

## **The Role of Ceramics and Textile Industries in Addressing the Security Challenges in the Northern States of Nigeria**

**Alewai Jidai Mamza**

Department of Industrial Design, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Correspondence: [mamalewai61@gmail.com](mailto:mamalewai61@gmail.com); 07038430808

### **ABSTRACT**

*Nigeria, a West African country, is currently facing significant economic and security challenges, particularly in its northern regions. The nation's economy is heavily dependent on the oil sector, and it grapples with a high level of youth unemployment, which is a major contributor to the insecurity in the country. There is an urgent need to diversify the economy to provide employment opportunities for the burgeoning youth population. Achieving comprehensive socioeconomic development in Nigeria necessitates considering the ceramic and textile industries as key areas for economic diversification. Revitalizing these industries could help mitigate social vices such as banditry, Boko Haram insurgency, and kidnapping, which are prevalent in the northern parts of the country and are linked to high unemployment rates. This paper identifies the factors that led to the decline of the ceramic and textile manufacturing sectors in Nigeria. It also highlights the potential role of these industries in addressing the country's security challenges and in providing employment, which is crucial for mitigating insecurity.*

**Keywords:** Ceramics, Economy, Insurgency, Security Challenges, Textile Industries.

### **Introduction**

Security can be described as stability and continuity of livelihood (stable and steady income), predictability of daily life (knowing what to expect), Protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological (safety or protection from emotional stress) which results from the assurance of knowing that one is wanted, accepted, loved and protected in one's community or neighbourhood and by people around. It focuses on the emotional and psychological sense of belonging to a social group that can offer one's protection). Nigeria has the resources to provide for the needs of its people, but corruption in public places made it impossible (Aluta, 2021).

Security; refers to those activities involved in protecting a country, building or person against attack or danger and others. National security is the defence of a country against something that might happen in the future. The state of being free from danger or threat (Wehmeier, 2010). Insecurity is simply the opposite of the word "security" which in a layman's understanding simply means the "absence of peace." The concept of insecurity means different things to different scholars/people as is the case in security. It is the absence of safety or presence of danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence; doubt; inadequately guarded or protected; lack of

stability; troubled; lack of protection and unsafe. Insecurity can lead to loss of confidence, being afraid, unsettled, oppressed, loss of focus, and devastation and loss of one's humanness, a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. It is being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is a condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. It is also the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune (Ugah *et. al.*, 2022).

Nigeria's security challenges began in 2009 in different forms with the emergence of the Boko Haram terror group in the country (Nigerian Guardian 2009). Nigeria is faced with unprecedented wave of different but overlapping security crises from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies. For example, the once-booming international fish market in the Chad Basin is now completely controlled by the group (Moronfolu, 2022). Nigeria has and is currently experiencing this situation in many parts of the country especially in the theorist field of the northern part of Nigeria with numerous internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. For example, the Baga fish market in Maiduguri used to be populated with different people across the nation and beyond to buy and sell fish of different types like catfish

“dansarki, budingul, uauwi, barya, karpa” (umbul) etc. Today, very few come to the market in fear or insecure spirit. Peaceful Nation attracts foreign investors, while domestic investors freely operate the economy with little or no tension and apprehensions. Almost every corner of the country has been hit by violence and crime. The scale of the insecurity threatens the very fabric of Nigerian society. With attack on human lives are lost or permanently damaged (Tanko, 2021). Some have linked the surge of insecurity to the staggered poverty across the country. Youth unemployment currently stands at 32.5% and the country is in the middle of one of the worst economic downturns in 27 years.

The rate of unemployment in the country could be talked by establishing Ceramics and Textiles Industries across the nation by the government to reduce the huge role of unemployed youth of the Nation. The socio-economic development of Nigeria cannot be fully achieved without considering the textile industry as a way of diversifying the Nigerian economy.

Reviving the Textile Industries is one of the ways of curtailing the social vices such as banditry, kidnapping and Boko Haram insurgency which has resulted in a high rate of unemployment in the North Eastern and Western parts of the country. It is necessary for the government to take all necessary steps to revive employment opportunities for the teeming youth and way of diversifying the country's economy which over 20 million Nigerians depend on. Nigeria has one of the finest and most vibrant textile sectors in the world (Abdulazeez, 2021).

At its peak in the 1980s, these industries provide up to 500,000 direct jobs with over 250 functional factories in most of the country's cities, especially in Kaduna, Lagos and Kano.

