

## **CONTENT ANALYSIS OF FUNCTIONAL AND CONFLICT VIEWS AS THEORIES OF SOCIETY AND CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN ZAMFARA STATE COMMUNITIES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper analyzed the functional and conflict views on society by trying to establish concrete evidences on how our communities should survive, especially with the current challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Their contents were properly and carefully discussed. The paper also looks into the possible causes of insecurity that ravage the Zamfara state communities for over 10 years, this is as a result of neglecting the primary functions allocated to every member, by the society. The paper is based on primary and secondary data which include the use of interviews, photographs, videos documentary and other secondary data available. Three senatorial district were used, in which three communities were visited in every zone. The study revealed that, the insecurity saga was a result of neglecting societal norms and values that hold our communities in peace for decades. There is also neglect of duty from the security operatives which gives room to local and non-formal vigilante who violates the fundamental human right, un the course of discharging there stated role. The paper suggests that government at all level should have total control of security issues with new technicalities and quick response. Local vigilantes should be redress so as to go along with the current security agencies. Similarly, individual and group should always perform their functions and anybody violating the stated norms should be brought to justice.*

**Keyword:** Content, Functional, Conflict, Theories, Insecurity, Zamfara, Communities

### **INTRODUCTION**

Insecurity has been a major rock blocking in the progress of our society, especially during democratic era, it has been identified to remain as a serious challenge facing most societies and approaches have been put in place to curve the situation, but remain adamant. The situation exceeded human rational thinking, in which bloods were spilled everywhere and economy is destroyed, and a long peaceful co-existence between the communities have been broken. It started like a joke, but later became a business that needs patronage; insecurity is no doubt an uncomfortable truth of our countries situation that is threatening to burst into doubt.

Zamfara state was among the last batch states created by the Late General Sani Abacha in 1996 from the old Sokoto state. It borders Sokoto from north-west, Katsina North – east, Kaduna south – east and Kebbi state. The state has an estimated population of about 6.7 million people (2006 census). The settlement between the dominant tribe (Hausa and Fulani) and other minor tribes was very cordial due to the inherited peace that prevail the local communities.

Prior to democratic era, communities were reported to have enjoyed peace and prosperity, everyone was doing his/hr own business so as to earn a living.

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **Conceptualization of society**

Society, is generally define as a group of people who share a common culture, occupy a particular territorial area, and feel themselves to constitute a unified and distinct entity. It is

also a collection of individuals united by certain relations or modes of behavior which mark them off from others who do not enter into these relations or who differ from them in behavior (Ginsberg 1984; 117)

### **Functionalist views on society**

The functionalist theory first emerged in the 19th century and was advocated by a French sociologist Emile Durkheim and the theory was later developed by an American sociologist Talcott Parson in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The two scholars view society as an entity that need support from different inter depended variables. They make a comparison from biological view point on how human body works; if biologist wanted to know how organisms such as the human body work, they might begin by examining the various parts such as the brain, lungs, heart and liver. However, if they simply analyzed the part in isolation from each other, they would be unable to explain how life was maintained. To do this, they would have to examine the parts in relation to each other, since they work together to maintain the organism. Therefore they would analyzed the relationships between the hearts, lungs, brain and so on, to understand how they operate and appreciate their importance.

Functionalism adopts a similar perspective. The various parts of society are seen to be interrelated and taken together, they form a complete system. To understand any part of society, such as the family, in terms of its contribution to the maintenance of the social system.

### **Structure**

Functionalist believe that behavior in the society is structured. This means that relationships between members of society are organized in terms of rules that stipulate how people are expected to have those rules can be formal (laws) or informal (norms). Norms are specific guides to action, which tell you, how you are expected to dress and behave at a funeral or at the congregation. Social relationships are patterned and recurrent because of the existence of rules.

Consequently, they are of the view that, for every society function effective, it has to be structured through laws that will guide the affairs of the people who happen to exist and develop positively in their social system.

### **Function**

Having established the existence of social structure, functionalist analysis turns to a consideration of how that structure functions. This involves an examination of the relationship between the different parts of the structure and their relationship to society as a whole, and this reveals the functions of institutions. At its simplest function means "effect". Thus the function of the family is the effect it has on other parts of the social structure and on society as a whole. In practice, the term function is usually used to indicate the contribution on institution makes to the maintenance and survival of the social system. For example, a major function of the family is the socialization of new members of society, since order, stability and cooperation largely depend on learned, shared norms and values.

