

**PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF GOVERNANCE IN THE PROVISION OF SECURITY IN
ANAMBRA STATE**

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Abstract

One of the primary responsibilities of government in a state is the maintenance of law and order. Security of lives and property of the populace is one of the visible manifestations of good governance. This paper examined the public perception of good governance in the provision of security in Anambra state. The cross sectional survey design was adopted using the multi stage sampling technique for selection of study participants. 900 participants were drawn from the three major cities in Anambra state. Collated data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages. However, relationships between variables were determined by the application of inferential statistics (chi square and regression analysis). It was found in the study that corruption, lack of security, maladministration and incompetence are the problems working against good governance in Anambra state. The study also found that the security situation in the state can be improved by entrenching good governance, provision of employment opportunities, provision of necessary infrastructure, having purposeful and visionary leadership and by empowering the youths through skill acquisition programmes. Furthermore, good governance as a predictor of security was also found to be significant at $p=.033$. The study therefore recommended among others that leaders should be accountable, transparent, selfless and patriotic in the discharge of their duties.

Introduction

Good governance is a necessary condition for growth and development in human society. Provision of the basic necessities of life is most likely when there is good governance. This then implies that governance could either be good or bad. However, the emphasis of this paper is on good governance. This paper examined the impact of good governance in the provision of security in Anambra state. In the context of this paper, the term governance and good governance can be used interchangeably to mean the same. The term governance has been defined severally and differently. For instance, Okeke (2010) defined governance as the process of exercising political, economic and administrative authority, especially over a state. Embodied in governance are also mechanisms, processes and institutions put in place through which citizens articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences (Okeke, 2010). The distinguishing features of good governance according to Okeke (2010:4) include the following:

(i) Accountability; (ii) Inclusiveness; (iii) Equity and Social Justice; (iv) Observance of the Rule of Law and Due Process; (v) Legitimacy of Political, Economic and Administrative Authority; (v) Effective Institutions; (vi) Purposeful Leadership and (vii) Security and Order. Governance effectiveness is also predicated on effective coordination of sectoral interventions which are critical to the objectives and targets of the Government. This requires the right blend of persons, at various levels of authority, with the right mix of technical, conceptual, political and administrative skills and competencies, to effectively drive the engine of governance.

However, Akpam (2011) cited in Beetseeh and Chiba (2012) views governance as the manner in which power is exercised by governments in managing a country's social and economic resources. In that sense good governance is the exercise of power by various levels of government in a manner that is effective, honest, equitable, transparent and accountable. Good governance according to the scholar, involves absence

of abuse and corruption and the existence of the rule of law and the extent to which it delivers on the promise of human rights: civic, cultural, economic, political and social rights. This is not exactly the case in the Nigerian society where impunity by public office holders and corruption has not only discredited all efforts to move the country forward but crippled the Nigerian nation in all its ramifications. Furthermore, Rukah (1998) cited in Beetseeh and Chiba (2012) maintained that good governance is development oriented. This is summed up in Mansaray (2004) cited in Beetseeh and Chiba (2012) who stressed that good governance requires that governments or the leadership should be politically and financially accountable. It becomes unambiguous that accountability is a vital ingredient needed for good governance to thrive in any given human society. When leaders are accountable to their followers, there is the tendency that basic needs of the followers will be met at least to a reasonable extent. Prominent among these needs is the security needs of the people.

It could be argued that good governance will most often lead to provision of security of lives and property. It then follows however that security of lives and property is most probably a good determinant of good governance (Ikezue, 2014). Terriff (1991) cited in George-Genyi (2013) opined that security is the condition of feeling safe from harm or danger; the defence, protection and preservation of values, and the absence of threats to acquired values. Simply put, security is about survival and the conditions of human existence. Security is not necessarily solely military in nature. Security is broadly viewed as freedom from danger or threats to an individual or a nation. It is the ability to protect and defend oneself, cherished values and legitimate interests and the enhancement of wellbeing (Mijah, 2009). Furthermore, Mijah (2009) sees security as tantamount to development. Security is not just about the presence of a military force; however, military force is one of the vital elements in the provision of security in a society.