### **General Causes and Implication of Insecurity in Nigeria**

**Unemployment:** As a result of the high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youth, they are adversely attracted to violent crime. Failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inadequate distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major causes of insecurity in the country (Aluta, 2021).

**Terrorism:** The most fundamental source of insecurity in Nigeria today is terrorism. Nigeria has lost a large number of lives, especially in the northern region of the country since 2009 to the insurgency of the infamous sect, Boko haram. It has affected business enterprises, farming, livestock fishing and all that is related. Theft top organized robbery, kidnapping and demand for ransom, assassination, bombings, the rising cost of living and its kind. All these crimes have made the Nigerian environment to be complex and scary anywhere you are in the country. (Aluta, 2022; Chukuwemeka, 2022)

These makes the Nation insecure not suitable for investment and any type of business activities and production in any situation. If there is no peace and security, it is extremely difficult for businesses to survive.

**Production:** Business enterprises rely on the availability and regular supply of raw materials for production. Security problems can cut off the supply of raw materials when there is no access to the raw materials needed for production due to insecurities in the country, It can disrupt production activities.

**Marketing:** It is not only that a business enterprise must get raw materials for production, but it also must dispose of its output. Insecurity limits market availability. The area of insecurity will not be attracted for marketers especially from outside the environment. Mobility will be restricted. Migration of people from the affected area will take place to other unaffected areas nationally or even internationally. For example, some people from Adamawa and Borno have moved to Cameroon and Chad Republic for their lives(safety) during the peak of the Boko Haram insurgency that started around July 2009.

**Finance:** Generally, most business organizations operating in Nigeria maintain the security of their properties and the lives of their staff and customers. It could also result in the loss of capital and products through the burning of business buildings and properties. It also limits sources of funds to the business.

**Human Resources:** Due to the high level of insecurity in a particular region, there could be migration of people which could lead to the death of skilled labourers. It affects the general human security of the people as the situation promotes fear, and limiting the people's ability to work effectively. The employees could also become victims of attack and experience injuries or death.

Workers resign and run away and fresh people do not want to come as a result of insurgency kidnapping. For example, in Borno and Yobe States of northern Nigeria, manpower shortage is dangerous as a result of insurgency and kidnapping resulting to failure. The government should endeavour to make security available to the public at all times for the sustainability of business and the rest of public places.

**Good governance:** This is the panacea for the security challenges in Nigeria. The government is responsible and accountable for the people. Security engagement cannot be separated from good governance. Good governance of effective, visionary transparent, trustworthy and credible political leadership for improved well-being of the citizens through well-conceived, effectively implemented economic policies and human development programs. (Aluta, 2022; Chukuwemeka, 2022) are required.

**Socio-economic development:** Development in this aspect is of creating an economy with relevant socio-economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth to produce gainful employment, high-level education, facilities and medical care for the people.

**Elimination of corruption and entrenchment of social justice:** Corruption hinders Nigeria's progress and development. It is the bane of Nigerian society. It is both an economic and social monster. It is the cause of inequality and inequitable distribution of the nation's wealth among its citizens, a situation that is the root cause of the disaffection among Nigerians. Where all of these are, fairness, social justice, equal rights for all, treated and accorded, on merit defined in terms of the content of his character, mental capacity and abilities to deliver.

**Leadership:** Visionary leadership, detribalized – leadership positions only people who are able to inculcate in their people or followers, the idea of common citizenship as the transcendent factor among all Nigerians, no matter the tribe, gender, religion, economic and social status. Leaders that will help to mould the contending ethnic and religious groups into harmony and help to remove the perceived mutual distrust among them. Use of institutions of the Nigerian constitution as a nursery ground to produce leaders with national outlook and with missionary zeal to transform the nation (Aluta, 2022).

## **Unemployment**

Unemployment is a phenomenon that occurs when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work. It is a situation in which people who are willing to work at the prevailing wage rate are unable to find a job. Unemployed is a member of the economically active population, who are without work but available for and seeking for work, including people who have lost their jobs and those who have voluntarily left work. Also, an unemployed person is one who is willing and able to work given the prevailing terms and conditions of employment but does not currently have a job (Nwamaka, 2020). An unemployed youth or graduate is a threat to her/his community/ society since there is nothing to do. The mindset could be negatively loaded with criminal activities like armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism and more of its type. When youths are engaged with work, they would not be found wanting in the ill activities in the society. The ceramics and Textiles industries are capable of engaging citizen to have jobs when trained skillfully to be self-employed and become economically sound and healthy living.

