



**AN ANALYSIS OF THE THREAT OF INSECURITY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN THREE STATES OF THE NIGER DELTA REGION,
NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Threat of insecurity has instilled fears into Nigerians, particularly those of the Niger Delta region. Outside the country's civil war of 1967-1970, there has not been any threat as disturbing as the threat of insecurity on the socio-economic development of tourism in the Niger Delta from 2003 to 2006. Succinctly, the Niger Delta region of Southern Nigeria has had more than a fair share of the implications of the threat of insecurity on socio-economic development of the tourism and hospitality industry in particular. It is on this premise that this study sets out to examine the threat of insecurity on the socio-economic development of tourism and hospitality industry in the three states of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria from 2003 to 2006. Three research questions were formulated to assist to achieve the objectives of the study. Literatures related to the variables were reviewed and a survey research design was adopted and a total of 345 respondents were selected through purposive sampling technique. Data from the field were analyzed using bar chart illustrations to succinctly elucidate findings. Amongst the findings, the study demonstrated that the threat of insecurity in the Niger Delta region constituted threat to lives and properties, hindered business activities, and discouraged local investors and most importantly, foreign direct investments from foreign investors, all of which stifled and retarded socio-economic development of the tourism and hospitality industries in the three Niger delta states of Cross River, Delta and Rivers from 2003 to 2006. Secondly, the massive loss of lives amounts to a huge loss of manpower and generally reduced labour productivity. Based on these findings the study concluded that the threat of insecurity on the development of tourism and hospitality industry in the three states under review declined. Sequel to this, the study recommends amongst others, that government and other security agencies most provide sound measures that guarantee the safety and growth of tourism to ensure the socio-economic development of the Niger delta region, particularly the three states under study. Secondly, government should also design substantive solutions such as job creation, poverty alleviation and development in the region. In the same vein, increase human capital development-training and skill acquisition as well as address the root cause of militancy in the region in order to avoid future resurgence.

Keywords: Niger Delta States, Tourism; Threat of insecurity; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC); Socio-Economic Development

1 Introduction

Tourism has been variously defined. In 1976, the Institute of Tourism (which later became the Tourism Society) suggested that tourism is the temporary short-term movement of people to destinations outside the places where they normally live and work. By this definition, tourism may or may not involve overnight stay away from home. In 1991, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation declared that "Tourism comprises the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside of their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business or other purposes". In a related development, WTO (1995) defines tourism as "the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for no more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes". A year later, the same time WTO (1996) states that "tourism is thus a rather general term, which can refer to the consumption of tourists, to the production units supplying goods and services particularly to tourists, or even to a set of legal units or of geographical areas related in a way or other to tourists." What is worth emphasizing is that tourism so defined is neither a pure demand-side phenomenon nor a pure supply-side one (United Nation and World Tourism Organization, 1993). At this stage, one could differentiate between domestic and international tourism (Yuksel, 2004). Domestic tourism refers to travel that is exclusively undertaken within the national boundaries of the traveller's home country while international tourism refers to travel within the borders of one's home country. The former will have an impact on the balance of payments and will reduce the outflow of money from the tourists' home country (Mathieson & Wall, 1982). In its entirety, tourism may be defined as a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes. These people who move to other places are called visitors (which may be either tourists or excursionists; residents or non-residents) and tourism has to do with their activities, some of which imply tourism expenditure (United Nations World Tourism Organization, 2008). Essentially, the tourism industry encompasses all activity that takes place within the visitor economy. This includes activities that are directly related to the tourist, such as staying in a hotel, ordering a meal or visiting a tourist attraction. It also includes indirect activities, such as the transport company which delivers the food to the restaurant in which the tourist eats or the laundry company that has a contract with the hotel for cleaning bed sheets.

The Nigeria's government attention in tourism began way back in the 1960s, but nothing tangible was there to push the interest beyond mere speech-making until the military regime of General Olusegun Obasanjo established the Nigeria Tourism Board (NTB) now Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) via Decree No. 54 of 1976 and had it reviewed to Decree No. 86 of 1991 during the regime of President Ibrahim Babginda. In this instance, the government created the Federal Ministry of Tourism and Culture to actualize the dream of catching up with the global train in tourism development as well as to ensure quality service delivery in the tourism industry (Munzali, 2011). However, we could admit that the Master Plan on tourism development in Nigeria began in 1982 with a tourism development policy first rolled out in 1990.

Based on this, tourism has emerged as one of the world's major socio-economic sector and has been steadily expanding at an average rate of 45 percent annually during the latter half of the 20th century (Odok, Omoogun, & Ephraim(2013). Earlier, Cole (2008) had positioned that tourism is the world's fastest growing industry accounting for about 7 percent of global captive investment. Substantiating, Odok, et al (2013) aver that tourism is a worldwide industry, which is at various stages of development from country to country. Furthermore, they maintain that tourism is today recognized as one of the top three constituents of world trade, coming third after petroleum and motor vehicle industries. Indeed, tourism is one of the world's leading growth industries and is largely a business of human relations.

Juxtaposing this with other sectors of the global economy, the tourism and hospitality industry is, arguably, one of the fastest growing, accounting for more than one third of the total global services trade. International tourist arrivals have grown by 4.3 per cent between 1995 and 2008 (UNWTO, 2009). The sector has benefited from the process of globalization and from the constantly falling relative costs of travel. In 1950 the travel industry recorded 25 million international tourist arrivals while there were 277 million in 1980, 438 million in 1990, 684 million in 2000, 904 million in 2007 and 922 million in 2008. Since 1990, international arrivals have increased by 4.3 per cent annually and the UNWTO (2010) expects them to rise by 4 per cent per annum over the next 20 years. During the past 25 years, international tourist arrivals have increased about one percentage point faster than global GDP in real terms. Over the past decade, international tourism arrivals have differed across regions of the world. In emerging regions, international tourist arrivals received by developing countries have continuously risen from 31 per cent in 1990 to 45 per cent in 2008 (International Labour Organization, 2010).

