Crime and Insecurity in Rivers State: The Need for Utilization of OSPAC Security as Alternative Security Measure in Rivers State

Emeodu Elijah Nwabueze; Etire John George; Dickson Johnwill Kalio; Oscar Inowei Alabo
Department of Sociology, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Abstract: This study examined crime and insecurity in Rivers State: The need for utilization of OSPAC security as alternative security measure in Rivers State. The study adopted three (3) research questions and objectives and they constituted the study guide. Thus, the self-determination theory of Edward Deci and Richard Ryan (1985) was adopted as the theoretical framework for the study. The survey research design was used, with sample size of 396 using Taro Yameni. Data instrument was questionnaire. Hence, the data was analyzed using simple percentages, mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study shows that the reasons or the need for alternative security measures using OSPAC security to support the failed conventional security is to combat crime and insecurity in Rivers State which has hypnotize growth and development. The study recommended that since crime and insecurity spellbind growth and development, there is need for government, communities, NGOs and stakeholders who are concerned about human lives and security to provide alternative security and sustain such security outfit, as this can help improve security conditions in Rivers State.

Keywords: Crime, Insecurity, OSPAC, Alternative Security.

INTRODUCTION
Criminality and insecurity are societal issues (Nmon, 2003), and they have become a major concern in Nigeria. Thus, the rate of felt insecurity and crime is worrying in the northern area, and similarly in the southern half of the nation. Persistent insecurity has resulted in the formation of various security outfits (such as OSPAC in Rivers State, Amotekom in the Southwest region, and also the Green Sherriff security group, which is a form of community or indigenous policing) to assist in controlling the area’s ongoing crime and security until the Nigerian security forces can be relied on to provide efficient and effective security. There is increased push for alternative security as a result of security agency failures. For instance, the recurrent killings between Fulani headsmen and villages in Benue State prompted the state's governor, Samuel Ortom, to urge the populace the employment of self-defense weapons such as Ak 47 Guns. Nigerians responded to this comment in a variety of ways. If there were effective and dependable security, his comment on alternative security would not have happened. As a result, it explains our security system's vulnerability and failure as being unreliable (Dickson, 2021).

Siegel (2012) defined crime as the conduct of prohibited activities or the omission of necessary acts that subject offenders to punishment if convicted in a court of law. It is an odd factor that, if left unchecked beyond a tolerable level, leads in social insecurity. Additionally, Effiom and Edinyang (2013) defined insecurity as the condition of being threatened or injured. Nwolise (2006) in Emeodu (2019) posited that security is critical and that nations' territory must be secured by a network of armed forces: that the sovereignty of the state must be guaranteed by a democratic and patriotic government, which in turn must be protected by the military, police, and the people themselves; and that the people must not only be protected from exile but also from violence.
Regrettably, Nigeria's security forces have consistently fallen short of expectations. Their security responsibilities include the prevention of crime and the protection of lives and property. Its provision is predicated on the widely held notion that "the state is the only entity vested with primary duty and authority for the security of its territory and people." It is accomplished when people and/or groups of actors are free to assess dangers and threats to their well-being and ideals. Inadequate service delivery has prompted calls for alternative security measures such as the OSPAC outfit in Rivers State. Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Security Planning and Advisory Committee is an abbreviation for OSPAC. It is an indigenous security organisation founded by Onelga in Rivers State that has eventually extended to other LGAs and villages in the state as a result of its success in reestablishing security in her region (Emeodu, 2021, Adiele&Emeodu, 2022). Thus, the necessity for this alternative security is not due to a lack of security agents in our state, but rather to the security agents' deficiencies in containing and preventing crime and instability in our country (Dickson, 2021).

Ugwulebo (2011) lamented that enterprises and other firms have fled restive and kidnap-prone regions in light of the actions of youths in Rivers State in particular. He stated that several expatriate employees of firms, students, and members of faiths had been abducted and slain, resulting in forced migration. Thus, situations indicative of insecurity are criminal behaviours, and according to Durkheim (1964), crime is a pathological phenomena that disrupts all healthy and normal existence (Ritzer, 2003). Extrapolating from this, one might conclude that the rate of crime committed by certain unscrupulous individuals in Nigeria, and particularly in Rivers State, is high, and the leadership's inability to manage the morass is a major contributor to the country's internal or domestic insecurity problem. As a consequence, traditional security has been unable to combat crime and instability. Similarly, police officers and other law enforcement officers are law enforcement officers whose primary responsibility is to provide security and preserve law and order (Ahmed et al., 2013). It is a critical element through which police methods are implemented in all human civilizations to ensure security (Nilson and Oliver, 2006; Alemika and Chukwuma, 2003). Regardless of this guarantee, insecurity pervades the State as a result of community conflict, abduction, theft, and environmental damage.