## **General Causes of Unemployment**

The gross domestic product (GDP) is one of the key indices used in determining the level of economic security of a country. It was discovered that improving and reviving ceramic and textile industries will not only reduce the unemployment rate but will, directly and indirectly, contribute to the growth of the Nigerian economy through the GDP growth by small, medium and large-scale industries. The value chain of the textile through the cotton production, ginning, spinning and weaving of textiles, fashion and garment industries will generate all relevant taxes such as pay-as-you-earn (Payee) and value-added tax (VAT) which the government derived through taxation and had a lot of impact on the GDP growth in the Nigerian economy, other export taxes will be generated which will also increase the foreign reserve of the country thereby providing strong security to the Nigerian economy.

Godwin Emefiele, Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), has revealed that the country's textile industry can create not less than 2 million jobs if well harnessed. He made this known while expressing confidence that the industry is poised to make the Nigerian economy self-reliant (Damilare, 2019). Speaking at a stakeholders' meeting with cotton, textile, garment producers

and farmers in Abuja, Emefiele said the textile industry can also “reduce over \$4 billion import bills annually, and save our hard earn foreign exchange while accelerating the industrial development of the country, and making Nigeria a global player in the textile and garment subsector (Damilare, 2019).

Emefiele maintained that the country’s textile industry is capable of transforming the economy by reviving the cotton and garment sector,

thereby improving Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) across the three tiers of government. Furthermore, the apex bank Governor stressed that the ginners, spinners, and about one million farmers who were planting cotton as their source of livelihood also lost their jobs (Damilare, 2019). As such, Sambisa Forest could serve the issue of unemployment locally, nationally and even internationally to the government at all levels for peace, unity, security and economic development.

### **Sambisa Forest**



**Platel: Aerial view image of Sambisa Forest**

The Sambisa forest can provide jobs and farmland to millions of Nigerians. The forest in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria, Southwest Borno State, covered about 518 km<sup>2</sup> vast farmland in Borno State is twice the size of Israel, which is about 22,000 km<sup>2</sup>. It is in the South Western part of Chad Basin National Park, about 60 km<sup>2</sup> Southeast of Maiduguri, the capital State of Borno (Internet Retrieved 22 November 2022). See Plate 1. The Researcher from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria collected the materials for glaze production at Lokodisa in 2011 near a village in Sambisa forest. Since then, it has been a no-go area. The Sambisa forest should be converted into state industry and farmlands.

### **Importance of Industries o the Nation**

- Trade promotion is a lot significantly by industrialization
- Rapid industrialization can soon eliminate poverty and unemployment
- Industrialization is regarded as the most important for economic development

- The rapid exportation of national and per capital income is added by industrial development.

Industries are very important in the modern economic activities of man. The economic development of any country is decided mainly by the industrial development of the country. Industries are the main features of modern civilization and they provide people with the necessary materials and employment opportunities. Forests are considered as one of the natural resources which support the primary sector. Some industries which depend on agriculture for their raw materials are considered as Agro-based industries. The industries come under secondary manufacturing sector are the main feeder of employment opportunities for large number of people. In the industrial age, the role of industries is an integral part of people’s life. It is noted that without the industries people cannot sustain their life. The industries are an inevitable part of man’s life.

### **Ceramics and Textiles Industries for Job Creation**

These industries are possible avenues for job creation for individuals across the country, especially the youths/graduates. When employment opportunities are created through entrepreneurship training, then the security challenges could be addressed in accordance. The increase of criminal activities will be reduced and the country could find peace and stability for its citizens when entrepreneur education is emphasized in tertiary institutions and to the building-minded individuals to enable the teaching of skills acquisition areas for better results.

Ceramic industries are the industries that are setup for the production of ceramics products using clay as the main raw material for the production. These types of industries were established across the country since 1952, especially in various tertiary institutions like universities, colleges of education and polytechnics for the training of students. These applied arts are mostly set up in the Fine and Applied Arts Departments. Others are set up in Industrial Design Departments like the ones in Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria Kaduna State (the Department of Industrial Design). Where these industries are set up, there are highly productive departments. For example, in ABU, Zaria, the Ceramics and Textiles sections are very productive in the training and production of products. The results are seen every year after the graduation of the students. In the ceramics section (industry), you can find variety of functional products like bowls, Mugs, Tea Pots, (sets) and flower Vases of different designs and sizes during the students' yearly exhibitions.