From the foregoing, it is obvious that tourism has been contributing meaningfully to the economic development of Nigeria. Corroborating this assertion, Dalat (2010) cited in Ojo (2014) says the sum of N1.149m was realized in 2004 while N100m was generated in 2009 from revenue from levies on Hospitality sector (registration and other charges). Furthermore, N313m was generated by company tax (National Bureau of Statistics, NBS). In 2011, the industry contributed about N1, 232.2 billion (3.3 percent) to the GDP in Nigeria. In its report, the WITC forecasted that the tourism industry would generate 897,500 jobs in 2012 and this would represent 1.4 percent of Nigeria's total workforce, and the amount is expected, by 2022, to grow by 6.5 percent per annum to N483.4 billion. According to Tunde (2012), this would translate to increased contribution towards Gross Domestic Product, employment generation, improved economic and social progress within Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

Niger Delta region is a vast area richly endowed with ecological and cultural resources. The region offers a variety of tourist attractions such as extended and many rivers and ocean beaches ideal for swimming and other water sports, unique and diverse wildlife, vast tracts of unspoiled nature from tropical forest magnificent waterfalls and climatic conditions in some parts particularly conducive for holidaying. Other attractions include traditional ways of life, local customs, rich and varied handicrafts and other colorful products depicting native arts and lifestyle and the authentic unsophisticated but friendly disposition of many of the Nigerian populace. Many of these best sites attractions located in the Niger Delta region include Obudu Cattle Ranch, the Kwa falls and Tinapa all in Cross River State; Oloibiri oil museum, State transit hall and Ogidi shrine in Bayelsa State. In Rivers State, there are the Isaac Boro Park, King Jaja of Opobo Monument, Port-Harcourt Tourist beach, Port Harcourt zoo and Okirika Aquatic stadium. In Abia State, there exist the National War museum and monument, The Azumini Blue River, the museum of colonial history and the Arochukwu caves, to mention but a few. Interestingly, some of the state governments in the region have been battling to develop the tourism industry.

Since the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation Act provided a legal framework for tourism development in the country, various state governments in the region had packaged the industry in line with their diverse cultural heritages. In addition, they had also taken a cue and established the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to regulate activities in the industry. In this regard, the Cross River, Delta and Rivers States have invested enormously in both human and material resources to the development of tourism and hospitality industries in Nigeria. Their contributions could be seen in the organization of such festivals as Calabar Christmas Carnival, Rivers State Festival of Arts and Culture (Rivfest Carnival currently known as carnival)

among others. Site attractions in the Niger Delta include Abraka River Resort, Benin Bronze, Museums, Art Galleries, and Historic sites, Parks, among others. All these efforts have continued to yield the much required dividends in the development of tourism and hospitality industries. Foreign direct investment (FDI), improvement in socio-economic status, and employment generation are worthy of mention. In a nutshell, tourism as a major driver of socio-economic development cannot be over emphasized in the Niger Delta States. Evidently, it contributes to a broader cultural understanding by creating awareness, respecting the diversity of cultures and ways of life. Besides, it also offers new employment opportunities through the creation of jobs. Essentially, it is an alternative strategy for sustainability and diversification of economy for important policy of a good government. It is important to acknowledge that aside these three states, others states both in the region and elsewhere have equally made interesting giant strides.

Lending credence to the foregoing, it is rather unfortunate to observe that the development of tourism in the region coincided exactly with the threat of insecurity in the region: youth restiveness, oil bunkering, kidnapping and military confrontations. All these came with great insecurity and closure or shifting of base of industries including tourism industry. With this underdevelopment, development of tourism and hospitality industry cannot thrive in a state of insecurity and that according to political economy approach, control of means of production is primary in the life of man. The foregoing trend is evidence that social insecurity has adverse effect on tourism and hospitality industries. Giving concern to some scholars, Ifeanchio (2008) acknowledged that the blessings of the Niger Delta with substantial commercial quantities of oil should lead to economic transformation of the area as it did in the oil-rich enclaves of United States of America, Saudi Arabia and Libya. Regrettably however he asserted, the dynamics of exploitation, distribution and even consumption of the resources has had a devastating effect on human resources.

Against this background, the sense of insecurity felt by many industrial organizations; including the human and material losses hindered the development of tourism and hospitality industries in the Niger Delta region of the country. In the face of all of these security challenges, the development of tourism and hospitality industry in the region suffered serious setbacks. More so, the failure on the part of the Police and other security agencies to effectively deal with these threats showed that there existed an obvious disconnect with the reality of the moment. As a result, hundreds of tourists who usually visited these breath-taking sights relocated to other relatively calmer cities with lesser beautiful and serene sites culminating in the fall in the patronage and lesser investment in tourism. Similarly, foreign nationals working in the area were compelled by the logic of the system to abandon the place. The tourism sector was threatened, and as the fear of threat of insecurity continued, tourists and customers were lost. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (cited in Ewetan, 2014), Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.1 per cent in 2010 and 19.7 per cent in 2009. The country has a youth population of 80 million, representing about 60 per cent of the total population with a growth rate of 2.6 per cent per year, and the national demography suggests that the youth population remains vibrant with an average annual entrant to the labour force at 1.8 million between 2006 and 2011. In 2011, 37.7 per cent of Nigerian were aged 15-24 years and 22.4 per cent of those between ages 25 and 44 were willing to work but did not get jobs.

Sequel to this, it is the objective of this study to critically examine the threat of insecurity on the socio-economic development of tourism and hospitality industry within the confine of three states of the Niger Delta, namely, Cross River, Delta and Rivers. To this effect, this study has the following the specific objectives:

- (i) To ascertain the prevalence of the threat of insecurity on patronage of tourism and hospitality industry
- (ii) To examine the threat of insecurity on the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism and hospitality industry
- (iii) To determine the threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry

This study will therefore, attempt to achieve these objectives formulated to guide the study a view to examining its implications on the variables. In doing this, the study tends to raise the following three research questions:

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- (a). What is the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality industries in the three states of the Niger Delta?
- (b). What is the threat of insecurity on the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism and hospitality industry?
- (c). What are the implications of the threat of insecurity on employment generations/opportunities in the tourism and hospitality industry?

In view of the foregoing, the study focuses on the threat of insecurity on the socio-economic development of tourism and hospitality industry in three states, namely Cross River, Delta and Rivers with a view to proffering recommendations to guarantee the sustainability of the tourism and hospitality industry in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

2. Methodology

The study adopts the survey research design and focuses on the threat of security on socio-economic development of tourism and hospitality industry in three states, namely, Cross River, Delta and Rivers from 2003 to 2006. The population of study is 2386 respondents. Taro Yamen sample size technique was used in the determination of the sample size, three hundred and forty-five (345) respondents were selected from the sampled states through the purposive sampling technique The respondents, mainly tourist industry operators, regulators and tourists constituted the sample respondents from three states of study: Cross River, Delta and Rivers States. The structured questionnaire was the major instrument of data collection. It consisted of questions, divided into 2 sections. Section A had three questions that focused mainly on the gender, age, and educational qualification of the respondents. The other questions examined respondents understanding of the three research questions formulated to guide the study. By this, it is obvious that primary data collection was through questionnaire administration, interviews and observations, while secondary sources were from textbooks, journals and Internet. In essence, a total of 345 questionnaires were administered to respondents, and analyzed using bar charts to illustrate findings. The findings succinctly explain the threats of insecurity on the socio-economic development of tourism and hospitality industry within the confine of three states of the Niger Delta. The choice of respondents in this study was hinged on the fact that they are the main subject matter of the study.

