



X-RAYING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN NIGERIA'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

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Cite this article:

Akande, F. A., Modupe, A. O. (2024), X-raying Human Rights Violations by Government Agencies in Nigeria's Democratic System of Government. African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research 7(4), 157-171. DOI: 10.52589/AJSSHR-PNTY0EPC

Manuscript History

Received: 14 Aug 2024

Accepted: 13 Oct 2024

Published: 21 Oct 2024

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ABSTRACT: *Respect for human rights is diminishing within Nigeria's democracy, with the political elite often acting with impunity and ignoring the rule of law. Gender discrimination and exclusion of marginalized citizens persist in politics. This study investigated human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria, with the aim of enhancing understanding of the situation and proposing policy recommendations for promoting human rights. The study employed a descriptive survey research design, with 150 individuals randomly selected from government agencies in Lagos state. Data was collected through in-depth interviews, with the analysis focusing on patterns in conversations, text, and activities. The findings reveal the emotional and systemic impacts of government agencies' human rights violations, calling for sweeping reforms and enhanced accountability. Respondents also stress the complexity of accountability challenges and advocate for a collaborative approach. They offer valuable strategies, including government reforms, civil society involvement, education and awareness, learning from successful examples, and using media and digital platforms to promote human rights and accountability. The study concluded that the findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive and collaborative efforts to address the multifaceted challenges of human rights violations in Nigeria. This requires the involvement of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the media. Sweeping reforms and enhanced accountability mechanisms are essential to ensure justice and the protection of human rights for all Nigerians. This study provides a valuable overview of human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria's democratic system of government. The findings highlight the need for urgent action to address the root causes of these violations and to ensure accountability for perpetrators. The study's recommendations offer a roadmap for promoting human rights and strengthening democracy in Nigeria.*

KEYWORDS: Human rights violations, Government agencies, Democratic system.



INTRODUCTION

Human rights have suffered a lot of violations beginning from the state of nature, through the colonial and military period (in some histories) down to the present democratic era. The state of nature is a stage of human history when there was no state or law to regulate or curtail human actions. This is a period that was accounted by social contract theorists to be characterized by wickedness, poverty, barbarism, and brutality. Thomas Hobbes, one of the leading scholars of social contract theory in his gloomy view, stated that human life in the state of nature has no value as human beings do whatever they like, to kill whoever they can and take whatever they want. In the state of Nature 'might is right,' and human rights violations were never accounted for. For this reason, human life is nasty, solitary, meager, and very short. Even though some of the social contract theorists like John Locke and Rousseau tried to give a somehow appealing account of human life in the state of nature, their submissions still showed that human rights were profusely abused during the period. Because of this, the need for a contract that resulted in the establishment of modern states and laws to regulate human actions became inevitable necessary¹.

Internationally and nationally, the need for the promotion and protection of human rights is now not only recognized as the foundation of freedom and justice but as an integral and essential element for the preservation of peace not only within the confines of particular states, but universally. It is for this reason that human rights which include such rights as right to life, dignity of human person, personal liberty, fair-hearing and freedom of thought, conscience and religion, have not only engaged the attention of the world community but have, "in the recent past, penetrated the international dialogue, become an active ingredient in interstate relations and has burst the sacred bounds of national sovereignty"².

Human rights, etymologically derived from "human" and "right," signify inherent claims and freedoms individuals possess due to their humanity. They are universal, inviolable, and serve as the foundation for justice and peace globally. These rights include freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution, standing in stark contrast to historical abuses when the powerful wielded unchecked authority over the powerless, leading to slavery, exploitation, and colonialism. In the Constitution of Nigeria (1999), Chapter IV outlines citizens' fundamental rights, including life, dignity, liberty, fair hearing, privacy, freedom of thought, religion, movement, non-discrimination, and property ownership. Additionally, Chapter II addresses rights in the fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy. Human rights are dynamic, encompassing political, social, economic, legal, moral, cultural, and philosophical conditions that define human intrinsic value and dignity⁴.

Democracy, derived from "demos" (people) and "kratos" (rule or government), signifies a government by and for the people. This concept, popularized by Abraham Lincoln as "government of the people, by the people, for the people," promotes participation in political activities and peaceful power transitions. Democracy's pillars include freedom from state infringement on life and liberty, minority rights, free speech, assembly, and association, equal inclusion, consent of the governed, and the right to vote. Among various forms of governance, democracy stands out as the most conducive to safeguarding human rights. In a democracy, human rights find their fullest expression, with the rule of law serving as its foundation. The rule of law ensures that everyone, regardless of their status, is subject to the law, which is supreme. Moreover, it obligates the justice system and government agencies to uphold human rights and human dignity⁵.



