



## AN EXPOSITION OF THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON HUMAN LIFE IN NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*This work seeks to expose the effects of social factors on human life in Nigeria. Man is a social being and must live in a society with others. In Nigeria, like in every human society, certain social factors affect the quality of life of the members of that society. The effects of such factors can be physical, psychological, emotional, etc. This work begins with an introduction and goes on to clarify some important terms. Next, it discusses the theological foundations for human life and dignity. One by one, it discusses how social actors affect human life in Nigeria: economy, security, infrastructure, environment, education, healthcare, social and cultural issues. Finally, it proposes such lines of action as promoting education, security measures, economic development, good governance, social cohesion, gender equality and cultural values. It is hoped that if intentional and deliberate efforts are made towards addressing the issues raised in this article, human life and dignity will be better protected and the quality of life of the average Nigerian will be improved.*

**Keywords:** Human dignity, human life, social factors.

### Introduction

Human dignity and the sanctity of human life are foundational principles that underpin ethical and moral considerations across cultures and societies. They affirm the inherent worth and value of every individual, irrespective of their, culture, background, status, or abilities. Hence the notion of human dignity asserts that each person possesses an intrinsic worth simply by virtue of being human.<sup>41</sup> This inherent dignity demands respect, recognition, and protection for the rights and well-being of every individual. It serves as the moral foundation for promoting equality, justice, and compassion in all human interactions. The sanctity of human life is the principle which emphasizes the sacredness and inviolability of human existence.<sup>42</sup> This principle extends to all stages of life, from conception to natural death, and encompasses a wide range of issues, including

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<sup>41</sup> United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 1.

<sup>42</sup> *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), Pope John Paul II, 1995.



abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and healthcare ethics.<sup>43</sup> Hence, human dignity and human life provide a moral compass for navigating complex ethical dilemmas and guiding decision-making in various spheres of life, from medical ethics to social justice issues in the society. The sacredness of life is sacrosanct. However; the contemporary world through deliberate actions against human beings has taken a hazardous position to human dignity and the sanctity of human life. Despite the enlightenment of societies and the existence of many agencies focused on the protection of human life and dignity, the value of human life in many cultures and civilizations appears to be on the decline. Human life is affected by certain social factors. These factors impact, positively or negatively, on human life thus affecting average life expectancy as well as quality of life. It is some of these social factors, and their effects on human life, that this work shall be addressing.

## **1. Conceptualization**

### **a. Human Dignity**

As much as the concept human dignity has become widespread, its meaning has become ambiguous and blurred, chiefly because the concept is not merely a legal concept that is expressed by specified norms. Rather, it is primarily a moral-philosophical term which like other moral concepts has different levels of meanings depending on its context. According to Webster Comprehensive Dictionary the term “human” means “pertaining to” or “characterizing mankind”. Equally the Black’s Law Dictionary defines “dignity” as “the state of being noble; the state of being dignified”.<sup>44</sup> Hence, to infringe on a person's right to human dignity therefore means to do that which directly or indirectly offends or denigrates the dignity and worth of that individual.<sup>45</sup> Human dignity is central in a democratic society and cannot be underestimated. In a broad sense dignity can be said to be the “expression of a basic value accepted by all peoples” and constitutes the first cornerstone in the edifice human rights.<sup>46</sup> Human dignity is the inherent and inviolable worth possessed by every individual by virtue of their humanity. It encompasses the inherent value, autonomy, and inherent rights of each person, regardless of their background, status, or characteristics.<sup>47</sup> Human dignity serves as the moral foundation for respecting and protecting the rights, freedoms, and well-being of all individuals in society.

### **b. Human Life**

Human life refers to the existence of a living being possessing the qualities of consciousness, self-awareness and the capacity for growth, development, and interaction with the environment.<sup>48</sup> It encompasses the physical, psychological, and social dimensions of an individual’s existence, from conception to death. From a philosophical and ethical perspective, human life is often regarded as inherently valuable and worthy of protection. This understanding forms the basis for principles such as the sanctity of human life, which emphasize the inviolable nature of human existence and

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<sup>43</sup> “*Human Dignity and Bioethics: Essays Commissioned by the President’s Council on Bioethics*”, The President’s Council on Bioethics, 2008

<sup>44</sup> The Black’s Law Dictionary, (8th edition, 2004)

<sup>45</sup> Thomas Banchoff and Robert Wuthnow, *Religion and the Global Politics of Human Rights* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), p. 141

<sup>46</sup> D J O’Byrne, *Human Rights: An Introduction* (Pearson Education Singapore, 2005) 5.

