



# **HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL SECTOR GROWTH IN NIGERIA**

**JAMES Kelechi Obinna**

Doctoral Program, Department Of Economics

Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu, Nigeria

kayceejames@yahoo.com

## **Abstract**

*This paper studied the relationship between human capital development, national security and agricultural sector growth in Nigeria. It used time series data from 1981-2017 which were sourced from the Central Bank of Nigeria statistical bulletin for 2018 and from World Bank indicators. The study adopted the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model to estimate the relationship among the variables. The study established that no long run relationship exists among the variables. The findings from the study indicate that life expectancy is a key factor affecting agricultural sector growth in Nigeria. The study recommends that government should improve access to healthcare for all Nigerians by strengthening and widening the operations of the National Health Insurance Scheme, increase funding of research in alternative medicine, widen extension programmes on nutrition, diet and hygiene education and provide adequate security for lives and property in the country.*

*Keywords: ARDL model, Human Capital, National Security, Agric Sector Growth*

## **INTRODUCTION**

One of Nigeria's major objectives has been to attain stability, material prosperity, peace and social progress. However, this has been hampered as a result of internal problems. These include inadequate human development, primitive industrial and agricultural production practices, poor infrastructure, insecurity, corruption and mismanagement of resources. In order to ensure the economy delivers its potentials, the country experimented with two development



philosophies viz a private sector led growth and a public sector-driven growth. In time past, efforts concentrated on accumulating physical capital to the detriment of human capital in Nigeria's quest for rapid socio-economic development. However, earlier development plans which virtually ignored human aspects of development did little to increase the growth and development of the country.

In Nigeria and indeed other parts of the world, agriculture is one of the economic sectors that play multiple roles. It is a major employer of labour, employing about 70 to 80 per cent of her population (Ugwu and Kanu, 2012). It is the major source of food for the population and feed for livestock. It is also a major source of raw materials for industries and further contributes to the GDP and balance of payment of the country.

Based on the importance of the agric sector, it is necessary to develop the mental capacity of the practitioners so as to increase the physical output of the sector. As the global economy shifts towards more knowledge based sectors, skills and human capital development becomes a central issue for policy makers and practitioners engaged in economic development both at national and regional level. Human capital development is associated with investment in man and his development as a creative and productive resource (Jhingan, 2012). As the global economy shifts towards more knowledge-based, skills and human capital development becomes a central issue for policy makers and practitioners engaged in economic development both at nation and regional levels. Human capital theory reveals that individuals and whole society gain economic benefits from investments in people (Nafukho, Hairston and Brooks, 2004). It rests on the assumption that formal education is highly instrumental and even necessary to improve the production capacity of a population. In short, the human capital theorists argue that an educated population is a productive population (Olaniyan and Okemakinde, 2008).

It is an important factor used in converting all resources to benefit mankind and includes education, health, labour, employment and more. With increased human capital development, the agric sector in Nigeria is expected to witness growth provided there is adequate security in the country.

Insecurity has been identified as one of the obstacles to sustainable development (Call, 2000; Ujah and Eboh, 2006; Igbuzor, 2011). Nigeria in recent times has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity resulting in the country consistently ranking low in the global peace index (Global Peace Index (GPI), 2012). These security challenges include Boko-Haram crisis in the north eastern part of the country which has led to loss of lives and displacement of persons, the farmers –herder's clashes in the north-central part of the country and banditry in the North-western part of the country. These security flashpoints are majorly farming

communities and their agricultural production activities have been reduced to the barest minimum thereby posing a threat to food security and industrial production in Nigeria.

Security guarantees the existence of conditions within which individuals in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any form of threat to lives and property (Igbuzor, 2004; Akin, 2008). Recently, Nigeria has witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. This has threatened national security and has prompted huge allocation of national budget to security (Achumba and Akpo-Robaro, 2013). In the absence of security, economic growth and development cannot be sustained as it destroys economic, human and social capital. Under conditions of peace and security, people and government can direct their efforts and resources towards improving human life. Consequently, this paper sets out to forge a nexus between human capital development, security and agricultural sector growth in Nigeria.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Conceptual Literature

#### *Human capital development*

Economically, capital is referred to as “ those factors of production used to create goods or services that are not themselves significantly consumed in the production process”, while the human element takes charge of all economic activities such as production, consumption and transactions necessary to move the products to consumers (Boldizzoni, 2008). This implies that human capital is a key element that adds value to the production process.