The government of Rivers State has made various attempts to lessen the degree of insecurity. It seems depressing that, despite their efforts, it is assumed that little or no progress is being made. This is owing to the fact that numerous communities in Rivers State, particularly the rural areas, are experiencing various forms of distress. Additionally, there has been a spike in kidnappings, with kidnappers demanding either a little or a large ransom. Throughout Rivers State's history and present, numerous communities have faced a slew of crimes and instability, ranging from cult activities, abduction, and illicit oil theft, to name a few. Numerous firms have failed, with investors migrating to other countries. As a result of the above, Chukwu (2018) concluded that the display of dissatisfaction by youths resulted in the relocation of several enterprises. She noted that it resulted in capital flight, posing a threat to the nation's prosperity. Peace and security must be stabilised for the state for Nigeria to flourish, since peace is a cure for development while instability and conflict generate underdevelopment. Considering the above allegation, several stakeholders, concerned people, regions, and communities have sought alternate security measures. It is against this backdrop that the study is focused on crime and insecurity in Rivers State: The need for utilization of OSPAC security as alternative security measure in Rivers State

**Statement of the Problem**

In Rivers State as well as Nigeria at large there have been recurring cases of cult activities, terrorism, kidnapping, human trafficking advance fee fraud, inter-communal conflicts, armed robbery, and drug trafficking among others (Odekunle, 2014; Rotimi and Ikuteyijo, 2012; Dambazau, 2007; Civil Society Panel on Police Reforms in Nigeria report, 2012; Alemika and Chukwuma, 2003; Odekunle, 2010; Onyeozili, 2005). According to the National Bureau of Statistics of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's Annual Abstract of Statistics (2012), a total of 172,326 (172, 326). The perception of crime in many sections of Nigeria has been worrying,
according to the United States Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security (2015) and
the Nigeria Crime and Safety Report, Lagos. This report states that:

Crime is a risk throughout the country. US visitors and residents experienced armed muggings,
assaults, burglaries, carjacking, rapes, kidnappings, and extortion… Home invasions remain a
serious threat, with armed robbers threatening even guarded compounds by scaling perimeter
wall.

Ethnic and community violence are pervasive, and abduction for ransom remains a national
security worry, with many seeing it as a profitable profession. Kidnappings are significantly
underreported, and the incidence of unconfirmed kidnappings continues to rise. In March 2013,
while waiting for security guards to unlock the gate to his Victoria Island property during a US-
sponsored event, a British expatriate was abducted at night. Two American expatriates were
abducted in the Niger Delta in September 2014. According to the US Commission on
International Religious Freedom, about 14,000 Nigerians have died as a result of sectarian
violence since 1999, showing that sectarian violence killed more Nigerians than terrorism.
According to this research, the Nigerian people and citizens of other nations are endangered
species due to insecurity of life and property, as well as violations of basic human rights and
freedoms. Development efforts are unlikely to prosper in this environment. However, due to
Nigeria's relative lack of trustworthy government crime data, it is impossible to ascertain the
exact number of criminal cases (Marenin and Reisig, 2016 cited in Dickson, 2021). Despite this,
crime is considered as a danger to peace in Nigeria, resulting in widespread loss of life and
property, as well as the erosion of critical societal values in many sections of the nation,
including company failure.

Again, a lack of security has prompted experts to advocate a different approach to security. This
is because security services have failed to rein down crime. The challenges linked with the
police's inability to suppress crime include a high degree of corruption among security personnel,
low pay, inadequate equipment, and an unsanitary working environment, all of which undermine
the force's effectiveness in the nation.

Thus, Okunola and Ojo (2012) investigated the prospects of graduates choosing police as a
career in Nigeria and identified additional issues with the agency, including low officer
commitment, indiscipline, police criminal collusion, poor police-public relations, a lack of legal
knowledge, a lack of integrity, and a complete disregard for human rights and resource
management inadequacies.