### **Functional prerequisites**

In determining the functions of various parts of the social structure, functionalist are guided by the ideas that, societies have certain basic needs or requirement that must be met if they are to survive. These requirements are sometimes known as functional prerequisites. For instance, a means of producing food and shelter may be seen as a functional prerequisite. Since without food and shelter, members of society could not survive.

A system for socializing new members of society may also be regarded as a functional prerequisite, since without culture, social life would not be possible.

More importantly, having assumed a number of basic requirements for the survival of society, it is pertinent to look at the parts of the society, it is pertinent to look at the parts of the social structure to see how they meet such functional prerequisites. Thus a major function of the economic system of the society, is the production of food and shelter. And also a political system should provide good leadership and security of its citizen and lastly an important function of the family is the socialization of new members of society.

### **Value consensus**

Values provide general guidelines for behavior they provide the overall beliefs about what is good or bad, desirable or undesirable in the society. From a functionalist view point, society is regarded as a system. A system is an entity made up of interconnected and interrelated parts. From this therefore, it follows that each part will in some way affect every other part and the system as a whole. It also follows that, if the system is to survive its various parts must have some degree of fit or compatibility. Thus a functional prerequisite of society is a minimal degree of integration between the parts.

### **Social orders**

One of the main concerns of functionalist theory is to explain how social life is possible, the theory assumes that a certain degree of order and stability is essential for the survival of social systems. They therefore, concerned with explaining the origin and maintenance of order and stability in society. Many sees shared values as the key to this explanation: value consensus integrated the various parts of society, it forms the basics of social unity or social solidarity, since individuals will tend to identify and feel kinship with those who share the same values as themselves. Value consensus provides the foundation for cooperation since common values produce common goals. Members of the society will tend to cooperated in pursuit of goals that they share.

Having attributed such important to value consensus, many functionalist then focus on the question of how this consensus is maintained. Talcott Person 1964. P44 stated that the main task of sociology is to examine "the institutionalization of patterns of value orientation in the social system" emphasis is therefore placed on the process of socialization whereby values are internalized and transmitted from one generation to the next. To this effect, the family is regarded as a vital part of the social structure. Once learned, values must be maintained. In particular, those who deviate from society's values must be brought back into line. Thus mechanisms of social control are seen as essential to the maintenance of social order.

### **Conflict perspective on society**

Although functionalist emphasis the importance of value consensus in society, they do recognize that conflict can occur. However, they see conflict as being the result of misappropriate at these value consensus and a temporary disturbances in the social system. Those disturbances are usually corrected as society evolves. They accept that social system. These disturbances are usually corrected as society evolves. They accept that social groups can have differences of interest but believe these are of minor importance compared to the interests that all social groups share in common. They also believe that all social groups benefit if their society runs smoothly and prospers.

Undoubtedly on the other hand, conflict theories differ from functionalism in that they hold that there are fundamental differences of interest between social groups. These

differences result in conflict of idea and interest, being a common and persistent feature of society and not a temporary aberration.

More importantly, the most influential conflict perspective was Marxist that talks on the concept of society, class and stratification, and provide evidence why societies tend to looms into constant conflict as a result of social change.

Marxist theory, (developed by Karl Marx 1818) begins with the simple observation that, in order to survive, humans must produce food and material objects. In doing so they enter into social relationships with other people e.g. politics or Bandit. From the simple hunting band to the complex industrial state, production is a social enterprises. Production also involves a technical component known as the "force of production" which includes the technology, raw materials and scientific knowledge employed in the process of production. Failure to fallow these procedures will lead to conflict for the survival.

Taken together, the faces of production and the social relationship s of production form the economic basis or infrastructure of society. (Social amenities). The other aspects of society, known as the "superstructure" are largely shaped by the infrastructure. Thus the political, legal educational institutions and the beliefs and values systems are primary determine by economics factor. A major change in the superstructure. This means that. Any step taken to increase in development of the society will definitely change the structure of the society, and therefore forces of conflict have to be expected. Marx maintained that, with the possible exception of the societies of prehistory, all historical societies contain basic contradiction, which means that they cannot survive forever in their existing form.

These contradictions involve the exploitation of one social group by another. This creates a fundamental conflict of interest between social groups, since one gains at the expense of another. This conflict of interest must ultimately be resolved, since a social system containing such contradictions cannot survive unchanged. Comparatively, the two theories affirmed that, society consist of some functional prerequisite which are adaptation, goal attainment, integration and pattern maintenance. Durkheim was aware of the possibility of that societies might not function smoothly. This is evident in his work on the division of labour (Durkheim 1947) which suggests that industrial societies based or organic solidarity might break down. They could be undermined it egoism or anomic started to reduce the control that society had over the individual. Although, he saw the possibility of conflict within societies, he believed it could be kept within manageable limits through the existence of good policies, through the teaching of moral values in the education system and through society functioning in a way that treated all its members fairly.