The growth literature is definitive on the centrality of the productivity improvement to the fostering of growth and development (Meier, 1970). Aside stock of physical capital, human capital, knowledge and technical know-how has been identified as one of the components that can contribute positively to productivity growth. Human capital has been identified as aggregate economic view of human beings acting within economies; it encompasses traits such as knowledge, talents, skills, abilities, experience, health, intelligence, training, judgment and wisdom (Mincer 1993; Becker, 1994)

Human capital development is thus associated with investment in man and his development as a creative and productive resource (Jhingan, 2012). Schults (1960) categorized and developed human resources into six ways

1. Health facilities and services.
2. On-the job training which includes oil type apprenticeship organized by firms.
3. Formally organized education at elementary, secondary and higher level.
4. Study programmes for adults that are not in agriculture.
5. Migration of individuals and families to adjust changing job opportunity (factor mobility)

6. Transfer or importation of technical assistance, expertise and consultants.

Human capital is further defined as the stock of competences, knowledge and personality attributes embodied in the ability to perform labour so as to produce economic value. It is vitally important for an organizations success (Crook, Todd, Combs, Woehr and Ketchen, 2011). It increases through education and experience (Arthur & Sheffrin, 2003). Human capital is an important factor used in converting all resources to benefit mankind.

### ***National security***

Security embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrence (Ogunleye, Adewale, Alese and Ogunde, 2011). Some scholars in conceptualizing security placed emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country (Igbuzor, 2011; Oche, 2001; Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013 and Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Akin (2008) defined security as the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions.

According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013), Olabanji and Ese (2014), two approaches exist in the conceptualization of security. The first is a neo-realist theoretical stand that conceptualizes security as primary responsibilities of the state. The second is the post modernist or plural view which conceptualizes security as the responsibility of non-state actors and displaces the state as a major provider of security.

### **Theoretical Literature**

Contemporary discussion on human capital development, national security and economic growth (which comprises output of various sectors) will revolve around three theories viz human capital theory, modernization theory and militarism theory.

### ***Human capital theory***

This theory shows how education leads to increase in productivity and efficiency of workers by increasing the level of their cognitive skills. Theodore Schults, Gary Becker and Jacob Mincer introduced the notion that people invest in education so as to increase their stock of human capabilities which can be formed by combining innate abilities with investment in human beings. Examples of such investments include expenditure on education, on-the job training, health and nutrition. The provision of education is seen as a productive investment in human capital, an investment which proponents of human capital

theory considers to be equally or even more equally worthwhile than that in physical capital. Human capital theorists have established that basic literacy enhances the productivity of workers low skills occupations.

The theory further stresses that education and health are investments made on the same human being. Education is a key to creating, adapting and spreading knowledge. It can add to the value of production in the economy and also to the income of the person who has been educated. It further adds that health and nutrition are certainly an important aspect of such investment; particularly developing countries where deficiencies in these respect severely limit the populations' ability to engage in productive activities.

### ***The modernization theory***

This theory focuses on how education transforms an individual's value, belief and behavior. The theory originated from the ideas of German sociologist Max Weber (1864-1920) which provided the basis for the modernization paradigm developed by Harvard sociologist Talcott Parsons (1902-1979). Other proponents of the modernization theory included Walter Rostow, W.A Lewis and Daniel Lerner.

Exposure to modernization institutions such as schools, factories and mass media inculcate modern values and attitudes. The attitude include openness to new ideas, independences from traditional authorities, willingness to plan and calculate further exigencies and growing sense of personal and social efficacy. According to the modernization theorists, these normative and attitudinal changes continue throughout the life cycle, permanently altering the individual's relationship with the social structure. The greater the number of people exposed to modernization institutions, the greater the level of individual modernity attained by the society. Once a critical segment of a population changes this way, the pace of society's modernization and economic development quickens. Thus educational expansion through its effects on individual values and benefits sets in motion the necessary building blocks for a more productive workforce and a more sustained economic growth.

### ***The militarism theory***

Militarism refers to the use of military force to regulate political conflicts (Ross 1987). This theory argues that military conflicts, political repression and international arms races leads to decrease in public investment in the basic needs of the population(nutrition, health and education) reducing the aggregate food supply.