Again, Ladapo's (2012) research, "Effective investigations, a pivot to efficient criminal justice
administration: problems in Nigeria," indicated that the primary hindrance to police in Nigeria is
insufficient money and ineffective resource management. This has caused some Nigerian police
to prioritise elite protection above poor or broad national security. This also explains why the
rich get greater security than the poor. In another light, the leaders bear the brunt of the shock
since they live in constant danger of kidnapping or robbery. They spend a lot of money to protect
themselves without regard for the environment or other people. To counterbalance this
predicament, several experts argued for the use of alternate police methods. For example, Iro
the necessity for alternative security and lamenting the fact that alternative security is necessary
owing to police inadequacy. Extrapolating from this, it seems as if the Nigerian police and
security services have failed to live up to their constitutional obligations.

Additionally, Nwaeze (2010) evaluated the "effect of vigilante groups on crime control in Enugu
State's Udenu Local Government Area." The findings indicated that vigilante groups acquired
more significance as agents of crime control in Enugu State's Udenu L.G.A. throughout their
inception. The report advises that alternative security firms make an effort to reduce crime in
places where security organisations are insufficient.
In light of these assertions, it is concluded that the government is indifferent, thoughtless, and fragile in its security management functions. This necessitates alternative policing via the use of other security techniques in order to alleviate the issue. As a result, governments and communities should be granted a legal right to rely on and secure themselves. These private contributions might take the shape of group actions (community policing) or individual contributions to preserve the citizenry's livelihood. Otherwise, the community may descend into anarchy, resulting in the ultimate collapse of the whole social structure. Given the prevalence of crime and insecurity in Rivers State, it is reasonable to believe that official security measures are falling short of expectations. It becomes imperative to look for alternative measures, be it community base security, state security or regional security.

Therefore, many studies have suggested an alternative security; but there exists less study that investigated OSPAC outfit as an alternative security measures in Rivers State. Therefore, it constitutes a gap to be filled as it will contribute to empirical literature on crime and insecurity. Given this, the following research questions were stated as:

i. To what extent can one establish that crime and insecurity are prevalence in Rivers State and this requires alternative measures?

ii. Can one give some reasons on the need for alternative security measures like OSPAC security over the conventional security to combat crime and insecurity in Rivers State?

iii. Can one establish ways to improve the existing alternative security measures like OSPAC security in Rivers State to ensure that crime and insecurity are effectively reduced?

Objectives of the Study
The main aim of the study is to examine crime and insecurity in Nigeria: the need for alternative measures in Rivers state. Hence, other objectives include:

i. To identify the causes of crime and insecurity in Rivers State

ii. To ascertain reasons for the need for alternative security measures over the conventional security to combat crime and insecurity in Rivers State

iii. To identify ways to improve the existing alternative security measures in Rivers State to ensure that crime and insecurity are effectively reduced.

Theoretical Framework

Self-Determination Theory (SDT): Edward Deci and Richard Ryan (1985) are two psychologists who are the primary proponents of self-determination theory. Their work was initially published in 1985 in the book Self-Determination and Intrinsic Motivation in Human Behavior. They established a theory of motivation based on the premise that individuals are motivated by a desire to grow and achieve satisfaction. This philosophy may be applied to individuals, community organisations, and society as a whole that want growth and development. Self Determination Theory (SDT) study began in the 1970s as a result of studies comparing intrinsic and extrinsic motivations and a developing knowledge of the dominating role motivation played in an individual's or society's behaviour (Lepper, Greene & Nisbett, 1973). SDT was not publicly presented and acknowledged as a credible empirical theory until the mid-1980s.

The self-determination theory (SDT) is a motivational theory that focuses on three universal and psychological needs: competence, autonomy, and psychological connectedness. Additionally, it is a wide theory of human psychology and motivation that examines how individuals, communities, and institutions interact with and are influenced by their social environment. This idea focuses on our decisions by assessing how self-motivated and self-determined our conduct is. SDT covers intrinsic motivation and numerous forms of extrinsic motivation, as well as the ways in which these motivations impact situational reactions across several domains. Finally, SDT elucidates the crucial role of social and cultural environment in supporting community or individual needs, perceived sense of self-direction, performance, and well-being. Additionally, self-determination theory recognises the significance of the interaction of internal and extrinsic
motives as a technique of motivating individuals to accomplish a goal. SDT develops the concept that extrinsic motives and the motivations of others may be helpful as a result of this acknowledgement. However, it is more critical for communities and individuals to discover the "why" behind the intended outcome. Society and individuals are always evolving, overcoming obstacles and accumulating new experiences that eventually shape them as a whole. While people strive to unite from inside, they also become a part of societal systems. Again, SDT believes that individuals possess inherent psychological demands that serve as the foundation for self-motivation and personality integration. Not only does SDT tend to emphasise intrinsic psychological requirements, but it also emphasises goal pursuit, the impacts of goal attainment, and the conclusion of goal attainment (Deci, & Ryan, 2000).