<sup>47</sup> United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 1.

<sup>48</sup> Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. “*The Definition of Life*” @ <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/life-definition/>.



the moral imperative to safeguard it.<sup>49</sup> Human life holds significance in various cultural, religious, and legal contexts, influencing beliefs, practices, and laws related to issues such as abortion, euthanasia, healthcare, and human rights. The protection and preservation of human life are considered fundamental responsibilities of individuals, communities, and governments, reflecting a commitment to upholding the inherent dignity and worth of every person.<sup>50</sup>

## 2. Theological Foundations for Human Dignity and Life

In theological anthropology, the understanding of human life goes beyond the physical and material aspects, delving into the spiritual and metaphysical dimensions. The concept of human dignity and human life is deeply rooted in the belief that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, imbuing them with inherent worth, value, and dignity.<sup>51</sup> From a theological standpoint, human dignity is understood as the divine imprint upon every individual, reflecting God's love and purpose for humanity.<sup>52</sup> This theological perspective emphasizes the sacredness of human life and the moral responsibility to honor and protect it. The concept often varies among different religious traditions, but some common themes emerge:

- i. **Creation and Imago Dei:** Many theological perspectives assert that humans are created in the image of God (Imago Dei). This implies that humans share certain characteristics with the divine, such as reason, morality, and the capacity for spiritual connection.<sup>53</sup>
- ii. **Purpose and Meaning:** The theological view suggests that human life has a purpose, often linked to fulfilling a divine plan or seeking a meaningful relationship with the divine. This purpose may involve moral responsibility, stewardship of creation, and the pursuit of virtues.
- iii. **Fall and Redemption:** Some theological traditions introduce the concept of a fall from a primordial state of grace, resulting in the introduction of sin and separation from the divine. Redemption then becomes a central theme, involving the restoration of the relationship between humans and the divine through various means, such as repentance, faith, or divine intervention.
- iv. **Moral Consciousness:** Theological anthropology often explores the moral dimension of human existence, discussing concepts of right and wrong, ethical behavior, and the development of a moral conscience. Moral choices are seen as integral to the human experience and may have implications for the ultimate destiny of the soul.<sup>54</sup>
- v. **Ultimate Destiny:** Theological perspectives on human life frequently include discussions about what happens after death. Concepts like heaven, hell, salvation, or reincarnation are explored in various religious traditions, offering different views on the ultimate destiny of the human soul.

## 4. How Social Factors Affect Human Life in Nigeria

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<sup>49</sup> Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life)*, 1995

<sup>50</sup> United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 3.

<sup>51</sup> Genesis 1:27 RVS

<sup>52</sup> Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life)*, 1995

<sup>53</sup> Jurgen Moltmann. *God in Creation: An Ecological Doctrine of Creation*, (London: SCM Press) 3.

<sup>54</sup> Steiner Alston, *International Human Rights in Context , Law, Politics ,Moral*, (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1996),



Human life in Nigeria is diverse, reflecting a rich cultural tapestry with numerous ethnic groups. It's important to note that Nigeria is a diverse country with a range of experiences, and the impact on human life can vary across regions and communities. Challenges such as economic disparities, healthcare issues, and security concerns exist alongside vibrant communities, traditions, and a growing economy. Social and infrastructural development efforts continue, aiming to enhance overall well-being and tries navigating the Tapestry of Human Life in Nigeria. Human life in Nigeria can be affected by various factors, including economic, social, and political elements. Some key aspects include:

#### **4.1 Economic Challenges Affect Human Life in Nigeria**

Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa, driven primarily by oil exports. However, the economy is also diversified, with sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, telecommunications, and services playing significant role.<sup>55</sup> Despite this, poverty and unemployment remain major challenges for many Nigerians. High levels of poverty and unemployment can impact people's quality of life. Economic disparities contribute to unequal access to education, healthcare, and other essential services.<sup>56</sup>

