

THE FORCEFUL RELOCATION OF CITIZENS WITHIN A COUNTRY

A CASE STUDY OF LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

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The aim of this research is to bring to light the illegality and obvious marginalization of indigenes being deported from one region to another against their wishes using the recent happening in Lagos State-Nigeria as a case study. The social impacts of this action being carried out under a formulated policy have had negative effects on the affected Igbo community in no small measure. It has suddenly created effects which makes them to be labeled as unwanted members of Lagos community despite been Nigerians.

The socio economic effect is the major way in which the impacts of this action was viewed. The Qualitative research methodology was used in data collection. The views of notable members of the society were collected using the various articles, comments and interviews granted on the social media as the sources of the information. This is largely due to the fact that no research has been conducted on this particular topic before. The opinions of the members of The Nigerian Bar Association was used as they viewed the action as an infringement of the fundamental human rights of the affected citizens, and if not checked could form a precedent that other governors could choose to follow in the future.

The researchers also took time to fathom what could be the possible reasons for the unjust policy by the Lagos state government, and diverse views were given based on the opinion of the researchers and the materials gathered. The

effects of the eviction were weighed side by side with the peaceful and mutual coexistence that the residents of the states have always enjoyed.

The impacts of this action on the affected community were not left out of this thesis. Their life plans were suddenly altered and so would the different things attached to their daily living; for example, education, life plans, their health, psyche and others.

Countries who have encountered this similar challenge were also mentioned and reliable information gathered as to know how it was handled or how it was eventually resolved.

The welfare system in Finland was also given a cursory look, as the reason given by the Lagos state government is seen as anti-welfare of the evicted community. A country that wants to thrive and enjoy peace is expected to put the welfare of her citizen at the forefront of its policies. The Finnish legislations made room for the establishment of Administrative courts where citizens can resort to in cases of been affected by any unjust policy or policies of the government. This we believe could be a model to Nigerian Government to emulate.

Keywords: Citizens, residency, diaconia, social welfare, exclusion and religion.

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1 INTRODUCTION

In 2013, the government of Lagos state deported some indigenes of Anambra State back to their state. This action did generate lots of controversy, because it was an act of marginalization and violation of the fundamental human rights of the affected people. Also, this brought about discussion on abuse of powers by state governors and the need to be able to define how they can be held responsible for their actions.

The issue became more interesting based on the fact that the governor of Lagos State is not just a Lawyer by profession but also a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, and because the affected people, 'the people that were removed' are from another ethnic group. Also, it brought back memories of the Nigerian civil war and a question into the unity of Nigeria.

Initial reports suggested that 70 or more 'Igbo' people were herded in one bus or several, driven from Lagos State to Anambra State in the middle of the night, across the Niger Bridge, and dumped in Onitsha, the commercial hub of Anambra State. A lot of questions arose here; examples are: If it was a legal for a state government to remove indigenes of another state from their state to the indigenes' state, then why were they not handed over to the state government that the indigenes are said to have come from. (Sahara Reporters).

Also, if the action of the Lagos state government was based on a social policy; then what kind of policy is that, that gives provision for peoples' lives to be exposed to danger? And, what say do the indigenes of Lagos State have in the formulation and implementation of this policy?

A few days the incident was made public, the governor of Lagos State, in person of Governor Babatunde Fashola in a bid to defend himself said just 14 persons were removed (Sahara Reporters). He also said that the people evicted

were vagrants or dissidents, some of them with varying degrees of mental problems and behavioral deficiencies.

A policy that forcibly removes "undesirable" citizens from their states of residency to their states of origin does grave violence to the lives of the affected people and the community they belong to. More pertinent to this research is the fact that the action is a grave violation of the affected citizens' fundamental human rights as enshrined in The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Looking beyond the illegality of this action is our main concern in this thesis. We are looking into the social effects this action has had on the affected indigenes of the Igbo community via the literature that have been written after the event occurred. Also, we look at the impacts that this will have on the present and future generations of Nigeria in the aspect of inter-marriages between various ethnic groups. Inclusively, we hope to examine the under-tones of this policy.

Some people were of the opinion that the action were carried out because the governor of Lagos State considers beautifying of the state more of importance than the lives and the societal inclusion of the affected people. In-as-much we agree that a beautiful environment is a plus to public health; we also need to examine where priorities should be placed. In this case, should it be on the value, respect and dignity of human life or on the environment that the human life does exist or reside in?

Firstly, this study includes enquiries which assess the views of different authors weighed side by side with the kind of society that existed in Lagos state before the eviction, the societal and communal relationships that have been built over a long period of time. In-addition, this study examines the impact of this action on the unity and peaceful co-existence of Nigerians in Nigeria. Lastly, this research also includes an enquiry on the arguments that have been raised in some quarters on the illegality of the action, whether it is justifiable or not.

The research conducted in this study comprises of the opinions of the Igbo community in Lagos State, the affected Igbo community now in Anambra State, the criticisms by the media and the legal luminaries who were living in the state during the period this research was conducted. It also, includes the views of indigenes of Lagos state and other concerned Nigerians.

The findings of this research are based on the followings:

Firstly, it is based on the opinions of columnists in the media (Newspapers).

Secondly, we made emphasis on the criticisms procured from the legal points of view and reviewed with literatures on community development and social inclusion.

Additionally, we did discuss and detailed the rationale behind this study. We are of the view point that the international community should know how a certain government policy socially excluded a community in Nigeria. Also, Nigerians at large need to know and understand how a specific government policy turned out to be a tool of oppression and victimization. Furthermore, Nigerians also need to know the implications of this policy on the masses. Although, there could be several viewpoints in this research but we have detailed this report based on the social effects of the affected community. Other viewpoints are open to future studies.

The fundamental human right of every citizen is essential and every government at all levels is required to uphold these rights. This thesis also takes cognizance of some of the opinions of notable figures in the society on the infringement of the constitutional rights and the necessary redress available to the Igbo community.

It should be noted that the focus of this research is on the Igbo community that were unlawfully ejected from Lagos State and not the entire Igbo people that

are residents in Lagos state. We still have the community of the South-East indigenes who are residing in Lagos state.

The reason we chose to take up this matter in our research is because it goes in line with the idea of community development, which is a core unit of our study.

1.1 Background of Research

Nigeria is a country with a large population. The country is estimated to have about 160 million people. It is the most populous country in Africa and its diversities continue to grow as the growth in population persists. Nigeria is structurally, culturally and traditionally diversified in nature. The diversity is evident in the various languages, dialect, and ethnic groups that make-up the country. It is a multi-lingual society and the major languages are Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa. English Language is the official language and it has been in use since after the colonial era. (Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Website.)

The issue of the country's structure and cultural differences has never been a national discourse or an issue of problematic debate because unison has always been a feature shared by all irrespective of our several identical differences. The strict adherence to the law and the use of The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria oversees every action of all those elected or appointed into public, private or national services agencies. (Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Website.)

Every Nigerian is a member of the community called Nigeria. In other words, national and state integration and community cooperation is been encouraged, advised and actively done with avoidance of discrimination on any grounds especially on grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, societal status and ethnicity. (Constitution of Nigeria.)

Community in this regard is defined as a process where community members come together to take collective, objective and productive action and generate solutions to common problems (Bryne 2005, 23). This is also reflected in the fact that those affected by this dilemma fall into the category of the definition of a community. The latter can also be defined by common cultural heritage, language, and beliefs or shared interests. These are sometimes called communities of interest. The deportation of the Igbo people disregards the law that governs us all as a people of a nation (Channels Television).

The aforementioned issue also nullifies the national and communal integration needed as members of a growing community (Vanguard Newspaper).

It also was attributed by some to be an act of tribalism. Tribalism is defined as strong loyalty to one's own tribe, party or group. (Online Dictionary.)

This was rebuffed by the governor at the silver jubilee of the Igbo socio-cultural think tank that "People who clearly do not understand the actions taken and words spoken are those I owe an explanation. I cannot take the Igbo people for granted because we have built a relationship based on tolerance, mutual respect, love and trust. A relationship that was built by our ancestors, and I put a lot of value in that relationship". (Sahara Reporters.)

1.2 Lagos, Anambra and their Regional Differences and Governance

Lagos is the commercial capital of Nigeria and some people see it as a home for all. Due to its population, commerce thrives. The uneven distribution of commerce and wealth and the in-ability of the government to redistribute wealth have created a wider margin between the haves and the have not(s). This has brought about an increase in the rate of migration within the country. A large number of people have moved from rural areas to the major cities, which Lagos State happens to be one on the receiving part. This has created influx of people irrespective of class, language, color, race or ethnicity into the city of Lagos.

Although Lagos state is the smallest state in Nigeria, with an area of 356,861 hectares of which 75,755 hectares are wetlands, yet it has the highest population, which is over five per cent of the national estimate.

As at 2006, the population of Lagos State was 17.5 million, (based on the parallel count conducted by the state during the National Census) with a growth rate of 3.2%, the state today has a population of over 21 Million. This was corroborated by the recent immunization exercise carried out across the State, where 4.3million children were immunized. Children within the Immunization bracket are estimated at 20% of the entire population

More so, its population also depicts its huge level of diversity as every tribe is well represented in the commercial hub of the country. Its official capital is Ikeja and it is located in the South-Western part of the country which is densely populated by the Yoruba people. (Lagos State Government Official Website.)

Much cannot be said about Anambra state because it is the opposite of Lagos in terms of population. It is located in the South-Eastern part of the country and densely populated by the Igbo people. Its official capital is Awka but commercially, Onitsha is its main business hub. (Anambra State Government Official Website.)

In terms of governance, the two states in discourse have some governmental differences. Although, they belong to the Federal republic of Nigeria but they are regionally governed by people of different political parties and ideological differences.

These sets of ideological differences could have been the cause of the differences in communication and the eventual ejection of Anambra State indigenes from Lagos State.

1.3 Description of the Research Environment and Context

This chapter entails literature about the research location and context of the research. The researchers are of the opinion that it is of absolute necessity to lay the proper foundation by making the readers to have the requisite knowledge about Nigeria and most importantly Lagos State. This is because this is where the research was conducted.

Nigeria, officially known as the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a constitutional republic made up of thirty six states and a national capital city known as the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The country is located in West Africa and shares land borders with the Republic of Benin in the west, Chad and Cameroon in the east, and Niger Republic in the northern part of the country. Its coast in the southern region lies on the path along the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean. (Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Website)

Nigeria is a Federal Republic whose model is similar to that of the United States of America and sub-divided into 774 Local Government Districts or Areas (LGAs). (Theseus Website.)

Lagos State alone has a population of 4,719,125 for the male and 4,394,480 for the female population, which makes it the most populous city in Nigeria. (National Population Commission.)