In Nigeria, despite the transition to a democratic government in 1999, there has been a persistent and alarming disregard for human rights. Many government agencies and security forces are perceived as threats to citizens' safety, and human rights violations have not abated since the military era. This paper highlights several instances of such violations, pointing out that democratic practices and the protection of human rights are not aligning as expected in Nigeria. The blatant disregard for human rights by various government agencies raises concerns about the true nature of democracy in the country.

Respect for human rights is a fundamental component of a thriving democracy, but in Nigeria, it seems to be eroding. The ruling elite often act above the law, ignoring due process and the principles of rule of law. Furthermore, Nigerian politics remains largely dominated by wealthy, older men, with significant gender discrimination, and many marginalized citizens are excluded from the political process. The immunity clause in the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, intended to protect certain officials from legal action, appears to be at odds with genuine democratic practices. People should be held accountable for their actions and inactions immediately, not after they leave the office. One of the virtues of democracy is the rule of law.

The research delves into the various types of human rights violations committed by government agencies, including but not limited to extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions, restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, or religion. By examining these violations, the research seeks to shed light on the extent and severity of the human rights challenges faced within Nigeria's democratic systems of government.

Statement of Research Problem

Human right violation the world over, has become an ignominious act which attracts the condemnation and attention of international organizations like United Nations, the Commonwealth, African Unions, Governmental Organization among others. Nigeria as a sovereign state has not fared any better in the protection of fundamental human rights of her citizens instead, it has been a situation of wanton abuses of their inalienable rights with impunity. The previous regime in Nigeria witnessed widespread human rights violations, leading to significant dissatisfaction across society. Government agents in various institutions and agencies, including the armed forces, paramilitary organizations like the State Security Services, customs and Prisons Services, the National Intelligence agency, and the Police Force, collaborated extensively to suppress human rights activists. Civil officials with human rights inclinations were suspended, dismissed, or retired from public service, while academic, intellectual, and student activists who shared similar views were harassed, brutalized, arrested, rusticated, or expelled.

Hence, this study seeks to expand and enhance existing research by utilizing up-to-date data to examine human rights violations in Nigeria during the specified period. The research is driven by the interest surrounding human rights abuses in the current democratic era. A notable instance is the misconduct attributed to the now disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a police unit that triggered significant protests in 2020. The protests and subsequent violence, particularly the alleged military shooting of protesters at Lekki, severely shook the nation's foundations. Almost every region of the country witnessed various forms of human rights violations, resulting in loss of lives and property. Given these circumstances, this comprehensive study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the human rights situation



within Nigeria's democratic framework. By highlighting the violations, identifying contributing factors, assessing impacts, evaluating legal frameworks, and proposing solutions, the research seeks to promote the protection and respect of human rights in Nigeria, ultimately fostering a more just and inclusive society.

Objectives of the Study

In order to preserve and uphold individual rights by all and sundry in order to promote good governance in Nigeria, the study's broad aims are to examine the experience of human rights breaches in the Nigerian government. The study's specific objectives are to:

- i. identify and examine various human rights violations as experienced in Nigeria democratic government;
- ii. investigate and provide a comprehensive understanding of the different types of human rights violations by government agencies, their causes, and the consequences they have on individuals and society;
- iii. contribute to a better understanding of the human rights situation in Nigeria and provide insights into how to protect and promote human rights within the country's democratic framework; and to
- iv. suggest recommendations and policy interventions that can enhance accountability, transparency, and respect for human rights within government agencies in Nigeria democracy.

Research Questions

- i. What are the underlying causes and factors contributing to human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria?
- ii. What are the perceptions and experiences of victims of human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria?
- iii. What are the challenges faced in holding government agencies accountable for human rights violations?
- iv. What are the likely solutions and strategies for addressing and preventing human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria democratic system of government?

Significance of the Study

This study is significant because it addresses the prevalent human rights violations and democracy challenges in Nigeria. It sheds light on the government's response to these issues and their implications for the country's development. Moreover, it emphasizes the vital role of human rights in democracy and highlights the government's responsibilities.



CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Human Rights: Human rights then, are inviolable, inalienable basic rights which a human person possesses inherently simply because he or she is a human being or by their virtue of being human. Human rights are perceived as universal, that is, it is for every person. These rights in national and international law could exist as natural or legal rights; those rights are universally recognized and implemented in some Municipal laws.