3. Conceptual Issues

3.1 The threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality industry

The term, threat, represents anything that can destabilize the security of the nation, or anything that constitutes danger to the survival of any corporate entity, as well as undermining the prospects of the harmonious relationship of the various communities that make up the nation or the peaceful co-existence of the people. Any act or intention that has the potential of undermining the peace, stability and progress of the nation could be regarded as threat.

Over the years, threat of insecurity in the Niger Delta region has had a negative impact on the oil industry which is the main stay of the Nigeria's economy. In the same vein, threat of insecurity has also affected the socio-economic development of tourism and hospitality sector as many foreigners and tourists attracted into the region have migrated to safer regions. Analyzing threat of insecurity in Nepal, Alluri (2009) observed that tourists' destinations are less appealing to tourists if they are likely to experience conflict, war, political unrest, and terrorism, violation of human rights or heavy crime, regardless of the abundance of scenic or cultural attractions. Corroborating, Ukwai et al. (2012) assert that today, many scholars in the tourism industry advocate that being safe on holiday is an expected requirement for any visitor in a tourist destination. In other words, places that develop unsafe reputation can be substituted by alternative destinations that are perceived as safer for tourists. In the Niger Delta, the destruction of oil infrastructures, kidnapping of oil company workers, the disruption of oil and gas production and piracy impacted negatively on the socio-economic development of tourism (CPED Monograph Series, 2016). The result of this militancy in the Niger Delta region was the decline in oil production; crude oil production dropped from 2.3 million barrels per day to 900,000 coupled with pipeline vandalism, oil bunkering and the establishment of illegal oil refineries, youth restiveness, aggression and lawlessness (CPED Monograph Series, 2016).

The Niger-Delta crisis in Nigeria presents a classic case of the violent agitation about resource control and revenue sharing formula. The agitations have claimed many lives of Nigerians and foreigners, military and para-military personnel, and properties worth billions of naira (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014). As a result, the Niger Delta communities have remained grossly socio-economically underdeveloped and pauperized amidst the immense oil wealth owing to systematic disequilibrium in the production exchange relationship between the state, the Trans-national companies and the people. Enormous money had been derived from oil export but the area has been subjected to severe land degradation, socio-economic disorganization, increasing poverty, misery, military occupation and bloody violence (Anikpo, 2006). Oil extraction has impacted most disastrously on the socio-physical environment of the Niger Delta oil bearing communities massively threatening the fragile subsistent peasant economy and bio-diversity and hence their entire social livelihood and very survival. The oil producing communities have basically remained dependent and underdeveloped, persistently dis-empowered, socio-culturally marginalized and psychologically alienated.

With this ugly trend, especially the hostage taking, businessmen and individuals started to perceive the region as non-stable and began to move investment to more secured societies. Consequent upon this, the tourism and hospitality industry in these three states experienced a downturn. The threat to insecurity resulting from the youth restiveness caused investors in the oil sector, which is the main stay of their economy to shift base, tourists arrivals reduced drastically, hotel, entertainment industry and allied businesses lost patronage and many closed down. Obviously, the loss in revenue from the mass exodus of foreigners and holiday makers who were to stimulate the patronage of tourism and hospitality industry with other ancillary benefits as envisaged, migrated out of the region to the decline of patronage of tourism.

3.2 Threat of insecurity and the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism and hospitality industry

One of the major factors that determine the economic growth of any nation is investment. For an economy to grow some of its current resources must be diverted from consumption to investment to ensure capital growth. Most poor countries of the world suffer from a shortage of savings and lack of accumulation of capital that could be channeled into investment purposes. The alternative open to such countries is to attract foreign direct investment to make up for the shortage of domestic savings or capital. Succinctly, foreign direct investments occur “when foreigners either wholly or jointly with local investors establish their physical presence in another country through the acquisition of physical assets such as factories, buildings, plants, machineries, etc” (Bakare, 2010). In this submission, foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign private investment (FPI) will be used interchangeably. Basically, foreign private investment is defined as investment by multinational corporations with headquarters in developed countries (Thirwall, 1994). This investment, according to Thirwall (1994), involves not only a transfer of funds (including investment of profits) but also a whole package of physical capital, techniques of production, managerial and marketing expertise, products, advertising and business practices for maximization of global profits.

The need for attracting foreign investment into the developing countries became pressing, as efforts to mobilize domestic savings through taxation and public borrowing are not sufficient to stimulate the required level of investment in these countries. Foreign Direct Investment is usually, undertaken by Foreign Multinational Corporations (MNCs) or Trans-national Corporations (TNCs) as the case may be. Writing also, Nwagba (2014) holds that foreign Direct Investment is the ownership and control over decision-making in an enterprise or assets created or located in one country by investors located in another country. Foreign direct investment(FDI) is non-resident investment in the form of a takeover or capital investment in a domestic branch, plant, or subsidiary corporation in which the investor has voting control from the above, the most outstanding feature of FDI is that the investor retains control over the invested capital.

Foreign direct investment contributes to the growth and development of the host country in diverse ways, these include; (a) contributing to the growth of the real output direct investment in the production of tangible goods, (b) generation and expansion of business through stimulation of employment, raising of wages and replacement of declining market sector, (c) support of overseas affiliates by the parent company through provision of appropriate human and material resources, (d) reduction of the host countries propensity to import and efficient allocation of production resources, among others (Bakare, 2010; Oke, 2007). The use of foreign capital is considered as an essential tool for rapid economic development. Foreign capital inflow is generally perceived as one of the ways of bridging the domestic resource gaps. There are two forms of foreign capital, namely: Portfolio Investment and Foreign Direct Investment. But we shall restrict our study to the later (Foreign Direct Investment). Foreign Direct Investments are widely considered as vehicles through which foreign technology and capital are attracted into the developing countries of the world. This is because the developing countries are known for low savings and investment, which are prompted by low rate of capital formation.

However, it is important to acknowledge that project return, or the income yieldable on investment is a major determinant on foreign investment. No investor would like to invest without being sure of the adequate realizable return on that investment after some time. According to Pye (1993), the primary objective of any business enterprise is to maximize profit. Obadan (1999) maintains that profit is the major driving force, which is in consonance with the earlier views in mercantilism in which Lord Keynes was one of the

apostles. Therefore, the first consideration for foreigners to invest in another country is that the prospects for profit making must be convincing, and this is further helped by the availability of raw materials.

The Niger Delta region provides oil wealth for the bulk of Nigeria's foreign earnings. Ironically, the vast revenue from the resources has hardly been for the development of the region nor has it touched their perennial poverty. There is nothing to show for years of degradation and pollution except poverty, loss of aquatic life and poor standard of living. This caused a lot of conflict as youths rose up to protest against this age long deprivation (Ifeanacho, 2008). This must have compelled Lawan (2006) to contend that the region grapples with the shackles of poverty, illiteracy, diseases, among others. Against this background, the quest to redress the plight of the people has resulted to the threat of security in the Niger Delta Region, and many industrial organizations have been forced to relocate to safer environments. As a result, the huge loss of human and material in the conflict have hindered the growth of tourism and hospitality industry in the Niger Delta region of the country.