More importantly, the main task of sociology is to analyzedthe "institutionalization of patterns of value orientation in the social system". When values are institutionalized and behavior is structured in terms of them, the result is a stable system. A state of social equilibrium is attained, the various parts of the system being in a state of balance. In Max's view, humans are essential social beings. He maintained that 'society does not consist of individuals, but expresses the sum of interrelations, the relations within which these individuals stand. An understanding human history therefore involves an examination of these relationships, the most important of which are the relations of interactions.

However, he argued that, so long as there exist the social classes in the society, an unending clash of interest have to occur and therefore constant conflict should be expected. He also maintain that, exploitation of groups, inequality and breach of bureaucracy are other causes of conflict in the society.

## **CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN ZAMFARA STATE**

Zamfara state as earlier learnt was occupied by two major ethnics groups which were identified by their economic activity. Hausa speaking people who were mostly farmers and

traders and Fulani that showcase rearing of animals and farming for their livelihood and vice versa. They enjoyed being together for many decades. Undoubtedly, peace that people of Zamfara communities have been compromised by different factors which were identified either by ideologies believe by some people and a political interest and lack of proper legislation and execution of societal laws. In this segment, factors identified to be the root and immediate causes will be outline in order to maintain peaceful coexistence that is known by the state but then let us look at three distinctive variables that relate socially when insecurity issues will be discussed.

### **Deviance**

In everyday language, to deviate means to stray from an accepted path; it also consists of those acts that do not follow the norms and expectations of a particular social group. Deviance behavior are both positive and negative, but the main aim is that, any deviant act that resulted in the promotion of societal value or integrity is socially accepted. In terms of this soldiers on the battle field who risk their lives above and beyond the normal call of duty may be termed deviant. And this can be positively rewarded because his deviant act resulted in bringing peace to the society. This is related to Zamfara because the nature of our insecurity is criminal oriented case.

Consequently, the field of study covered by the sociology of deviance is usually limited t deviance that results in negative sanctions. The American sociologist Marshall B. Clinard (1974) suggested that the term "deviance" should be reserved for behavior that is so much disapproved of, that the community finds it impossible to tolerate.

### **Crime and Delinquency**

Crime and delinquency are the most obvious forms of deviance crime or offending refers to those activities that break the law of the land and are subject to official punishment (Clinard 1974:29). Crime and delinquency refers to a wide varieties of acts often committed by young adult, which disturb other members of the society, without necessarily involving minor thieves or more violence of any kind. Anti – social behavior includes graffiti and groups of young people hanging around causing a nuisance to others. In modern day sociology many deviant acts that are disapproved of and cause harm to oneself are not considered to be criminal. (Streeter, 1997:117).

More so, Lea John and Jock Young (1984:214) developed an approach to explaining criminality they see crime as rooted in social conditions and argue that crime is closely connected to three key concept namely; relative deprivation, subculture and marginalization.

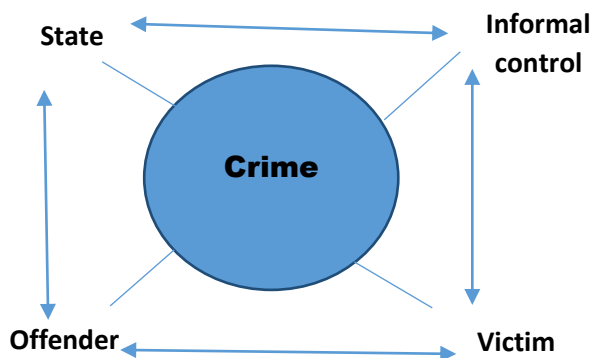
**A group experiences relative deprivation:** when it feels derive of in comparison to other similar groups, or when expectations are not met.

**Subculture:** The second key concept is subculture which is the collective solution to a group's problems. Thus, if a group of individuals share a sense of relative deprivation, they will develop lifestyles that allow them to cope with their problem. However, a particular subculture is not an automatics in evitable response to a situation.

**Marginalization:** The third and final key concept is that of marginalization, marginal groups are those that lack organization to represent their interests in political life and that also lack clearly defined goals. They argue that, marginal groups in society are particularly prone to the use of violence and riots as forms of political and social action.



Consequently, in recent years all the element of approach to the understanding of crime which is known as square of crime.