## Empirical Literature

The relationship between human capital development and economic growth has received the attention of quite a number of scholars. Also, many scholars have tried to demonstrate how security (or its antithesis-insecurity) affects the growth of the economy which includes the agricultural sector.

Different scholars in trying to establish the nexus adopted different indicators and achieved varied results. Anaduaka and Eigbiremolen (2014) in a study on human capital development and economic growth: the Nigerian experience employed the augmented Solow human –capital growth model to investigate the impact of human capital development on national output which was a proxy for economic development. Their study used quarterly time-series data from 1999-2012. The result shows that human capital development in line with theory exerts significant positive impact on output level. The results further revealed a relatively inelastic relationship between human capital development and output level and recommended that government and policy makers should make concerted and sincere efforts in building and developing human capacity through adequate educational funding across all levels.

Adeyemi and Ogunsola (2016) studied the impact of human capital development on economic growth in Nigeria using ARDL approach. They used time series data from 1980-2013 to explore the relationship between human capital (education and health) and economic growth using the ARDL co-integration analysis to estimate the relationship among the variables used in the study. The result shows a long-run co-integration among the variables. It further shows a positive long-run relationship among secondary school enrolment, public expenditure on education, life expectancy, gross capital formation and economic growth but it is statistically insignificant. The result further shows that there is a negative long-run relationship among primary, tertiary school enrolment, public expenditure on health and economic growth. In line with the findings the study recommends that government should put in place the required education and training policy that would guarantee quality schooling for primary and tertiary education and that government should also commit more funds to health sector to enhance human capital development. On the impact of health on economic growth in Nigeria, Idowu (2014) adopted the co-integration, and granger causality technique to analyze quarterly time series data of Nigeria for the period of 1995-2009. The result shows that GDP is positively influenced by health indicators in the long run and health indicators cause the per capita GDP. It further reveals that health indicators have a long run phenomenon. The study concludes that economic growth can be achieved by improving the health status of the populace.

In another study titled “An analysis of human capital development and productivity growth-case study in Nigeria” Adejumo and Adejumo (2017) sought to address the direction of causality between human capital and productivity growth in Nigeria. The study used data from 1970-2010 and followed the endogenous growth model which argued that technical progress through an effective labour force could lead to long-run growth which can be determined within an economy. It employed a quantitative method as well as Engel-Granger Causality test in the analysis. The result shows that while productivity growth caused human capital, human capital development did cause productivity growth. They recommended increased income, entrepreneurship education, process-based training and good governance as factors that could enhance productivity in Nigeria. In a related work, Djomo and Sikod (2012) studied the effect of human capital on agricultural productivity and farmers’ income in Cameroon. The study adopted a Cobb-Douglas production function to evaluate agricultural productivity, establish stochastic frontier model and specify returns to human capital. Using data from household survey, the result shows that an additional year of experience and levels of education increases agricultural productivity. He thus recommended that to provide solution to food insecurity, the government should allow farmers to endow more in human capital. This result supports Adalakun (2011) who evaluated human capital development and economic growth in Nigeria using conceptual analytical framework that employs the theoretical and ordinary least square (OLS) to analyze the relationship using GDP as proxy for economic growth, total government expenditure on education and health, the enrollment pattern of tertiary, secondary and primary school as proxy for human capital. The result of the analyses confirms is a strong positive relationship between human capital development and economic development and recommended that stakeholders need to evolve a more pragmatic means of developing human capabilities.

In a similar study on the impact of education on agricultural productivity of small scale female maize farmers in Potiskum, Yobe state, Okpachu, Okpachu and Obijesi (2014) used a regression analysis to show that education significantly related to output and concluded that education positively impacted on agricultural productivity. The study recommends that adult education programme should be highly encouraged by government. In other studies, Musibau (2012), modeled income and health within a simultaneous equation framework to allow for the expected bi-directional causation amongst the variables. The study used annual data from 1970-2008. The result of the study shows a clear two way linkage between health and growth. The study recommends improvement in public health to ensure economic growth. In another study on the effects of health on economic growth:

theory and evidence, Bloom, Canning and Sevilla (2001) used production function models of economic growth to account for two components of human capital development namely work experience and health. The result shows that good health has a positive, sizable and significant effect on aggregate output.