There can be no development without security. The nonconventional conception of security lays emphasis on human security. Kofi Annan (1998) cited in George-Genyi (2013:60) had emphasized on the human perspective of security when he posited that:

Security means much more than the absence of conflict but also that it includes lasting peace, an inherent ingredient of security. Security encompasses areas such as education, health, democracy, human rights, the protection against environmental degradation and the proliferation of deadly weapons. Indeed there can hardly be security amidst starvation, peace building without poverty alleviation and no true freedom built on the foundation of injustice.

It is in this sense that the Kampala Document on Security cited in George-Genyi (2013:60) could be appreciated. It clearly states that:

The concept of security goes beyond military consideration. It embraces economic, political and social dimensions of individual, family, community, local and national life. The security of a nation must be constructed in terms of the security of the individual citizen to live in peace with access to basic necessities of life while fully participating in the affairs of his/her society in freedom and enjoying all fundamental human rights.

Furthermore, security of lives and properties of a people entails more than this. For instance, McGrew (1988) cited in Onifade, Imhonopi & Urim (2013:54) holds that:

The security of a nation hangs on two important pillars which are the maintenance and protection of the socioeconomic order in the face of internal and external threat and the promotion of a preferred international order, which minimizes the threat to core values and interests, as well as to the domestic order.

It is consequent upon this assertion that Aligwara (2009) cited in George-Genyi (2013) submitted that security of the individual citizens is the most important thing. He also argued that security is for the citizens and not citizens for security. To him, security involves provision of the basic necessities of life which invariably will make people live in peace with one another. Similarly, Nwolise (2006) cited in Onifade et al. (2013:54) maintained that:

security is an all encompassing condition which suggests that a 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; that the people must not only be secured from external attacks but also from devastating consequences of internal upheavals such as unemployment, hunger, starvation, diseases, ignorance, homelessness, environmental degradation and pollution cum socio-economic injustices.

From the above discussions, it becomes obvious that to guarantee the security of lives and properties of the citizenry, several factors must be brought together to work harmoniously for the survival of the nation. It is from this perspective therefore that one will appreciate the impacts of good governance on the security of a nation.

The problem of governance as it pertains to Anambra state cannot be over emphasized. Much of the contemporary problems in the state could be traced back to many years of negligence by successive governments in the state especially during the military era. The military dictators who ruled the state and the nation as a whole in the past were not mindful of providing the basic needs of the people. Several years of neglect during this era led to collapse and dilapidation of the limited infrastructure in the state. The major factor which led to decay in the already existing infrastructure is corruption. Corruption was taken to its highest level under the several military regimes in the country. Public enterprises were looted and mismanaged paving way for commercialization and outright privatization of most of them. The problems which were created under the different military regimes in Nigeria however continued even several years after the restoration of civil rule in the country. It is safe to state that the contemporary situation in the Nigerian nation is a carryover from the military administrations. The most disturbing aspect of all these is that several years after the exit of the military from governance of this country, the crippling and destructive effects of corruption remains unabated. It appears that accountability and transparency which should be the guiding light in this democratic dispensation were thrown to the dustbin. Misappropriation of public funds by both the elected and appointed individuals who man positions of authority in the country has become the norm. Corruption is most probably a major factor which led to failure of governance in Nigeria.

Khan (1996) cited in Lawal and Tobi (2006) argued that corruption is an act which deviates from the formal rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private motives such as wealth, power or status. Khan sees corruption from the point of view of people who mismanage public positions for personal gains. The World Bank (1997) cited in Raimi, Suara and Fadipe (2013:107) defines corruption as:

The abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused for private gain when an official accepts, solicits, or extorts a bribe. It is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit. Public office can also be abused for personal benefit even if no bribery occurs, through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or the diversion of state resources.

