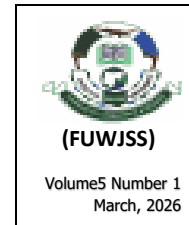


**PROFILING UNIVERSITY BASED RESEARCH
OUTCOMES TOWARD PROMOTING
SUSTAINABLE SECURITY IN BADE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA, YOBE STATE NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Across Nigeria, insecurity have created apprehensive citizens, overstretched statutory policing agency and agitated non-state actors. The emergence of different forms of insecurity at every nook and cranny of Nigeria has created fear in the mind of Nigerians. Kidnapping, banditry, inter-tribal conflict, communal clashes, religious conflict, herdsmen and farmers in conflict over land for grazing, all these brought new policy and policing challenges in contemporary Nigerian society. There is no doubt that stemming the tide of conventional criminality has been very overwhelming for the grossly inadequate existing police resources and overstretched policy. Hence, Nigeria cannot afford to rely on the already overstretched conventional police resources to combat the emerging insecurity. This paper, therefore, explores how universities could tailor their research efforts towards community needs to achieve sustainable security in Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire with open-ended questions and IDI. Findings stressed social stewardship using community-based research, corporate social responsibility, publishing and dissemination of research findings to community members to achieve sustainable higher education and combat security challenges in Nigeria. The paper's conclusion recognized the interdependence and shared responsibility between the University and the host community to achieve sustainable security.

Keywords: Research, community needs, security, social stewardship

Introduction

Social group or society exists to meet the needs of its members. Basic societal needs are adaptation, goal-attainment, integration and pattern-maintenance or stability. Thus, it is evident that social stability or security is critical to the development and sustenance of development in every

nation. Sustainable development is that development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Report, 1987). This implies that any action taken towards improving quality of life must put into consideration the present as well as the future generations. Since, community-oriented policing strategy relies heavily on using people to police themselves; research tailored towards community needs come handy to enhance this effort. This paper is largely a conceptual analysis on meeting community needs through university based research to achieve dual purposes – national security and sustainable education in Nigeria. This paper stresses the urgent need for social stewardship from the ivory towers in Nigeria.

Today, an atmosphere of fear, chaos, unpredictable actions characterized every nook and cranny of Nigeria. There is destruction of lives, properties, valuables and resources shown on national dailies and television screens in Nigeria. Little development that are available in terms of mushroom schools, pot-holed roads, inadequate social amenities, struggling companies and banks, etc., are badly hit as a result of insecurity in Nigeria. Everything has grown from worse to worst, the former bad situations being complained of has gotten out of hands and seems uncontrollable like a wild fire. Twenty-five persons were reported dead on December 27, 2011 which left so many children fatherless or orphans and some parents are left childless; so many families lost lives that they have invested on (Yusuf Alli, 2011).

Sustainable security refers to long-term strategies that ensure peace, safety, and resilience within communities. Universities, as centres of knowledge production, play a critical role in shaping policies and practices that can enhance security. In areas like Bade LGA, where socio-economic vulnerabilities may heighten insecurity, modifying university-based research to align with local needs is essential.

Security remains a pressing concern in Nigerian towns, where socio-economic vulnerabilities, weak governance, and limited community engagement exacerbate risks of crime and instability. Universities, as centres of knowledge acquisition and invention, have the potential to generate innovative solutions that address these challenges. In Bade LGA, modifying university-based research towards sustainable security is crucial for fostering peace, justice, and strong institutions. This paper examines strategies for reorienting academic research to meet local needs, emphasizing participatory approaches and policy relevance.

Insecurity in Nigeria

Insecurity is so rampant that it affected security officers and financial institutions. In Niger State police base was bombed as well as banks likewise so many lives were also lost (Ahmed Mohammed, 2011). As if that is not enough, kidnapping is being included ranging from nationals to expatriate; in Katsina it was reported that expatriate were kidnapped, police station was bombed and two killed (Muazu, 2012). The popular Chibok girls issue is also a pointer to insecurity in schools. In April 14th night 2014, 219 girls were kidnapped from Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State, these girls are yet to be found and other parents in the area are afraid of sending their children to school. In other areas where parents summon little courage to send their boys to schools, government has closed schools for fear of further attack. When children cannot go to school, how then can sustainable development be attainable? (Denga, 2022).