On the relationship between security and economic development in Nigeria, Otto and Ukpere (2012), in a study on national security and development in Nigeria, used public spending on security as proxy for security and gross domestic product GDP as proxy for development. The work observes that there is a positive relationship between security and development. They recommend that those in government should deepen democratic processes to ensure peace. The results of their work is supported by Umaru, Pate and Haruna (2015) which studied the impact of insecurity and poverty on sustainable economic development in Nigeria using the frustration-aggression theoretical framework. The result of their study suggests that insecurity impedes the attainment of sustainable development.

A related study by Ijeoma (2014) studied the impact of cost of conflict on economic development in Nigeria using Kruska-Wallis test factor analyses and Bar chart to analyze data from a field survey. The result of the analysis shows that conflicts which are forms of insecurity (antithesis for security) has significant impact on economic development in Nigeria. The study suggests the Nigerian state should put in place good governance, viable anti-terrorism measures and build strong legitimate institutions that can adequately curb the menace of corruption and poverty and at the same time respond proactively to the challenge of terrorism in Nigeria. The result of his study is supported by Okonkwo, Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anagbogu (2015) which studied security challenges in Nigeria and the implications for business activities in Nigeria. The study adopted the democratic peace theory using secondary data. From the results of their analyses, the study concludes that security challenges in any environment constitute threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities and discourages local and foreign investors, which affects and retards socio-economic development of a country. They recommended effective formulation and implementation of policies capable of tackling the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

The submission above was supported by Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpo-Robaro (2013) in a study on the same topic. Their study evaluated the level and dimension of insecurity based on secondary data and observations among authors in different parts of Nigeria. The study concluded that insecurity does not allow for sustainable development. They recommended the evolvement of security models that that combats the creators and perpetrators of situations of insecurity in the country and addressing and removing the sources of dissatisfaction and discontentment which spur security breaches.



## METHODOLOGY

### Research Design and Study Setting

The ex-post factor design was adopted in this research in obtaining, analyzing and interpreting data used in this study. The choice of this design is to allow for observation of the variables over a long period of time. In this study both the dependent and independent variables was observed over the period 1981-2017. Nigeria is located in western Africa with an estimated population over 200 million. It is the continent's most populous country and one of the largest economies. In the last decade it has been faced with challenges of insecurity in parts of the country that are mainly agrarian.

### Theoretical Framework

The standard methodology of growth studies begins with the neoclassical (Solow) production function of the form-

$$Y_t = A_t f(K_t, L_t) \dots \dots \dots 1$$

Where Y is aggregate real output, K is the capital stock, L is labour, A is the efficiency factor and t is the time dimension.

The emergence of endogenous growth theory and models e.g. Romer (1986) and Barro (1991) suggests that other endogenous factors such as government policies as well as political stability, market distortions, human capital development, insecurity and so on largely influence economic growth. As such the model for the study will be modified and stated as follows

$$RAGDP = f(GEH, GES, LEX, SSE) \dots \dots \dots 2$$

Where

RAGDP= Real agric sector gross domestic product

GEH = Government expenditure on health and education (capital and recurrent)

GES = Federal government expenditure on security (capital and recurrent)

LEX = Life expectancy

SSE = Secondary school enrolment

The econometric form of the model when transformed into log-linear is specified as follows

$$\text{LogRAGDP} = b_0 + b_1 \text{logGEH} + b_2 \text{logGES} + b_3 \text{logLEX} + b_4 \text{logSSE} + u_t \dots \dots \dots 3$$

Analysis of levels and trends in the selected variables was done to provide an insight into their pattern of movement overtime. An Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) Unit root test was conducted to test the stationarity of the variables. Based on the order of stationarity, ARDL Model was adopted. A bound test was conducted to test for co-integration.

## Data and Sources

Secondary time series data is used for this study. Data for real agric gross domestic product, government expenditure on education & health and government expenditure on security was sourced from Central Bank of Nigeria statistical bulletins. The data for secondary schools enrolment was sourced from National Bureau of Statistics publications while the data for life expectancy was obtained from the World Bank data base. The data is for period 1981-2017. The data time series (1981-2017) was selected because this period witnessed economic liberalization and sustained increase in government budgets for human capital development components (education and health) and security so as to encourage increased economic productions in the country. Furthermore, this period witnessed remarkable and continuous increase in enrolments into secondary education across the country. As such the time series is suitable for the intended measurements.

## Analytical approach

The study adopted the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model to estimate the relationship among the variables.