The economy significantly impacts the lives of Nigerians in various ways. Economic conditions influence employment opportunities, income levels, and overall standards of living. In Nigeria, where a substantial portion of the population relies on agriculture, fluctuations in commodity prices can affect livelihoods. Additionally, inflation can erode purchasing power, making goods and services more expensive. Unstable economic conditions may also contribute to social challenges, such as poverty and inequality, impacting education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. The health of the economy directly influences job availability.<sup>57</sup> During economic downturns, companies may cut back on hiring, leading to higher unemployment rates. This, in turn, affects individuals and families, making it challenging to meet basic needs. It also determines wage levels and income distribution. A robust economy can lead to salary increases and better income distribution, whereas economic challenges may result in stagnant or declining wages, impacting the ability of individuals to afford essential goods and services. If prices increase faster than incomes, people may struggle to afford everyday items, impacting their overall quality of life. Limited access to education, healthcare, and basic amenities can further exacerbate these issues, creating disparities among different segments of the population. In times of economic hardship, there may be budget constraints, affecting the quality and accessibility of these services for Nigerians.<sup>58</sup> Adequate infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and water supply, is essential for the overall well-being and economic productivity of the population. Economic challenges may

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<sup>55</sup> Nigeria Economy: Overview, Challenges, and Projects. African Development Bank Group. Retrieved from <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/nigeria/nigeria-economic-outlook>

<sup>56</sup> Ogunleye, A. *Poverty and inequality in Nigeria: the Unanswered Questions*. (Journal of Economics Issues, 2020), 54(3), 738-755

<sup>57</sup> Ojo, O.O and Ayoola, A. *The Impact of Economic Growth on Unemployment in Nigeria (1981-2016)*. (International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Reviews, 2019), 10(1), 45-46

<sup>58</sup> Nwachukwu, M, Budget Constraints and Economic and Sustainable Development, 2019; 10(2), 45-56



hinder the establishment and expansion of businesses, limiting opportunities for innovation and job creation.<sup>59</sup>

#### **4.2 How Security Challenges Affect Human Life In Nigeria**

Insecurities in Nigeria, whether related to economic instability, political unrest, or social challenges, can have widespread impacts on daily life. They may contribute to economic hardships, hinder development, and affect people's sense of safety and well-being. Additionally, insecurities may influence investment, job opportunities, and education, creating a complex web of challenges that individuals and communities navigate. Addressing these insecurities is crucial for fostering stability and improving the overall quality of life in the country. Certainly, Insecurities in Nigeria encompass various aspects, each with its own set of consequences. Instances of insecurity, including communal clashes, terrorism, and criminal activities, can impact the safety of individuals and communities. High levels of insecurity can deter foreign investments and hinder domestic economic growth. Businesses may face challenges due to disruptions in supply chains, increased security costs, and decreased consumer confidence.<sup>60</sup>

It can also lead to Unemployment and poverty, Insecurity can contribute to job losses and a decline in economic opportunities, leading to higher unemployment rates. Poverty levels may rise as people struggle to secure stable incomes, exacerbating social and economic inequalities. Furthermore it may lead to Education Disruptions specifically in regions affected by insecurity, access to education may be compromised. Schools may close, and students may face challenges attending classes, impacting their academic progress.<sup>61</sup>

We also have issues of healthcare Challenges. Insecurity can disrupt healthcare services, limiting access to medical facilities and essential services. Emergency response efforts may be hampered, affecting the ability to address health crises effectively. Widespread insecurity can contribute to social unrest, leading to protests and demonstrations. Trust in institutions may erode, and communities may face challenges in maintaining social cohesion. An obvious fact also is that Insecurity can undermine political stability, affecting governance and the ability to implement effective policies. Political tensions may rise, potentially leading to conflicts and power struggles. As a result of insecurity it can lead to displacement and Refugee Issues forcing people to flee their homes, leading to internal displacement or creating refugee populations. This displacement puts additional strain on resources and can lead to humanitarian crises.

