

Evaluation of Food Security as an Index of Good Governance Strategy in Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The basic need of man in each day of his life is “stomach infrastructure” (food). All other aspects of human needs can be, if the basic need is achieved. This is the relevance of the popular saying in this part of the world that “a hungry man is an angry man.” The study evaluated food security as an index of good governance strategy in Kwara State. It is a descriptive research study, which adopted random sampling technique for selection of three LGAs from the three senatorial districts in the state. Three communities from each local government selected. One hundred and fifty farmer respondents selected from the three communities in each local government using random sampling strategies. Four hundred and fifty farmer respondents participated in the study. The findings reveal that the government less explored the food security programs as source or index of good governance strategy. The study recommends among others that governments should adopt food security programs as good governance strategy to engender security, peace, and development in Kwara State and Nigeria as a whole.

Keywords: evaluation, food security, good governance, index, strategy

Introduction

Food is the required substance that is consumed by man to ensure adequate metabolism. Food in this regards refers to solid and liquid required consumable items for human growth and development. Food security, according to International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) (2002), is a situation in which all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active healthy life. Food security therefore, implies the provision of safe, nutritious, qualitatively and quantitatively adequate food, as well as access to it by all people. In the light of this, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) explained the three dimensions of food security, which includes:

Availability of sufficient qualities of food, appropriate quality supplied through domestic production; Access by households and individuals to appropriate foods for nutritious diet; Optional uptake of nourishment, that is, a sustaining diet, clean water. . . . (UNEP, 2004)

The root cause of food insecurity in developing countries is the inability of people to gain access to food due to poverty. The rest of the world has made significant effort towards poverty alleviation, Africa, SubSaharan Africa in particular continues to lag behind. Projections show that there will be an increase in food insecurity unless preventive of HIV/AIDS, civic war strives and bad governance, frequent drought and famine/climate change, and agricultural inadequacies as a result of climate and environmental situations are tackled. Food security is not simply a function of production or supply, but of availability, accessibility, stability of supply, affordability and the quality and safety of food. These factors include a broad spectrum of socioeconomic issues with great influence on farmers and the impoverished in particular.

The term governance and good governance are increasingly relevant in development literature. Simply put, governance means the process of decision making and the process by which the decisions are implemented (or not implemented) (UNESCAP, 2009). In another vein, governance is the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs, manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights (HR in Development, 2009). Governance used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance. Since governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which the decisions carried out, an analysis of governance focuses on both formal and informal actors involved in making and implementing decisions, and the formal and informal structures put in place to arrive at implementing those decisions.

Executives is one of the actors in governance, and probably the most well known. Though there are other actors involved in governance, which varies depending on the level of government that is under discussion, In this regard, good governance is when the government is able to accomplish the management of public resources for the public good and guarantee the realization of human rights of every citizenry in a state.

Food security in Nigeria, without mincing words remains at unacceptable low level considering the huge amount the country spends annually to import food items (Akinoia, 2011; Lawal, 2011; Oluwole and Olalekan, 2011). Before the problem of food security in Nigeria can be resolved, there is need to consider what make laudable and far-reaching programmes aimed at improving agricultural output fail abysmally in Nigeria States but record outstanding success elsewhere. It is within this assumption that this study evaluates food security as source or index of good governance strategy in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

One of the major factors that cause food insecurity in most countries of the world is conflict. It observed that socioeconomic inequalities, systematic or ethnic discrimination, denial of human rights, disputes over political participation or long-standing grievance over the allocation of land and other resources with combination of poor-governance could be causal and exacerbate conflict.

Today, most countries of the world face multifarious challenges of conflicts, climate change and COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges have made it difficult in providing nutritious healthy and stable diets to feed a growing population. It emphasized that, recent trends in food and agriculture are increasing the stress on most states like Kwara in developing countries of the world like Nigeria in a way that has implications for the future of food security, socioeconomic development and sustainable peace. Different food security programmes established by successive governments in Kwara State like Ilorin Agricultural Development Project (IADP), later changed to Kwara Agricultural Development Project (KWADP) and the Ministry of Agriculture. Nigeria ranked 84 out of 119 on the 2017 Global Hunger Index. Though, there is improvement up 25.5 points, from 2008 the country was ranked 152 out of 188 countries in the 2015 United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index (FSI, 2018). There is still a long way to go in Africa on issue of conflicts, climate change and challenge of COVID-19. Regrettably, the Boko-Haram insurgency in the northeastern region of the country has double effects on food security in Nigeria likewise the bandits and kidnapping or better still adult napping in most states in Nigeria.