This definition implies that corruption is not only the exclusive preserve of personnel in the public domain. It involves also private entrepreneur(s) or person(s) who fail to abide by the rules governing the conduct of institutionalized process. Corruption encourages the distortion of government expenditure. This often results in diversion of public funds on large scale projects, rather than on the provision of necessary public services such as health, roads, housing and education (Ogbeidi, 2012) cited in Ilechukwu (2014). This situation makes it inevitable for the limited but valuable fund earmarked for development to disappear into private pockets. Ilechukwu (2014:95) argued that:

Corruption also undermines efficiency as time and money are wasted through corrupt activities at the expense of productive activities and which altogether discourages prospective investors. Corruption undermines human and capital development in any society or nation. Perhaps the most tragic effect of corruption on Nigeria has been the failure of the country to attain its economic potentials. It slows down the pace of economic development through manipulation of funds for projects; it destroys or weakens efficiency and effectiveness of public service, it detracts government from giving priority to the areas of income and social inequality, poverty, malnutrition and other areas of need. The net impact of corruption on society is negative.

Corruption is deeply rooted in Nigeria and its manifestation is reflected in the nation's scores in Corruption Perception Index (CIP) published annually by the highly rated Transparency International (TI) (Akpipelu, Ogunseye, Bada & Agbeyangi, 2013). Surveys of nations by Transparency International, a Berlin-based non-profit organization, ranks Nigeria among the most corrupt countries in the world. For instance, Aluko (2005) stressed that Nigeria was the fifth most corrupt country in 1998. Similarly, Pogason (2009) stressed that Nigeria was ranked the second most corrupt country in the world in 1999. The country's ranking became worst in 2000 when Nigeria was ranked the most corrupt country in the world. In 2001, 2002 and 2003, Nigeria was ranked the second most corrupt country out of the surveyed countries (Pogason, 2009). From 2005 to 2007, Nigeria ranked the eight, twenty second, and thirty second most corrupt among the surveyed countries respectively. By 2008, Nigeria significantly improved her rating and ranked 121 out of 180 countries (Pogason, 2009).

Corruption is worse in countries where institutions such as the legislature and the judiciary are weak. It is often high where rule of law and adherence to formal rules are not rigorously observed and where political patronage is the standard practice. Corruption is most noticeable where the independence and professionalism of the public sector has been eroded and where civil society lacks the means of bringing public pressure to bear on governance (Lawal, 2007). Obviously, in the case of developing countries like

Nigeria, limited resources that are initially allocated for industries, hospitals, road construction, schools and other infrastructure are either out rightly siphoned, embezzled, misappropriated, or otherwise severely depleted through kickbacks and over invoicing by government officials. The situation has become so bad to the extent that as far back as 1993, keeping an average Nigerian from being corrupt is like keeping a goat from eating yam (Achebe, 1988).

The scenario at the national level is not different from what happens in the states. In Anambra state for instance, bad governance exposed the state to several problems. On the one hand, there is the unending upsurge in criminality especially the violent ones, while on the other hand people have taken their fates into their hands. It is necessary to state however, that bad governance is not wholly responsible for upsurge in criminality in the state. Other factors such as poverty, individual mindset, and environmental influences could also account for upsurge in insecurity in the state. One of the basic functions of the state is to guarantee the protection of lives and properties of its citizens. It appears that this basic function of the state is actually lacking in Anambra state. The state ranks high among the most crimes infested states in the country. Kidnapping and armed robbery occupy a prime position in the state. No wonder the incumbent governor of the state recently intensified efforts aimed at eradicating kidnapping from the state. It appears from the above discourse that security of lives and property is seriously threatened by lack of good governance by successive governments since the creation of Anambra as a state in Nigeria. The inability of the government of Anambra state to provide good governance in terms of provision of the basic security needs of the people led to the emergence of vigilante groups in different communities in the state (Ukiwo and Chukwuma, 2012). The authors are of the view that governance deficits and pervasive insecurity in the region are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. The nexus between governance and security in Anambra is to say the least intriguing and disturbing. For instance, Iwuamadi (2012:68) found that:

Anambra state was among the first in the southeast region to experience the gradual take-over of security by vigilante groups following the failure of the formal state security agencies to provide security as armed robbers and other criminal activities virtually took over control of key commercial centres and towns like Onitsha, Nnewi, and the state capital Awka.