#### **4.3 How Infrastructural Deficiencies Affect Human Life in Nigeria**

Infrastructure deficiencies in Nigeria have profound implications for human life across various dimensions. Inadequate infrastructure affects access to basic services, economic opportunities, and overall quality of life. Here are some key ways it impacts. Inadequate infrastructure, such as unreliable power supply and poor transportation networks, can impact daily life and economic

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<sup>59</sup> Anyanwu. C. and Erhijakpor, A.E. *Impact of small and Medium Enterprises on Economic Growth and Development in Nigeria: A Simultaneous Equation Approach*. (African Development Review, 2018), 30(3), 262-275

<sup>60</sup> McNamara, R., *The essence of security: Reflections in office*. (Frederick A. Praeger Publishers, New York, 1968). 32

<sup>61</sup> Omilusi, M. *Insurgency and terrorism in Nigeria: Perspectives, phases and consequences*. (Ado-Ekiti: Olugbenga Press, 2016). 11





activities. Limited Access to Services such as insufficient transportation infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, can impede access to healthcare, education, and other essential services. This disparity can result in health issues going unaddressed and limited educational opportunities. Frequent power outages due to inadequate energy infrastructure disrupt daily life and economic activities. Industries, businesses, and households face challenges in maintaining consistent productivity, affecting overall economic growth. Inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure contribute to health problems. Lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation facilities increases the risk of waterborne diseases, impacting public health. In addition Poor road and transportation infrastructure lead to longer commute times and transportation costs.<sup>62</sup> This affects the mobility of goods and people, limiting economic opportunities and social interactions. Insufficient urban infrastructure planning can result in overcrowded and poorly serviced urban areas. This leads to substandard living conditions, lack of proper housing, and challenges in waste management.

#### **4.4 How Environmental Factors Affect Human Life In Nigeria**

Environmental factors significantly impact human life in Nigeria. Issues such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution can affect health, agriculture, and water resources. Extreme weather events, like floods and droughts, impact communities and disrupt livelihoods. Additionally, poor waste management contributes to pollution, affecting air and water quality. Addressing these environmental challenges is crucial for sustaining a healthy and prosperous life in Nigeria.<sup>63</sup> High levels of air pollution, often resulting from industrial activities and vehicle emissions, can lead to respiratory issues and other health problems. Contaminated water sources contribute to waterborne diseases, affecting the overall well-being of the population. Climate Change such as erratic weather patterns, including prolonged droughts or excessive rainfall, can disrupt agricultural cycles, leading to crop failures and food shortages and also loss of forests reduces biodiversity and disrupts ecosystems, affecting agriculture, as forests play a crucial role in regulating climate and maintaining .Nigeria is susceptible to events like floods and droughts, which can devastate infrastructure, disrupt transportation, and lead to economic losses. Urbanization and agricultural expansion contribute to the loss of natural habitats, endangering plant and animal species. This loss of biodiversity can disrupt ecosystems and affect human well-being.<sup>64</sup> And furthermore heat Stress as a result of Increasing temperatures, associated with climate change, can lead to heat stress and impact human health, particularly in urban areas with limited green spaces.

#### **4.5 How Educational Factors Affect Human Life in Nigeria**

Nigeria has made progress in improving access to education, but challenges persist. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure, low quality of education, and high illiteracy rates, particularly in rural areas, hinder educational development. Despite these positive impacts, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, insufficient funding, and disparities in educational quality persist in

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<sup>62</sup> Ayeni. A. *Infrastructure Deficiencies and quality of life in Nigeria: A Qualitive Study*. (Journal of infrastructure Development, 2021), 13(2), 145-162

<sup>63</sup> Nigerian Conservation Foundation: Environmental Challenges in Nigeria, 2021. Retrieved from <https://ncfnigeria.org/environmental-challenges-in-nigeria/>

<sup>64</sup> World Bank Group. Nigeria: Addressing Environment Challenges, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview>



Nigeria. Addressing these issues is crucial to maximizing the positive effects of education on individuals and society as a whole. Unequal access to education and insufficient educational infrastructure can hinder personal development and opportunities. Education Disruptions specifically in regions affected by insecurity, access to education may be compromised. Schools may close, and students may face challenges attending classes, impacting their academic progress. Cults' now have a presence in high schools as well as the streets, operating more like gangs rather than religious cults. Young men in particular are targeted to join cults for protection and because of peer pressure. However, many young men and women voluntarily join – cult membership can mean access to money and power. Membership generally involves a violent initiation, which can include beatings and rape