Inclusively, Lagos State represents the second fastest-growing city in Africa and the seventh in the world and it is also the largest city in Africa. Lagos is a metropolitan area which originated on islands. Lagos was the former capital city of Nigeria but it has since been replaced by the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, on 12 December 1991. Lagos is currently experiencing a population increase of about 600,000 persons per annum. (Lagos State Government Official Website.)

This is the reason for the influx of people into Lagos state as there is a huge spectrum of wealth distribution among the people that reside in Lagos. It ranges

from the very wealthy to the very poor. Lagos has attracted many young people and families seeking a better life from all other parts of Nigeria and beyond.

Lagos, subsequent to the re-modernization project achieved by the current administration of Governor Raji Babatunde Fashola, is gradually becoming a major tourist destination, being one of the largest cities in Africa and in the world. Lagos is currently taking steps to become a mega city.

The migration of people from other tribes and states to Lagos over the years has been due to the singular fact that it is fast becoming a centre of commerce for all trades. The Igbo population residing in the state is many because most of the Igbo population still carry out one form of business or the other, despite their levels of education. They therefore see Lagos as a land of opportunity.

1.4 Topical Interests

In our thesis, there are certain issues that interested us before we decided to research on it. These topical interests are personal as we are individuals and as collective as we are members of the country called Nigeria. The fact that we are Nigerians does not deter us from presenting this discussion or learning more about an incident that could have befallen us as individuals or as a community.

Firstly, the forceful ejection of Nigerian citizens within Nigeria is an anomaly and a clear oppression of the minority. More so, it showed a clear violation of the right of every citizen to freely live and co-habit in any part of the country. (Constitution of Nigeria.)

Lastly, the obvious display of societal exclusion through the aids of social stratifying terminologies such as identities, ethnicities, religion, languages and tribal strata in the name of city upgrading is deriding, deceptive and completely unimaginable.

1.5 Religion and Religious Stance

Nigeria is a multi-religious nation; this expression grants the right of religious freedom and association to each and every Nigerian, regardless of their age, sex and location within the country. This right is basic and is in accordance to the Constitution of the country. The right further ensures that rights of the people by stating that no one can be forced to stop, start or continue any form of religious practice. (Boyle & Sheen 1997, 53.)

Notably, Islam, Christianity and Paganism are the most common (practiced) religion in Nigeria. Although, there are many other types of religious practices but the latter seem to be occurring in scanty or minor levels when compared to the major religious practices. One of the minor religious practices is the traditional religious belief and this religion could be linked to the cultural belief of the community. (Boyle & Sheen 1997, 51-52.)

The ejected people are Christians and their rights to freely practice their faith in any part of the country was violated due to the forceful ejection. The act contradicts the inter-religious interaction which exists among different religious groups in Nigeria. This is because the interaction does ensure peace and harmonious co-existence in the country. (Boyle & Sheen 1997, 54.)

Biblically, Christianity is based on the freedom provided by the death of Jesus Christ. A freedom that preceded any kind given by men or authorities of any ranking ran by men. Knowing well that the knowledge of such heavenly freedom conforms to the human freedom of religious belief and practice, one could say that the people's freedom were taken away or restricted in a wrongful manner. (Bible Gateway.)

The governor of the state where the Igbo community were ejected is a Muslim. As much as it is difficult to make any accusation based on the religious difference between the Governor and the ejected people, a possibility of an accusation cannot also be ruled out because religion can also be an invisible

tool that can socially or communally segregate and exclude people. Also, there are certain state privileges and benefits associated with religion and this could form an emphasis of biasness. (Boyle & Sheen 1997, 51-52.)

1.6 The Nigerian Constitution

According to Chapter 2 of The Nigerian Constitution, provisions were made for the security and welfare of the citizenry residing anywhere in any of her states, and this welfare and social justice is the primary responsibility of the organs of government, authorities and persons vested with the power to do so.

"It shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and of all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers, to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this Chapter of this Constitution."

14.(1) The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice.

(2) It is hereby, accordingly, declared that:

(a) Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority;

(b) The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government:

Section 15 (2) goes further to provide as follows;

"Accordingly, national integration shall be actively encouraged, whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited."

This action as seen from this light is in total variance to the power given to the Honorable Governor of Lagos State. The people forcefully ejected from Lagos state have been marginalized on the basis of origin, ethnic, religious and tribal affiliations based on our findings from different authors.

This action has attracted lots of criticism from different groups in the society and it is seen as an action to be curbed so it will not form precedents for other leaders in the country to emulate. It is condemned as barbaric, discriminatory, unconstitutional, dehumanizing and a major infringement on the rights of the affected citizens. (Fawehinmi 1999, 2-10.)

1.7 Aim of Research

In this thesis, our focus and discourse is placed on the social and psychological effects of oppression as viewed and opinionated by columnists, activists and media chats or discussion forums. Also articles written in support and against the unlawful ejection will be analyzed.

We will view the data as mentioned above objectively. This is because this seems to be the only way to accurately carry out the analysis. In viewing these data, the facts in support and against the kind of treatment meted out to the ejected Igbo citizens will be analyzed objectively no matter how inhuman, inhumane, unconstitutional and largely dehumanizing the ejection exercise or action might have been conceived.

The question we attempt to answer in our research is:

Is there any justification for the forceful relocation of Nigerians within Nigeria?

In this case, justification could be bordered on morality, legality, sociality, religiosity or nationality. Whatever the scenario might be, we attempt to unravel the available credentials in order to comprehend if truly a citizen is dispensable in his or her own country of residency.

Importantly, we bear in mind that oppression is commonly defined, in part, as the inherent superiority of one group over another (Goodman 2011, 15). Does this government have any justifiable reason to carry out this act of oppression on people just because they are not from the same tribe, despite being from the same country? If that be justifiable, it is then evidentially possible to socially stratify people through the use of social policies against the will and rights of the possible. Theoretically and practically, we find it inadmissible and questionable and hence our aim to research about the incident.

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

We performed our research by utilizing the literature review methodology. It is basically a type of qualitative research which is centered on the re-assessment of existing literatures. Literature review research methodology is an approach which is carried out with the use of existing literatures. Additionally, these kinds of literatures could be in printed, electronic or internet forms depending on the method of sourcing the required information. (Päälyysaho Katja, 11.9.2014)

Knowing well that literature review based methodology entails designing a research project in form of a research question or aim; where existing literatures are utilized as the population. Also, the researchers are placed in academic periphery where there are arousing needs of research sampling, data collection, data analysis, criticism and a consideration of all ethical requirements of the research. (Machi & McEvoy 2009, 7.)

Our aims are to knowledgably and meticulously discuss and attempt to answer the research question with the use of literatures (Electronic books, online articles, academic journals and printed books. The literature review as explained above provides a holistic explanation of the research mechanism without prejudices or cynicisms. (Wakefield 2014, 49-57.)

2.1 Literature Review

As we have explained above in the research methodology section using the lecture materials and some books, our emphasis is on the reviews of literature that are helpful to our research in discourse. In more words, this section provides a detailed formats or channels through which our data have been sourced and the different umbrella bodies that were also connected to the procurement of information utilized in this research.

In order to give more detailed information about our methodological focus, we therefore define literature review as a vast, comprehensive, in-depth, holistic, systematic and critical review of scholarly published publications, unpublished scholarly print materials from media or persons of interests, audio visual materials and personal communications. (Bloomberg & Volpe 2008, 45.)

One of the advantages of the literature review concept of research is that it assists in determining what is known and not known, to uncover or discover gaps, consistencies or inconsistencies, and/or to reveal unanswered questions about a subject, concept or problem. (Bloomberg & Volpe 2008, 46-50.)

We are in a way advancing the dialogue after identifying the areas where there is controversy. This sort of controversy doesn't need to have a formulated beginning or an arranged format of occurrence. In this case, the controversy is the dislodgement of people from Lagos state to Anambra State and the resultants thereon

In our literature review, we took our time to analyze the claims within the sourced literature in order to develop our arguments, points, discussions and areas of interests. All sides of the questions were presented and represented. in our report That was why we were able to discuss the several ends of the controversy without being emotionally attached to the topic. (Machi & McEvoy 2009, 5.)

With the model of reviewing literature, our steps were structured towards presenting our audience or readers with a better and clearer comprehension of the whole body or details of the issue through the presentation of unbiased reviews based on available and untainted facts about the issue. (Roades 2011, 353.)

Importantly, our method of literature review is the systematic review of literature. We made this choice to stay true, unbiased and educationally objective in detailing this research. Knowing well that our topic is evidential, our discourse is properly laid on practice-based concepts and procedures. (Roades 2011, 355.)

2.2 Method of Data Collection

First and foremost, it is important to state that there has been no record of any previous research done on this subject in the context of Nigeria. By this subject or context, we mean that the issue of deporting Nigerians within Nigeria have never been viewed in the manner we are viewing it now. With this knowledge, our intents of using previous researches were eradicated and we had to resolve to the use of available online articles printed in newspapers or available on the internet to present divergent views of the subject matter.

Inclusively, we collated cogent and relevant online articles, public written commentaries of some renowned Nigerian and articles written by print media columnists. Furthermore, we were able to access some public statements and communiqués of some legal luminaries.

The utilization of these materials further availed us more situational information about the issue of ejection as it took place in Lagos state, Nigeria. From the articles, we were able to record and integrate the opinions of the media and people concerning the problems of the forceful deportation.

In other words, the information collected from the newspapers, media houses and other sources are utilized to further explain and make certain discussions in

this research of ours. These were the bases and foundations of our findings and discussions in the chapter three section of this report.

Theoretically, books with emphasis on society, societal or social welfare, Nigerian corporate entity and communal stratification were also utilized to further deepen our study, better our angles of critical reflection, broaden our analytical representation and provide us with better understanding of certain theories that are helpful in our research. (Pautasso 2013, 2.)

Religiously, we involved The Bible and The Conviviality document. These two religious books are relevant to our thesis because of their central focus on communal living and the sense or art of living together. They also help to explain the religious stand in the issue of the forceful ejection of the people as religion could also have been a possible reason for the action of the governor of Lagos State. The Conviviality document is an academic and religious instrument written by the Evangelical Lutheran Church to further highlight the church's stance on the oneness needed in all spheres of life.

The following sub-sections outlines the different areas we sourced our information from. They provide more detailed explanations of how valuable the inputs of the data sourcing avenues are to this report. Additionally, names of some of the sources of data were given and others are explained to depict the veracity and authenticity of the utilized information.