Democracy: Etymologically, democracy was derived from the Greek word “Demos” meaning “the people” and “Kratos” which stands for “the rule of people”. Literally then, democracy demonstrates “the rule of the people”. It involves everybody although indirectly through election. It is a system of government that is anchored on the masses as its foundation. Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy could be likened to the Greek meaning. That is “the government of the people, by the people, and for the people”. This shows that democracy is participatory.

Rule of Law: Rule of law is a doctrine that says everybody is under the law. The law is supreme and not a respecter of persons. Rule of law is one of the major parameters to judge any government in relation to its performance and governance.

Protect and Respect: This means that the state must take positive actions so that an individual is not denied his or her Human rights anywhere in the state. While “States are to Respect” means that the state cannot take any actions or impose against the doctrine of the treaty and the municipal laws of the state should be in accordance with the human rights promotions and no individual is above the laws including the institutions for the protections and respect of human rights.

Political Power: Political power is the ability to control the behavior of people and/or influences the outcome of events. Political power enables people or groups to control the policies, functions, and culture of society.

Weapon: A thing designed or used for inflicting bodily harm or physical damage. There are (3) three uses of weapons: exhibition, preventing or protecting or defending and fighting.

Nigerian: Nigeria is an independent state with heterogeneous ethnic groups. The Federal Government of Nigeria is composed of three distinguished branches: legislature, executive and judiciary, whose powers are vested by the constitution of Nigeria in the national assembly, the president, and the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, respectively. Nigeria politics takes place within a framework of a federal, presidential, representative democracy republic, in which executive power is exercised by the government⁶.

Human Rights Abuses/Violations: Human rights abuses are when a person is hurt in a way that violates (goes against) his/her human rights. Human rights abuses are also often called *human rights violations*. An act of violating someone or something. The action of going against something or some lay down rules and regulations.

Human rights violations: It occurs when any state or non-state actor breaches any of the terms of the UDHR or other international human rights or humanitarian law.⁷



Human rights violations by state actors: It includes unlawful and arbitrary killings by both government; forced disappearances by the government, and criminal groups in the Nigerian forces; torture and arbitrary arrest, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by the government; harsh and life threatening prison conditions in Nigeria; arbitrary detention by government; political prisoners (a situation when the government just call for an individual or group arrest just for their own selfish interest); serious problems with the independence of the judiciary; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; serious abuses in an internal conflict, including killing and torture of civilians; serious restrictions on free expression, the press, and the internet, including the existence of criminal libel laws; substantial interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, and inadequate investigation and accountability for violence against women in every area in Nigeria.⁸

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study, titled "X-raying of Human Rights Violations by Government Agencies in Nigeria's Democratic System of Government," draws upon the Social Conflict theory proposed by Karl Marx. Karl Marx developed his Social Conflict theory in the 19th century. His most influential work, "The Communist Manifesto," was published in 1848, and his ideas about social conflict and class struggle are foundational to his theories. This theory aims to elucidate the inherent contradictions within the social structure of capitalist societies. It provides a materialist interpretation of history and takes a critical stance against prevailing social arrangements, advocating for reforms that prioritize the rights of the common people, especially within the context of Nigeria, the focal point of this study.

Empirical Studies

The empirical review in this study draws insights from Onwuazobe and Ifenyi's research, which delves into human rights violations in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region known for its oil wealth. The research sheds light on the Nigerian government's authority to conduct oil exploration across the country and utilize its natural resources, subject to specific regulations and obligations to affected communities. However, this exploration has brought about several adverse consequences for Niger Delta communities, including negligence, equipment failures, and unethical practices resulting in frequent oil spills on land and water. Additional negative impacts include continuous gas-flaring and improper disposal of toxic waste, leading to environmental pollution. Over the years, since the initiation of oil exploration in 1958, an estimated nine to thirteen million barrels of oil have been spilled on local farmlands and water bodies due to poorly maintained infrastructure, equipment corrosion, and pipeline vandalism¹⁰.

Human rights encompass fundamental entitlements inherent to all individuals by virtue of their humanity. These rights encompass the right to life, human dignity, personal liberty, fair hearings, and freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, establishing a universal standard within the international community. Empirical evidence aligns with theoretical expectations, demonstrating a complementary relationship between democracy and the protection of political integrity rights. However, concerning democracy's influence on human development and social and economic rights, the findings reveal a more nuanced landscape, featuring various exceptions and contradictions. Notably, the connection between democracy's capacity for political accommodation and the adjudicative nature of human rights emerges as intricate and imperfect¹¹.