#### **4.6 How Healthcare Issues Affect Human Life in Nigeria**

Nigeria's healthcare system faces various challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of healthcare professionals, and limited access to quality healthcare services, especially in rural areas. Healthcare Issues such as limited access to quality healthcare in certain regions can lead to health challenges. Outbreaks of diseases, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and issues like malaria can affect the overall well-being of the population. In Nigeria, the state of health directly influences various aspects of human life. A robust healthcare system ensures timely access to medical services, reducing the burden of preventable diseases. This, in turn, contributes to increased productivity, as healthier individuals are better able to participate in the workforce and contribute to the economy. Challenges like malaria, HIV/AIDS, and inadequate sanitation can have widespread impacts on the population. These health issues not only affect individuals but also strain the healthcare system and limit the country's ability to achieve sustainable development goals.

Moreover, the socio-economic disparities in access to healthcare further compound health issues. Rural areas often face challenges in accessing medical facilities, exacerbating health inequalities. Improving healthcare infrastructure, investing in preventive measures, and addressing social determinants of health are critical for enhancing the overall well-being of Nigerians and fostering national development.

#### **4.7 How Social Issues Affecting Human Life in Nigeria**

Nigeria faces social issues such as poverty, gender inequality, child marriage, and violence against women. Efforts are being made to address these issues through legislation, advocacy, and social programs. Organizations and individuals are working to promote gender equality, protect vulnerable groups, and improve social welfare. Traditional gender roles can perpetuate inequalities, limiting opportunities and rights for women.<sup>65</sup> Practices such as early marriage and restrictions on women's education may hinder gender equality and women's empowerment. Under gender base social issues Women and girls frequently experience gender-based discrimination and violence in Nigeria. Nigeria remains a highly patriarchal society and cultural traditions including forced child marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called 'widowhood practices', which

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<sup>65</sup> O Osumah and S Enabunene, 'Women Trafficking and Violations of Right to Life in Nigeria' (2012/1/2) Online Journal of Social Sciences Research 68 (<http://www.onlineresearchjournals.org/JSS>> accessed on the 7th of January, 2024)



include hair-shaving and confining a woman to the marital home, continue to occur particularly in rural areas. Female participation in education, at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, is extremely low. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is widely practiced in Nigeria. Sexual violence and rape as well as domestic violence all are affective to life. Human trafficking remains a significant border concern specifically sex trafficking victims, child labor victims. Baby factories continue to operate, often disguised as orphanages, religious or rehabilitation centers, or maternity homes. Organizers reportedly target pregnant unmarried girls who have been ostracized by their families, in some cases, holding them against their will and raping them. The babies are sold for various purposes, including adoption, child labor, and prostitution.

#### **4.8 How Cultural Issues Affect Human Life in Nigeria**

While culture and traditions in Nigeria contribute positively to the social fabric, they can also have negative effects, particularly when certain practices impede progress or infringe on human rights. Some challenges include: Witchcraft allegations against children are a continuing concern in Nigeria, Children accused of witchcraft continue to be tortured and killed. Such torture may include fingers being cut off and children being tied to trees and abandoned in the jungle. Children with physical abnormalities face a higher risk of witchcraft accusations. The phenomenon of labelling children as witches has been rising since the mid-1990s. Human traffickers reportedly utilize juju and traditional oath-taking rituals to control trafficking victims, including children.<sup>66</sup>

There are also cases of countless rituals that is very rampant in the country. Furthermore Cultural and tribal divisions can lead to discrimination and tensions. Tribal conflicts, based on historical rivalries, can result in social and political instability, hindering national unity, thus bringing discrimination and tribalism.<sup>67</sup> Belief in superstitions and accusations of witchcraft can lead to social ostracization and harm to individuals. Such practices can impede social progress and cause harm to innocent people. Harmful Traditional and Some cultural practices, such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and witch-hunting, have negative health and human rights implications. Resistance to Change and Overreliance on certain cultural norms may resist progressive changes, hindering the adoption of new ideas and technologies that could improve living standards and societal well-being.<sup>68</sup>