This is obviously a product of bad governance and maladministration by successive governments in the state. Virtually every community in the state has one form of vigilante service or the other (Ikezue, 2014). When the state could not provide security for its people, the people found alternative by providing security for themselves. This paper is therefore focused on examining public perception of governance in the provision of security to the people in Anambra state in Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

The Marxian theory constituted the theoretical anchorage for this work. The Marxian theory was propounded by Karl Marx (1818-1883) and his basic assumption is that the ruling class would always oppress the masses. The theory stresses divisions within society. It is in view of this that Marx maintained that the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles (Marx and Engels, 1848). Marxists argue that the state serves the dominant classes in society. They see the state as the executive committee of the bourgeoisie. Marxist theories believe that competition over scarce resources is at the heart of all social relationships. Marxist perspectives see power as concentrated in the hands of a minority in society. They maintained that the powerful and the powerless have different interests and that these differences may lead to conflict in society. Marx argued that power is concentrated in the hands of those who have economic control within a society (Haralambos and Holborn, 2004).

The central argument of Marx is that in all class-divided societies, the means of production are owned and controlled by the ruling class. This relationship to means of production according to Marx provides the basis of its dominance. Marx continued that in capitalist society, ruling class power is used to exploit and oppress the subject class and much of the wealth produced by the proletariat's labour is appropriated in the form of profit or surplus value by the bourgeoisie (Haralambos and Holborn, 2004). Marxist theories emphasized that ruling class power extends beyond specifically economic relationships. According to Marx, the relationship of domination and subordination in the infrastructure will largely be reproduced in the superstructure. It is in this regard that Marx maintained that decisions and activities of the state will favour the interest of the ruling class rather than those of the population as a whole (Haralambos and Holborn, 2004). Kendall, Murray and Linden (2004) stressed that although Marxian theorists acknowledge that the government serves a number of important purposes in society, they assert that it exists for the benefit of wealthy or politically powerful elites who use it to impose their will on the masses. One way in which the ruling class could ensure that the state continued to act in its interest was through corruption (Haralambos and Holborn, 2004). According to the theorists, troublesome officials who threatened to follow

policies harmful to the bourgeoisie could be bribed to stop such policies. A second way to determine government policies was through the use of the financial power of capitalists. The state often relied upon borrowing money from the bourgeoisie in order to meet its debts. Loans could be withheld if the state refused to follow policies beneficial to the bourgeoisie (Haralambos and Holborn, 2004).

In capitalist society like Nigeria, the state rules primarily in the interest of the capitalist class. For example, the state takes as its top priority increasing economic (business activity) even when it is clear that this is now accompanied by a falling quality of life and by environmental destruction. Granted that many policies implemented by the state may have several positive impacts on the masses, this is not always the case. The main interest of the state especially in the Nigerian situation is to protect the interest of the ruling class. It is in this light that the Marxian theory will be appreciated in explaining why governance in Anambra state has not exactly provided the needed security for lives and properties of the inhabitants of the state. Political office holders use the office to enrich themselves by implementing programmes which will benefit them. The masses benefit minimally from the policies of those in power. This is consequent upon the fact that people who occupy positions of authority are often times self centred; the policies they implement are most often beneficial to themselves only. This therefore leaves the masses with the only option of taking care of themselves through which ever means that is available to them.