METHODOLOGY

This chapter is concerned with the research methodology that is appropriate for the study. It describes the methods that will be used in the study. This study will employ a descriptive survey research design, utilizing both primary and secondary sources to collect data on various subjects related to human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria's democratic system. This approach will facilitate the examination of relationships among study variables by gathering data from a sample that adequately represents the entire population or group. The research population encompasses Nigeria's government officials, members of International Governmental Organizations (IGOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), human rights activists, journalists/media outlets, Scholars conducting field research, and individuals with firsthand experiences as victims or witnesses of human rights violations. Stratified random sampling will be used to select participating agencies within the population. The sample size will comprise twenty members randomly chosen from each organization, resulting in a total of 150 individuals selected from the headquarters of these organizations in Lagos state. Thirty respondents will be drawn from each of the five participating agencies. The sampling technique employed will be simple random sampling, and questionnaires will be distributed to the 150 selected individuals. Qualitative data will be collected through content analysis and in-depth interviews with primary sources. The primary data collection instrument will be a well-structured topic guide for in-depth interviews, featuring open-ended questions administered in person. Field assistants will assist the researcher, and interviews will take place at convenient locations such as interviewees' offices.

Reliability of the Instrument: The reliability of the instrument will be established using the test-retest method. Structured interviews will be administered to victims of human rights violations and government agencies, with data collected twice, one week apart, and subjected to Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) analysis to determine reliability.

Sources of Data Collection: Both primary and secondary sources will be utilized. Primary sources will include data from Nigeria government agencies and officials, IGOs, NGOs, activists, journalists/media outlets, scholars, victims, witnesses, and perpetrators of human rights violations. Secondary data will encompass relevant books, journals, newspaper articles, media coverage, unpublished records/reports, published materials, seminar/conference papers, and publications on human rights violations and democracy.

Method of Data Analysis: Qualitative descriptive analysis will be employed for data analysis. Various interpretations and evidence will be presented based on the respondents' experiences and existing literature. Analytical methods will include structural analysis and reflective analysis. Documentary analysis will involve investigating patterns found in conversations with victims of violations, text, activities, and more, often without extensive explanations. Introduction letters will be obtained from the head of the department and the project supervisor, explaining the research's purpose, content, and implications to respondents.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic Data

Demographic Data Table

Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
18-25	20	14.00%
26-35	30	21.00%
36-45	25	17.50%
46-55	20	14.00%
56 and above	20	14.00%
Gender		
Male	102	69.00%
Female	41	31.00%
Educational Background		
Primary school or less	10	7.00%
Secondary school	50	35.00%
Bachelor's degree	25	17.500%
Master's degree	30	21.00%
Doctorate or professor.	28	19.60%
Occupation		
Civil Servants	15	10.50%
Unemployed	20	14.00%
Artisan	25	17.50%
Entrepreneur	35	24.50%
Others	48	33.60%
Geographic Location		
Northern region	25	17.50%
Southern region	30	21.00%
Western region	25	17.50%
Eastern region	20	14.00%
Specific states/cities	43	30.10%
Ethnicity		
Yoruba	45	31.47%
Hausa	38	26.57%
Igbo	40	27.97%
Others	20	14.00%
Political Affiliation		
APC	45	31.47%
PDP	50	35.00%
Others	48	33.53%
Experience with HR Issues		
Less than 1 year	15	10.49%
1-5 years	35	24.48%
6-10 years	40	27.97%
11 & above	53	37.06%