In the face of all of these security challenges, the withdrawal of foreign investment has drastically affected tourism and hospitality industry in the region. More so, the failure on the part of the Police and other security agencies to effectively deal with these threats shows obvious disconnect with the reality of the moment. As a result, hundreds of tourists who usually visited these breath-taking sights relocated to other relatively calmer cities with lesser beautiful and serene sites culminating in the fall in patronage and lesser investment in tourism. Similarly, foreign nationals working in the area were compelled by the logic of the system to abandon the place. In essence, the threat of insecurity in the Niger Delta Region has forced many industrial organizations to relocate to safer environments. In the face of all of these security challenges, the withdrawal of foreign investment drastically affected tourism and hospitality industry in the region. More so, the failure on the part of the Police and other security agencies to effectively deal with these threats shows obvious disconnect with the reality of the moment. As a result, hundreds of tourists who usually visited these breath-taking sights relocated to other relatively calmer cities with lesser beautiful and serene sites culminating in the fall in patronage and lesser investment in tourism.

3.3 Threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry

Over the past decades, tourism has become the largest industry worldwide in terms of employment and share of global gross domestic products. In 2011, the industry contributed about N1, 232.2 billion (3.3 percent) to the GDP in Nigeria. In its report, the WITC forecasted that the industry generated 897,500 jobs representing 1.4 percent of Nigeria's total workforce in 2012 and that by 2022; the amount is expected to grow by 6.5 percent per annum to N483.4 billion. The tourism industry, in the position of Akpan & Obang (2012) has been very dynamic and fast growing over the past three decades. This sector has so far created opportunities in areas characterized by natural attractions, wildlife and wilderness habitats (Akpan & Obang, 2012). From the foregoing, the only way to have sustainable tourism is through the development of the entire neglected tourist sites in Nigeria. This would translate to increased contribution towards Gross Domestic Product, employment generation, improved economic and social progress within Nigeria and Africa as a whole (Tunde, 2012). Writing, Amalu, & Ajake(2012) aver that the majority of the jobs come in the form of direct service jobs in tourist related facilities and attraction at the destination and in tourist generating areas. Tourism also makes a tremendous contribution to the improvement of social and political understanding.

Judging from the foregoing, it obvious that tourism is an employer of labour and this correlates with the recent world tourism organization which emphasizes job creation as against unemployment as critical for development. Tourism today has become one of the engines of growth for Nigerian economy with a contribution of 3.20 per cent to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and providing 2.70 per cent of total employment in 2013 (WITC, 2014). The contribution of the tourism industry to GDP, according to World

Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) was envisaged to have risen by 1.9 per cent in 2014 and by 2024, risen to 6.1 per cent per annum. By implication, the Nigeria tourism sector is therefore growing and capable of generating employment and earning large amount of foreign exchange that rivalled agriculture and petroleum sectors. Accepting the foregoing analysis as correct, it is evident that tourism is among the world's top creators of jobs requiring varying degrees of skills and allows for quick entry into the workforce for youth, women and migrant workers. Statistically, it accounts for 30 per cent of the world's export services. A review of implication on investment indicates that conflict has a converse relationship with investment in the Niger Delta. Investment creates employment so it may go without saying that if conflict negatively affects industries and investment, it would also affect employment which can be provided when the investments are made and industries established.

All said, tourism facilities create jobs in many sectors of the economy like transportation, construction among others that would in turn boost the economy. It has been upheld that each year over 600 million people travel internationally. Hundreds of millions more people embark on journey within their home countries, doing so for both work and pleasure. As a result, the tourism industry – including hotels, resorts, airlines, travel agencies and other businesses that cater for travellers is described as “the world's number one employer of labour. Jobs generated by travel and tourism are spread across the economy in retail, construction, manufacturing and telecommunications as well as directly in travel and tourism companies (WTTOIHRA, 1999).

But due to the threat of security in the Niger Delta Region, the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased to 23.9 percent in 2011 compared with 21.1 per cent in 2010 and 19.7 per cent in 2009. Then, the country had a youth population of 80 million, representing about 60 per cent of the total population with a growth rate of 2.6 per cent per year, and the national demography suggested that the youth population would remain vibrant with an average annual entrant to the labour force at 1.8 million between 2006 and 2011. In 2011, 37.7 per cent of Nigerian were aged 15-24 years and 22.4 per cent of those between ages 25 and 44 were willing to work but did not get jobs. As a result, the huge loss of human and material in the conflict have hindered the growth of tourism and hospitality industry in the Niger Delta region of the country.

Aside the upheld position, it is evident that the threat of insecurity in the tourism and hospitality industry was visible in the mass unemployment of young people which further heightened the state of insecurity in the region. Basically, unemployment/poverty among Niger delta youths was worrisome. As admitted by several authors, youth unemployment is a major cause of insecurity in Nigeria (Adagba et al 2012). Unfortunately, one of the major causes of insecurity in the country is the failure of successive administration to address challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities.

Consequent upon the mass unemployment of youths in the region, there arose the high incidence of kidnapping, armed robbery, stealing and cultism as a strategy to escape deprivation. Earlier Ake(1981) had posited that “those who are economically privileged tend to be interested in preserving the existing social order; and those who are disadvantaged by the social order, particularly its distribution of wealth, have a strong interest in changing the social order” the Niger Delta Youth engaged in these vices because of the need to engage themselves meaningfully.

In all, Johnson (2006) posits that the fiscal federalism or true federalism which allowed respective regions, as in 1946 Richard constitution and Clifford's constitution of 1940, autonomy to run their affairs and fiscal autonomy in the management of resources is the solution. This goes to say that the situation of employment in the Niger Delta worsened since the discovery of oil; instead of being a blessing, it has been a curse

(Ifeanacho, 2008). Apart from the devastating impact of oil exploration on arable land, obnoxious laws (the land use decree) were made which dispossessed the people of their land. Numerous scholars agree that the poverty level characterized by deprivation of common necessities of life including food, clothing, shelter, safe drinking water and also deprivation of opportunities to learn and obtain better employment was a common place in Niger delta. Undisputedly, more than 70% of the people of Niger delta live below poverty line and as a result, unemployment runs high. This also brings to mind the travails of Nigerians leaving Nigerian borders at all cost.

4. Method of Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed using percentage, mean and standard deviation scores. The result from the questionnaire survey indicated that any item with 50% response weight and above is adjudged to be high. If response “YES” has from 50% and above, it implies that such item is in favour of the research questionnaire item. However, if response option “NO” has 50% and above, it means that such response is not in favour. The criterion mean for the aspect of the instrument that used four-likert scale format was established this: $4+3+2+1 = 10/4 = 2.50$. By this, the criterion mean score of 2.50 by adding $4+3+2+1$ and divided by 4, it therefore serves as the benchmark for accepting or rejecting a questionnaire item. Specifically, any item that has 2.50 and above is adjudged positive and hence accepted in favour of the research questionnaire item, on the other hand, any item whose responses value is less than 2.50 is adjudged negative; hence rejected in relation to the research question.