Marxist theory has been criticized for not being able to explain why the state became stronger rather than withering away in communist countries. Furthermore, Marxists also failed to recognize the possibility that there are sources of power other than wealth (Haralambos and Holborn, 2004). These limitations notwithstanding, the Marxian perspectives are very useful in explaining the conflicts inherent in human societies as a result of the differential relation to the means of production.

The following questions were put forward to guide this paper;

- i) How do people of Anambra state assess governance in the state?
- ii) What are the problems working against good governance in the Anambra state?
- iii) What are the factors responsible for the security situation in Anambra state?
- iv) What measures should be taken to improve on the security situation in Anambra state?

Methodology

This study adopted the cross sectional survey design. The study was conducted in Anambra state. Anambra state is one of the 36 states in Nigeria. The total population of the state according to the 2006 National Population Census is 4,177,828. The population of the study however is comprised of youths who are 18 years and above in Anambra state. This amounts to 2401594 people. This represents 57% of the total population of the state. It is from this population that a sample size of 900 respondents was drawn. Anambra state has three major cities. These cities are Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha. 300 participants were drawn from each city in the state using the multi stage sampling technique. The participants in this study were categorized under six distinct groups drawn from the three cities mentioned above. There are men and women opinion leaders, civil servants, members of the Nigerian police force, students, businessmen/women and members of the vigilante services.

The major sources of data for this study are the structured questionnaire and the in depth interview which addressed the specific objectives of the study. The questionnaires were administered to the 900 respondents chosen from the three cities in Anambra state. In this study, twelve (12) participants for the in depth interview were interviewed. Four people were interviewed in each city. They are men and women opinion leaders in the cities. These people were chosen purposively. However, in choosing these people for the interview, the ease of getting access to them and convenience were also considered. The quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics while the chi square statistics and the regression analysis were used for testing relationship between variables. The qualitative data were transcribed and analyzed using the narrative method of data analysis. This involves quoting the responses from the interviewees as reported.

Data Analysis

Age distribution of respondents for this study has a mean age of 36.94 years, a standard error of mean of .373 and a median age of 35 years. Furthermore, the distribution has a modal age of 34 years, a standard deviation of 10.91 years, a minimum age of 19 and a maximum age of 67.

Table 1: Respondents' assessment of governance in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Good	93	10.9
Fair	442	51.6

Bad	311	36.3
Don't know	10	1.2
Total	856	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2014

The table shows that (51.6%) of the respondents see governance in Anambra state as being fair, (36.3%) of them see it as being bad; (10.9%) of the respondents said governance in the state is good while (1.2%) of them said they do not know whether or not governance is good in the state. It implies that governance in Anambra state is fair in its performance. Participants for the in depth interview were unanimous in their views that governance in the state needs to improve. They stressed that governance in the state has not done enough. Specifically, a 62 year old male opinion leader from Awka stated that “governance in Anambra state is nothing to write home about. It is all about misappropriation of state funds by people at the helms of affairs in the state”. Another participant in the in depth interview who is a 54 year old female opinion leader from Nnewi maintained that:

Anambra state has been suffering from poor governance since it was created as a state in Nigeria. All the past leaders in the state from the military era to the present democratic dispensation have not been accountable to the people of the state. They were interested in their personal gains and not the good of the state”.

Furthermore, a 58 year old male opinion leader from Onitsha argued that:

The people of Anambra state have not enjoyed the benefits accruable from good governance. The state has not been fortunate enough to have altruistic and patriotic leaders since its inception. Virtually every government that existed in the state failed to maintain people oriented policies and programmes. Governance in Anambra state is mainly by the elites and for the elites.

Table 2: Respondents’ views of the problems working against good governance in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Corruption	350	40.9
Lack of security	308	36.0
Maladministration	142	16.6
Incompetence	56	6.5
Total	856	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 2 shows that (40.9%) of the respondents see corruption as the most serious problem working against good governance in Anambra state, (36%) of them see lack of security as the problem working against good governance in the state while (16.6%) and (6.5%) of them said maladministration and incompetence respectively are the most serious problems working against good governance in Anambra state.