2.2.1 Formal Media Reports and National Media Outfits

Here, we have outlined the sources of our data and in what ways we have utilized them to proffer solutions to our research question. These are formal reports that were made public through media houses or outfits in printed formats (newspapers). They also contain certified public statements issued by public dignitaries and published in the web pages of online media to ensure true representation and references without distortions or misplacements.

Other kinds of media reports included in our data sources include public commentaries, opinionated critiques and officially documented statements of some renowned writers, government officials and human rights activists.

These media reports contribute to the evidential representation of the issue; whole realities from both the private and public sectors. We also documented some public responses about the issue that are anonymously given in commentaries.

Detailed below are the different media outfits via which online publications and articles were culled from. These media outfits are reputable and have been known to publish or communicate true, genuine and unbiased news and information nationally as they have licenses to practice journalism in Nigeria. The media outfits include Channels Television, Sahara Reporters, Punch Nigeria, Vanguard Online and Thisday Online Newspapers.

The information procured from the above enumerated media outfits were accessed through their official web pages with verifiable references and authenticity. In as much as they are not government owned or bearing any political interests, their information and sources have gained national and international recognition over time because of the reliability and credibility of their sources and sourcing channels. More so, they are licensed journalism practitioners. In the practice of journalism, oaths are sworn by the practitioners to always possess truth and integrity in their reportage. All these forms the basis of our reliance on their materials. (Pautasso 2013, 1).

2.2.2 Nigerian Bar Association

According to Aristotle, “Man is only a man within the context of the society. Man outside the society is either a beast or god”. From this assertion, it is evidently clear that man by his origin lives in groups. The co-existence of men in a group otherwise known as society neither is not without hitches due to competition. It

is this eventuality that curiously led man to think in the direction of check-mating the beast or excesses in man which led to leadership. (Ejiro Joseph E., personal communication 14.11.2012.).

In order to prevent the above stated abuse, it is necessary from the nature of things that one power should be a check on another. Flowing from this, the judiciary has the duty of ensuring that every citizen of a country obeys the constitution (laws). The judiciary is a very important organ of the government. It is unquestionably of utmost concern to the individual citizen. (Ejiro Joseph E., personal communication 14.11.2012.). The judicial arm of government is seen as the hope of the common man, as it is seen that no one is above the Laws of the land.

On this imperative, Section 6 of the Nigerian Constitution vested judicial powers on the courts. Again the whole of Chapter 7 prescribes the functions and duties of the courts in Nigeria excluding lower courts. (Constitution of Nigeria.)

The central function of the judiciary is to interpret the laws passed by the Legislature. In the exercise of these powers, the judiciary gives proper and purposeful interpretation to our statutes. Another function of the judiciary is that it resolves conflicts regarding the respective powers of the different arms of government. (National Judicial Council.) The body that serves as an umbrella to the qualified persons is known as The Nigerian Bar Association. (Ejiro Joseph E., personal communication 14.11.2012.)

It is a non-profit, umbrella professional association of all lawyers admitted to the Bar in Nigeria. It is engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights, the rule of law and good governance in Nigeria. (Nigeria Bar Association.)

This body that helps the common man when the government has made a policy that is discriminatory raised their voice, both in unison and as individuals on the issue of unlawful eviction. We got the articles of notable members of the NBA, quotations that are pertinent to the research and extracts from books authored

by them. Presently, human rights activists have taken the Government of Lagos state to court and the case is a subject of litigation, but the contents of the proceedings are not yet public documents as judgment has not been given on the matter.

2.2.3 Government Reports

There have been lots of formal reports issued by the governments with regards to this issue. The reports include those of Lagos state, Anambra state and the Federal government. As mentioned in the introductory part of this research, it is the Lagos state government that forcibly ejected the people back to Anambra state, which is their state of origin.

From the media communiqués issued by the Lagos state government, we were able to ascertain that the government of Lagos state accepted that the State actually ejected the said people but claimed to have done so with the knowledge of the government of Anambra state. According to the reports, the Lagos state government embarked on this with intents to eradicate beggars and miscreants who do not portray the State in good light or status as the State works hard to attain a Mega City status by its beautification projects.

Additional reports suggested that the Governor of Lagos state government issued an apology for the misunderstanding surrounding the deportation of some of the people of Anambra state from Lagos state. He made the unreserved apology during an official event in Lagos where he utilized the medium to reiterate the importance of the Igbos to Lagos and how badly the incident have degenerated. He also said that his intentions for Lagos state are noble and never intended to undermine anyone's right by the deportation. (Igbonwelundu Precious Personal Communication 26.09.2013.)

The government of Anambra state didn't just rebuff the allegations of having the information before the people were dumped in its territory; it also accused the

government of Lagos of espionage, deception and misinformation as reports claimed. Reports further suggested that the government of Anambra had reported the deportation issue to the Federal government and warned that the actions of the government of Lagos state could lead to anarchy and doom. (Akinsanmi Gboyega, Public Commentary 01.08.2013.)

Although, there were reports that suggested that the ejected or deported Igbos have instituted a court case against the Lagos state government at the Federal High Court in Lagos to challenge their deportation. Be it as it may, the deportees feel their rights have been trampled upon by this incident. They also feel that the insults and social degradation meted upon them not just by the deportation but by the rationales of their ejection is demeaning. (Iriekpen Davidson, public commentary 21.06.2014.)

As much as the reports continue to grow, the aftermaths of the incidence still linger. The Federal government which serve as the unifying governmental body in the country has been mute but reports says it has silently continued to mend the fence between the two warring states. The entire society of Nigeria continue to hope that the differences are quickly resolved and the total avoidance of re-occurrence. (Onumah Chido, public commentary 08.08.2013.)

Furthermore, we cannot eliminate several other informal reports and communications issued by the private groups and associations. These sets of reports have been as a result of the concerns people possess for the ejected Igbos. Some considered the Lagos State government's action to be unwarranted and communally degrading because of the latter's divisive tendencies. (Sahara Reporters.)

Be that as it may, the several human rights associations and professional bodies have berated the government and have urged the ejected people to judicially or legally seek redress and financial compensation for the kinds of treatment and dehumanizing positions they have been placed or made to endure. (Sahara Reporters.)

Some political activists have described the action of the government as depicting Nazism and linguistically horrible. They hinted that the government disdained the laws it created thereby, utilizing veto power to choose and categorize people into useful or useless categories. They suggested that the government played "GOD" and casted out the same people they have sworn to protect. (Sahara Reporters.)

2.3 Data Analysis

From the sourced data, using the literature review methodology, we were able to schematize the sourced data into academic themes. These themes are in question or sentence formats. These themes helped us to categorize our discussions and results, making it elaborate, incisive and deeply rooted for us to comprehensively proffer recommendations and possible solutions. They also gave us scopes or areas to concentrate our discussions on without mincing or losing the focal points of our analyzed data.

It is generally encouraged that researchers should articulate their findings in such a way that makes it clear to every critical reader. This also helps to explain the thoroughness of the research and how the finding was done. The relation between the actual data and the conclusion reached is explicit and the claim made is rendered believable and credible. (McPherson & Thorne 2006, 4.)

As qualitative researchers, we concerned ourselves more about uncovering knowledge about how the affected people think and feel about the circumstances in which they find themselves, or the aftermaths of the event. In a more reduced manner, we limited our focus about making judgments about whether those thoughts and feelings are valid to our research or not. With the help of our theoretical frameworks, we stayed aboard with the ability to discern the difference and opened up the discussions to view all sides.

In furtherance, we also viewed the different articles and comments that have arose since the eviction of the Igbos, and objectively we have tried in analyzing the thoughts of the writers and columnists in the pursuits of shedding more light on the research question and settling the controversy surrounding the moral justification of the issue (Fienberg, Martin & Straf 1985, 5.)

Lastly, the analyzed data is further placed under rigorous construction and discussion with the utilization of theoretical books, academic journals, The Bible and the Evangelical Lutheran Church's " Seeking Conviviality" document .This methodical approach is to ensure that findings are founded on theories and literature that have been reviewed systematically. More details about our findings and results are well detailed in Chapter three of this report.

2.4 Ethical Considerations

A study cannot be a good study unless proper ethical standards have been maintained. The obvious observation and exploration of values cultural, religious, social, environmental or emotional values, enhances the theoretical frameworks of social work or service. Also, ethics is another cogent feature and their primes have never been undermined in the social service. (Lo Piccolo & Thomas 2009, 180.) In this research, we ensured that the necessary proper ethical considerations were observed to be able to justify the result.

Researchers should ensure that their utmost best is done to avoid any form of damage to the participants involved in the research and to provide correct and measurable intervention in cases of harm or hazardous occurrences. The provision of acknowledgment to the contribution of the participants is a unique way of benefitting the latter from the research as well. (Lo Piccolo & Thomas 2009, 181-182.). The various sources of the articles and media chats were duly stated and acknowledged; also the quotations from different machineries were duly stated.

In our thesis, we ensured that a considerable ethical issues were observed, this is due to the fact that the importance of proper ethical considerations in research cannot be over emphasized. The meticulous consideration of values and ethics is central to the social work profession since its inception. These sets of ethical standards should be viewed as fundamental quality points or indicators to judge the merits and demerits of any social science research or theoretical discourse. (Hansson 2001, 16-17.)

In terms of the materials sourced from media outfits either printed, published or in forms of personal or public communications, permissions weren't required but ethically, we were obliged to refer to them as the sources of our data. Additionally, the culls and mentions of the data sources serve as acknowledgements as written or oral permissions were required. (Lo Piccolo & Thomas 2009, 185.)

We made sure that we were properly guided every step of the way in terms of biasness, condemnation and being judgmental in our findings as the research was progressing. We avoided the mentioning of names of the evicted people

Social work values direct us to go beyond fairness in our relationship with research participants and to use the research as an opportunity to contribute to personal and social empowerment of vulnerable and disfranchised groups. It will be impossible to achieve empowerment as a dimension of research if participants are treated as subjects. (Reamer 2006, 18-19.).

The participants or contributors to our sources of data were equally carried along in the research, and were given the treatments required for every human being. In no part of the thesis were they undermined or their images tarnished or made mere informants or as victims of circumstance.

3 RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCOVERIES

The aim of this research is to know if beautification or any other sort of reason of Lagos state justifies the unlawful eviction of the Igbo residents from the state. The harmony enjoyed in the state was disrupted by the incumbent governor of the state, Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola in 2013 by deporting some indigenes of Anambra state back to their supposed state of origin.

This was viewed by different authors is totally against the peaceful atmosphere enjoyed by the dwellers in the state. It contravenes their constitutional human right to dwell in a place of their choice within Nigeria, the peacefulness enjoyed in the state, the coexistence of diverse religion practices and ethnic discrimination.