It is in the light of the foregoing that this study evaluates food security as an index of good governance strategy in Kwara State, Nigeria with the aim to clearly shown in correlation with the mythology that a “hungry man is an angry man” and that when “food” is out of “want” then the poverty level will be drastically reduced.

Research Objectives

The main objective of the study is to establish the extent to which food security (as agricultural programmes) could be an index of good governance strategy to engender peace and development in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

The study will be of benefit in so many ways because of its direct bearing to all stages of human kinds. Findings from this study would be of significance to all the stakeholders in community and development studies. In addition, the re-

sult of this study will be beneficial to governments in developing nations using agricultural programmes as strategy for good governance.

Scope of the Study

The study focuses mainly on food security (agricultural programs, provision of drinkable water, good road network, markets and silos) as an index of good governance in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Conceptual Framework

Two main concepts are central to this study. These are the concepts of food security and good governance. As a concept, food security is essentially a situation in which food produced, made available and accessible both in quality and quantity at all times for the people. Therefore, for individual, community or country regarded as food secured; there should be no apprehension on lack of access to good and quality food in appropriate manner. Succinctly put is the explanation of United Nation Environmental Protection /GEAS of food security:

Food security is not simply a function of food production or supply, but of availability, accessibility, stability of supply, affordability and quality and safety of food. These factors include a broad spectrum of socioeconomic issues with influence on farmers and on the impoverished in particular. (2011, p1)

This explanation clarifies and simplifies food security. Firstly, it is not about productivity, supplying, or exporting at the expense of internal secure of food. But, the availability of the food within the community or the state.

The second concept, good governance could be a process to the earlier concept food security in the sense that food security is a cause and effect to instability (conflict), but the mission of the governed to have entrusted the leader at the helm of affair is to entrench peace through the styles of leadership. In this regard, good governance as a concept is a process of achieving a collective result through a system or strategy. Governance could also be explained as be in charge, managing, administering, controlling, over-sight and so forte. *Report of the Commission on Global Governance "Our Global Neighbourhood"* (1995) defined governance as

The sum of the many ways individual and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process through which conflicting or divers interests may be accommodated and cooperative action may be taken. It includes formal institutions and regimes empowered to enforce compliance, as well as informal arrangements that people and institutions have agreed to or perceive to be in their interest (1995, 12)

This definition does not explain governance as a technique but as an act of process that facilitate a situation for the individual and institutions, public and private. Conceptually, good governance is acceptable process of managing the affairs of individual people, institutions either publicly and privately. The most often identified principles of good governance include participation, rule of law, transparency of decision making or openness, accountability, predictability or coherence and effectiveness.

Factors Militating against Food Security

Nigeria as a country had laudable policies especially her agricultural policies and programmes. Then, where does the country got it wrong that made these programmes work in other countries of the “world” but fail abysmally in Nigeria? Ogunlela and Ogungbile (2007) explained various challenges facing Nigeria in the building of food security and these include physical, political, and socio-economic factors.

Hassan, et al (2006) discovered that the socioeconomic characteristics and resources of individual households identified as basic factors influencing the food security status of households. This corroborated by Babatunde, Omotosho and Sholotan (2007) in their study. Ovwigho (2009) noted that the Operation Feed the Nation and Green Revolution Programmes initiated in 1976 and 1980 respectively could not achieve the desired goal of food security. Because, the programmes short-lived and lacked cohesion, effective and adequate planning as well as execution or implementation. All these agricultural progrsmmes established to achieve food security marred by inadequate implementation characterized by bad governance.

Availability of Food

Availability of food is also the adequacy of food supply. This should be sufficient in quantity and quality, also provide variety. The availability of food within a specific country can be guarantee in two ways; either by food production in the country itself or by trade (WDR, 2011). It is argued that options for meeting food demand is for the country to aim self-sufficiency and lowering the dependency on other region especially importation of foods. This can be achieved by increase food production locally and nationally. Involving in research investment (capacity to use science in promoting agricultural productivity), increasing the use of mineral fertilizers, and resources for irrigation should be increased.

Accessibility of Food

Access to food refers to the ability of individuals, communities and countries to produce food in sufficient quantities and quality. Falling real prices for food and rising real incomes over the 30 years have led to substantial improvements in access to food in many developing countries of the world (Eva, 2009).

Schmidhuber and Tubiello (2007) in their work, “Global Food Security under Climate Change” explained that food security is not define as whether food is available, but whether the monetary and non-monetary resources at the disposal of the population are sufficient to allow every one access to adequate quantity and quality of food. One major factor that causes food insecurity apart from conflict is poverty; both conditions (poverty and conflict) have strong connection and relationships. Apart from poverty, other factors influencing food security include consistent access to food, nutrition, food production, the availability of resources and coping strategies (Ogunlela and Ogunbile, 2007).