5. Analysis of Research Questions

5.1 Research Question 1

What is the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality industry in the three states of the Niger Delta?

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of responses on the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality industry in the three states of the Niger Delta

S/N	Questionnaire Statements	Mean scores		Standard Deviation		Rank order based on mean scores of (2003-2006)	Remarks based on mean scores of (2003-2006)
		Before 2003	within (2003-2006)	Before 2003	Within (2003-2006)		
1.	The state of insecurity was high	2.4749	3.12464	1.077	1.0024	1 st	High
2.	There was fear of movement.	2.4986	3.01739	1.0177	1.0114	2 nd	High
3.	Police, military and other security agencies presence was more.	2.4319	2.98841	1.0067	1.0054	3 rd	High
4.	There was fear of molestation	2.3275	2.97971	0.9401	1.0383	4 th	High
5.	People could not express themselves for fear of being kidnapped or taken hostage	2.2957	2.95072	1.0742	1.0118	5 th	High
6.	Many people I knew were kidnapped	2.2493	2.93333	1.0435	1.0368	6 th	High
7.	People disguised themselves to avoid being recognized	2.2406	2.93043	0.9570	0.9740	7 th	High
8.	People ran away to safer towns and Countries	2.2290	2.93043	0.9896	1.0092	8 th	High
9.	Tourists could not come in or move around without molestation	2.2174	2.90435	1.1032	0.9910	9 th	High

10.	Operators of tourism and hospitality and allied industries closed their businesses early and went to sleep	2.2029	2.86377	0.9851	1.0289	10 th	High
11.	Oil pipelines were vandalized which scared away both local and international tourists.	2.1710	2.78841	1.0578	1.0449	11 th	High
12.	Before 2003, the state of insecurity was low	2.54121	2.04203	0.9323	1.1207	12 th	Low
Average mean and standard deviation scores		2.32	2.93	1.01	1.02		High

Source: Researchers' Survey Data 2019. (N = 345)

Table 1 of the study shows twelve questionnaire formulated to address research question one which is on the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality industries in the three states of the Niger Delta region under the period being reviewed. These analyses were based on the mean score responses of respondents in the tourism and hospitality industries under the stated period. The table also revealed that each of the items 1-11 was rated above the cut of mean of 2.5, indicating that the items or statements were accepted as the perceived state of threat of security in the Niger Delta region within the period under study.

Essentially, it is evident that the indicators of the threat of insecurity captured in the descending order of magnitude for the various questions posed clearly affected the patronage of tourism and hospitality industries in the three states of Cross River, Delta and Rivers of the Niger Delta of Nigeria. The prevalence of threat of insecurity was high (N = 3.14, SD = 1.00), the police, military and other security agencies presence was more (\bar{x} = 3.17; SD = 1.01) tourists could not come in or move around without molestation (\bar{x} = 2.99; SD = 1.04); oil pipelines were vandalized which scared away both local and international tourists (\bar{x} = 2.98, SD = 1.04); there was fear of molestation (\bar{x} = 2.93; SD = 0.97); operators of tourist hospitality and allied industries closed their businesses early and went to sleep (\bar{x} = 2.93; SD = 1.01); people could not express themselves for fear of being kidnapped or taken hostage (\bar{x} = 2.90; SD = 0.99); people disguised themselves to avoid being recognised (\bar{x} = 2.86; SD = 1.03) and many people were kidnapped (\bar{x} = 2.79; SD = 1.04). However, item 12 rated the 12th item was not accepted in favour of the research question because the mean score was below the criterion mean of 2.50

Furthermore, a confirmation of the acceptability of their average mean score rating of 2.93 with standard deviation of 1.02 also showed a high prevalence of threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality industry in the three states under review. However, the mean scores of the items presented under the column "before 2006" revealed that all the items were accepted in favour of the research question, except item 12. Therefore, the prevalence of threat of insecurity in the three states before 2003 was considerably low. This was confirmed by the average mean and standard deviation scores of 2.32 and 1.01 respectively. The mean score was below the cut off point of 2.5; hence rejected and regarded to be low. The figure below was used to illustrate the trend in the prevalence of threat of insecurity in the three states (2003 - 2006) = 345)

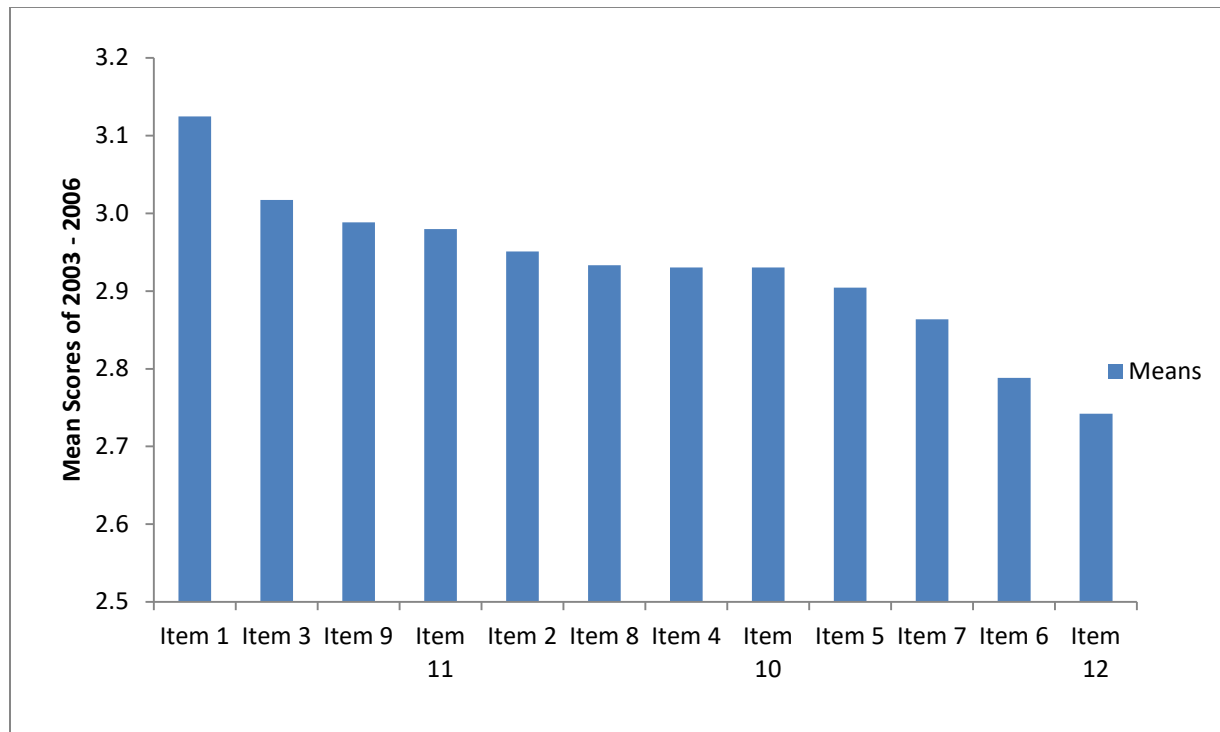


Figure 1: Trend Analysis of level of prevalence of threat insecurity from 2003 – 2006) in Niger Delta Region.(N = 345)