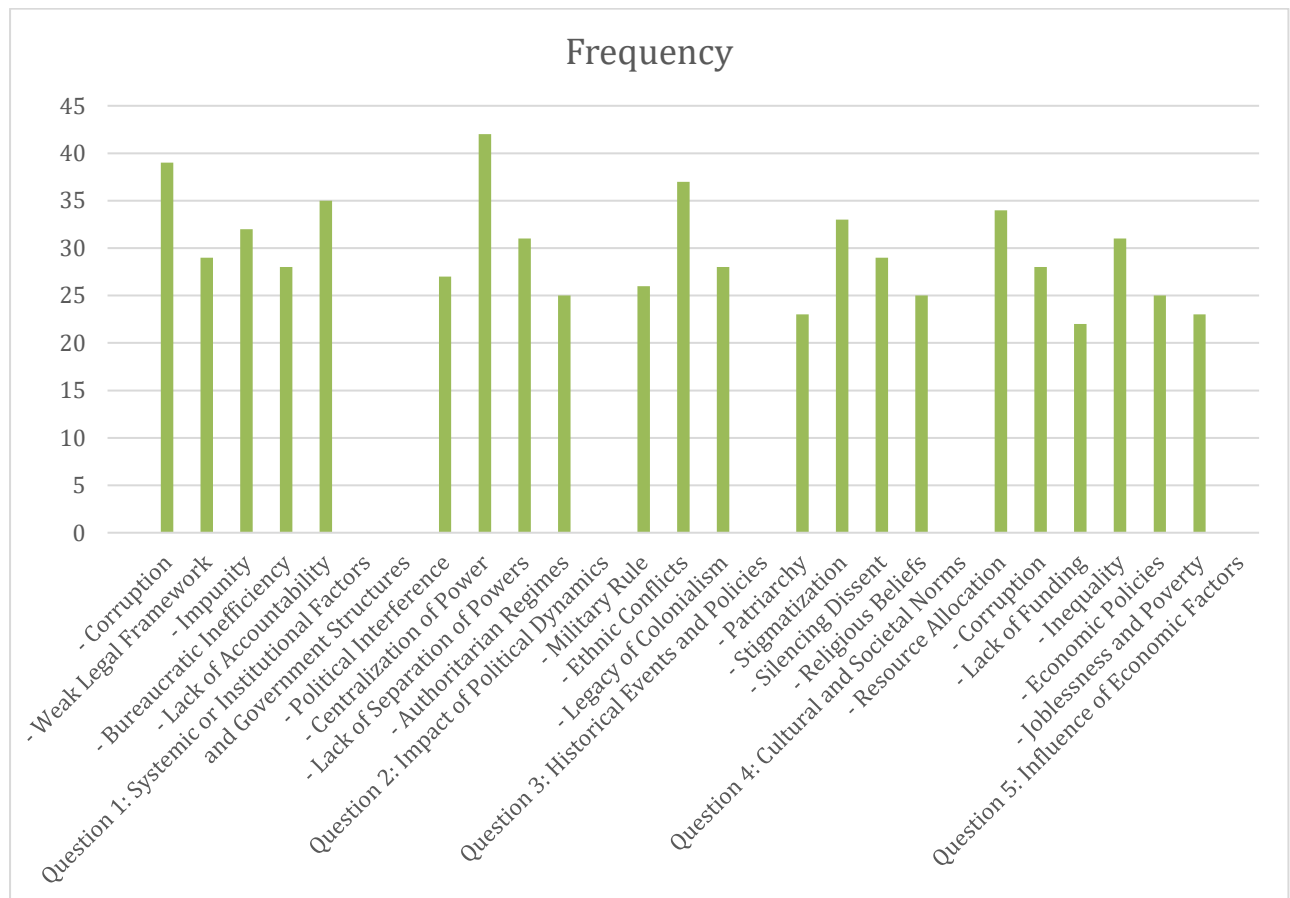
Source: Field Survey, 2023



Table 4.1 offers insights from a diverse sample of 143 individuals. In terms of age, there is a broad spectrum with 14% in the 18-25 age group, 21% in both the 26-35 and 36-45 brackets, and another 14% each in the 46-55 and 56 and above categories. Gender-wise, the distribution shows 69% as male and 31% as female. Educational backgrounds vary: 7% have primary education or less, 35% completed secondary education, 17.5% hold bachelor's degrees, 21% have master's degrees, and 19.6% have doctorate or professional degrees. Occupationally, the sample is diverse, with 10.5% in civil service, 14% unemployed, 17.5% in artisan roles, 24.5% as entrepreneurs, and 33.6% in various other professions. Geographically, the distribution is fairly even, with 17.5% each in the northern, southern, and western regions, 14% in the eastern region, and 30.1% in specific states or cities. Ethnically, the dataset reflects the nation's diversity, including 31.47% Yoruba, 26.57% Hausa, 27.97% Igbo, and 14% from various other ethnic backgrounds. In terms of political affiliation, it's well-balanced, with 31.47% supporting APC, 35% aligning with PDP, and 33.53% affiliating with other political parties. Regarding human rights involvement, participants have varying levels of experience: 10.49% have less than one year of involvement, 24.48% have 1-5 years, 27.97% have 6-10 years, and 37.06% have 11 or more years of experience.