## FINDINGS

### Unit Root Test

The Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) unit root test was conducted to ascertain the order of stationarity of the variables. The result is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Results of ADF Unit Root Test

Variable	At Levels		At 1 <sup>st</sup> difference		Order of integration
	ADF Value	5% CV	ADF Value	5% CV	
LOG(RAGDP)	-2.097061	-3.540328	-5.796339	-2.948404	I(1)
LOG(HCD)	-0.397053	-4.273277	-7.886285	-2.948404	1(1)
LOG(GES)	-0.866438	-4.243644	-8.862604	-2.948404	I(1)
LOG(LEX)	-4.616657	-3.5452973	-	-	1(0)
LOG(SSE)	-3.394092	-3.540328	-6.801980	-2.948404	I(1)

Source: Author Computation from E-views 9 (2021)

Table 1 above the logs of RAGDP, GEH, GES and SSE are stationary at first difference while log of Life expectancy (LEX) is stationary at levels. Since the variables have different orders of integration it is preferable to proceed to Auto Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) co-integration (Bounds Test).

### Co-integration Test

To determine if a long-run relationship exists among the variables, a bound test is conducted. The result is shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: ARDL Bounds test

Test Statistic	Value	K
F-statistic	1.690843	4
Critical Value		
Bounds		
Significance	I0 Bound	I1 Bound
10%	2.45	3.52
5%	2.86	4.01
2.5%	3.25	4.49
1%	3.74	5.06

Source: Author Computation from E-views 9 (2021)

The result of the bound test is shown in table 2 above. The rule is that if the computed F-statistic falls below the lower bound value I (0), the null hypothesis (no co-integration) will not be rejected. If the computed F-statistics, exceeds the upper bound value I (1), the null hypothesis is rejected, which indicates that there is co-integration. If the computed result falls between the upper and lower bounds, the test is inconclusive. The results show that the F-statistic is 1.69, which is below the lower bound value at 5% (2.86). This result indicates the absence of cointegration among the variables. Therefore the ARDL model will be estimated in the short run form.

### ARDL Short Run Model

The ARDL short run model was estimated and the results obtained are shown below in table 3.

Table 3: ARDL short run model results

Selected Model: ARDL(1, 0, 0, 2, 0)				
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.*
LOG(RAGDP(-1))	0.590173	0.166640	3.541604	0.0015
LOG(HCD)	0.038003	0.035548	1.069044	0.2945
LOG(GES)	0.003817	0.048409	0.078853	0.9377
LOG(LEX)	61.83208	27.58467	2.241538	0.0334
LOG(LEX(-1))	-105.0789	51.52770	-2.039269	0.0513
LOG(LEX(-2))	45.84592	24.90442	1.840875	0.0767
LOG(SSE)	-0.036300	0.087207	-0.416245	0.6805
C	-6.118606	3.397104	-1.801124	0.0829
R-squared	0.991988			
Adjusted R-squared	0.989910			
F-statistic	477.5433			
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000			

Source: Author Computation from E-views 9 (2021)

The results of the model estimation indicates that Government expenditure on education and health (GEH), Government expenditure on security (GES) have positive but insignificant relationship with real agric gross domestic product. Secondary School Enrolment (SSE) also has a negative but insignificant relationship with real agric gross domestic product. However, one lag period of life expectancy has a positive and significant relationship with real agric gross domestic product. This indicates that a unit increase in life expectancy will increase real agric gross domestic product by 61.8 units vice versa. Overall, the Adjusted R-squared value of 0.99 and F-statistics probability of 0.00000 implies that the goodness of fit of the variables and the joint significance of the model is reasonably realistic.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study examined the impact of human capital development and national security on agricultural sector growth in Nigeria between the periods of 1981-2017. The study established a positive but non-significant relationship between government expenditure on education & health,

government expenditure on security and agric sector growth in Nigeria. It also established that a negative and non-significant relationship exists between secondary school enrolment and agric sector growth in Nigeria during the period. Finally, the study established that life expectancy has a positive and significant relationship with agric sector growth in Nigeria during the period. The study thus recommends that government should improve access to healthcare for all Nigerians. This can be done by strengthening and widening the operations of the national health insurance scheme and increased funding of research in alternative medicine. Furthermore, local health authorities should widen their nutrition, diet and hygiene education to reach more Nigerians especially in the rural and agrarian communities since these are determining factors for life expectancy. Finally, government should provide adequate security for lives in the country.

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