As explained in the data analysis section of this thesis, the following themes or sub-sections details our findings and discussions about the research topic. The explanations and discussions are practically based on the sourced data, bible, conviviality and academic books utilized in attempts to answer the research question as mentioned in the aim of the research section.

3.1 Ethnic Discrimination as against the Long Lasting Coexistence

Yoruba ethnic group is the dominant group in the state while other ethnic groups live in the state in search of better standards of living. Depriving these citizens the basic right to the social life they have built over the years is inhuman. The idea of the wrongful eviction stems from the fact that they are not indigenes of Lagos state by parental affiliations.

Virtually all human societies can be-and, in fact, have been- divided into one greater group and at least one smaller group. Ethnicity seems to be one of the main factors either to unify or divide people when they interact with one another. These sorts of ethnic discrimination or stratification continue to pose danger to

possibilities of ethnic unifications or communal coexistences (Lamberg 2007, 1-2).

If they were indigenes of the state, the Governor would have attended to their welfare by giving them the basic treatment they required as the constitution provides, since he claimed they were miscreants, mentally derailed and disabled. Additionally, better treatment or rehabilitative care would have been provided for the people without the demeaning classification which have left the people with psychological problems.

Section 17-(1) "The State social order is founded on ideals of Freedom, Equality and Justice."

(3)(d) goes further to say that "there are adequate medical and health facilities for all persons". (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.)

Psychological, cultural and even social differences in human populations cause differences of perception. It must be stressed that ethnic diversity is partly imaginary because the 'real, objective' differences which are perceivable to us by means of human senses - basing on, for instance, different language or different skin color - can cause mental structures which diminish and even prevent interaction between individuals who belong to different groups. Thus ethnic imagery can create social inequality within societies and communities. (Lamberg 2007, 19-20.)

It ought to be made clear to the managers of the neo-colonial state that there is no country which promotes social inequality that has successfully outlawed the poor from existence. This explains why beggars are found in large numbers on the streets of major cities - the situation is bound to be worse in a country like Nigeria where the poverty rate has reached an alarming rate due to the failure of the state to provide for the welfare and security of the people. It is likewise important to state that the provision of welfare and security is the primary

purpose of the government. (Falana Femi, personal communication 01.09.2013.)

The government of Lagos state simply refused to understand that the government's acclaimed Igbo beggars are Nigerians who lack life's basic and social amenities for their existence. Ordinarily, these amenities should have been provided for by the government. One should have expected the government to improve on its provisioning to the people without lethargy instead of its approach to gain international fame at the expense of its citizenry.

This act of ejection is undeniably an infringement of the evictees' human rights to move freely and reside in any part of the country they desire. To that extent, no state government has the power to deport or enter into agreements to repatriate any group of citizens to their states of origin regardless of its plans, policies or governmental politicking (Falana Femi, personal communication 01.09.2013.)

The principle that in the public realm we all share an equal status as citizens is a long standing democratic belief. The idea is that regardless of our relations in other non-public spheres - we should relate to each other as equals when we are interacting politically as citizens. In this public sphere, we should abstract from all those differences of class, gender, ethnicity, and so on that differentiate us from each other, and meet on the basis of our common identities as citizens. (Baker, Lynch, Cantillon & Walsh 2009, 26.)

3.2 Is Beautification a Justification for Deporting Nigerian Citizens?

It is common knowledge that the beautification project of the Babatunde Fashola administration has led to the deportation of hundreds of the jetsam and the flotsam from Lagos State to their states of origin. It is sad to note that most Nigerians never took cognizance of the war being waged by State Government against the poor and disadvantaged citizens in the urban renewal policy until

the much-publicized case of the ejected people (acclaimed beggars) of Anambra State origin who were deported from Lagos and dumped in Onitsha. (Falana 2014, 1.)

Although street trading and begging have been banned in some states, it is submitted without any fear of contradiction, that there is no existing law in Nigeria which has empowered the Federal and State Governments to deport any group of Nigerian citizens to their states of origin. Aside the fact that no lawfulness is attached to deportation of citizens within the country, there is also no law that allows any kind of government to engage in citizens' deportations based on any social policy or campaign no matter the latter's international recognition or commercial status.

Oneness of the country, the unity on which a country is based is being shaken if the policy makers consider the practice of injustice as the norm in the bid to beautify the state. Many indigenes have been sent packing to their home states under the guise of "Operation Keep Lagos Clean". Ideologically, one would expect such operation to be performed by all citizens of the state instead of utilizing it as a basis to promote disunity.

Mr. Adinuba, while defending the action of Lagos state governor on Channels Television in August 3,2013, said that the Fashola administration's aim to turn Lagos into a mega city is paving way for "a new social order" which means taking a lot of people away from the streets. These activities of taking unwanted people off the streets create a form of beautification. (Channels Television.)

The above argument or justification is not considered an excellent one in relation to this research. The evictees were considered to be nuisance to the state. It should however be noted that Nigerians who have psychiatric problems have not lost their basic citizenship rights based on their mental states.

If Nigeria translates as a nation, then its citizens, including indigenes even homeless-ones ought to be free to reside wherever they choose within the 36

states and the Federal Capital Territory. No matter the social status an indigene of Nigeria possesses, he or she has rights to reside in any part of the country. And these rights do not come second to any socially conceived governmental policy. (Ndibe 2013, 1-2.)

3.3 The Eviction as a Total Infringement of their Constitutional Rights

Many references have been made to the act of eviction of Igbo indigenes from Lagos State as a constitutional violation of the evictees' rights. We will examine the basic provisions of The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999- as amended as regarding the situation under discussion.

Section 15(1)-(4) provides as follows;

(1) The motto of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be Unity and Faith, Peace and Progress.

(2) Accordingly, national integration shall be actively encouraged, whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited.

(3) For the purpose of promoting national integration, it shall be the duty of the State to:

(a) Provide adequate facilities for and encourage free mobility of people, goods and services throughout the Federation.

(b) Secure full residence rights for every citizen in all parts of the Federation.

(c) Encourage inter-marriage among persons from different places of origin, or of different religious, ethnic or linguistic association or ties; and

(d) Promote or encourage the formation of associations that cut across ethnic, linguistic, religious and or other sectional barriers.

(4) The State shall foster a feeling of belonging and of involvement among the various people of the Federation, to the end that loyalty to the nation shall override sectional loyalties

The idea of equality is sometimes applied to individuals and sometimes to groups. When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" (Article 1), it is referring to each and every individual person. But for good reasons, equality is often discussed in terms of groups, such as women or ethnic minorities (Baker, Lynch, Cantillon & Walsh 2009, 21).

All human beings have equal worth and importance, and are therefore equally worthy of concern and respect. Most people take it for granted that inhuman treatment and destitution are wrong; these ideas seem to be built into the very idea of morality. They are in any case the common assumptions of nearly all modern political outlooks. (Baker, Lynch, Cantillon & Walsh 2009, 23.)

The idea of equality is to provide a fair basis for managing these inequalities especially inequalities that arises as a results of questioned citizens' rights to residency and freedom of movement, by strengthening the minimum to which everyone is entitled and by using equality of opportunity to regulate the competition for advantage (Baker, Lynch, Cantillon & Walsh 2009, 26).

It could be deduced from the provision of the above statutes that both at the national and the international level, human rights and equality are recognized and upheld, on the other hand frowns at every form of treatment that could lead to victimization or marginalization of any kind. The act of the Lagos state government is in total variance of the above provisions as it meted out inhuman treatment to the evictees.

It is submitted, without fear of contradiction, that there is no existing law in Nigeria which has empowered the Federal and State Governments to deport any group of Nigerian citizens to their states of origin. Accordingly, the forceful removal of beggars from their chosen abode and repatriation to their states of origin is illegal and unconstitutional as they violate the fundamental rights of such citizens enshrined in The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended.

In particular, sections 34, 35, 41 and 43 of The Constitution denotes that deportation is an affront to the human rights of the beggars to dignity of their persons, personal liberty, freedom of movement, and right of residence in any part of Nigeria. Furthermore, the deportation of beggars and the other poor people by the Federal and State Governments is a repudiation of Section 15 of the Constitution which has imposed a duty on the State to promote national integration. Since the political objective of the State imposes a duty on the governments to "secure full residence rights for every citizen in all parts of the Federation".

It is illegal to remove poor people from the streets of state capitals without providing them with alternative accommodation. By targeting beggars and the destitute and deporting them to their states of origin, the State Government involved are violating Section 42 of the Constitution which has outlawed discrimination on the basis of birth or state of origin. (Falana 2013, 2.)

3.4 Diakonia and Religious Perspective

"A group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a state, in a non-dominant position, whose members being nationals of the state-possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics differing from those of the rest of the population and show, a sense of solidarity, directed towards preserving their culture, traditions, religion or language".

Therefore, the main difference between an ethnic group and a minority is their numerical inferiority and non-dominant position in a society. A clear viewpoint illustrate clearly why size or number of people is utilized to lethargically and speciously stratify, identify and marginalize people within a given society. (Lamberg 2007, 20).

This is a clear picture of what was obtained in Lagos state. The evicted citizens belong to the minority tribe of the residence of the State. Viewing this from the religious perspective as a Diaconia student, it is unjustifiable as we are all creation of a sovereign God who accommodates all, our tribes, tongues, religious differences and even vices notwithstanding (Bible Gateway).

We can find the need to clarify the reasons for ethnic differences already in the Old Testament, where the existence of different nations is genealogically led back to sons of Noah and where linguistic differences are explained by the means of the story "Tower of Babel" Both stories which follow each other in the bible ,reflects the idea of mankind as originally unified but later divided and scattered (Bible Gateway).

This should make people have a somber reflection on the reason why we cannot overlook ethnicity or disability and dwell in a peaceful community. The peaceful mutual coexistence of different tribes in a state cannot be overemphasized. It brings about peace to the nation as a whole. Additionally, it facilitates diversities and promotes cultural variation (Kearsley 2009, 115).

Another bone of contention is the relativity between the high populated religious group and those of the low population. A case of hegemony tend to suffice when suppression arises as a result of power usage to influence and upwardly exert an agenda on a particular group in the guise of universalism of purpose. It will be subtle to make bold confrontations on the basis of Islam or Christianity or to infer any particular tension in this case of discourse.

According to the Seeking Conviviality resource document, one religious group is never seen as superior to any other because we all should be living harmoniously as one; being united and promoting justice, oneness and unity. These are the fulcrum of community diakonia. This is the premise on which all should be referenced. For instance, if justice and unity are propagated, the people could have been peacefully relocated to another part of the same state after due consultations and discussions. (Lutheran World Website).