Analysis of Research Questions

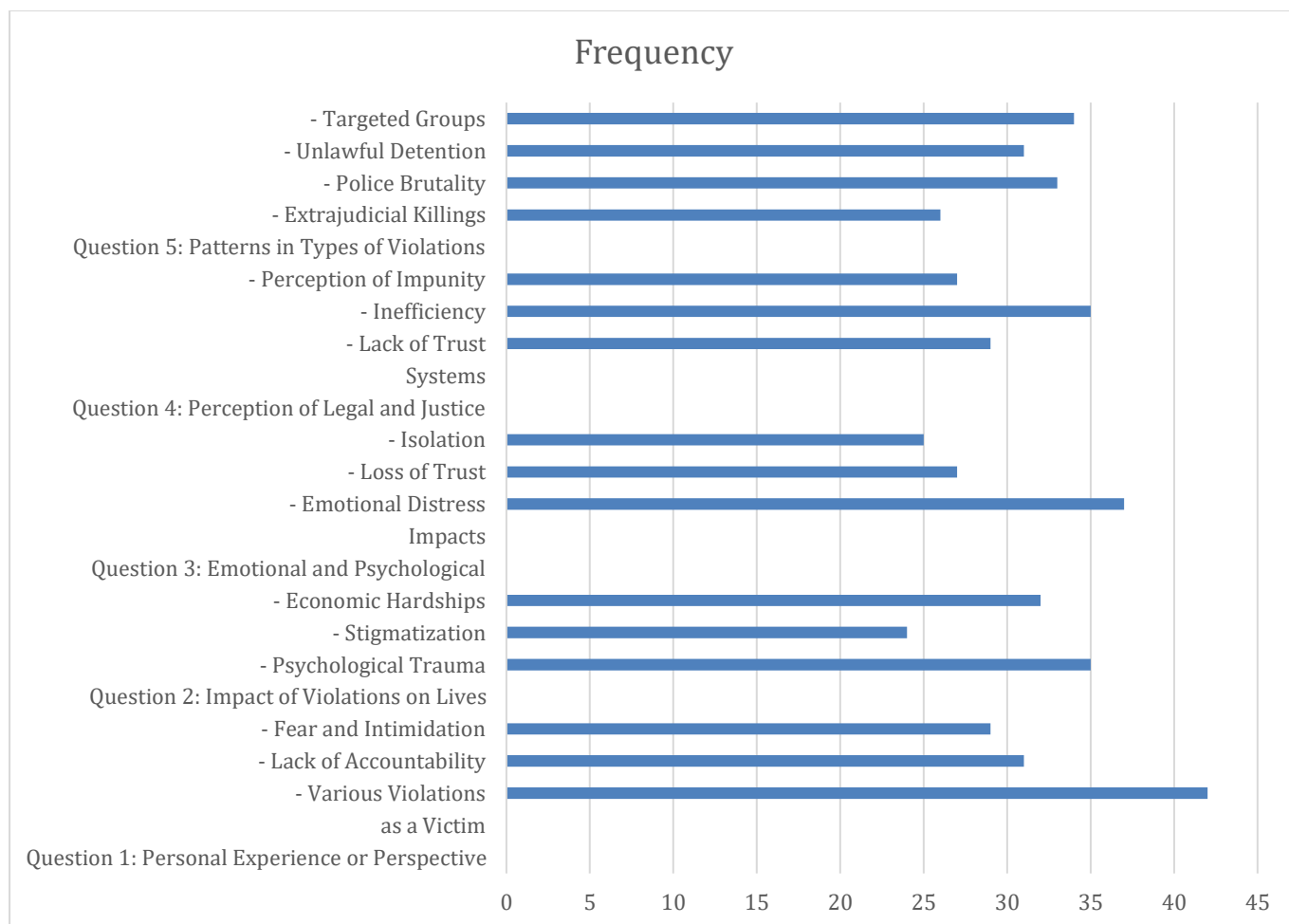
Research Question 1: What are the underlying causes and factors contributing to human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria?





The respondents' insights provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to human rights violations in Nigeria. These encompass systemic and institutional factors, as well as political dynamics, historical events, cultural norms, and economic influences. Systemic and institutional factors identified include corruption within government agencies, weak legal frameworks, a culture of impunity among officials, bureaucratic inefficiency, and a lack of accountability mechanisms. Political dynamics, such as political interference and the concentration of power at the federal level, play a significant role in influencing the behavior of government agencies. The absence of a clear separation of powers and the presence of authoritarian regimes further exacerbate human rights violations. Historical events, including periods of military rule, ethnic conflicts, and the legacy of colonialism, have left a lasting impact on human rights in Nigeria. Cultural and societal norms related to patriarchy, stigmatization of certain groups, silencing of dissent, and the influence of religious beliefs contribute to ongoing human rights issues. Economic factors, such as resource allocation, corruption, insufficient funding, economic inequality, government policies, unemployment, and poverty, are also significant drivers of human rights violations. Addressing these multifaceted factors requires a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders to promote and protect human rights in Nigeria comprehensively.