In summary, Figure 1 of the study revealed that the prevalence of threat of security was captured in the high presence of police, military and other security agencies, molestation, destruction of pipelines, fear of movement, shift in residential base, fear of molestation, early closure of business, kidnapping and people disguising themselves for fear of being kidnapped affected the socio-economic development of tourism industry (patronage of tourism and hospitality industry) in the three states of the Niger Delta region (NDR) between 2003 to 2006. This finding was supported by the questionnaire items from 1 – 11. Also, in line with the indices for measuring prevalence of threat of security as contained in item 1 to 12, the mean scores of the items, those accepted items (1 to 10) showed the acceptability of indices for measuring the prevalence of the threat of security to be high, implying that the level of prevalence of threat of insecurity was high.

5.2 Research Question 2

What is the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism and hospitality industry?

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation of responses of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism and hospitality industry in the Niger Delta region from 2003 to 2006

S/ N	Questionnaire Statements	Mean scores		Standard Deviation		Rating based on mean scores of 2003 – 2006		Remark based on mean scores of 2003-2006
		Before 2003	Between (2003-2006)	Before 2003	Rank order based on mean scores of 2003 to 2006	Items	Rank Order	
1.	Acquisition of shares in businesses with foreigners was less than 10%	2.5159	2.71014	0.96	0.95694	1	1 st	Accept
2.	Setting up of a subsidiary company by foreigners in Niger Delta region was hindered.	2.3275	2.66957	0.90	1.01648	2	2 nd	Accept
3.	Establishment of joint ventures by foreign associates was halted.	2.3942	2.67826	0.95	0.93586	3	3 rd	Accept
4.	Involving foreign partnership in human capacity development was unattainable.	2.30145	2.69275	0.97	0.9982	4	4 th	Accept
Average mean scores and standard deviation		2.38	2.66159	0.95	0.976878			Accept

Source: Researcher's Survey Data, 2019. (N = 345)

As documented in table 2 of the study, four statements were raised to address research question two which centred on the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the level of foreign direct investment in the tourism and hospitality industries in the Niger Delta region from 2003 to 2006. The table revealed that all the items raised were accepted in favour of the research question. This is because they were rated above the cut off point of 2.5. The accepted items showed the prevalence of threat of insecurity on foreign direct investment in the areas of tourism and hospitality industry in Niger Delta region. The accepted items showed that acquisition of shares in businesses with foreigners was less than 10% (\bar{x} = 2.7; SD = 0.96). Setting up of a subsidiary company by foreigners in Niger Delta region was hindered (\bar{x} = 2.67; SD = 1.02), establishment of joint ventures by foreign associates was halted (\bar{x} = 2.68; SD = 0.94), and involving foreign partnership in human capacity development was unattainable (\bar{x} = 2.69; SD = 0.99).

However, the situation before the period of study (2003) revealed that the operators held reverse opinions with respect to the questionnaire statements. Particularly, in items 2, 3 and 4 before 2003 showed that the operators rejected the items because their respective mean scores were below the cut off mean point of 2.5. The average means scores before and after were 2.38 and 2.66 respectively, meaning that the threat of security had great impact on foreign direct investment, the tourism and hospitality industries in the Niger Delta region. This was because all the items accepted after 2003 were all in the negative orientation of foreign direct investment inflow to the tourism and hospitality industries in Niger Delta region.

In order to show the flow of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on foreign direct investment to tourism and hospitality industry, single bar charts was used to demonstrate the trend rates.

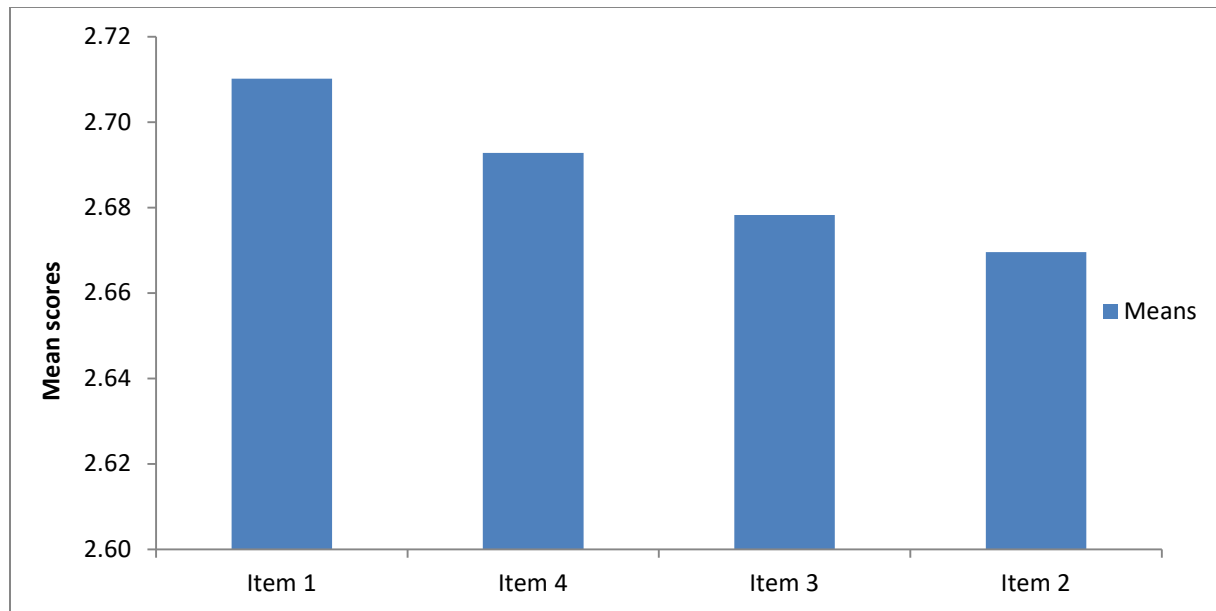


Figure 2: Trend analysis of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on foreign direct investment in tourism and hospitality industries in Niger Delta region.