Most of the participants in the in depth interview stated that corruption is the major problem of governance in the state. They emphasized that governance in the state has not been accountable and responsible to the people in the state. A 54 year old female opinion leader from Onitsha stressed that:

Governance in Anambra state is primarily designed to benefit the elites. Governance has not tackled the main issues of job creation, youth empowerment and security. It is just playing lip service to very sensitive and delicate issues in the state. This failure in governance is as a result of corruption and lack of political will to implement people oriented programmes in the state.

In addition to this, a 70 year old male opinion leader from Awka emphasized that, “lack of accountability and transparency in the affairs of government in the state is responsible for bad governance in the state. The leaders of the state do not want to serve the interest of the people but their own”. Finally, a 60 year old male opinion leader from Nnewi opined that “greed and selfishness are at the root of bad governance in Anambra state. The leaders do not put the interest of the state above their personal interests”.

Table 3: Respondents’ assessment of the security situation in Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Very poor	438	51.2
Poor	334	39.0
Good	61	7.1

Very good	23	2.7
Total	856	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2014

The table shows that (51.2%) of the respondents see the security situation in the state as being very poor, (39%) of them said it is poor while (7.1%) and (2.7%) of them said good and very good respectively. It therefore implies that the security situation in the state is very poor. Almost all the participants for the in depth interview maintained that the security situation in the state is poor. They believed that more should be done to guarantee the security of lives and properties of people in the state. In particular, a 62 year old male opinion leader from Nnewi said that:

The security of lives and properties could not be guaranteed by the government of the state. This is due to many years of negligence and misappropriation of state funds by the people saddled with the responsibility of manning the affairs of the state.

Another participant in the in depth interview who is a 62 year old male opinion leader from Awka stressed that:

The security of Anambra state is nothing to write home about. People are no longer safe when they go to bed at night in their houses. Even when people are on the way, they are equally not safe. They are either robbed by robbers or kidnapped by kidnappers who are virtually everywhere. Nobody is safe in this state and no serious effort is being made to bring the situation to an end.

Table 4: Respondents' views on the factors responsible for state of security in the state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Poverty	255	29.8
Insensitivity to the plight of the masses by public office holders	223	26.1
Corruption	205	23.9
Unemployment	173	20.2
Total	856	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 4 shows that (29.8%) of the respondents see poverty as the factor responsible for state of security in the state, (26.1%) of them maintained that insensitivity to the plight of the masses by public office holders is responsible for the state of security in the state while (23.9%) and (20.2%) of the respondents stressed that corruption and unemployment respectively are the factors responsible for the security situation in the state.

Participants for the in depth interview opined that several factors were responsible for the state of security in the state. One of the participants for the in depth interview, a 52 year old female opinion leader from Awka stated that:

Failure in governance is particularly responsible for the poor nature of security in the state. This is as a result of negligence by successive administrations in the state. It is obvious that the interests of the people were not taken into consideration when decisions were taken by the different administrations in the state. This could be regarded as incompetence and maladministration. Even the little developmental efforts made were often over inflated and some of them were out rightly abandoned by the administrations that started them.

Similarly, a 53 year old female opinion leader from Onitsha maintained that:

Corruption is responsible for the terrible state of security in the state. If corruption could be eradicated, then the scare resources available in the state will be used judiciously. This will in turn lead to provision of basic facilities including the security life and property.

Table 5: Respondents' views on how to improve the security of Anambra state

Responses	Frequency	Percent
By entrenching good governance	269	31.4
By provision of employment opportunities	190	22.2
By empowering the youth through skill acquisition programmes	79	9.2
By provision of necessary infrastructure	190	22.2
By having purposeful and visionary leadership	128	15.0
Total	856	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 5 shows that (31.4%) of the respondents believe the security situation in the state can be improved by entrenching good governance, (22.2%) of them stressed it could be improved by the provision of employment opportunities and by the provision of necessary infrastructure while (15%) and (9.2%) of them said it could be improved by having purposeful and visionary leadership and by empowering the youth through skill acquisition programmes respectively.