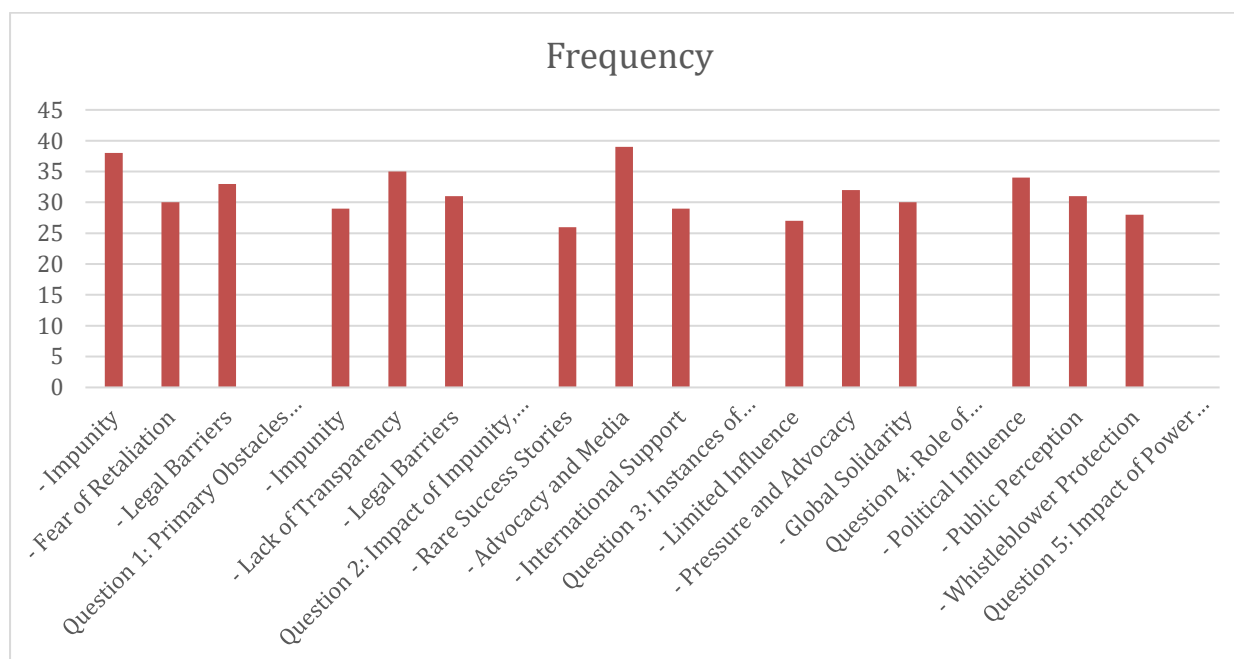
Research Question ii: Perceptions and Experiences of Victims of Human Rights Violations





This comprehensive content analysis sheds a revealing light on the lived experiences of respondents who have bravely shared their personal accounts as victims of human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria. Their narratives unveil the deeply disturbing emotional and psychological impact that these violations have inflicted on both them and their families. Through these poignant accounts, we are exposed to the raw emotional distress that has left these individuals grappling with anxiety, depression, and, in some cases, the enduring trauma of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Their stories are a stark reminder of the enduring scars that such violations leave behind, underscoring the urgent need for redress and healing. Beyond the personal narratives, this analysis also draws attention to the broader systemic implications of these violations. Respondents consistently point to systemic factors such as corruption, the absence of accountability, and the prevailing culture of impunity within government agencies. These factors not only enable violations to persist but also erode trust in institutions meant to safeguard human rights. Crucially, this analysis serves as a clarion call for immediate action. It underscores the imperative need for sweeping reforms and enhancements in accountability and justice mechanisms within Nigeria. Respondents' stories emphasize that those responsible for human rights violations must be held accountable through fair and transparent judicial processes. In essence, this analysis, enriched by the voices of the respondents, not only exposes the suffering of individuals but also amplifies their calls for justice. It underscores the pressing need for systemic changes that will protect and promote human rights in Nigeria, ensuring that such violations become relics of the past rather than enduring scars of the present.