**Inertia in Legal Systems** In some cases, traditional dispute resolution mechanisms might lack the safeguards of modern legal systems, leading to injustices. This can impede access to justice and hinder the protection of individual rights and furthermore Pressure to Conform and Social expectations based on cultural norms can create pressure to conform, limiting personal freedoms and stifling individual expression. This pressure may affect choices related to education, career, and lifestyle.<sup>69</sup>

### **5. Lines of Action**

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<sup>66</sup> S. O. Abogunrin, “*Religion, Crime, and National Survival*”, Journal of Religious Studies; in Orita, Ibadan, (Ibadan: University of Ibadan, 1994), 23.

<sup>67</sup> Rosaldo, Renato, *Culture and Truth*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1989

<sup>68</sup> B.O. Nwabueze, *A Constitutional History of Nigeria*, (Burnt Mill, Harlow, Longman Publication Ltd., 1982), 505.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. 506





Safeguarding life in Nigeria involves addressing various factors such as improving healthcare, enhancing security measures, promoting education, and fostering economic development. A comprehensive approach, including effective governance and community engagement, is crucial for creating a safer environment for all. To safeguard life in Nigeria, a multi-faceted strategy is needed. Healthcare Infrastructure: Strengthening healthcare facilities, ensuring access to essential services, and investing in disease prevention can improve overall public health.

#### **a. Promoting Education**

Promoting education, especially for girls, can empower communities and contribute to better health outcomes, economic opportunities, and increased awareness of safety measures. It is also imperative that priority should be given to our technical and career education. This would reduce the incidence of unemployment drastically. When the majority of the people are vast and knowledgeable about their vocation, they would be less concerned in breaching the peace of the society, which makes everyone to move without being scared of security challenges. The introduction of technical education would lead to the production of graduates in diverse fields like auto-mechanics, auto-electricians and computer engineers, building technologists, house electricians and professionals in fashion designing, carpentry and woodworks

Education enhances employability by equipping individuals with skills and knowledge relevant to the job market. A well-educated workforce contributes to economic growth and increased productivity. Education serves as a tool for social mobility, allowing individuals to transcend socio-economic barriers. Access to quality education can break the cycle of poverty and empower individuals to improve their living standards. Furthermore educated individuals tend to make informed decisions about health, leading to better personal and community well-being. They are more likely to adopt healthy practices and contribute to disease prevention. Education fosters civic engagement and participation in democratic processes. Informed citizens are more likely to actively contribute to their communities, advocate for positive change, and participate in governance. A well-educated population is essential for driving technological advancements and innovation. Education cultivates critical thinking and problem-solving skills, fostering creativity and contributing to scientific and technological progress. The overall development of a nation is closely tied to the education of its citizens. Educated individuals contribute to economic growth, social stability, and sustainable development.

#### **b. Security Measures**

Enhancing law enforcement capabilities, improving intelligence, and addressing issues related to crime and insurgency are essential for ensuring the safety of individuals and communities.<sup>70</sup> Our security sector must be given adequate attention if insecurity must be tackled in Nigeria. There should be overhauling of the personnel in the security sector as many of them are not worthy of their calling in terms of character and dedication to duty. They need to be adequately trained to measure up to the current standard worthy of being with global best practices. In terms of machinery, our security outfit should be equipped with modern-day facilities that would enable them to tackle insurgencies in the country.

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<sup>70</sup> William Paul, *Security Studies: An Introduction* (New York: Routledge, 2008), 99.



This is another sector that would tackle the menace of insecurity in the nation. The rule of law should be respected as this would make marginalization to be a thing of the past because equality before the law would now be the order of the day. The law that has the right of humans should be effectively upheld in order to value human lives and as well as valuable properties and restore sanity to the country. It is, therefore, necessary to make everyone obey the law.

#### **c. Economic Development**

Fostering economic growth can provide employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and contribute to social stability, ultimately impacting the overall safety and well-being of the population. Economic development in Nigeria will entail the curbing of corruption; reduction of cost of governance; financial empowerment for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs); and the creation of an enabling environment for private investors in order to create employment. At the heart of these is the provision of power and a tax friendly business environment.