Extrapolating from this hypothesis, it explains why Rivers State need alternative security. This explains why the majority of villages and local government areas in Rivers State have opted for self-security as a consequence of the state's official security officers' failure. The core of self determination theory is that individuals want security, which supports Stewart (2004) and Elem and Emeodu's (2020) belief that there is a correlation between security and progress. As a result of the constant increase in crime and insecurity, which has harmed people's development, it was on the edge of seeking effective security that the self determination theory became critical to this research.

**Literature/Empirical Review**

The term "crime" refers to actions that violate social order and are deserving of severe condemnation. Criminality is said to be as old as society. Crime as a concept evolves over time. Certain crimes become obsolete over time, while others take on new and broader dimensions. Crime as a concept is vast, and not all manifestations of crime are visible or practised in every corner of the globe. Aminu (2016) identified various aspects of crime such as robbery, kidnapping, insurgency, and corruption in his study titled police/community relationship for crime control in Nigeria. It was argued that due to the police's poor performance and susceptibility to corruption, many people hoard vital security information from the police. According to Aminu (2016), members of the public are unwilling to cooperate with police in providing useful information that could aid in the prevention and control of crime in Nigeria. This situation has posed a serious threat to the Nigerian police's ability to strategically position itself in order to carry out a variety of constitutionally mandated functions, including the protection of life and property and the maintenance of law and order. This chasm has a dire consequence for Nigeria's desire to achieve a sense of community safety and security. The risk factors in this regard are that prevailing family norms and values, as well as the influence of community networks, prevent the community from reporting cases to law enforcement. Thus, these perceptions of police and community corruption have had a detrimental effect on behaviour and the sense of trust required to foster relationships among stakeholders.

Oguntunde, Ojo, Okagbue, and Oguntunde (2018) conducted a study on the analysis of selected crime data in Nigeria and discovered that crime is defined as an act that results in an offence and is punishable by law. There study added to Aminu (2016)'s list of various crimes in Nigeria, which included rape, kidnapping, murder, burglary, fraud, terrorism, robbery, cyber-crime, bribery and corruption, and money laundering. According to 2016 statistics released by the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics, Lagos, Abuja, Delta, Kano, Plateau, Ondo, Oyo, Bauchi, Adamawa, and Gombe States ranked among the top ten states with the highest crime rates. This is not to say that Rivers State is a law-abiding culture or state. Indeed, crime and insecurity are inextricably linked since they all have comparable repercussions.

Insecurity is generated by crime. Salawud (2010) demonstrated that insecurity in Nigeria manifests itself via a plethora of political murders, community violence, religious intolerance, militancy and kidnappings, as well as bombing and murdering of individuals. Additionally, it should be understood that insecurity is a broad sensation of unease that may be triggered by the perception of oneself as susceptible or inferior in some manner, or by a sense of fragility or instability that challenges one's self-image or ego. To a significant degree, insecurity is a sense of
unease, a lack of trust in the country's leadership, or concern about oneself or one's surroundings. Again, Orisa (2017) characterised it succinctly as a state of being unprotected or unsafe. This means that people experience uneasiness when they lose confidence in their nation and relationships with others. The subject of insecurity has been a source of contention in our society; it is no longer a fresh occurrence, as practically every state in our nation, Nigeria, has experienced insecurity, as has the rest of the globe. Orisa (opcit) said that there is a pervasive concern of government instability. This uneasiness contributes to stress, dread, and insecurity in our society. This dread is what drives individuals to leave their homes and relocate to safer regions. As a result, socioeconomic activity stall, resulting in increased poverty. Confirming this was Adofu and Alhassan's (2018) research, which examined Insecurity and Economic Development in Nigeria and found that the continual increase in Insecurity resulted in a decline in the country's economic development. However, these hydra-headed issues still remain the largest concerns confronting governments all over the globe. They discovered an inverse association between insecurity and the country's economic progress. To assure economic development in Nigeria, the report offers a variety of strategies to combat insecurity, including community policing, a growth perspective based on human development, fair resource allocation, and resource channelling to frontline areas of the economy, among others. On the subject of community policing as an alternative approach, the writers express their opposition to the use of the OSPAC outfit for security purposes in Rivers State.