The consequences of insecurity in Nigeria ranges from loss of lives of meaningful Nigerians, loss of human-capital (e.g. through education, skill-acquisition, etc.), loss of physical properties, internal displacement, frosty ethnic-relations (ethnic suspicious, ethnic-based retaliatory actions, desertion), increased cost of law-enforcement (military ware, personnel deaths), psychological trauma (e.g. people go out in fear and do not have confidence in sending children to school for fear that they may not return), dented public image, terrorist labels on Nigeria, harassment and over-surveillance of Nigerians in other nations.

Existing scholarship emphasizes the role of universities in shaping community development and security governance. Essien et al. (2023) highlight the importance of town-gown relationships in enhancing peace and security within Nigerian communities. Falodun (2024) underscores the relevance of aligning security governance with SDG 16, which advocates for peace, justice, and strong institutions. Obi *et.al.* (2025) further demonstrate how insecurity undermines sustainable development in Nigeria's North Central region. Collectively, these studies suggest that universities can play a transformative role in advancing sustainable security when research is localized and participatory.

Sustainable security emphasizes long-term strategies that integrate social, economic, and environmental dimensions of safety (Agnelli, 1986). Unlike reactive policing, it focuses on proactive measures that address root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, and weak governance structures. Universities produce knowledge that can inform policy, strengthen institutions, and empower communities. When research is localized and participatory, it becomes a powerful tool for sustainable security. Academic institutions can act as bridges between theory and

practice, ensuring that research findings translate into tangible community benefits. The paper explores how universities could tailor their research efforts towards community needs to achieve sustainable security in Nigeria.

Dynamics of University Based Research in Community Development

Universities in Nigeria have increasingly been recognized as agents of social transformation, extending their roles beyond teaching and research to include active participation in community development. Through applied research, outreach programs, and partnerships with local stakeholders, Nigerian universities contribute to addressing socio-economic challenges and advancing sustainable development goals (Onwuemele, 2018). This literature review examines the conceptual foundations, historical evolution, models of engagement, challenges, and opportunities associated with university-based research in community development in Nigeria.

Community development is broadly defined as participatory, people-centered processes aimed at improving socio-economic well-being and fostering empowerment (Lakhman, 2021). University-based research serves as a bridge between theory and practice, linking academic inquiry with grassroots needs. In Nigeria, this framework is often aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to poverty reduction, education, health, and innovation (Popoola & Adebayo, 2024). Universities act as knowledge brokers, facilitating the co-creation of solutions that are both context-specific and sustainable.

The history of university-community engagement in Nigeria dates back to the establishment of early universities such as the University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University. These institutions pioneered extension services in agriculture and public health, providing communities with improved farming techniques and healthcare interventions (Okebukola, 2020). Initially framed as outreach, these engagements have evolved into partnerships emphasizing collaboration and mutual benefit. The shift reflects a growing recognition that sustainable development requires active participation from both universities and communities.

Several models of university-community engagement have emerged in Nigeria. Agricultural extension programs remain central, with universities disseminating innovations to farmers to enhance productivity (Onwuemele, 2018). Health outreach initiatives, particularly those led by medical schools, have addressed maternal and child health challenges in rural areas. Educational initiatives, including literacy campaigns and teacher training, have expanded access to quality education in underserved

communities. Policy research conducted by universities has also influenced governance reforms, providing evidence-based recommendations for local and national development (Popoola & Adebayo, 2024).

The University of Ibadan has been notable for its community health programs, which address maternal and child health through research and outreach. Obafemi Awolowo University has contributed to rural electrification and water supply projects, leveraging engineering research to meet community needs. More recently, Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria (MAAUN) established the African Institute for Solutions and Development (AISD), which focuses on tackling societal challenges through applied research and collaborative problem-solving (AISD, 2025). These case studies illustrate the diverse ways Nigerian universities engage with communities to foster development.

Despite these contributions, several challenges hinder the effectiveness of university-based research in community development. Funding constraints remain a significant barrier, with limited government and private sector investment restricting the scope of projects (Popoola & Adebayo, 2024). Infrastructure deficits, including inadequate ICT and laboratory facilities, further limit research capacity. Weak academia-industry linkages often result in research outputs failing to translate into practical solutions. Additionally, disconnect between university research and national development strategies reduce the policy relevance of academic work (Okebukola, 2020).