Therefore, we could not singularly subtract the neutrality of the roles played by the Governor in all of this. His strong affiliation to Islam could have created or prompted an inquiry because no Muslim or Islamic member was part of those deported in this odoriferous case.

How can one justify the ethnocentrism or better polished as local imperialism which took place in Lagos State as a result of plans founded on societal expansionism? We have subjectively realized that ensuring that a particular religion continues to harbor political power at the expense of other religious or non-religious practitioners. Be it technological, economic or whatever, the dejected people shouldn't have been railroaded in an attempt to solve trans-historic or cross-cultural problems based on their religious linkage or religiosity. (Ven, Dreyer & Pieterse 2005, 145 & 552.)

The idea of toleration is another deeply entrenched part of the liberal tradition, arising from the religious conflicts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The citizens of modern, pluralist societies disagree in many ways about what matters in life and how we should live, and these disagreements are embodied in their different religious commitments. (Kearsley 2009, 169).

We have different conceptions of good as it is sometimes put. Each of us may deeply disapprove of the values of others. But rather than act to suppress these values and impose our own, we should tolerate them and 'live and let live'. It supports the idea that the basic christian and diakonia faith based arrangements of our societies. Seeking Conviviality directly calls for the

radically re-transformation or remodeling of today's perception of diakonia. It is a document that promotes the gift of voice to the people forced to live in the margins of the society. (Lutheran World Website.)

If this idea of tolerance is daily practiced by individuals and our representatives in Nigerian governments, improvements in living conditions of disadvantaged persons, greater equality of human worth and less social problems will be the immediate results. These are the ideas being championed by the today's diakonia. These are the true expectations of anyone who understands the real meaning of living a life of vocation, justice and dignity. (Lutheran World Website.)

Psychological, cultural and even social differences in human populations cause differences of perception. It must be stressed that ethnic diversity is partly imaginary because the `real, objective` differences which are perceivable to us by means of human senses - basing on, for instance, different language or different skin color - can cause mental structures which diminish and even prevent interaction between individuals who belong to different groups. Thus ethnic imagery can create social inequality within societies and communities. (Lamberg 2007, 19-20.)

3.5 Citizens and their Rights to Residency

One question that comes to our minds as we write about the citizens and their rights to residency in a country of their birth is "who is a citizen?" This question borders on the periphery or circumstantial conditions that enables or guarantees a person to live in any part within a country without restriction or fear of deportation.

A citizen is a legally recognized person or national of a community, State, country or commonwealth. Such person could either be a native or naturalized member of the community. Another definition of a citizen suggests that a person

who is at home at any country or community could be referred to as citizen of that territory. (Oxford Dictionary.)

From the above definitions, we were able to deduce that two terminologies were of our utmost concerns. Firstly, the legal status or recognition of the citizen in the state, community or country in view and lastly, the feeling or knowledge of being at home in the same territory or place is also topical.

These features accompany anyone who is characterized as a citizen of any community, state or country. And for any citizen to feel at home, he or she possesses the right to inhabit any part of the country whose citizenship he or she possesses. The ejected people are citizens of Nigeria and by virtue of the above definitions and explanation of who a citizen is, they possess the rights to live freely in any part of Nigeria without fear of victimization, ejection, residential refusal or societal stratification. (Falana Femi, public communication 01.09.2013.)

This development speaks to the weakness of the system of identification that continues to emphasize the necessities of "state of origin". A feature or societal identity utilized to stratify or zone people based on the racial or regional origin of their biological parents. This practice is old and should have been modified to ensure centrality or unification of citizens, characterized by the elimination of regional residential rights connoted by the "state of origin". (Erwin Ofili, public communication 30.07.2013.)

The Constitution and the contradictions therein do a very bad job of always attempting to foster or integrate a national spirit among Nigerians by the utilization of "state of origin" to either select or elect government officers, it is purely up to the people to demand and cause a change from this norm by ensuring the removal of this existential "state of origin" identical syndrome from our constitution and national practice. This change could be achieved when people are chosen or elected based on merits and not on divisive properties or socially stratifying diversities. (Ndibe Okey, public communication 05.08.2013.)

Till today, there are some people who identify as indigenous “Lagosians” who complain or regularly say that others have taken over the state. They say that people from other South-West states and even neighboring countries use their identical culture to confuse the original people of Lagos and get all the government positions along with the benefits of political power. Even when we all are citizens of the same country, some people still feel they possess better rights to residency based on their regions. This is a very extricate spirit of Nazism, an occurrence that we as Nigerians continue to pay lip-service to at the demise of our country or resources. (Erwin Ofili, public communication 30.07.2013.)

3.6 Social Policy

Nigeria is a multi-dimensional, cultural and religious country as wholly mentioned and discussed in the background of this research. The social policy the government of Lagos State embarked on in a State as highly populated as Lagos came down on wrong footing. By wrong footing, we meant that the policy was wrongly perceived because it was anti-people and didn't advance the unity of the people of the state in any way (The Conviviality Document).

The government started the propaganda of making Lagos State one of the mega cities in the world and to achieve this goal, they planned to scrutinize the society by ejecting miscreants and beggars from the streets and public places of the State. While the policy was being executed, they failed to recognize that those that they have classified as miscreants are also lawful citizens of the country. Citizens, who were homeless and un-catered for by the elitist kind of governance being run in the country. (Thisday Website).

Anyway, in this discourse, we realized that the ejected people were not destitute or social miscreants as labeled by the government and its officials. They are people, families, fathers, mothers, boys, girls and children as discovered during our interviews with them. Several media reports recorded same information

regarding the wrongful and inhumane classification of the ejected people as destitute. Some of these reports have been detailed in the government reports section of this research.

Nevertheless, a policy that forcibly removes "undesirable" citizens from their states of residency to their state of origin does grave violence to the concept of national unity, to say nothing of the grave violation of the affected citizens' fundamental human rights. These rights are the reasons we are human and not animals and a violation of these rights clearly shows how dehumanizing or animalistic humans have become (Falana 2001, 4).

4. FURTHER DISCUSSION AND THESIS DIAGRAMMATIC FRAMEWORK

After detailing the results of our findings in the previous chapter, we realized that a lot more of our personal opinions were not recorded or reported. In this section, we have tried to input more of our personal and collective opinions of the research. These opinions of our aren't based on the findings of the research. They represent some of the effects the ejected people were facing during our research processes.

Inclusively, we felt it is important to illustrate our research in a diagrammatical framework to pictorially show our audience the topical points of our research. This figurative image expresses the cardinal points and areas of our thesis without much ado about the discussions or contents of the thesis. It is created merely to serve as a guide to explaining the different flashpoints of our research.

4.1 Effects

It is not our purpose to enter into a political debate in this research; however we cannot but point out the end result of an unjust policy made by the governor of Lagos state to the detriment of some Igbo indigenes. Equal opportunity for all, personal responsibility and the mobilization and empowerment of citizens and local communities is the hallmark of any democratic government. The unlawful eviction of the some Igbos from Lagos state was carried out without regard or respect for human welfare and rights.

The proponents of this policy that does grave violence to the well planned lives of innocent citizens cannot be said to be one that is masses friendly. During the interview, it was observed from the responses and attitudes of the evictees that this singular act has left them shaken in some aspects of their lives. The eviction was a major trajectory that has left them bitter due to the treatment that was meted to them.

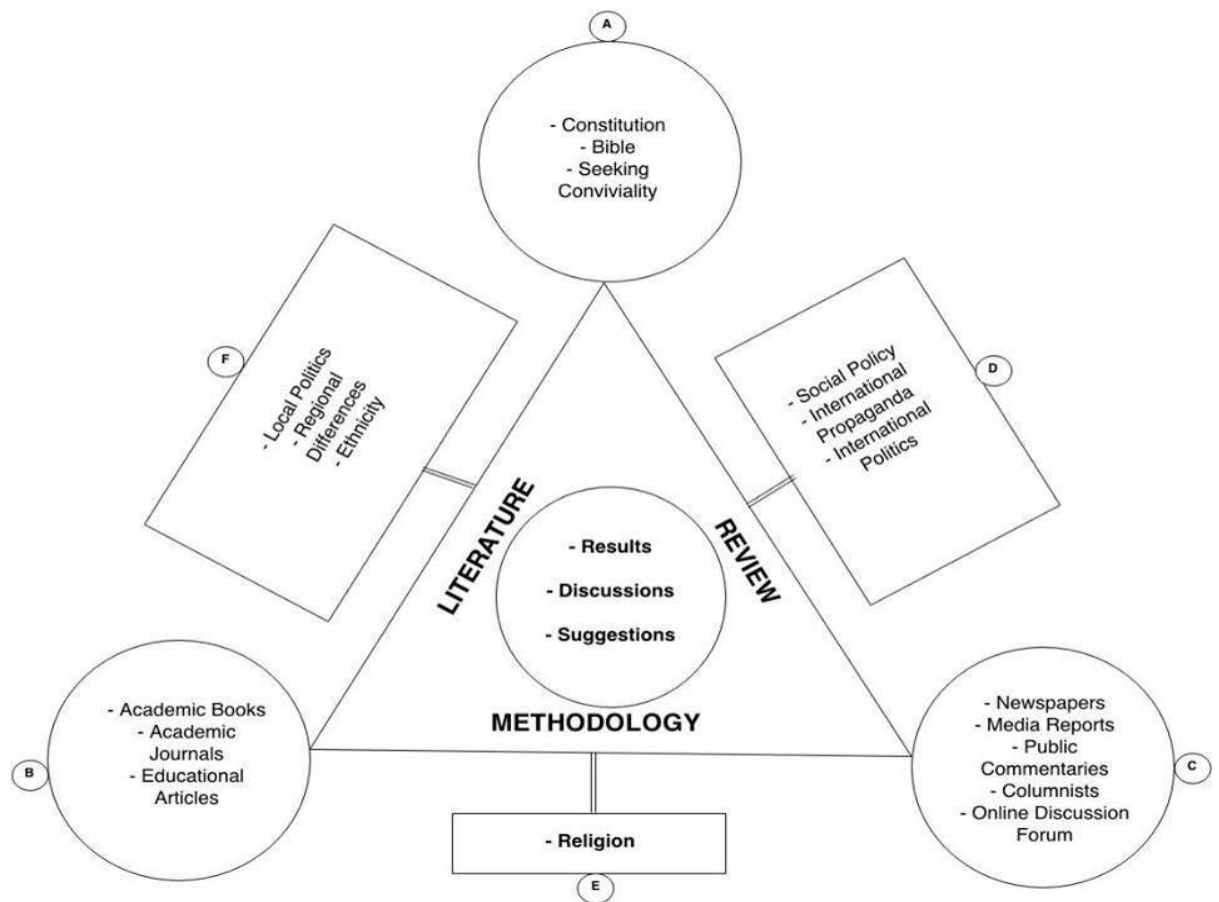
The Federal and State governments should also be made to realize at all times that beggars are Nigerians who lack money, food and other basic facilities to live decent lives. The authorities should stop stigmatizing and harassing them and other citizens who have been pushed to a state of penury by the gross mismanagement of the economy by a selfish and short sighted ruling class. Therefore part of the billions of naira being earmarked to build mega cities should be set aside for the rehabilitation of beggars and the destitute.