*Fig. 1 The Square of crime*

As fig 1 shows, the square of crime involves four elements which can be describe thus.

1. The state and its agencies
2. The offender and their actions
3. Informal methods of social control
4. The victims

However, left realists believe that crime can only be understood in terms of the interrelationships between these four elements.

### **Insecurity**

Insecurity has been defined as absence of security in the society (Merck 1978). It is a situation where a state (society) is faced with a lot of social vices and criminal activities which threatens lives and property of the citizen. Insecurity is a phenomena which is as a result of variety of reasons especially ethno-religious factor.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study as earlier mentioned use of primary and secondary data, interview and visitation to some affected communities. The researcher used three most affected communities from each three (3) senatorial districts in the state. The researcher conducted interviews considering the fact that, most of the affected persons in this discussion were not educated, it was difficult for them to answer questionnaires. The researcher therefore used interview as the instrument. (Set of questions to be asked). It was given to the expert in measurement and evaluation department of Zamfara College of Education Maru, to check the reliability of the interview questions.

### **DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN ZAMFARA STATE.**

Insecurity in zamfara state is seen to range from cattle rustling, hording, kidnapping, robbery, community raid and revenge. The following are possible causes of insecurity in Zamfara state communities.

- Victimization of ethnic group
- Poor execution of laws
- Structure of the society
- External influence
- Poverty and Lucrativeness
- Mass media

### **Victimization of ethnics**

Tim Newborn (2007) noted that as defined by United Nation that, victim as persons who individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws (UN 1985).

Consequently, as noted earlier, communities in Zamfara state were mixed settlers (Hausa and Fulani). There is strong allegation from both side, from the Hausa mostly farmers accused Fulani of destroying crops worth millions and moving freely especially where Fulani's are mostly dominant. And from the Fulani mostly cattle rearers alleged that their cattle were confiscated by farmers in retaliation on their accusation.

Moreover, innocent citizen's victimized from both side in form of revenge. In 2012, report from Rukudawa village of Zurmi Local Government of mass destruction of farm lands/crops by the Fulani in retaliation to the killing of two Fulani rearing along Gidan Jaja axis. (Daily sun 12/05/2012). More so, these issues have emanated as a result of lack of value consensus. State fail to bring about agreed values that will give justification to both parties (Hausa and Fulani)

It is evident that, a BBC program (Africa eye documentary) has shown D.I.G Abba kyari commander of I.R.T paraded suspected Fulani kidnappers operating along Kaduna-Abuja express way. They were interviewed and all the responses are on the reason for their involvement on the activity are that, the Nigerian police have done an extra judicial killing on their relatives (as alleged by Buharin Daji in an audio interview).

### **Poor execution of laws**

Government are the holders of power to enact laws properly so that fictional pre-requisite will be attain. In the state, prior to the prevalence to attack and kidnapping, there were reports by head of communities of recent occurrences. The report proved abortive especially in enforcing the security agencies to control the situation in time. For example, Maradun local government chairman had been reportedly revealing the situation to the authorities concern on the possible violation of laws and raids happening in his local government. That is the period between 2012-2019. But his efforts were crackdown by the government and overlook the situation. Government went on providing emergency solutions by providing armed force all the way from Kaduna to protect it communities for survival.

From the functionalist perspective, whenever, a state fails to function effectively. There is possible breach of stated laws. The basic function of government is to provide security to its citizens so that they can function effectively as good citizen. However, failure of state to take actions especially by arraigning the accused person has contributed in showcasing the strength of the offenders.

### **Structure of the society**

The old system of settlement have been compromise especially by the growing need of food and land. The population of the citizen continues increase to the extent that, stipulated demarcated areas were crossed, for example in Anka Emirate by 2017 there was report of consuming demarcated areas for Fulani grazing areas by about 415 square kilometers by farming in their effort to have farms for their survivals. (TVC journalist hangout program of 23/01/2017). Consequently, every society have to be constantly restructured so that, rising conflicting issues can be addressed. (T. Person 1967)

### **External influence**

Social struggle which is term to be democracy has, contributed in bringing about conflict especially in the quest for power.

"..... By their very existence they have proven to be the destroyers of the democratic aspirations and the effective debate which should lie at the heart of an open society". Hywel Williams a Britain's power Elite (2006:26) in his effort to prove that Steven Lukes (1974) the seekers of power can do everything to acquire and maintain power.

Evidence from Local government communities has shown that, cattle rustlers and kidnappers were seen as Fulanis from neighboring countries (Chad, Niger, Cameroon) for example in Gusau Local government in Magami there was report that, they do experience mass movement of herders on motor cycles in three covering their faces with mask and speaking French and Fulfulde Languages (Interview No.7).