Responses from the in depth interview showed that security situation in Anambra state could be improved. Most of the participants in the in depth interview said leadership in the state needs to be proactive. They argued that good governance will lead to provision of the basic needs of the people. However, a 64 year old male opinion leader from Onitsha maintained that:

Leadership is dependent on followership. The leaders and the people they are leading have complementary roles to play. While the leaders are expected to lead by example, the followers should be up and doing. The followers should demand for good governance. Everybody should play his or her roles. The security of the state can be improved if everybody should do what he or she is expected to do. For instance, people are expected to report to the appropriate security agencies when they observe situations or happenings that could lead to disaster if not averted. This means that when you see something that is abnormal you should not keep quiet rather speak out for people to hear and act.

Another participant in the in depth interview, a 56 year old female opinion leader from Nnewi stated that:

Security in Anambra state could be improved by providing enabling environment for business to thrive and by engaging the people meaningfully. The security agencies should be properly equipped and trained adequately. There also a need for value re-orientation. People should learn to be contented with what they have. Greed is at the root of most of the crimes committed in the state. Leaders should be accountable and responsible to the people they are leading. This will go a long way in making the state safe for people to live in.

Finally, a 61 year old female opinion leader from Awka stressed that the security of lives and properties could be improved in Anambra state if:

The people occupying positions of authority could provide jobs and social security to unemployed youths who are all over the place seeking for something to do. It could also be improved by provision of basic social amenities which will enable people to embark on personal endeavours which will benefit them. Government must lead by example. The people of the state are duty bound to demand for good governance and use their powers to vote in people who will work for the good of the state. Non performing political office holders must not be voted for. Rather they should be made to answer for their inability to perform their statutory duties as required by the constitution of the country.

Relationships between variables were tested and the findings are as shown the tables 6 and 7.

Table 6: Relationship between good governance and security of life and property

How would you assess governance in Anambra state?	Do you feel that the safety of your life and property is guaranteed in Anambra state?				$X^2 = 55.112$ $df = 6$ $P = .000$
	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	
Good	12	81	0	93	
Fair	69	311	62	442	
Bad	15	205	26	246	
Don't know	22	37	16	75	
Total	118	634	104	856	

Source: Field Survey, 2014

The table shows that a significant relationship exists between good governance and security of life and property in Anambra state at $P=0.000$. It therefore follows that there is a significant relationship between good governance and security of life and property in Anambra state. This implies that good governance will lead to provision of security of life and property in Anambra state.

Lastly but not the least, the researcher ran a regression analysis by cross tabulating some independent variables with a dependent one and the details are shown in table 7.

Table 7: Regression analysis involving dependent and independent variables

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.445	.109		13.222	.000
What is the greatest role of a good leadership?	.002	.019	.004	.105	.916
How would you assess governance in Anambra state?	.068	.032	.073	2.137	.033

Source: Field survey, 2014

Result of the regression analysis shows that governance is statistically significant with security of life and property at $P=.033$. It therefore implies that governance is a good predictor of security of life and property in Anambra state. This means that when there is good governance, the security of life and property of people living in the state could be guaranteed. Conversely, when there is bad governance, the security of life and property of the people of the state cannot be guaranteed.

Discussion of findings

This study found that governance in Anambra state has not lived up to the expectations and yearnings of the people in the state. It was also found in the study that corruption, lack of security, maladministration and incompetence are the problems working against good governance in Anambra state. This agrees with Marxian theory which posits that the decisions and activities of the state will favour the interest of the ruling class rather than those of the population as a whole. According to Marx, the relationship of domination and subordination in the infrastructure will largely be reproduced in the superstructure while decisions and activities of the state will favour the interest of the ruling class rather than those of the population as a whole (Haralambos and Holborn, 2004).