The above also caught the recommendation of Iro (2016), whose research, Crime and Insecurity: The Need for Other Policing in Nigeria, concluded that there is a need to offer alternative methods of self-policing as a response to the present state of insecurity afflicting the civilian people. This is a notion that many Nigerians feel may safeguard the country's future as a sovereign entity.

**Methodology**

The Survey research design was adopted in this study. The study population involves the entire population of Rivers State. According to NPC (2016), Rivers State population as projected is about 7,303,924 people. The sample population for this study includes chiefs, women groups/leaders, security personnel’s, youths, business owners, and politicians. The sample size was statistically generated using Taro Yamane formula for a finite population which gave a sample of 396. The researcher used purposive sampling technique to select one local government each and two communities in each LGA across the three senatorial districts. This implies that three LGAs were selected and six communities were also selected. Purposively the researcher selected LGAs and communities that are prone to crime and insecurity. These LGAs includes Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni (Communities: Omoku and Egi) for Rivers West senatorial district. Etche LGA (Communities: Akpoku and Egwi) for Rivers-East Senatorial District. Andoni LGA (Communities: Ikuru and Uyengala) for Rivers-South-East. In each of the three LGAs, 132 respondents were selected; while in each community 66 respondents were selected using the quota sampling technique. Both primary and secondary data sources were used. The questionnaire instrument was used for data generation. Statistical tools such as simple percentages as well as mean and standard deviation were used for data analysis.

**Socio – Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The following table indicates the frequencies and percentages for the sex distribution of the respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Research Fieldwork, 2022.*
The table above shows that majority of the respondents were males constituting 75% (300) respondents, while the females constituted 25% (96) respondents.

### Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Distribution</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>27.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 and above</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>396</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2022.*

With regards to the respondent ages, 70 (17.5%) of the total respondents fall between the age bracket of 20 – 30, while 110 (27.5%) are between the ages of 31 – 40. Again, 130 (32.5%) were in the age bracket of 41 and 50, while 86 (22.5%) are between 51 and above.

### Table 3: Marital Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce/Separated/Widowed</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>396</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Researcher's Fieldwork, 2021.*

Table 3 indicates that majority of respondents who participated in the study were married, representing 57.5% of the sample size. Out of the 396 participants, 116 (30%) were single, 50 (12.5%) were divorce/separated/widowed.

### Table 4.4: Religious Distribution of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATR</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>396</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Research Fieldwork, 2021.*

Table 4 above shows that 336 (90%) respondents are Christians while 10 (2.5%) respondent who participated were Muslim, and 50 (12.5%) respondents are of the African Traditional Religion.

### Table 5: Various Categories of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Categories of Respondents</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chiefs</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Business owners</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Youths</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Politicians</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Security personnel’s</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Women group/leaders</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>396</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Research Fieldwork, 2021*

The table above shows various categories of respondents selected for the study. The table indicates that the numbers of chiefs selected are 66(16.6%) respondents, while business owners, youths, politicians, security personnel’s, women group/leaders all had 66 respondents with 16.6%. Thus this implies that all the respondents had equal representations because the researcher used quota sampling and all the questionnaires were retrieved.

### Research Question 1: To what extent can one establish that crimes and insecurity are prevalent in Rivers State, which may require alternative measures like OSPAC security?
Table 6: Presents Mean and STD scores on if one can establish that crimes and insecurity are prevalence in Rivers State, which may require alternative measures like OSPAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Questionnaire Items</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>STD</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Because there have incidences of kidnapping</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The beheading and killing of police officers</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The rise in armed robbery/Stealing</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cult clashes and killings</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Increase in the report of Human body part sales</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Mean/STD 2.93 0.97 Accept

Source: Researcher’s Field work, 2022.