There is no doubt that Lagos state is put under severe pressure, from time to time, by millions of Nigerians who have been economically displaced in their own states of origin. But unlike its counterparts, the Lagos state government has devised effective strategies to compel the rich to pay taxes through their noses. In addition, the monthly statutory allocation of the state from the federal account is partly based on its population.

In the circumstances, the Lagos state government should take from the rich to service the poor. As in the case of most of the "area boys" who have been productively engaged by Fashola Administration, the Lagos state government should formulate programs for the rehabilitation and resettlement of beggars and other destitute to make them contribute to the economy of the state. (Falana 2013, 2.)

According to the above statement made by one of the authors of the communiqué used in this research, it is obvious that the destitute are part of the population of Lagos state that made it entitled to the allocation from the Federal government. In the face of this, they should be taken off the road, then use part of the allocation to rehabilitate and resettle them in Lagos as they desired, not to bundle them as ones with no life and dump them in their home states without any plan or compensation for resettlement.

4.2 Thesis Diagrammatic Framework



The diagram above depicts the diagrammatical framework utilized in this thesis. It consists of indicators, roles and methods utilized in performing this scholarly assignment. The following are the flashpoints or indicators in our research as contained in the diagram.

Firstly, we will categorize the indicators into two: indicator inside the triangle and those outside the triangle.

Outside the triangle, we have six shaped boxes tagged A - F. These are the external factors that played roles in the course of our research. They are also the ingredients utilized and transformed into what we have as a finished product.

Secondly, the indicators inside the triangle refer to the internal indicators. They are the finished products and the instrument used to achieve the finished products.

4.2.1 The Boxes

The different boxes have different contents; and their contents played dissimilar roles in our report. The spherical boxes circles A, B and C are main or major indicators of our research while rectangular boxes D, E and F are minor. The differences in the boxes are further explained below.

In circle A, there are indicators such as the Nigerian Constitution, the Holy Bible and the Seeking Conviviality document. These indicators are factors utilized to explain clearly the religious and national laws of God, nature and Nigeria. They aided our analytic processes and created a backbone of references in our thesis discussions.

In circle B, we have academic books, online or academic journals and scholarly published articles. These were carefully chosen based on our areas of interests to better our reflective and knowledge while we discuss and analyze the sourced data. It is also through the use of these instruments that we formed the Schematizing themes and frameworks utilized to analyze our findings.

More so, in circle C, we have the sources of our data. The sources of our data include newspapers, media reports, public commentaries, columnists and online discussion or forum. These are the materials that were reviewed and analyzed into our products.

Boxes D, E and F are said to be minor because of the sublime roles they played in our thesis report. We analyzed or mentioned them limitedly because they represent possible causes or reasons why the people were forcefully ejected. They are not part of our primary research objectives but we mentioned them

just to state certain possibilities that could have indirectly been factored into the causes of the forceful relocation of the Nigerians.

In box D, we have social policy, international politics and international propaganda. In box E, we have religion and in box F, we have local politics, regional differences and ethnicity.

Inside the triangle, we placed the method utilized in achieving the products. The utilized method is the literature review methodology. We used the systematic kind of literature review, where we created themes to try to answer our research question.

The circle beneath the literature review methodology contains the results and possible suggestions and discussions procured after the data analysis.

5 RESEARCH WEAKNESSES AND LIMITATIONS

In the course of our research, we have experienced some forms of bottlenecks or constraints. These constraints have arisen in different stages of the thesis process, although, some were anticipated or expected while others were not. Like every other research process, getting beyond the constraints defines the resilience of the research and its purposeful intents to discover and proffer solutions depending on our researching techniques.

Additionally, the limitations of these research also includes certain dimensions of these research that we couldn't research on or discover more about because of the nature or revelations that posed irrelevant to the purview of our academic pursuits. Notwithstanding the complexities of our research, we were able to get past the bottlenecks to a realistic conclusion. Though a few, we enumerated some of the limitations below.

5.1 Inadequate Interview Time

During the research, we carried out couple of interviews with the ejected people to discover their detailed parts of the story. Because the issue occurred in Nigeria, we were unable to do much interviewing of the unlawful evictees during our holiday period. The timing was not adequate enough to ensure enough details to support our researching areas of concentration.

Also, we could not perform any interview with either government of Lagos State, Anambra State or the Federal Government to hear their sides of the issue. The procedure of booking appointments with the government officials was rather lengthy, completely discouraging and time consuming. It would have been a lot better if we had time to interview the government officials because they were at the helms of performing the actions of either ejecting or receiving the ejected people.

Another class of people that were left out in the process of interviewing was the accounts of the eyewitnesses. This aspect would have provided us with neutrality and impartiality in the process of ejection. Certainly, details of the ordeals of forcibly moving the people would have been better reported by the eyewitnesses especially with regards to the circumstances in which the people were forced into the vehicle.

5.2 Inability to Observe and Procure Firsthand Information

One of the humongous parts of the research that limited our scope of focus was the practical limitation of observing or witnessing the ejection or process by which the unlawful eviction of the ejected Nigerians were performed by the government of Lagos State. Notably, firsthand observation has proven to be one of the best ways of sourcing data, aside your actual presence, you also get to witness practicalities that are hardly recorded by reports.

Furthermore, the academic importance of observation cannot be overemphasized because it is a core part of any researching works. This is because, it creates a better foundation or framework for other parts of the researching processes. Observation serves a huge contributor in the provision of large evidence needed to propose inferences or conclusions in a research with regards to a qualitative research technique. (Dijksterhuis, Van knippenberg & Holland 2014,1&2)

With the opportunity of observing the occurrence of the issue, we would have been able to know or observe the exact response of the unlawful evictees and how they were treated during the ejection. Also, the reactions of the people in the environment during the ejection would have contributed to our basic knowledge of the issue and their responses or aftermath reactions or contributions as the actions of the government were completely discriminatory and socially excluding.

5.3 Financial Weakness and Constraints

Finance was a key restraint in our process of conducting this research. This problem surfaced in different stages of our researching process because of the nature and environment of our research. In other words, we bore cognizance that finance is a major setback in practically all walks of life, being an essential commodity; it is always scarce and limited in supply.

Although, we school in Finland but our research topic and environment are based in Nigeria, as it is the environment where the issue or researching topic is focused on. Our challenges arose as we were limited in traveling to Nigeria as required to gather up more updates and information from the government and also from the unlawful evictees about their situations and developments. More so, the mode of communication needed to be official to avoid personified responses.

During our data sourcing stage of our research, we kept several interviews with the deportees via telephone calls. Collection of informative details over telephone could be frustrating and hazardous. Most times, we had difficulties hearing coherently and correctly due to network hitches generated during the phone conversations. These telephone calls were expensive to manage especially when the conversations are lengthy as the costs of making international calls is exorbitant.

Although, we were able to hold one physical interview with the deportees during which we got a sketchy idea of the situations and how traumatized the deportees in their newly created abode. We could not have another meeting with them to further get more information due to the unavailability of finance. Knowing well that we had to travel to Nigeria to conduct more interviews, as students, we could not finance the cost of traveling.

As students, our working hours and incomes are limited and this limitation was worsened as a result of the high living conditions in Finland. Our research is not financially supported by the school or either government of Finland or Nigeria. We had to grapple with the limited finances within our disposal or confines to be able to arrange meetings, interviews or formal communications with the several parties involved in the research.

5.4 Recent Progressions and Happenings

One of the shortcomings we also encountered in the course of our study especially with discovering more information about the ejection case was the institution or involvement of judicial proceedings. As mentioned in the reports, the deportees instituted a legal case against the government of Lagos State over their unlawful eviction from the state. They also asked to court to profound to rights with demands of financial penalty against the government over the violations of their rights.

The legal case and other media updates on the matter further scuttled our plans to gather more data. According to the spokesperson of the deported people, any leaked information could render the legal processes unfavorable to them. They further advised us to return when the legal tussle has been completed in order to give us more details about the legal case and other matters that might have arisen in the processes.

5.5 Neutrality of Research

The nature of our research is one that emphasizes in different aspects of a society. These societal aspects include psychology, social work, community development, sociology and ethnology. Our study focus was basically laid on the social work aspects of community development. Being an integral part of our core study units, we limited our research on those attributes that are core components of social work such as social exclusion and inclusion, identities, communal integration and possible causes of rights violation and stratification.

Additionally, we performed this research using the Systematic Literature Review method which ensures that all findings and discoveries related to our topic must be neutral, unbiased and objective. It ensures that we detail all pro and cons of the situation without affixing any personal partisanship or side-taking in our descriptive reportage or explanatory communication.

One would have expected us to provide verdicts on the wrongness or rightness of the research, but in this case, we are academically required to merely inform the contents, details and findings of our research. Thereby giving the reader the opportunity to succinctly and meticulously adjudge the situations based on its merits. We also knew that a research like this would serve as an eye-opener for people who do not know that incidences like this still occur especially in developing nations.

5.6 Multi-Dimensional Case

Diversified issue like the one we researched on provides some forms of difficulties because of the diverse nature of the issue. The complexity of the situation and several others aspects of the society such as politics, sociology, human-ology, ethnology, philosophy and communalism intensifies our limitation to singularly extracts the social work or community work aspect of the scenario.

We got fagged out with the details as a lot were concerned or rooted in governmental or political matters, aside that the scenario or problem of ejection aroused as a result of the application of a government`s social policy, understudying the sociological dynamisms and frameworks were indeed crippling. It took a lot more to be able to discern between the lines of societal aspects.

6 STUDY SIGNIFICANCE, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTLOOKS

There are a lot to talk about with regards to the significance of this thesis, the discussion in this study opened our horizons of the continued efforts of the government to pose or place challenges on the paths of the poor and the socially deprived people. These challenges are usually created in forms of public policies or government orders which serve mostly as inhibitors to the development of the common indigene.

6.1 Significance and Recommendations

Informatively, this research generated lots of controversies for us as indigenes of the country in view. The mere facts that we are citizens of the country, learning about the failings of our nation could be a deterrent to our zeal of procuring and dissipating information through this research. Information about

deportation of citizens within their country of citizenship creates alarming academic buzzes for students interested in studying about community development.