The security situation in the state was found to be very poor. Several factors were found to be responsible for poor security in the state. These factors are poverty, insensitivity to the plight of the masses by public office holders, corruption and unemployment. These findings are consistent with Ukiwo and Chukwuma (2012) who had earlier argued that the inability of the government of Anambra state to provide responsible and purposeful leadership in terms of provision of the basic security needs of the people led to the emergence of vigilante groups in different communities in the state. The findings agree with Mansaray (2004) cited in Beetsee and Chiba (2012) who stressed that good governance requires that governments or the leadership should be politically and financially accountable. This is further supported by the Marxian theory which argued that although government serves a number of important purposes in society, it exists for the benefit of the wealthy or politically powerful elites who use it to impose their will on the masses.

The study found that the security situation in the state can be improved by entrenching good governance, provision of employment opportunities, provision of necessary infrastructure, having purposeful and visionary leadership and by empowering the youths through skill acquisition programmes. Relationship was also found between governance and security of life and property in Anambra state. Leadership roles were found to have significant relationship with governance in Anambra state. Lastly but not the least, governance as a predictor of security of life and property was found to be significant at $p=.033$. This is supported by Ukiwo and Chukwuma (2012) who stated that governance deficits and pervasive insecurity in the region are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. They affirmed that the nexus between governance and security in Anambra is to say the least intriguing and disturbing. This is against the background that when leadership is purposeful and responsible to the people, good governance is bound to ensure which will eventually lead to provision of basic needs of the people including their security needs.

Conclusion

This study examined public perception of good governance in the provision of security in Anambra state. Three cities in Anambra state were chosen for this study. They are Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi. It was found in the study that governance in Anambra state is did not meet the expectations of the people. Corruption was found to be one of the major factors responsible for poor governance in the state. The study found that good governance will significantly improve the security of life and property in the state. In order to improve on

governance and security in the state, corruption must be eradicated and enabling environment created for businesses to thrive. This involves the provision of basic infrastructural facilities in the state. Job creation could also go a long way in reducing crimes in the state.

Recommendations

It is therefore against the background of the inefficiencies in governance in the state that the following recommendations are made;

Political office holder whether elected or appointed should be accountable to the people. Leaders must lead by example and maintain the highest level of transparency in the discharge of their duties. Policies and programmes which will impact positively on the people should be implemented. This could be by creating enabling environment for small and medium scale businesses to thrive. Necessary infrastructures should be put in place with a view of stimulating economic growth in the state.

The leaders and the people they are leading have roles to play in the betterment of the state. Each person is expected to perform the legitimate duty assigned to him/her. People have the right to demand for good governance when it is lacking. However, this is possible when everybody has done what is expected of him/her.

The vigilante services must be properly supervised by the police and other law enforcement agencies to stem abuse and arbitrary use of power. Recruitment into the vigilante groups should be done after taking into cognisance the personality traits and integrity of the new intakes. People of questionable characters and mischief makers must not be recruited into the group. Extra judicial killings and other vices must be reported accordingly to the constitutionally recognized law enforcement agencies for immediate intervention.

Employment creation must be emphasized and youth empowerment schemes should be made viable. Job opportunities must be advertised and employment should be by merit and performance. Skill acquisition centres should be revamped and made accessible to youths in the state. Micro credit schemes should be put in place to encourage small scale enterprises. Youths should be encouraged to go into farming so as to keep themselves meaningfully engaged.

Prosecution and conviction of corrupt officials is necessary to forestall increasing incidences of corruption. In this regard, the anti-corruption agencies must live up to the expectations of the people. They should bring to book corrupt officials whose actions or inactions have contributed to the seemingly lack of transparency and accountability in governance in Anambra state.

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