. These institutions act as centralised hubs for collecting, organising, and archiving a diverse array of information crucial to understanding and addressing security challenges (March et al. 2019). Academic research, government reports, historical documents, and intelligence analyses are systematically stored in libraries, providing security agencies, policymakers, and researchers with access to a wealth of knowledge essential for comprehending the root causes of insurgency and staying abreast of current security threats. In Nigeria, where insurgency-related issues necessitate a sophisticated grasp of historical, social, and geopolitical aspects for effective counteraction, the library's role as an information repository is especially

crucial. Additionally, libraries' role as information repositories plays a major role in the formulation of evidence-based policies and tactics for Nigeria's insurgent warfare. The abundance of materials found in libraries can be used by scholars and decision-makers to undertake in-depth assessments of security dynamics, enabling the development of focused and knowledgeable responses to the particular problems the nation's insurgency presents. The accessibility of this information within libraries fosters a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, encouraging stakeholders to engage with diverse perspectives and insights in the pursuit of more effective national security measures (Tom-George and Nsirim 2020). The role of the library as an information repository is foundational to enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria, providing a centralised and accessible reservoir of knowledge that informs research, policymaking, and collaborative efforts to address the complex security landscape.

Public Education and Awareness

Libraries play a pivotal role in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria through their role in public education and awareness. In a country facing multifaceted security challenges, libraries serve as educational platforms that contribute to raising awareness among the public about the complexities of insurgency and national security issues. Through educational programmes, workshops, and the dissemination of relevant materials, libraries actively engage communities, fostering a deeper understanding of the root causes and dynamics of insurgency (Omigie et al. 2023). This public education function is crucial in empowering citizens to recognise and resist extremist ideologies, ultimately contributing to a more vigilant and resilient society. Moreover, libraries in Nigeria play a critical role in promoting literacy and critical thinking skills, essential components in countering insurgency. By providing access to information and organising awareness campaigns, libraries contribute to building a literate and informed population capable of discerning credible sources, questioning misinformation, and resisting radical ideologies (Igwela and Nsirim 2017). This proactive approach aligns with the broader goals of national security, as an educated and aware citizenry forms a robust line of defence against the influences of insurgency in Nigeria.

Research Facilitation

Libraries serve as facilitators of research, playing a crucial role in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria. With a focus on providing access to academic journals, reference materials, and other relevant resources, libraries become invaluable hubs for researchers studying the complex dynamics of insurgency in the country, which according to Neetha (2020) is through the provision of high-quality scholarly collections and resources to meet the requirements of researches. Researchers, both within security agencies and academia, can leverage the comprehensive collection of materials within libraries to conduct in-depth analyses, contribute to the understanding of security challenges, and develop evidence-based strategies to address insurgency effectively. This research facilitation role positions libraries as essential

partners in the generation of knowledge that informs policymaking and counterinsurgency efforts. Furthermore, libraries in Nigeria contribute to a culture of research and innovation by fostering collaboration among researchers (Klain-Gabbay and Shoham 2019), including security professionals and policymakers. The availability of resources within libraries encourages interdisciplinary approaches to studying insurgency, allowing for a holistic understanding of the socio-economic, political, and cultural factors contributing to insecurity. By serving as a platform for collaboration, libraries facilitate the exchange of ideas and insights, fostering an environment conducive to the development of innovative strategies and policies that can effectively address the unique challenges posed by insurgency in Nigeria.

Neutral Ground for Collaboration

Libraries serve as neutral grounds for collaboration, playing a pivotal role in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria. The diverse and complex nature of security challenges requires a collaborative approach involving various stakeholders such as intelligence agencies, military personnel, policymakers, academics, and community leaders. Libraries, as inclusive and neutral spaces, host forums, conferences, and discussions that bring together these diverse groups, fostering collaboration and information exchange (Igwela et al. 2019). This collaborative environment allows for the sharing of insights, experiences, and expertise, leading to the development of innovative and effective strategies to address the intricate security landscape in Nigeria. Libraries, by providing a neutral ground for collaboration, contribute to the strengthening of relationships and trust among different stakeholders involved in national security efforts. This collaborative ethos aligns with the principles of transparency and cooperation, essential elements in developing comprehensive and integrated approaches to combating insurgency. The library's role as a facilitator of collaboration underscores its significance as a bridge between various sectors, ensuring that collective knowledge and resources are harnessed in a unified effort to enhance national security and address the challenges posed by insurgency in Nigeria.

Promotion of Literacy and Critical Thinking: Because they facilitate study and foster critical thinking, libraries in Nigeria are essential to improving national security and thwarting insurrection. Libraries play a crucial role in facilitating research by giving researchers access to scholarly publications, reference materials, and a variety of other resources that are vital for scholars, security experts, and policymakers researching the dynamics of insurgencies. Libraries support evidence-based research by providing a centralised information repository, which enables a greater comprehension of the underlying causes and intricate details of insurgency (Igwela and Nsirim 2018). Researchers can leverage these resources to develop informed strategies that address the unique challenges of national security in Nigeria. In addition to research facilitation, libraries actively promote critical thinking skills among citizens. Through educational programmes, workshops, and community engagement initiatives, libraries foster an environment that encourages questioning, analysis, and discernment of information related to national security. By cultivating critical thinking skills, libraries contribute to

the development of a vigilant and informed citizenry capable of evaluating information, resisting extremist ideologies, and actively participating in efforts to combat insurgency in Nigeria.