Knowing well that every bad situation is also accompanied with an upside. One of the upside about this research is the possibility of influencing an improvement in the ways of bettering social or societal inclusion in Nigeria and possibly, other countries or communities where exclusion is gradually encouraged. Be it as it may, improvements could be procured from the recommendations of our study and if implemented properly, socially excluded people could receive improved supports.

More so, recommendations in this regards could also be appraised on the ground that social exclusion could be caused on citizens indirectly especially when certain classes of the citizenry are affected by conditions meted upon their guardians or parents, as in the case of the children of the ejected people. The children were part of those who had to accompany their parents because they couldn't afford to fend for themselves without the contribution of their guardians or parents.

We recommend the following based on the outlooks of our research. Additionally, we realized that a lot occurred as a results of the nonchalant attitudes of the government towards its impoverished citizenry especially who do not have opportunities or the wherewithal to get their voices heard in the polity.

Firstly, proper awareness on the rights of every citizen should be made through the basic educational frameworks. These means each child should get to know his or her rights elementarily while in nursery or primary depending on the educational structure of the country. Furthermore, certainty should be made by the academic instructors that every child understand or comprehend the contents of what has been taught or explained as regards their rights.

Secondly, a sensitization or societal re-orientation exercises should be embarked upon to re-educate the government of their fundamental duties of ensuring that every citizen is safely protected, sheltered and cared for without fears of victimization or ejection. The roles of the government must be spelt out to avoid a reoccurrence of people's ejection from one region of the country to another.

Legally, one would have expected the judicial arm of the government to have briskly responded to quash, quench and cause a quickened resolution of the ejection problem. This has been delayed due to the clumsiness of the country's judicial system. We recommend that an overhaul is done to create a quicker way of addressing issues that weighs in on citizens' rights to residency and communal associations.

6.2 Professional Outlooks

Research is an unending part of learning. A continuous stride which continues to enlighten, broaden and educate more about life and our society. We cannot continue to exist or live without taking time to acquire more information about our society or how we should live in a community. It is therefore imperative to continue to pursue more knowledge about humanity and better ways of living peacefully, communally without any cause for alarms.

In the course of our research, we realized various diversified issues or study parts which were impossible for us to research due to certain limitations. Some of the limitations have been detailed above for your understanding. Our research focus reduced the broadness of our topic in other for us to be able to ensure a thorough, concise and insightful research but it also created certain topics or study areas for future study prospects.

Just to mention a few, one of the areas of concentration for future study could be the invincibility of the government to utilize social policies as a means of

either including or excluding people. This area could be widened from a community level to regional, national, continental or global depending on the research capabilities of the researchers. We will not be surprised on the revelations that would be generated when such research is carried on some of the highly cultured or westernized countries.

Another area is the level of awareness of the citizens either natives or immigrants on their rights to reside or cohabit within any country of their residency. Just like we were informed during our thesis that most citizens do not know their basic rights especially in areas where they should have known. A further research in this regard could expatiate on the possible reasons why citizens fail to know or exercise their rights even when these rights are questioned.

7. STUDY COMPARISONS AND MODELS

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. Its present population estimated at 160million and the vastness of its tribal and ethnic differences continue to pose challenges whenever Nigeria is compared to other nations of lower or smaller population. The difficulties or challenges faced during comparisons arises when matters that are centrally connected or affected by population or its density, wealth and its distributions or social policies are discussed.

Relatively, one would have expected the weight of the resources or wealth of the nation to outweigh the monumental problems of populations but there are so many factors that have directly or indirectly reduced the efficacy of the wealth of the nation on the citizenry. Population on another hand creates issues that wealth alone cannot solve especially when there are visible absence of good and working social policies.

7.1 Finland as a Model

Finland, officially known as the Republic of Finland is a country located in the Northern region of Europe. It is a member of the Nordic countries based on its location and relative closeness to water bodies. (Finland Citizens' Services Webpage)

According to the official reports of population conducted in 2013, Finland's population was around 5.5 million inhabitants (Statistics Finland Webpage).

7.1.1 The Accommodative System

Although, industrialization came late to Finland, it has grown overtime to be one of the wealthy countries with its model of a socially efficient welfare state. Its prosperity in this regard has brought international recognition and accolades making it one of the countries with the highest per capita incomes. Other areas Finland have garnered lots of accolades include education, civil liberties, qualities of life and human development. (Infopankki Website.)

These are the areas that we have centred as rationales as the reason Finland has become a model of comparisons to our country of discourse, Nigeria. These rationales are visibly available in Finland but succinctly absent in Nigeria. Additionally, the keynotes of these rationales are the socially inclusive tendencies of the Finnish system and the readiness of the system to reintegrate people who are either unable or fenced off from the system.

In terms of social living or residency, a person or citizen is not under obligation to live in any part of the country. Also, a person is not under any form of law or obligation to reside in any part of the country. A citizen possesses the unilateral right and freedom to live in any location of the country. More so, each time a person changes location within the country or otherwise, the country's population registry authenticates the person's location information. (Finland Citizens' Services Website.)

Note-worthily, the constitution of Finland guarantees the basic economic, social and educational rights of all people living in the country irrespective of class, gender, marital status, linguistic difference or location. This is to ensure that all persons are taken care of and the relative societal involvement needed for every person is achieved to avoid depression and social exclusions or stratifications. (Finland Citizens' Services Website.)

Social protection is a system that was created to preventively administer assistance to all those in need especially children, families and the elderly. But this is not the case as we have discovered from the study that was carried out in this research. Nigeria has not prioritized its citizenry and the social protection as contained in its Constitution, it is not practised as required to benefit everyone. (Kela Official Website.)

Some of the notable preventive cares available in the Finnish Social Protection scheme includes preventive social and health care, social welfare and health services, and sickness, disability, unemployment, old age and other benefits. These forms of benefits are monetized in forms of cash or services rendered in different public service providers or agencies. (Finland's Ministry of Social and Health Official Website.)

Social protection aims to safeguard the working and living environment of the population, and ensure good standards of health and work ability, sufficient income, services, and social security, at different stages of life. Practically every household at some point receives some form of income transfer or uses social and health services. (Finland's Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Official Website.)

The Finnish social protection system is structured in line with the principles of the Nordic welfare model. The main features of the Nordic welfare state are enumerated as follows:

Firstly, universality of the scheme is principled and covers all to get the common or basic coverage of social protection regardless of where they live, their profession or economic position. (Finland's Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Official Website.)

Secondly, there is a consideration of social protection based on the income of the employed persons. The levels of earnings are considered in the issuance of benefits and social protective coverage of the family. (Kela Official Website.)

Thirdly, the Finnish social protection system is basically based on the tax funding and contributions of all. Everybody contributes actively and generously to the welfare system of the country. (Norden Website.)

Fourthly, a system based in fairness, equity and equality can only guarantee that everyone is a partaker in the wealth and resource control of the country (Norden Website).

The public sector plays a central role in the development of social protection. Services and income protection are guided by legislation. Municipalities have the responsibility to arrange social and health services for their residents. Municipalities can arrange these services by themselves or purchase them from private service providers. (Finland's Ministry of Social Affairs and Health Official Website.)

7.1.2 The Administrative Courts System

The use of the administrative courts in Finland has contributed a lot of good to the positive working system in public life – public policies and public office holders in Finland. These advantages could not have been improved any further because of the rationales behind the Administrative Courts and potencies of its usage.

Accordingly, an Administrative Court in Finland is defined not just by its functions but also its locations. It is the most remote court utilized by the public to challenge any form of public policy, decision or action of any public office holder or governmental organization. (Finlex Website.)

Agreeably, just as expected in every democratically run countries, the courts of law in Finland have *modus operandi*. They exercise judicial power independently within the confines of the laws of the land. They alone possess the ultimate power to decide on compliance with law in individual cases.

The courts of law are independent from public or private enterprises. Only the law that is in force binds them. No political, social, economic or other factors, such as political parties or Parliament, or administrative bodies, such as the Government, or any other external or private body can interfere in their decision-making. (Finland Citizens' Services Webpage.)

Finland has six regional administrative courts, which consider appeals against decisions by authorities in the first instance. Decisions by the administrative court can be appealed to the Supreme Administrative Court. (Finland Citizens' Services Webpage.)

It is also important to point out that the courts in Finland are also divided regionally and competence by instance. Our emphatic concern in this regards is laid on the Administrative Courts. The Administrative Courts in Finland are divided into six regional administrative courts. The primary function of these regional administrative is to consider appeals against decisions made by authorities in the first instance. In furtherance, the decisions of the regional administrative are challengeable at the Supreme Administrative Court. (Finland Citizens' Services Webpage.)

The six regional administrative courts in Finland include the Administrative Courts of Helsinki, Hämeenlinna, Eastern Finland, Northern Finland, Turku and

Vaasa. In addition, the autonomous Åland Islands have a separate administrative court, called the Administrative Court of Åland. (Oikeus Website.)

A position of the Ministry of Justice in Finland states that "It is required by the Constitution of Finland that the law is conscientiously observed in all public activity. A person or a corporation considering that a decision of a state or local authority in a matter pertaining to that person or corporation is illegal is as a rule entitled to appeal against the decision. (Oikeus Website.)

This gives the right to any individual to question or challenge the decision; be it in form of public policy, societal decision or social policy (Oikeus Website) .In relation to our research, if any citizen or legal resident is forcefully relocated within the country, such person has a right to challenge such decision immediately.

More so, before such removal or relocation is done, there would have been formal processes of communication which would have availed possibility of challenging such decision before the relocation occurrence. These kinds of practices promote adequate public reasoning and accountability in public administration against what is obtainable in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, one can question or challenge a decision issued by a public officer only through a general court. And these kinds of general court proceedings are time wasteful and lengthy. Furthermore, we learnt that the person who gave the decision to relocate the citizens is the Governor of the state. According to The Constitution, the Governor of any state in Nigeria is under immunity. This immunity protects him or her from any forms of judicial or legal trials or processes until the expiration of his or her tenure in office. (Nigerian Constitution.)

Imaginably, in a system where a public officer is legally protected from all forms of legal litigation and administrative challenge; where such public officer's decisions and policies cannot be legally or administratively opposed or

appealed, one could only but imagine the level of public policy recklessness and poor social policies. In this kind of system, personal interests of the public officer such as religious, ethnic, tribal or political could mar or characterize all the social or public policies or decisions made by the public officer. (Nigerian Constitution.)