As indicated in figure 2 of the study, item 1 (2.71) had the highest mean score and was ranked first, followed by item 4 (2.69), item 3 (2.68) was adjudged third and finally item 2 (2.67) ranked fourth. This ranking indicates a downward trend in the inflow of foreign direct investment to tourism and hospitality industries in the Niger Delta regions within the period of study (2003 to 2006).

In essence, the prevalence of the threat of insecurity has negatively impacted on tourism and hospitality industry, particularly in the area of inflow of foreign direct investment. This negative impact was seen in the areas of less than 10% acquisition of shares in business with foreigners, unattainable involvement of foreign partnership in human capacity development, establishment of joint ventures by foreign associates was halted and setting up of a subsidiary company by foreigners in Niger Delta region was hindered.

5.3 Research Question 3:

What are the implications of the prevalence of the threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry?

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation responses of the implications of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry in Niger Delta region

S/N	Questionnaire Statements	Mean scores		Standard Deviation		Rating Based on Mean scores of 2003-2006		Remark based on mean scores of 2003-2006
		Before 2003	After 2003-2006)	Before 2003	After 2003-2006)	Items	Rank Order	
1.	People were more employed by the industry	2.991	2.174	0.87	1.092	1	1 st	Reject
2.	Staff strength in my company was on the increase	2.942	2.125	0.84	0.005	3	2 nd	Reject

3.	Employment in allied industries was highly encouraged.	2.713	2.096	0.97	0.028	2	3 rd	Reject
4.	Unemployment and retrenchment was not rampant.	2.594	2.081	0.01	1.028	4	4 th	Reject
Average mean scores and standard deviation		2.810	2.119	0.94	1.838			Reject

Source: Researcher's Survey Data, 2019. (N = 345)

Table 3 of the study revealed that research question 3 examined the implications of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry in Niger Delta region. The mean scores recorded during the study period were used to examine the implications of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry. The results revealed that the implications of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on tourism captured in items 1 to 4 on the table on employment creations in the industry. Their opinions that were weighted by mean score showed that people were more employed in the industry (\bar{x} = 2.174; SD = 1.092), staff strength in the industry was on the increase (\bar{x} = 2.125; SD = 1.005), employment in allied industries was highly encouraged (\bar{x} = 2.096; SD = 1.028) and unemployment and entrenchment was not rampant (\bar{x} = 2.081; SD = 1.028).

Given the individual mean scores of all the items which were adjudged to be below the cut off point of 2.5, it therefore implied that all the items were rejected as revealed by the opinions of the operators, implying that the implications of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry in the Niger Delta. This claim was justified by the opposite situation which the opinions of the operators suggested that before 2003, employment creations by the industries recorded reasonable improvement. This was empirically true because the mean scores of items 1 to 4 (before 2003) out weighted the criterion means of 2.5 and as such were adjudged positive in relation to the research question. Further, the average mean scores of 2.810 and 2.119 for before and after 2003 respectively showed that the situation of employment creations was rated better before 2003 than after 2006. Below is a graphical illustration of the decline in employment generation of the industries during 2003 to 2006.

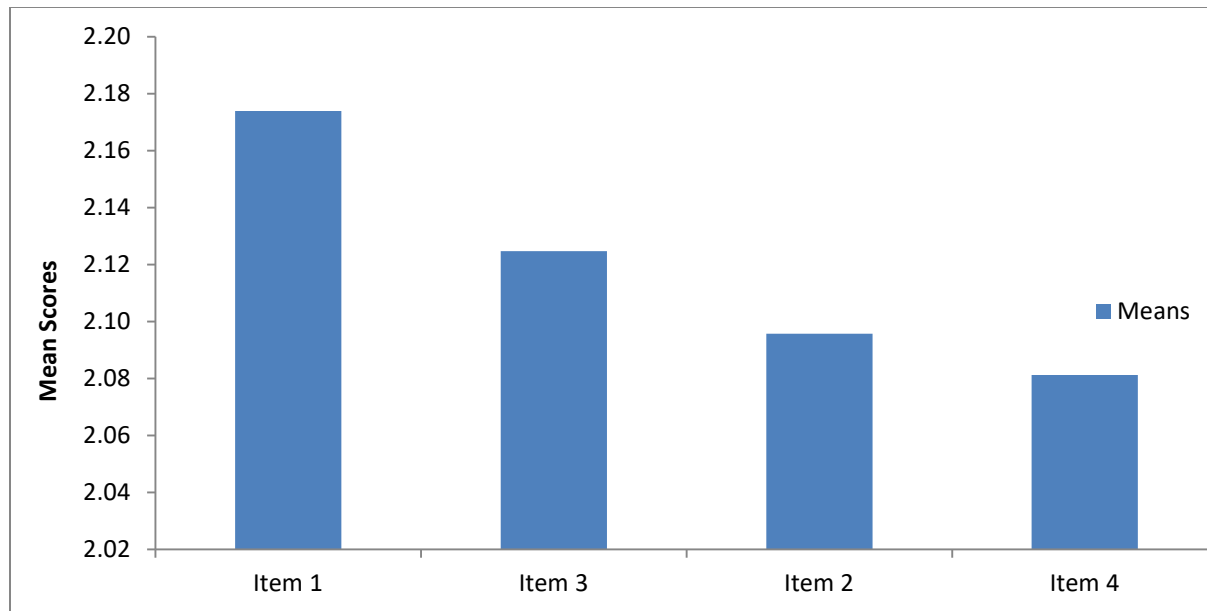


Fig 3: Trend analysis of the implications of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry in Niger Delta region.

Figure 3 of the study revealed the trend in the implications of the prevalence of the threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry in Niger Delta region (NDR) were captured on items 1, 3, 4 and these are ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in descending order of magnitude respectively. This showed sharp decline in the generation of employment by the industry. From the simple bar chart, it was clear that the trend was downwards sloping in relation to the questionnaire statements which were stated in positive orientation, and was rejected in the opinion of the operators in the industry. This meant that those positive statements in items 1 to 4 were not accepted as they concerned employment generation by the industry.

Basically, it implied that the implications of the threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industry was grossly negative because people were not employed as usual by the industry, staff strength in the industry was not on the increase, employment in allied industries was highly discouraged and unemployment and retrenchment were rampant within the period under study. Furthermore, comparative analysis on the trend of sociological behaviour of employment creations by the industry before 2003 and after 2006 (being the period of study) was presented in the table below. The data were generated from some of the operators as an estimate of the staff strength before and after the period of study.

6. Discussion of Findings

In considering the extent of how the research questions formulated impacted on the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the development of tourism and hospitality industries in Niger-Delta region within the period 2003-2006, each of the objective and its research question posed formed the sub-theme for discussion below.