#### **d. Good Governance**

Ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective governance at all levels helps build trust in institutions, which is crucial for maintaining social order and safety? This is another important area that determines the success or failure of security endeavors in the country. The bulk of what is being discussed is based on the premise of governance. When countries have good leaders, they will ensure that human rights are upheld and also make it possible for lives to be protected. Infrastructure Development and Environmental Protection such as Building and maintaining critical infrastructure, such as roads and bridges not only improves mobility but also facilitates rapid response in emergencies, contributing to safety. Addressing environmental issues, such as natural disasters and climate change, is crucial for safeguarding lives and preventing displacement.

#### **e. Social Cohesion and Community Engagement**

Encouraging tolerance, understanding, and unity among diverse communities fosters social cohesion and reduces the likelihood of conflicts that can threaten lives. Involving communities in decision-making processes, encouraging community policing, and fostering a sense of responsibility within communities can contribute to a safer living environment. Social cohesion involves also fostering interreligious and intercultural tolerance and the appreciation and celebration of religious and cultural differences. It involves members of the society working together on common goals like peace-building and the protection of the environment. For this to work there must be positive relationships among members of society who have a sense of belonging and shared positive values.

#### **f. Gender Equality**

Education plays a pivotal role in promoting gender equality. Access to education for both genders ensures that women have equal opportunities for personal and professional development, challenging traditional gender roles. This requires that special attention be given to men in areas where men are neglected and to women in areas where women are neglected. Thus, gender equality must not be perceived to be one-sided. Its aim is to create a level playing field for both men and women. This is necessary for societal balance.

#### **g. Cultural Values**



The essence of Nigerian life is deeply rooted in traditional values that permeate family, community, and societal structures. Respect for elders, communal bonds, and a sense of shared identity contributes to the strong social fabric that shapes human interactions across the country. Thus, we greatly encourage respect for traditional values. However, balancing tradition with the need for progress and human rights remains an ongoing and complex process.

Addressing these social ills often requires a multi-faceted approach, involving efforts to improve governance, strengthen security institutions, and address underlying social and economic issues. It is a complex challenge that requires coordinated efforts from various stakeholders to create a more stable and prosperous environment for the people of Nigeria. Future more the economy's health is intricately linked to various aspects of daily life for Nigerians, influencing their employment prospects, income levels, access to essential services, and overall socio-economic well-being. Addressing economic challenges is crucial for fostering a sustainable and improved quality of life for the population. Approaches involving environmental conservation, sustainable agricultural practices, improved waste management, and policies to mitigate the impact of climate change. It is crucial for both the government and communities to work collaboratively to create a more resilient and sustainable living environment in Nigeria. It not only enhances economic growth but also contributes to a better quality of life for individuals and communities.

## 6. Conclusion

Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other state or condition from conception through natural death. **Human life** is the most precious thing in the world, and we need to respect it, and so in order to achieve this, we must go back to the values we held sacrosanct in the time past, and this can be effectively tackled through the introduction of value/moral education into our curriculum. It is not just enough to include the instruction in our curriculum, but there should be effective monitoring to ensure that the right things are being done in achieving the desired objectives. In moral/value education, children must be guided on how to uphold respect for life, dignity, honesty, fairness, hard work and respect for leaders. They have to be guided on the need to avoid criminality, violence, greed and terrorism.

Life is a dynamic journey filled with experiences, challenges, and opportunities for growth. Embracing change, fostering meaningful connections, and pursuing passions contribute to a fulfilling existence. Life is a multifaceted tapestry woven with moments of joy, sorrow, and everything in between. It is a continuous process of adaptation and learning, where resilience and an open mindset can be powerful allies. Building relationships, cultivating empathy, and finding purpose lend depth to the human experience. Striking a balance between ambition and contentment often leads to a more gratifying and meaningful life. It is essential to note that these negative aspects do not apply universally, and many efforts are underway within Nigeria to address these challenges while preserving the positive aspects of cultural heritage. Despite these positive impacts, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, insufficient funding, and disparities in educational quality persist in Nigeria. Addressing these issues is crucial to maximizing the positive effects of education on individuals and society as a whole.

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