7.2 Similarities to Brazil

There is a similarity between Nigeria and Brazil in terms of this research. This similarity goes beyond the population density or inadequacy of the government towards its people. Aside the facts that Brazil has better national ratings or status when compared to Nigeria's, the countries have a history of forcefully relocating its citizens.

Our intention of naming or involving Brazil in this research is to show that the issue of forceful relocation of citizens within their country of residency is not just peculiar to Nigeria. The problem is conspicuous in so many other countries even in countries we consider as developed. (Thinkprogress Official Website)

In these so-called developed countries, they tend to do this unlawful exercise of ejecting their citizens from areas of their interests or places they intend to internationally expose or utilize. Additionally, there is always an agenda or social policy behind the unlawful eviction exercise and according to this social or public policy, the forceful relocation of the people is made legal or acceptable. (Aljazeera Website)

The most recent and notable occurrence was during the FIFA 2014 World Cup hosted by Brazil. The tournament brought and left untold hardship on 15,000 Brazilian families. The latter were those ejected out of their homes. Homes the government referred to as slums but intended to utilize the area for beautification and construction for the football tournament. (Thinkprogress Official Website)

The forcefully ejected people suffered as a result of the deportation. Most of them felt dejected and unprotected. In furtherance, the people were unable to get or retrieve adequate compensation from the government, and why these compensations were inadequate are topics for future researches.

Restarting or continuing life in their new environment is difficult and even made more difficult by the ineptitude of the government to show concerns. Instead, the government thinks they have succeeded in their social policy at the completion of the football tournament (Aljazeera Official Website).

It will be irrational not to ask some questions that are morally or societal based about these forceful ejections. Some of the questions that come to mind are: Is the World Cup tournament more important than the welfare of the 15000 families that were forcefully relocated? If the World Cup was so important, why not make adequate provisioning for it elsewhere instead of impoverishing your own citizens in a name of a social policy?

8. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In spite of the challenges and problems encountered during the research process, from the inception of conceiving the idea and gathering of different articles and related write-ups on the topic. We got a deeply satisfying result and were also developed professionally in many ways.

In the course of the research, we were able to see the situation of the evicted people from their own perspective and from the perspective of different authors who commented on the unlawful deportation. We believe that there is a possibility of reinstatement or redress in form of compensation to the evictees if they take a collective action in a law court.

Most people take it for granted that inhuman treatment and destitution are wrong; these ideas seem to be built into the very idea of morality. (Baker, Lynch, Cantillon & Walsh 2009, 25.)

We are of the belief that if all the citizens of a country, no matter their position in the societal strata are given equal treatment, it would not only help in stabilizing the country's government, but also command undiluted loyalty from the citizenry to the leaders. In analyzing our findings and discoveries in this research, we were exposed to how things are done the right way between the ruled and the rulers, how the welfare of the masses should be an integral part of any economic plan by the ruling class.

We were able to use the contributions of columnists, the discussion on different channels in relation to the topic, the interviews, and the constitutional provision on the welfare of Nigerian citizens. All these sources were put together in the body of the research to tell the readers the meaning made of the different discussions on the unlawful eviction of the Igbo community from Lagos state. Most simply put, stories are a way of knowing. Telling stories is actually a meaning making process. It is this process of selecting constitutive details, experience, reflecting on them, giving them order, and thereby making sense of them that makes telling stories a meaning-making experience.

8.1 Focus

We engaged in critical self-reflection about our biases and predispositions. This helped us as a form of self-awareness and to prepare to check ourselves in the course of the research and be able to strike a balance between our emotions and the academic requirement. This is because we want to come out with the best credible and defensible research.

8.2 Researchers' Bias

What we envisaged could be our reasons for been biased at the inception of the research were our attachment and alignment to the evictees. One of us is from the tribe that was marginalized in Lagos state, and the other a Legal practitioner who could want to take the case personal from the legal point of view. These biases were noted by the researchers and put in check as the research was progressing.

8.3 Descriptive Validity

Refers to accuracy in reporting descriptive information (description of events, objects, behaviors, people, setting, times and places). This form of validity is important because description is a major objective in nearly all qualitative research.

The best of accuracy and precision was employed in analytically discussing the contributions of different authors on the research topic. (Johnson 1997, 282 &285.)

8.4 Peer Review

Discussion of the researcher`s interpretation with other people. This includes discussion with a "disinterested peer". This peer should be skeptical and be the "devil`s advocate," challenging the researcher to provide solid evidence for any interpretations or conclusions. Discussion with peers who are familiar with the research can also help provide useful challenges and insights. (Johnson 1997, 283.)

This we did by seeking for the neutral minds of people who have graduated from our school, DIAK and studied the same course to help in a critical overview of the thesis as we progressed on each stage.

9. CONCLUSION

It is trite to say human beings are social animals, we relate with one another on the basis of being human, our individual differences notwithstanding. For the evictees, Lagos had been their domain for many years and they came with the intention to settle there. They had formed a bond with the environment and the people around, and also made plans about their future with Lagos as their place of settlement. The rights of these individuals were denied in a democratic society where there should be accountability, all in the name of public interest or beautification of a city. This makes this act look more like an act of governance rather than the act of violation.

The representative of the men that we talked to made it clear that they had started looking for ways to settle into their new environments. The children had to also start looking for new schools to make them not lose out academically. Accommodation was at the forefront of their immediate needs as they had no roofs over their heads. These things they had back in Lagos and they were evicted without any form of resettlement options or compensation. This made resettlement even harder than they could cope with.

The people that could be called their cohort, both for the children and adults were suddenly removed from their lives. This is enough to give them a psychological imbalance as they were moved into a new environment entirely without prior plan. Starting from the scratch to form a bond in a new society seem not to be a challenge compared to the fact that they have to look for the right people to bond with. It could be easier for the children because they could easily get acquainted with people because of their ages, but this is not so for the adults. How can unlawful eviction be seen as the proof of good governance? This according to the reviewed literatures and our views as future social workers does not make a good treatment to the masses whose interest the government should protect.

The effect of the eviction was also seen from the financial status of the evictees. It could be deduced that the evicted could be classified on the societal ladder as the poor. The existence of economic inequality is indisputable in every society. Economic inequalities which are embedded in the economic structures of society include various forms of exclusion, deprivation. Privileged classes have more resources, higher status, more power, better working condition and great access to education. For the poor, it is the placing of a new burden of responsibility upon them, but with little or no change in their capacity to bear it. (Baker 2009, 8 & 76). This was obvious in the aftermath lifestyle of the evicted; the burden of the eviction was a “nightmare they have to deal with, without any form of compensation for reinstatement.

The principle of equality of condition demands that the life prospects of every individual should be roughly equal to those of any other. What stands in the way of that principle are social structures that systematically produce worse life prospects for the members of some groups than for those of others (Baker, Lynch, Cantillon & Walsh 2009, 57).

The evictees were said to me constituting nuisance in the society by begging for alms, the allegation which was rebutted during the interview. Even if it was so, that served as their means of sustaining themselves and their dependents. Deporting them to their home states without prior notice and any form of compensation or employment to make them fit economically is another form of victimization.

Obviously, the forceful eviction of the Igbo indigents from Lagos that has been their place of abode for some years would definitely have impacts on the evictees who are of school age. During the interview conducted, the representatives of the men and youths stated unequivocally that the children and some of the youths were still staying at home wandering the streets because they had not yet found a school or institution to continue their education. The parents who have found schools for their children had no financial means of paying the fees. Education is said to be the bedrock of a

society, but with the present situation of the evictees, it is obvious that their education is left dangling at the mercy of a society that appreciates the importance of beautifying a city over that of its citizens.

With a negative and major trajectory such as the eviction comes with its negative impacts on the health of the evictees. Their welfare and safety was obviously not at the forefront of the policy as they were left on a bridge around 3:00 am with no idea of where to go or any form of security. They were bitten by night insects; some of the children fell sick in the process, as it was observed during the interview. Then the parents could not afford proper medical care as they were seen giving the children self-medication.

Much has been said about the illegality of the eviction, the legal impacts on the affected people, on the constitution and also the society as a whole. Much attention will be directed at the sayings of some legal luminaries on the impacts or effects of the illegality of marginalizing some members of a society.

Our new perspective in law and justice must be such as to guarantee to each of our people food, drink, lodging, clothing, education and employment in addition to the rights guaranteed to him so far by our Constitution and our laws, so that justice may mean the same thing to everyone.

There is no law that restricts a Nigerian from residing in a state that is not his or her state of origin; rather there are laws and constitutional provisions that encourage mutual coexistence and oneness as a nation. This action of evicting Nigerians within the same nation is inconsistent with the constitutional provisions of the country.

Justice Ngcobo of the Constitutional Court of South Africa stated that "Our Constitution protects the weak, the marginalized, the socially outcast and the victims of prejudice and stereotyping. It is only when these groups are protected that we can be secured that our own rights are protected" (Falana 2014,1 & 2).

We advocate that every citizen should be heard and are to take part in taking decisions that affects them directly, and where there seem to be a problem, the rulers and the ruled come together to find solution. It is highly victimizing to take decisions or make policies that jeopardize the lives of the citizenry.

The evictees were returned to their home state based on the effecting of a policy that they were not privy to be part of formulating. It affected their lives and families made them go through unimaginable marginalization in a country of their own, albeit in a different state.

In terms of challenging unjust policies and practices, social workers have a duty to bring to the attention of their employers, policy makers, politicians and the general public situations where resources are inadequate or where distribution of resources, policies and practices are oppressive, unfair or harmful. (Hutchison 2009, 30.)

Nations practicing democracy are supposed to be built on its values and stress the need for participation of the citizens and equality in living conditions for all, being a beggar or disabled notwithstanding. The people tagged as constituting nuisance also have the right to good welfare from the state as their constitutional rights as discussed previously in this research.

People no longer accept being neglected, especially in a nation like Nigeria where the masses are now fully aware of how much their leaders embezzle from the proceeds of sales of the country's national resources. This is due to increase in the awareness brought about by globalization. Some selected few who benefit from this "national cake" are spared in the face of obvious illegalities and the innocents who struggle daily to live are been made to suffer the effects of unjust policies. This is one of the reasons for this research, the literatures authors and the affected masses are crying out to nip this injustice, marginalization should not become a norm in a democratic society.

We acknowledge that it is sometimes not an immediate achievable goal to achieve a huge change in the overall living conditions. However, active participation in formation of policies by the people concerned can bring immense change in that direction. Thus we by this research encourage active participation of the citizenry in the making of any policy that affects them.

In his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, the United States President Mr. J.F Kennedy warned that "if a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich". (Falana 2001, 11.)

It is hoped that this process which is put in place would help to facilitate the communal living and also foster various change process on issues that affect the people in their respective communities.

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