**Plate 2: Ceramic Kettle**

These works are produced using different types of methods, materials and equipment. If the section is given the required materials and equipment, the students will be well-trained and be self-employed to address such security challenges facing the country.

Most of the Textile industries in Kaduna, Kano, Onitsha and others have also folded up. By folding up these industries, where will those working in the industries go to? In view of these discussion and explanation, the government should take heed and look into the stance and situation of these industries in order to take necessary measures in order to address and tackle the security challenges across the country and beyond.

### **Public Industries of the Ceramics/Textiles**

Several ceramics and textiles industries are found across the country both public and private. See Plates 2 – 7. Presently, most of the industries have folded up and the few that are surviving are not doing well. For example, the Kano, Lagos and Ladi Kwali centres are not functioning. As such the government needs to take bold steps to revive these types of industries and establish more.

Many advanced nations of the world have in the past depended fully on science and technology, applying effective use of disciplines with specialized skills such as ceramics to forge ahead in terms of industrialization. Examples of countries referred to above are the: United States of America, the Great Britain, Germany, France, Japan, North Korea and South Korea, India, Indonesia and Malesia (Ogwu 2012). It is good to follow good steps of the advanced nations for the betterment of the citizens and economic development of Nigeria.



**Plate 3: Ceramic cups side views**





**Plate 4: Textile Fabrics**



**Plate 5: Textile Fabrics**



**Plate 6: Textile Fabrics**



**Plate 7: Textile Yarns**

### **Contribution of the Industry to the National Economy**

**Manufacturing:** This is the process of mass-creating objects after they have been transformed from raw ingredients to more attractive products. Workers at steel mills, car factories, breweries, textile mills, bakeries and other sectors fall into this category. Some people work in the service industry. Manufacturing industry development is used to assess a country's economic strength.

**Industries:** These are group of enterprises or organizations that produce or supply goods, services or sources of income. The primary industries of the nation's economy include: agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying and extraction of minerals of which ceramic industries belong to Secondary industries also called manufacturing industries take the raw materials supplied by the primary industries and process them into consumer goods. The secondary industry is divided into heavy or large-scale and light or small-scale industries. Small scale industry may be the non-durability of manufacturing products and smaller capital investment in plant and equipment. The labour force may be either low skilled as in textile work and cloth manufacturing, food processing or highly skilled as in electronics and computer

hardware (Kolawole, 2022). Manufacturing Industry is an economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacturing of goods in factories.

### **Root Causes of Security Challenges in Nigeria**

- a. Moral Quandary: Corruption, craving to acquire wealth.
- b. Breakdown of our cherished cultural values
- c. Injustices and faulty justice system
- d. Poverty and unemployment
- e. The unchecked flow of lethal weapons
- f. Menace of fake and illicit drugs
- g. Greed and self-centeredness
- h. Laziness among others.

### **Possible Solutions to Security Challenges in Nigeria**

1. Role of Government: The main responsibility of any government is to ensure the security and safety of its citizens, who willingly surrender their right to be overseen by them. The government can ensure the security and safety of its citizenry through good governance, good governance aims at promoting and sustaining holistic and integrated human development, enabling people to live clean, descent, happy and autonomous lives and encouraging better

service delivery and improved accountability to deliver better services, governing bodies and individuals must act in the public interest and all times; consistent with legislation and government policies, avoiding self-interest and if necessary, act against perceived organizational interest.

2. **Role of Religious House:** The real essence of all religions is to ensure peace. Christians and Muslims are expected to be examples of peace. When people maintain a good relationship with God, their common language of expression and altar of service becomes a commitment to quality service delivery
3. **Corporate and individual Roles:** Corporate Governance and corporate organizations can ensure the effective functioning of their organizations. Organizations that ensure good governance should give back to the community by ensuring that the interest of all stakeholders is taken care of. The solution to the Nigerian security threat entails leadership development, good governance, socio-economic development, elimination of corruption and entrenchment of social justice, radical change in values development of more balanced local terrorism (Boko Haram) Nigeria needs to develop leadership, war against insecurity would be won only by raising good governance as well as providing gainful employment, ensure fairness, social justice and equal right for all as well as radical changes in value system which is paramount and imperative in resolving security in the country.

Effective formulation and implementation of guidelines and programmes that will address the basic cause of uncertainties in Nigeria is essential, particularly with regards to poverty, unemployment, injustice, corruption, porous borders and related ones.