Opportunities exist to strengthen the impact of university-based research in community development. Digital platforms can expand engagement with remote communities, while public-private partnerships can provide funding and scale successful projects. Student involvement in community-based research offers experiential learning opportunities and fosters civic responsibility. Aligning university research with the SDGs can attract international collaboration and funding, enhancing the global relevance of Nigerian universities' contributions (Onwuemele, 2018).

While Nigerian universities have demonstrated significant contributions to community development, their impact is often fragmented and unsustainable. A shift toward institutionalized engagement frameworks and impact assessment models is necessary to ensure long-term benefits. Universities must balance academic priorities with community needs, fostering partnerships that are equitable and mutually beneficial. Strengthening policy linkages and industry collaboration will further enhance the relevance and sustainability of university-based research in Nigeria.

University-based research in Nigeria holds immense potential for advancing community development. By addressing funding and infrastructure challenges, fostering partnerships, and aligning research with national and global development agendas, Nigerian universities can enhance their role as catalysts for social transformation. The literature underscores the importance of participatory approaches, institutional commitment, and sustainable frameworks in ensuring that university-community engagement contributes meaningfully to Nigeria's development trajectory.

Theoretical Framework

From the functionalist perspective, insecurity as a whole in Nigeria has performed different functions ranging from its ability to reflect on the level of corruption in Nigeria to poor leadership. Through insecurity, it came to lime light that social control mechanisms such as police are not adequately equipped to carry out their duties. Using Robert K. Merton's theory, the culture and structure of the society itself is the root cause of insecurity in Nigeria. Merton used American as an example and gave five possible ways in which member of a society respond to being successful, which is the goal of every member. Merton talked about conformity – accepting general goals and means of success, innovative – accepting general goal but rejects the acceptable means, ritualism – rejecting the general goal but accepting means, retreatism – rejecting both cultural goals and institutional means, rebellion – which is the fifth possible way rejects both goals and means then replaces it with a different goal and means. In Nigeria, everyone is agitating to be successful but the legitimate means has been rejected by some because of the unhealthy structure of the society. The rejection of the legitimate means made such members of the society to modify the legitimate means or to create a different means of attaining success which brought about insecurity. The structure and culture of people in Nigeria predisposes them to look for alternative means of achieving the goal of success when the institutionalized means seems not working.

Research Methodology

This paper adopts a qualitative, conceptual approach, drawing on existing literature and policy frameworks. It synthesizes insights from town-gown collaboration models, integration strategies, and community-based security initiatives. The analysis is contextually applied to Bade Local Government Area of Yobe State, with emphasis on tailoring university research outputs to local realities. Also purposive sampling was used to select a sample of 50 members of academic staff from two

academic institutions that either resides or have carried out research in Bade Local Government Area of Yobe State as respondents in the in-depth interview sessions. Findings were presented thematically in order that appropriately represent the study's objectives

Findings and Discussions

Theme One: Aims of academic research

All the respondents subscribed to addressing all areas of insecurity in Bade local government to be the major aim of academic research in the area. The study revealed that research should be carried out on people residing in Nigeria; starting from socialization process, orientation, beliefs and ideology of different tribes and cultures in Nigerian. It was revealed that this approach will go a long way to help tackle the issue of insecurity from the residents' point of view. From Robert K. Merton's theory, the structure and culture of Nigerian people predisposes them to look for alternative means of achieving the goal of success when the institutionalized means seems not working.

Theme Two: Steps to achievement of academic research goals

All interviewees agreed that universities should strengthen partnerships with local communities (the "town-gown" model); to strengthen partnerships between universities and local communities. Research must move beyond theoretical frameworks to practical interventions that address security of lives and property; that means, Co-create research projects that address pressing security concerns. Research builds trust through participatory engagement and shared ownership of outcomes; for example, joint projects involving students, faculty, and community leaders to foster trust and co-create solutions.

The respondents further stated that, universities must embed socio-cultural perspectives and economic realities of Bade Local Government Area of Yobe State into research design; highlighting that research should focus on youth unemployment, local conflict resolution mechanisms, and environmental security. By embedding research in local contexts, universities can produce actionable recommendations that resonate with residents. Respondents also emphasised the need to put much emphasis on subjects that promote Nigeria's culture in Nigerian schools, subjects like Social Studies should be given importance the way subjects like Mathematics and English are given importance. This is because Social Studies teach tolerance, discipline, and dedication to one's nation and other social values. Through Social Studies we learn to sacrifice ourselves for benefit of all for example, Dr. Ameyo Stella Adadevoh in year 2014 sacrificed herself to save numerous Nigerians from Ebola Virus. If

everyone imbibes this spirit of oneness which can be obtain through teaching virtues from primary to tertiary; it will help in having a sustainable development (Akinola & Ayodele, 2016).