More so, in his view of analyzing the possible intervention of external influence on the insecurity issue in Zamfara. Prof. A.A Darma of University Abuja. has noted that, Fulani are mostly misers in nature, they do spend less especially on issue not effecting the health of their cattle. He stressed that, it is very hard for a Fulani man to buy an AK47 at the cost of N700, 000. How many of his cattle is he going to sell to raise the amount of a single rifle? It means therefore, there were other forces behind the kidnapping and hearders work in the state.

Furthermore, it is observed that, most societies during their developing period, do assimilate some external cultures so that, they can develop faster than expected. In view of this therefore, films that were translated in local languages that show the level and procedure of crime especially Indian films. The issue of this kidnaping for ransom were mostly known through these films which uncontrolled coming to the country has set a negative impact on our social life.

### **Poverty and joblessness**

A condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health care facilities, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services (United Nation 1995). This above notion on the simple explanation of poverty has clearly touches the conditions of the people in Zamfara state. It is evident that, among the basic causes of poverty to individuals and society is deprivation of basic need and social inequality to human life. It is believed that high level of social inequality do not just have detrimental effects on individuals, they also lead to dysfunctional societies. Wilkinson and Pickett (2010).

From the conflict perspective, they argued that, with the exception of the societies of prehistory, all historical societies contain basic contradictions which means that they cannot survive forever in their existing form. These contradictions involves the exploitation of one social group by another. For example, in Feudal society, lords exploit their serfs; in capitalist society, employers, exploits their employees and in democratic society, leaders exploit their subjects and left them with abject poverty. (Daily Sun 07/1/2018)

Undoubtedly, in Zamfara state, social amenities are absence, and high rate of unemployment which resulted in total poor social mobility in many families. From the sources gathered, the administration that existed between 2011, to 2019 had shut down all the existing youth acquisition centers which remain the only sources that the lower class family uses in acquiring skills and providing business opportunity for themselves. The condition has no doubt contributed in bedeviling the poor condition of the rural communities and subject them into absolute and relative poverty, which resulted in accepting any other alternative for survival.(Interview No.4).

A BBC documentary programme BB (Africa Eye) shown in liberty TV, Wonderland TV, Unity TV, all located in northern Nigeria, have shown that the basic actors in insurgency/insecurity affecting Northern Nigeria are young adult. (Age 16 – 45) who find it difficult to earn a living and wish to forcefully create a job for themselves. For example, the



issue of Boko Haram, evidence of young adult participation, and most of the captives among the fighters did so for economic purpose rather than religion. Likewise, also Zamfara state, issues of kidnapping and cattle rustling were economically motivated. The lucrative nature of the business, the poor approaches of security agencies and inadequate law to suit the emerging security challenges. (BBC Africa Eye in Maiduguri).

## **CONCLUSION**

The paper discusses the two theories that talk on society and societal issues which help immensely in curving the social problems. The function a list view of the society which indicated that, every society has to be structured from time to time and emphasize on value consensus and functional prerequisite. They argued that, for every society to last longer they should adhere to the interrelated variables which are forces that more the society forward.

From the conflict perspective, though they believed that, conflict is a constant phenomenon. In every existing society, forces of production, infrastructure and super structure are the institution that determine the economics system of the society and therefore following them closely with careful constructive criticism will maintain the society. Lastly, factors that cause insecurity Zamfara state are highlighted, they are discussed in relation to the functionalist and conflict perspective.

The paper is of the view that, sociological perspective are good illustration of our modern day societies. Who proper solution and determine how social system should exist, social inequalities should be reduce and justice should go round the whole classes.

Consequently, the causes of insecurity that were highlighted were based on research and aiming at propounding solution to the bloodshed in Zamfara state and northern states at general.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The paper after a long discussion, comparison and empirical analysis has recommended the following:

1. Government should through the study of civic education, citizenship education in our schools, emphasized the study of social issues that affect our societal settings.
2. It also recommended that, more research should be conducted on social issues especially from the grassroots and implement the findings
3. More hands should be put together; local vigilantes, technocrat, sociologist/criminologist and government interest, so that, security information can be shared and utilize judiciously.
4. Public and private organizations should help government in creating jobs to the populace. This will help in reducing the rate of jobless citizen and criminality.
5. History of local communities should be respected and power sharing among the various ethnics groups in the society should be equalized.
6. The Government should also provide conducive atmosphere for sustaining good laws and enabling environment for job creation.

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