Table 4.6 shows that the mean ratings obtained for various attributes and opinion measured were greater than the standard reference mean of 2.5. This indicates that the respondents were of the opinion or view that crime and insecurity were prevalence in Rivers State. Hence, item 1 had a score of (mean=3.28, SD=0.76). Item 2 had a score of (mean=3.51, SD=0.75). Item 3 had a score of (mean=3.26, SD=0.79). Item 4 had a score of (mean=3.20, SD=0.88). Also, item 5 had the score of (mean=3.41, SD=1.07). Thus, given the homogeneity in resource were all the items were accepted by the respondents, this shows or establish that crimes and insecurity are prevalence in Rivers State and that this which may require alternative security measures. The findings revealed the extent one can establish that crime and insecurity are prevalence in Rivers State, which may require alternative measures to security. This was revealed as the analysis shows that there has been incidence of kidnapping, beheading and killing of police officers, rise in armed robbery/stealing as well as report of sales of human body parts, and cult clashes and killings that brought about community crisis and insecurity.

The findings on cult clashes and killings that brought about community crisis and insecurity is in line with the study of Emeodu (2019) on insecurity and development challenges in Rivers State, which supported that the occurrences of crime and insecurity in Rivers State are as result of cult activities, poverty and unemployment. Also, the findings are in tandem with the study of Adekola and Enyeche (2017) that reveals that as crime and insecurity exist, it brought about the problem of displacement of people. Therefore, the fact that these challenges, quagmire and conundrum elude the effort of the formal security system, it means that there should be need to adopt alternative security measures.

Research Question 2: Can one give some reasons on the need for alternative security measures like the OSPAC security over the conventional security to combat crime and insecurity in Rivers State?

Table 7: Present mean and standard deviation for reasons on the need for alternative security measures like the OSPAC over the conventional security to combat crime and insecurity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Questionnaire Items</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>To fight against continuous kidnapping</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Malfunction of the Nigerian security operatives in crime reduction, control and prevention</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stagnation in social and economic activities</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Because there is total decline in development &amp; security</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.81</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ensuring effective protection of lives and properties</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Because the presence of security will attract more investment and development</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Mean & Standard Deviation 2.92 0.84 Accept

Source: Researcher’s Field work, 2021.
The table 7 presented reasons on the need for alternative security measures like the OSPAC over the conventional security to combat crime and insecurity with grand mean of 3.92 and SD of 0.84. Hence, item 1 on to fight against continuous kidnapping had the following score (Mean = 3.20 & SD= 0.97). Item 2 on Malfunction of the Nigerian security operatives in crime reduction, control and prevention, had the score of (Mean= 3.00 & SD = 0.80). Item 3 on Stagnation in social and economic activities had a score of (mean = 3.86 & SD= 0.88). Items 4 on because there is total decline in development & security had a score of (Mean = 3.81 & SD = 0.70). Items 5 on ensuring effective protection of lives and properties had a score of (Mean = 3.25 & SD = 0.85). Items 6 on because the presence of security will attract more investment and development had a score of (Mean = 3.46 & SD = 0.78). By implication the uniform and coherence in response by the respondents showed the need for alternative security measures like the OSPAC over the conventional security to combat crime and insecurity in Rivers State.

Again, the study found some reasons on the need for alternative security measures like the OSPAC security to support the failed conventional security to combat crime and insecurity in Rivers State. It presents that it is to fight against continuous kidnapping, malfunctioning of the Nigerian security operatives in crime reduction, control and prevention of crime that have caused stagnation in social and economic activities as well as decline in development and general security, effective protection of lives and properties and attraction of more investment and development. Given this, the study correlates with the studies of Osoru (2020), Gbemine (2020), Adofu and Alhassan (2018) on insecurity and economic development in Nigeria, and Ojo, Okagbue and Oguntunde (2018) on analysis of selected crime data in Nigeria, which explained that crime and insecurity affect/hypnotizes economic, religious, social and political development. Hence, no society can develop in the presence of insecurity and continuous crime. Therefore, this led to a call to support OSPAC security outfit which is an informal security outfit in Rivers State. The effort of OSPAC security performance in crime control in LGAs Rivers State were justified in the study by Emefodi (2021) on indigenous security outfit (OSPAC security) and socio-economic development in Rivers State, and Adiele and Emefodi (2022) study on OSPAC vigilante outfit and crime control in Emohua and Etche LGAs, as they posited that emergence of OSPAC outfit had proven success in their host communities as social-economic activities are improving.