The study found out that, the federal government has a role to play in fighting corruption and running a transparency government to show fairness and equality to citizens; this will make citizens to accept the societal goal and also the institutionalized means of achieving such a goal. Respondents went further to the international scene; stating that controlled production of ammunition and controlled sales of ammunition produced is a major way to having a sustainable security in Nigeria. There cannot be a sustainable development in a town full of chaos or destruction of resources and valuables; unless a drastic step is taken to curb the menace and not just to curb it, to make sure it does not return.

Respondents made it clear that the problem of insecurity did not get deteriorated in a day, it was a gradual process. It started prominently in north eastern Nigeria as far back as maitaizine case which his son fuelled in year 2011; this then implies that the solution cannot just happen suddenly or appear overnight; it will have to take a gradual process. In this gradual process of tackling insecurity there is need to start from known to unknown. The known here implies that human beings were involved; it then implies that a sustainable development in Nigeria can only be achieved when insecurity is tackled from the known individuals.

Theme Three: Gains of host communities from academic research

The study found out that the people involved in this insurgency came out from a family; invariably families have a lot to do in helping to reduce the menace. Parents are to orientate their children on tolerance, hard work and virtues that will build national security. Families have to cooperate with the government especially on issues like family planning that will help in controlling birth and immunization that will help in having healthy citizens. Having children that will become liabilities to the family and constitute a major problem to the nation should be avoided. Work needs to be done on orientation of the known to get to the unknown and to prevent future occurrence. Family members or neighbours even friends who are agitating for a different means of achieving institutionalized goals should be warned otherwise handled to the government. All respondents agreed that research outputs should be translated into training programs for local security agencies and community groups. Also those universities can influence policy by providing evidence-based recommendations to local government authorities. This ensures that academic findings are not confined to journals but disseminated to actively shape governance and security practices.

Taking a critical look at Nigeria today, one may quickly conclude that sustainable development is not attainable because of the ongoing insecurity. However, all hope is not lost because there is a way out. The way out, though is a long term measure, is what this paper has addressed. From the functionalist approach, the Federal government has a function to perform, the inculcating the spirit of patriotism in its citizens by teaching it in schools making it a compulsory subject will go a long way to help in attaining sustainable development not only in Bade LGA alone but in the whole federation.

Security is embedded in SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. University research should align with this goal by exploring governance models, community policing, and non-state security networks. This ensures that security initiatives are not only reactive but also proactive, addressing root causes of insecurity. This ensures that research contributes to proactive and preventive security measures. The international scene must also see to ammunition control both in production and sales. University-based research can be modified to strengthen sustainable security in Bade LGA by fostering collaboration between academia and local communities, integrating security governance with sustainable development goals, and tailoring research outputs to address local challenges such as crime prevention, youth empowerment, and community resilience.

Modifying university-based research towards sustainable security in Bade LGA requires a holistic, participatory, and context-driven approach. By aligning research with SDGs, fostering town-gown collaboration, and ensuring practical application of findings, universities can serve as catalysts for peace and resilience. Ultimately, sustainable security in Bade LGA depends on the ability of academic institutions to bridge the gap between knowledge production and community empowerment.

Conclusion and Recommendation

University-based research plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable security in Gbigbi town by providing evidence-driven insights, innovative strategies, and long-term frameworks that strengthen community resilience. The aim of academic research is not only to expand knowledge but also to translate that knowledge into practical solutions that address pressing societal challenges. Achieving these goals requires deliberate steps: identifying relevant problems, designing systematic methodologies, engaging stakeholders, and disseminating findings in ways that influence policy and practice. Through this structured process, research ensures that its outcomes are both academically rigorous and socially impactful. For historical communities like Bade local government

area, the gains from academic research are profound. It preserves cultural heritage, informs sustainable development, and empowers local populations with knowledge that enhances security and social cohesion. Ultimately, university research bridges the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that communities benefit from both intellectual advancement and tangible improvements in their everyday lives.

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