Methodology

The paper employed a systematic literature review to examine the role of the library in enhancing national security and combating insurgency involves a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. A review of existing literature was conducted to identify and analyse scholarly articles, books, reports, and other relevant sources that discuss the role of libraries in the context of national security and counterinsurgency efforts. The literature review focused on the emergence and causes of insecurity in Nigeria, the identification of the security information needs by different groups: policymakers, security agents, citizens and children/youths and the role of the library in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria. Literature was sourced from different databases including Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academica, and ProQuest from December 2023 to February 2024. Fifty-one papers were harvested from which 35 papers were found useful and 10 papers were used for analysis.
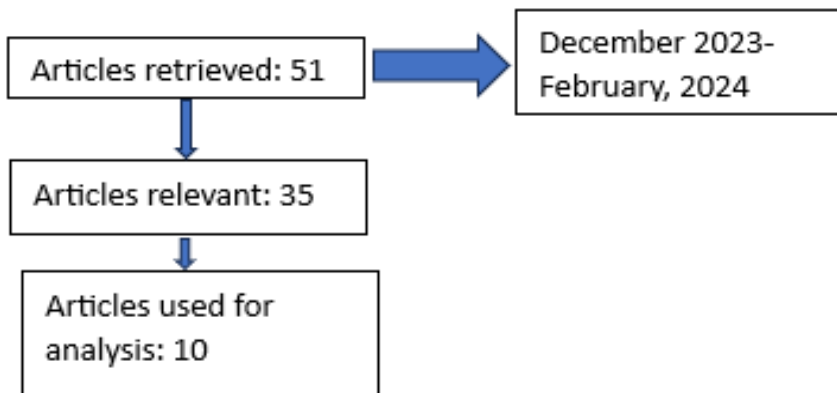

Fig 1: Data collection method

Implication of the Study

Many studies have been carried out on the strategies to combat insurgency in Nigeria. For example, Adedire et al. (2016) investigated the strategies for combating terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria, an international collaboration against Boko Haram and suggested that the Nigerian Government and the International Community need to cut off the sources of contact of Boko Haram. Ikeanyibe et al. (2020) explored the interagency collaboration and the management of counter-insurgency campaigns against Boko Haram in Nigeria and recommended interagency collaboration (IAC) among key security agencies (Lenshie et al. 2024; Dadur and Aliyu 2021), Kielsgard and Orina (2020) added ad-hoc collaboration. Kinsey and Krieg (2021) noted the use of the police, the military, and other security assemblage and Enweonwu et al. (2022) hoped that de-indoctrination as a framework that involves conscious efforts aimed at re-examining the type of education available to youths and children in Northern Nigeria would curb insurgency and insecurity in Nigeria. The popular support of Boko Haran in the form of manpower, material, funds, intelligence, arms, and ammunition at the domestic and international levels must be cut off. In the same vein, an empowerment programme that aims at reducing unemployment among young school leavers and university graduates must be effectively implemented (Adedire et al. 2016; Dsuki 2013). Sule et al. (2019) in their study on strategies for combating insurgency in North-Eastern Nigeria, a non-traditional approach advocated for the need for exploration and utilisation of non-traditional or non-military approaches such as negotiation, ideological perception, social justice, and equitable distribution of national wealth among all classes in the country. Iwuoha and Onuoha (2021) noted the contribution of men on request by sister security agencies. Many of the studies focused on military or governmental strategies for combating insurgency. The unique aspect of this study lies in its exploration of the often-overlooked role of libraries in national security and counterinsurgency efforts, offering insights into innovative approaches and strategies for addressing these challenges.

The study highlights the multifaceted role that libraries can play in enhancing national security and combating insurgency in Nigeria. By serving as information hubs, fostering intellectual development, countering extremist ideologies, and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders, libraries can make valuable contributions to efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability within the country. The study suggests several significant implications for addressing national security challenges and combating insurgency within Nigeria. It underscores the pivotal role that libraries can play as information hubs within communities. By providing access to a diverse range of resources, including literature, educational materials, and informational sessions, libraries can serve as crucial platforms for disseminating accurate and timely information regarding security threats. This dissemination of information can empower citizens with knowledge about the socio-political landscape and equip them to make informed decisions about their safety and security.

Furthermore, the study underscores the potential of libraries in building partnerships and collaboration among various stakeholders involved in national security efforts. By providing training and resources to security personnel, policymakers, and other stakeholders, libraries can enhance the capacity and expertise of those working to combat insurgency. Through advocacy initiatives and policy discussions, libraries can also contribute to the development of effective strategies and policies aimed at addressing security challenges within Nigeria.

Conclusion

The present study explored strategies on how to counter insurgency in Nigeria. These include suggestions to cut the connections of Boko Haram, promote interagency collaboration among security agencies, utilise police and military forces, and implement de-indoctrination efforts in Northern Nigeria. Additionally, effective empowerment programmes aimed at reducing unemployment among young graduates must be implemented. This study, however, focused on the examination of the frequently neglected role that libraries play in national security and counterinsurgency endeavours. It provides fresh perspectives on inventive approaches and tactics to tackle this challenge. Libraries provide invaluable resources that support policymaking and counterinsurgency tactics, ranging from academic research to intelligence analyses. Additionally, libraries are essential for raising public awareness and education because they foster critical thinking and reading, which enable people to oppose radical beliefs. Nigeria as a country struggles with security issues. To create comprehensive policies that address the underlying causes of insurgency and promote lasting peace, it is crucial to acknowledge and capitalise on the distinctive contributions that libraries make to the field of national security.

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