The quest to combat insecurity can only be effective if there is a solid combination of legislative and judicial interference with government reforms that added some human security challenges facing a large majority of the population (Chukuwemeka, 2022)

### **Conclusion**

Combating insecurity goes beyond guns and drones, but rather spreading good education, good governance and creating employment for the

teeming youths because the future appears bleak, the solution involves concerted effort from all and sundry to build a nation where peace and justice reigns.

### **Recommendations**

In order to address the security challenges in Nigeria through the Textiles and Ceramics Industries, the following are hereby recommended.

1. Ceramics and Textiles industries should be established across the country most especially in the North Eastern part of the country like Bauchi, Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states . These are mostly affected states by insurgency for the benefit of the trained individuals and the country to be free from criminal activities.
2. The government should employ information technology by installing CCTV cameras to monitor illegal immigrants, small and light arms proliferation and ammunition into the country.
3. Youth employment should be directly tackled by all levels of government
4. The Nigerian security agencies should be well remunerated to prevent bribery and corruption act.
5. There is a need for civil societies to raise public awareness as well as lobby for concrete change or help to initiate and carry out a process of reforming national integrity. The government need to modernize advance technology, logistics motivational and change of orientations.
6. Review of the folded Ceramics and Textiles industries should be considered with immediate effect for economic, development and employment.
7. Tertiary institutions should be equipped with the required materials and equipment for the training of students for better results for the benefit of individuals, the nation and internationally. Materials and Equipment should be given to institutions over the country, especially Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.
8. The Local, State, Federal Government and the parastatals of the government should harness Sambisa forest for the purpose of Farmlands and Industries for establishment of employment for the youths/graduates in the country. The name 'Sambisa Forest' should be changed to 'Colleges of Industries and Farmlands of Nigeria'.

## References

- Abdulazeez A.Y., et al. (2021). Textile Industries and Their Applications in Curtailing the Insecurity in Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Management Research*. Vol.7. No.4 [www.iiardjournals.org](http://www.iiardjournals.org)
- Alesaba E.I., John Y. O. and Olorunyayetan (2019). Design in Nigeria: A Mechanism for Expanding the Role of Industrial sector as employment for youth and national development. p. 20-21, Vol. 5
- Aluta C., (2021). Security challenges in Nigeria and the implications for business Activities and Sustainable Development Annual, Business, Conference, General news, Volunteers [https:// nsacc.org](https://nsacc.org)
- Akinsowo F.I., (2021). Roots causes of security challenges in Nigeria and Solutions.
- Chukuwameka E. S. (2022). <https://bscholarly.com> (Date visited???)
- Damilare F. (2019). 2 million jobs available for Nigerians in the textile industry, Retrieved from <https://nairametrics.com/2019/07/13/2-million-jobs-available-for-nigerians-in-the-textile-industry-cbn/> (Date visited???)
- KolawoleY., (2022). Contribution of industry to national Economy Geeksforgeeks (<https://www.geeksforgeeks>). (Date visited???)
- Moronfolo F.I/ (2022). Internet Retrieved 15 November 15, 2022
- Nigeria Guardian News. (2009). Nigeria: The N70 billion bail-out for textile industry. Retrieved from <https://agoa.info/news/article/4264-nigeria-the-n70-billion-bail-outfor-textile-industry.html> (Date visited???)
- Nwamaka N. J. (2020). Eradicating unemployment and poverty through Textile entrepreneur for sustainable economic development in Nigeria: *Nigerian Journal of Textiles (NJT)*. Textile Research Association of Nigeria (TRAN) Vol. 6 28-33.
- Ogwu, G. M. (2012). Using Ceramics for Transformation of Nigeria: The Journey so far Lead Paper Presented at 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the ceramic association of Nigeria (CERAN).
- Sunkad G., (2021). European Journal of Research Development and sustainability ISSN (E) 2660-5570 Vol. 2 No 4 (2021) EJRDsmt Gayatri Sunkad – Author (SG Sunkad)
- Tanko A. (2021). BBC Hausa Editor Internet Retrieved November 14, 2022.
- Ugah S. A, Ortserga G.O. and Degarr D.T. (2022). Insecurity in Northern Nigeria; A Case study of Boko Haram insurgency, The Nigerian Government Response and its impact on Nigerians External Image.
- Weheimer S. (2010). OXFORD Advance Learners Dictionary, pp771, 1320-1321