From the first research question, the findings as presented in Table 1 showed that the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality activities in the three states of the Niger Delta. The findings of the study revealed that the average mean and standard deviation scores of respondents on the threat of insecurity prevalence were $MS=2.93$, $SD=1.01$ respectively, indicating high threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality activities in the three states of the Niger Delta region within same

period. Specifically, this was observed in the areas of fear of movement and molestation, and this led to an increase in the presence of police, militancy and other security agencies as people could hardly express themselves for fear of being kidnapped or taken hostage; people disguised themselves, ran away to safer towns and countries, and eventually most businesses were shut down.

Following the threat of insecurity on the the patronage of tourism and hospitality industries in the three states of the Niger Delta within the period of study, some of the respondents interviewed were of the opinion that before they came to the area, security was cool, adequately fixed, area safe and calm and low level of threat was experienced. Also, people were not prone to molestation and harassment, low level of corruption and relatively good leadership and government policies were formulated to protect the life and property of the citizenry. But from 2003 to 2006, the state of security in Niger delta became completely poor and grossly inadequate and as a result people were highly molested and harassed, and became afraid of being kidnapped, businesses dwindled, and there was fear of movement. People could not express themselves, either. This also affected the number of prospective tourists that would want to come to the area for tourism and hospitality business. In a related development, the findings of Onu (2008) and Osuigwe (2008) observed that the threat of security was visible in youth restiveness, revolt, violence, kidnapping among others. In a nutshell, the threat of insecurity on the patronage of tourism and hospitality industries in the three states of the Niger Delta induced fear in the physical protection of persons, buildings, organizations and above all, the massive loss of lives amounts to a huge loss of manpower and generally reduced labour productivity.

In analyzing research question 2, the findings depicted in table 2 showed that the prevalence of threat of insecurity on the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the tourism and hospitality industry. Shares in business were insignificant because foreign tourists' arrival in the region was lowered. Besides, establishment of joint ventures with foreign associates, including setting up of subsidiary companies by foreigners in the region were halted. The number of tourists settling in the Niger Delta region declined due to the level of threat of insecurity. From these, the threat of insecurity on the level of foreign investment in the tourism and hospitality industries in the Niger Delta region was insignificant. In other words, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow to tourism and hospitality industry was negative due to the conflicts plaguing the region. By implication, the threat of insecurity caused decline on the foreign direct investments in tourism and hospitality industry in the region. Besides, the threat of insecurity was also obvious in the forfeiture of some foreign direct investment (FDI). This analysis is in agreement with a World Investment Report (WIR) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that estimated that the domestic economy lost a whopping N1.33 trillion Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), owing to the activities of militants (insecurity)

It is also important to admit that return on investment, or the income yieldable on investment is usually a major determinant on foreign investment. But since no investor would like to invest without being sure of the adequate realizable return on that investment after some time, it was pointless for any foreign investor to gamble with his hard earned in an unstable polity like the Niger delta region. For Pye (1993), the primary objective of any business enterprise is to maximize profit. Concurring, Obadan (1999) maintains that profit is the major driving force, which is in consonance with the earlier views in mercantilism in which Lord Keynes was one of the apostles. Therefore, the first consideration for foreigners to invest in another country is that the prospects for profit making must be convincing, and this is further helped by the availability of raw materials.

The findings of research question 3 shown Table 3 indicated the implications of the prevalence of threat of insecurity on employment creations in the tourism and hospitality industries within the period of under study. The findings showed that employment creations in allied industries were on decline. By this, it was certain that the threat of insecurity slowed down investment projects in tourism industry, As a result, there

were frustrations on investment projects in the tourism and hospitality industries, and this was reflected in the downward trend on employment creations. While retrenchment of some employed workers ensued, some resigned or relocated to safe areas. Again lack of development projects in tourism industry had a toll on non expansion of allied industry which hindered employment creation for some individuals in the region. All these perhaps added more pressure to heighten the threat of insecurity problem. This result was supported by Yomi (2012) whose findings revealed that a very strong negative association exists between threat of security and job creations. Sequel to the absence of investment, both local and foreign, the tourism and hospitality industry declined and unemployment became very high among the people of the Niger delta.

7. Conclusion

Tourism is a vehicle of socio-economic development; it gives prominence to the improvement and the quality of life and well-being of population. The encouragement of tourism in a nation has always promoted the development of infrastructural facility, attracted foreign direct investment as well as promoted job creation. But the existence of threat of insecurity constitutes danger to lives and properties, hinders business activities, and discourages local and foreign investors, all of which stifles and retards socio-economic development of a country. In Niger Delta region, the threat of insecurity instilled fear in the inhabitants of the region and threatened the socio-economic development of tourism in three states in the Niger delta region. Movement was restricted, development and normal economic activities interrupted. In the same vein, the government diverted resources to fight insecurity in the region. In all, there was intense threat to insecurity resulting to the unquantifiable losses human and material resources. Besides, many ambitions were cut short and others frustrated. The results indicated that the threat of insecurity impacted negatively on growth of tourism and hospitality industry in the Niger-Delta region. The implication is that tourism products such as quality of wild life, landscapes and cultural attributes of the area as well as leisure cum recreation facilities were lost. The spill over of the threat of insecurity showed that many people were not employed, and all allied industries in the tourism and hospitality industries were shut down. As a result, there was joblessness and disruption of socio-economic development in the Niger Delta region thereby causing the standard of living of the people to decline. Judging from this perspective, there was an increase in the rate of crises, violence, and under achievement of set goals of both organizations and individual platforms within the setting.

8. Recommendations

Based on the study analysis and the findings, the following are proffered to checkmate future occurrence of social insecurity in the region:

1. The government and other security agencies must provide a sound measures to guarantee the safety and growth of tourism and ensure that the socio-economic development of the Niger delta region, particularly the three states under study are improved.
2. Secondly, government should socially and economically-empower all Nigerians, particularly those from the Niger delta to be active citizens, eager to participate in public affairs, and by so doing, make the country's democracy to be meaningful to ordinary people from the region for the benefit of realizing their social and economic needs. In the same way, create a new compact between state and society, in which the civic, political and social rights of the people would not only clearly spell out but made justiciable.
3. The federal government should address the issues of exploitation, marginalization, inequality and injustice done against the region in favour of massive development, resource control, equity participation, environmental restoration and economic empowerment as a more permanent plan.

4. The government design substantive solutions such as job creation, poverty alleviation and development in the region. In the same vein, increase human capital development- training and skill acquisition as well as address the root cause of militancy in the region in order to avoid future resurgence.
5. In addition, the government should direct effort towards modernizing the security agencies and institutions, and also seek assistance from developed countries to enhance the operational capabilities of the Nigeria security agencies that would enable them respond appropriately to quell internal security threats
6. Finally, the government should direct effort towards modernizing the security agencies and institutions, and also seek assistance from developed countries to enhance the operational capabilities of the Nigeria security agencies that would enable them respond appropriately to quell internal security threats.

Conflicts of interest:

Authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

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