Research Question 3: Can one establish ways to improve the existing alternative security measures in Rivers State to ensure that crime and insecurity are effectively reduced?

Table 8 Presents mean and standard deviation ways to improve the existing alternative security measures in Rivers State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Questionnaire Items</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Providing the required incentives and motivation that can encourage their efforts</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.65</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Proper supervision on the alternative security by the Nigerian formal security outfits and through the community development committee.</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The need for punishment for wrong attitudes by any member of the alternative security outfit</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Effective training and orientations we be imperative</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The selection process should also be thorough to select only those that qualified for it.</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>SA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Mean/Standard Deviation 2.82 1.01 Accept

Source: Researcher’s Field work, 2021.

The table 8 presents ways to improve the existing alternative security measures in Rivers State, with a grand mean of 2.84 and SD of 1.01. Thus, item 1 on poor working environment had the score of (mean = 3.65 & SD = 0.76). Item 2 on proper supervision on the alternative security by

---

*Note: The table is not fully visible in the image, but it seems to present a similar format to the previous table.*
the Nigerian formal security outfits had a score of (Mean = 3.76 & SD 0.68). Item 3 on the need for punishment for wrong attitudes by any member of the alternative security outfit, had a score of (Mean = 3.71 & SD = 0.64). Item 4 on effective training and orientations we be imperative had a score of (Mean = 3.53 & SD= 0.86). Item 5 on the selection process should also be thorough to select only those that qualified for it, had a score of (Mean = 3.63 & SD = 0.73).

By implication, it means that majority of the respondents were in support that the items support ways to improve the existing alternative security measures in Rivers State. Discussing on this, given the fact that OSPAC security has made impact in their host communities, the study through its findings showed that there is need to improve the existing alternative security measures in Rivers State to ensure that crime and insecurity are effectively reduced. This can be achieved through providing the required incentives and motivation, proper supervising by the government formal securities and community development committee, punishment for wrong attitudes by OSPAC members, training and orientation and recruiting the best qualified youths in the process.

Conclusion/Recommendations

Obviously, crime and insecurity, and the repercussions thereof, are detrimental to national growth and socioeconomic development. Throughout Nigeria's regions and zones, there has been a number of insecurity incidents, including Boko-Haram activities, Fulani-Herdsmen and farmers clashes, kidnapping, and cult clashes. This is evidence that Nigeria's security network has failed to carry out its primary responsibility of protecting lives and property. Previously, the Rivers State administration granted freedom and amnesty to repentant cultists and lawbreakers. Thus, all of these attempts have been fruitless, as crime has persisted at a high level. Having lost faith in conventional security in Rivers State and Nigeria as a whole, LGAs and communities in Rivers State that implemented an alternative security strategy based on community networks or manpower have succeeded in lowering crime. The efforts of these outfits such as OSPAC in Rivers State have ensured and documented effective security, as there has been a decline in cult activities, kidnapping, stealing, and armed robbery, as well as an improvement in socioeconomic activities such as farming, business and shop owners re-opening, and government projects are ongoing. The report suggests that government should recognise the need of supporting this alternative security effort and expanding it to other communities in Rivers State in order to ensure the continued viability of socioeconomic activities. However, the crux of this is to bolster Stewart (2004) and Emuedu and Elem's (2020) statement that development can occur only when peace and security prevail.

The paper argued that since crime and insecurity suffocate national growth and development, as seen by loss of life and property, capital flight, and human rights violations, among other things. The government, communities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and stakeholders concerned with human lives and security should supply and support alternative security and recommend its sustainability, since this can help enhance security circumstances in Rivers State.

Again, given the inability of the formal security system to guarantee the reduction of crime and insecurity in Rivers State, which have created several issues, the study advises an alternative method utilising the pragmatic OSPAC security network in the area to increase security. Finally, there should be effective monitoring and motivating of the alternative security team, which may be accomplished by reining in informal security and instilling a feeling of responsibility and accountability in them. As a result, such an attempt will alter their perspective on the importance of the community they have been entrusted to safeguard. This would also instil in them the responsibility to turn over any erring members of the community to government security authorities. This attempt will aid in resolving the issue of some OSPAC members murdering crime victims without being justified or condemned by a superior authority. Additionally, by compensating them and offering them some rights to buy arms, these pragmatic efforts to meet OSPAC security needs will raise their performance, resulting in an optimal security delivery in Rivers State.
References