Market is a strategic area where food can be accessed either in the rural and urban area. Market has a significant place in the accessibility of food anywhere in the world, especially sub Saharan Africa (SSA) where the majority of people deals in cereal and tuber food crops unlike United States where fast food joints are the regular place of visit. However, since 2012 when Boko Haram began their nefarious activities, traveling to markets in northeastern region of Nigeria became a hard one. Likewise in major parts of northwest where bandits strike in the broad day period. The north central was not speared on adult-napping concurrent cases in the geo-political zone.

Road network is another important linkage to market places in accessibility of food in SubSaharan Africa, without motorable roads, it will be difficult to get to the major communities in the inter land of the rural areas across the states of the country.

Affordability of Food

In America, it was reported that most people have the means to afford food, because average America spends about 7 percent of his or her total income on food or about 10 percent of his or her total income on food (America Farm Bureau Fed., 2010). That means in America, food is very affordable for most people. However, the situation in other countries of the world is not always the case, especially in SubSaharan Africa, most especially Nigeria where the GDP is not up to U.S \$1.00.

According to statistics from the United Nations, even people in high nations like Australia Great Britain and Japan, spend about 20 percent of their disposable income on food. The reasons why Americans spend less than virtually

any other nationality on food is based on the quantity, diversity and quality of food grown in the united States. Reports show that American Farmer produces enough food to feed more than 120 people (American Farm Bureau, 2010).

Theoretical Framework

The quest for explanation is a quest for theory. The development of theory is at the heart of all explanation (Zetterberg, 1965). For the purpose of this study, structural-functional theory employed. The theory see the society as a structure with interrelated parts designed to meet the biological and social needs of the individuals in that society. Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) saw the similarities between society and human body. He argued that just as the various organs of the body works together to keep the body functioning, the various parts of the society equally work together to keep the society functioning (Spencer, 1898 in <https://courseslumenlearning.com>). The parts of the society Spencer referred were the social institutions, which include agricultural programmes to build food security. Therefore, functionalism became an explicit philosophy of the theory. Its philosophy also finds application in the current study by showing that adequate provision of good roads network, functional market place, food availability, affordability, accessibility and acceptability are all aspects of food security and thus functional to good governance.

Methodology

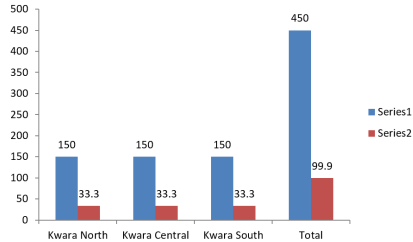
The descriptive survey approach considered appropriate for this study, since the researcher is interested in collecting information from a representative sample of people of the three senatorial districts of Kwara State on food security programmes. In addition, the information required collected through questionnaire and interview while inferences drawn from the findings. Kwara State populations are 3,192,900 (NPC, 2016 projection). Three local governments were picked out of the sixteen in the three senatorial districts in the state. Four hundred and fifty (450) farmers participated in the conduction of the study. Three communities selected from each local government in each Senatorial District. In this regard, 150 respondents were randomly selected from three farming communities in each local government of each senatorial district through the agricultural development projects (ADPs) in the state.

Random sampling technique adopted for the selection of local government, communities, and the participated respondents because the method of drawing a portion (sample) of a population so that each member of the population has equal chance of being selected (Daramola, 1998; Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003).

Demographic Data

The results of the study were on the distribution of respondents on Senatorial District, age group, and marital status.

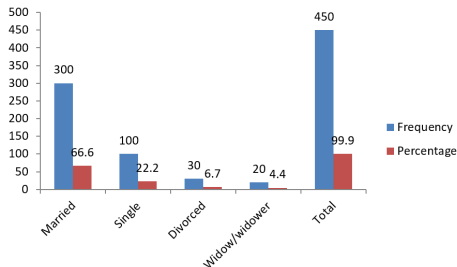
Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on senatorial district



Source: Research Survey, 2022.

Table 1 is the distribution of respondents based on senatorial district of residence. The table indicates that 33.3% (150) of the respondents were in Kwara North, 33.3% (150) were in Kwara Central, while 33.3% (150) of the respondents were based in Kwara South of the State. The table indicates each senatorial district has equal participation in the study.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on age group

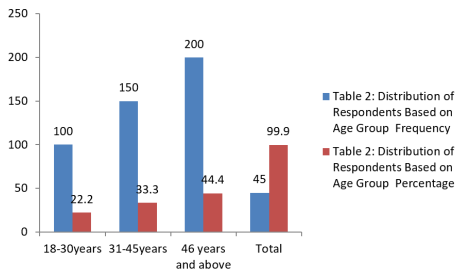


Source: Research Survey, 2022.

Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents based on their age group. Respondents between ages 18 and 30 were 22.2% (100). Respondents between the

ages 31 and 45 were 33.3% (150), while 46 years and above were 44.4% (200). The age bracket of 46 years and above participated more in the study.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents based on marital status



Source: Research Survey, 2022.

Table 4 is the distribution of respondents based on marital status. The table shows that 66.6% (300) of the respondents are married. 22.2% (100) of the respondents are single, while 6.7% (30) and 4.4% (20) are respectively for divorced and widow/widower. The chart indicates that married respondents participated more in the study.

Discussion

The main thrust of this paper is to evaluate food security as index of good governance strategy in Kwara. The extent to which access provided by the government in term of road network, transportation and marketplaces promote food availability

Item six of the instrument “do you have a viable and functional market in your rural area.” The distribution of respondent on the item indicates that 66.6% (300) of the respondents were of negative response that there is no viable and functional market in their area. However, in affirmative response, 33.3% (150) of the respondents agreed that there are viable and functional markets in rural areas in Kwara state. The results contradict the study conducted on 17 northern markets by USAID (2008) that investigated and confirmed the level of regular supply of different kinds of agricultural produce at different period of the year. Despite the majority number of respondents denouncing the presence of viable and functional market in the rural area of the state, there is need for provision of market in the rural areas to boost the economic activities of the ru-

ral dwellers. This can be achieved through the provision of viable and functional market in strategic area of each area council in the local government areas.

Item seven of the instrument: "Is there a road network to the rural market?" The distribution of the respondents on the item indicates that 88.8% (400) of the respondents replied that there is no good road network to their rural market. In affirmative response, 11.1% (50) of the respondents affirmed there is a road network to the rural markets in their areas. The result implies that there is no good roads network to most rural markets in the zone. The finding is in line with the study carried out by Babatunde, Omotesho and Sholatan (2007) on factors influencing food security status of rural farming households in north central Nigeria. The study suggested that market access could be improved by provision of good rural transportation system like good road network that would assist farmers in conveying their farm produce back and forth the market.

Availability and affordability of various food items in both urban and rural areas in the state.

Item 12 of the instrument, "What types of food items are popular in your area?" The distribution of respondents on the item shows that 44.4% (200) of the respondents identified cereals type as popular in their state. In similar reaction, 26.6% (120) of the respondents indicates tuber types as popular in their area. In their own view, 17.7% (80) of the respondents mentioned vegetable type as popular. In their own emphasis, 11.1% (50) of the remaining respondents picked fruits type as popular. The finding reveals that tuber type of food items also popular with the cereals type in the state. The results of the study is in line with the survey of USAID (2008) that Northern Nigeria markets are usually well supplied with regular surplus harvest of important diversity of crops, legumes, and tubers.

Item 13 of the instrument "In your opinion, can majority of the people afford these food items?" The distribution of respondents on the item shows that 44.4% (200) of the respondents opined that majority of the people cannot afford the food items. In their own view, however 55.5% (250) of the respondents believed that majority of the people can afford the food items. The finding reveals that majority of the people in the communities can afford the food items because they are the type of food items that can be found locally because they are grown domestically. UNEP (2004) described food security as the provision of safe, nutritious, and qualitatively adequate food, as well as access to it by all people. However, affordability has to do with whether a person (or group of people) can reasonably find the means to pay for something. Then, 44.4% (200) of the total respondents disagreed that majority of the people cannot afford the

local produced food items. It is a pointer that efforts need to be directed by the government to create enabling environment for the people especially farmers to produce more food items for the survival of the citizenry.

Strategic food stabilization techniques adopted at both lean and harvest periods.

Item one of the instrument: “Do you aware of any government agricultural programmes?” The distribution of respondents on the item indicates that 48.8% (220) of the respondents were not aware of any government agricultural programmes. However, 51.1% (230) of the respondents indeed agreed they are aware of government agricultural programmes. The finding reveals that some people in the state were aware of the state government agricultural programmes. Awareness alone however may not be enough to benefit the citizenry. The study of Jibowo (2005), Ovwigho (2009), and Akinola (2011) on food security programmes embarked on by the successive governments in Nigeria showed that most of the food security programmes introduced by the government are basically to make food surplus for the Nigeria citizenry, the implementation process of most if not all the agricultural programmes are faulty. That is the reason these programmes die a premature death immediately the government that introduced them vacate the seat of power. Ovwigho (2009) expressed that the Operation Feed the Nation and Green Revolution initiated in 1976 and 1980 respectively could not achieve the desired goal of self-sufficiency in food security. Because, the programmes were short-lived due to lack of cohesion, inadequate planning and poor execution. In this regard, what could be responsible for the higher number of respondents showing their awareness may not be as a result of the successful implementation of the programmes and current programme but hearing of the programmes. The interaction with the focus group at Gwanara in Kwara north shows that the people did not heard of any agriculture programmes regardless participating in any. The finding on questionnaire analysis contradicts with the interview conducted while the interview goes along with the submission of Ovwigho (1985).

Item 14 of the instrument, “Do you see the government agricultural produce in the local market?” The distribution of the respondents on the item indicates that 71.1% (320) of the respondents expressed that they did not see the government agricultural programmes produce in the local market. However, 28.8% (130) of the respondents affirmed that they see the government agricultural programmes produce in the local market. The import of the results is that government agricultural programmes produce were not in the local markets.

The findings corroborate the finding of the interview conducted on focus group during the interview.

Item 16 of the instrument, “Do the government support local farmers in terms of work/farm implement?” The distribution of respondents on the item shows that 77.7% (350) of the respondents expressed that the government did not support the local farmers in terms of work implements. In their own opinion, 22.2% (100) of the respondents affirm that government support local farmers in terms of work implements. The finding reveals that to a large extent government did not support the local farmers in terms of work implements. The finding is in line with submission of Akinsanmi (1994). It is possible that if the local farmers were provided with necessary and adequate farm working implements, the local farmers can do better than spending large amount of money to import food items from other countries.

Strategic options that could enhance food security and consequently good governance in the state

Item 17, “Is there any coordination between local government agricultural departments and the local farmers in your senatorial district?” The distribution of respondents on the item indicates that 73.3% (330) of the respondents expressed that there is no coordination between the local government agricultural departments and the local farmers in their area. In their own response, 26.6% (120) of the respondents however affirm that there is coordination between the local government agricultural departments and the local farmers in their area. The results revealed that there is poor coordination between the local government agricultural departments and the local farmers in the zone. The finding go along with the finding of the interviews conducted with local farmers where all the members of the group said there has not been coordination between the farmers and local government agricultural department in the area.

Item 18 of the instrument “How do local farmers get the supply of fertilizer?” The distribution of respondents on the item shows that 75.5% (340) of the respondents submitted that the local farmers get the supply of fertilizers through private marketers. In their own view, 24.4% (110) of the respondents got their supply of fertilizers through government source. The finding reveals that majority of local farmers got the supply of fertilizers through private marketers. The finding is in line with the interview on focus group, the group members said they have been hearing of fertilizers but they have never had the opportunity of having access to it. Jibowo (2005), Ovwigho (2009) and Olabode (2011) explained the food security programmes embarked on by the successive governments since the establishment of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture,

among which is the procurement and distribution of fertilizer (PDFP) (1973) like other agricultural programmes short-lived due to lack of cohesion, effective planning and execution.

Item 20, “Do you have adequate water supply, either tap or borehole?” The distribution of respondents on the item shows that 66.6% (300) of the respondents expressed that there is no adequate water supply either tap or borehole. In their own submission, 33.3% (150) of the respondents affirm there is adequate water supply in their area. The finding of the results reveals that there is no adequate water supply either tap or borehole in most area of the state. The finding is in line with the result of the interview conducted on focus group where the people lamented on no adequate water supply either tap or borehole and rely solely on well or nearby stream or river. Water is life, as food is important to the body so is water because 70% of the entire volumes of the body is water therefore food security is not only about solid required consumable items but also the natural liquid item known as water.

Conclusion

That government has not provided adequate support and logistics to both mechanized and indigenous farmers in the rural areas. The affirmative responses from some of the respondents were of the farmers in Kwara Central that lives within the environment of the Kwara State capital (Ilorin) where some of the variables measured are located. Summarily, government of Kwara state has less explored the food security as good governance strategy. In this regard, the current situation in which there are high level of involvement in banditry, insurgency, adult-napping/kidnapping, internet-fraud, and other insecurity challenges spreading to most states in Nigeria are of governance strategy that failed to address food security. A food secured state is the manifestation of good governance strategy that will definitely translate to peace, security and development in rural and urban area in Kwara state and Nigeria as a whole.

Recommendation

Government should explore food security as good governance strategy to engender peace, security, and development in Kwara state in particular and Nigeria in general.

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