Research Question iii: Challenges in Holding Government Agencies Accountable for Human Rights Violations



The responses from participants collectively highlight the intricate web of challenges and potential avenues for addressing accountability in the context of human rights violations within Nigeria. These insights serve to illuminate the nuanced and multifaceted nature of the issues at

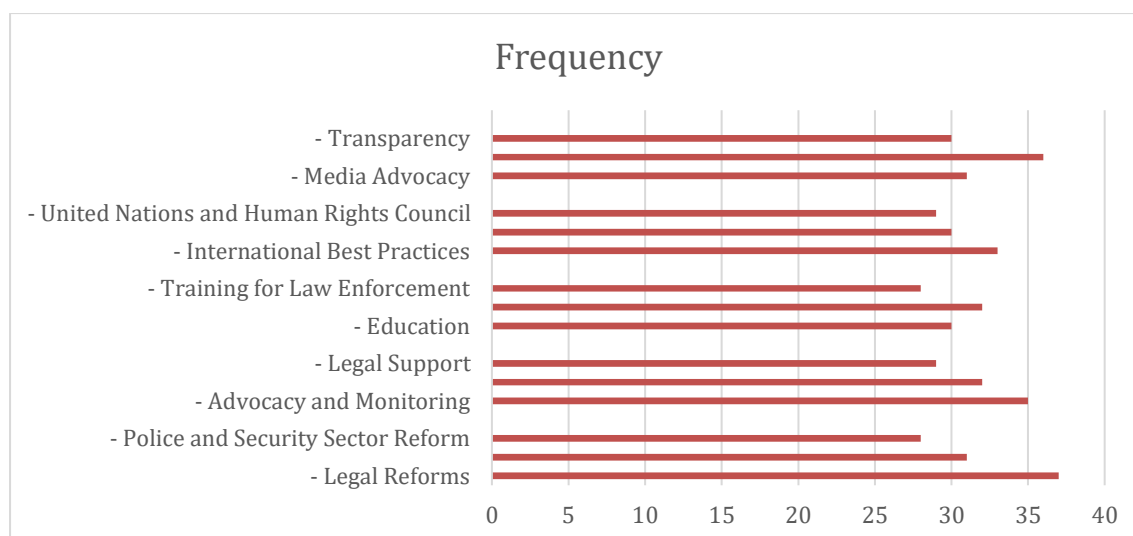


hand, shedding light on the complexities that individuals encounter when attempting to seek justice and redress for human rights abuses.

The responses emphasize that achieving accountability is not a straightforward task but rather a complex endeavor that requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Respondents articulate the need for concerted efforts that transcend individual actions and span across various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, international bodies, and the media. This collaborative approach is seen as essential to navigating the intricate challenges and opportunities presented by the pursuit of accountability for human rights violations.

In essence, the respondents' insights underscore the imperative of recognizing the multifaceted nature of the challenges at hand, acknowledging the potential for positive change, and committing to a unified and coordinated effort aimed at ensuring greater accountability and justice in Nigeria's future.

Research Question iv: Solutions and Strategies for Addressing and Preventing Human Rights Violations



The respondents in this study shared their perspectives on various strategies and recommendations to address and prevent human rights violations within Nigeria's democratic system. Their insights covered five key areas:

Firstly, they emphasized the need for comprehensive government reforms. Respondents pointed to the urgency of legal reforms, stressing the importance of strengthening human rights laws and ensuring their effective enforcement. They also advocated for the establishment and reinforcement of accountability mechanisms within government agencies. A particular focus was placed on reforming the police and security sectors to prevent abuses.

Secondly, the role of civil society organizations and advocacy groups was highlighted as pivotal. Respondents recognized these entities as essential in advocating for human rights,



monitoring government actions, and raising public awareness. They emphasized their capacity to mobilize public support and provide crucial legal assistance to victims, making them instrumental in driving positive change.

Thirdly, education and awareness-raising efforts were considered foundational. Respondents underscored the importance of integrating human rights education into schools and conducting awareness campaigns to inform citizens about their rights. They also recommended training programs for law enforcement agencies to enhance their understanding of human rights principles.

Fourthly, respondents encouraged learning from successful examples, both within and outside Nigeria. They saw value in studying and adopting international best practices, fostering regional cooperation, and seeking guidance from organizations such as the United Nations and the Human Rights Council. These approaches were seen as sources of valuable insights and models for improving human rights protection.

Lastly, the role of media and digital platforms was emphasized. Respondents acknowledged the media's crucial role in exposing human rights violations and holding government agencies accountable. They also recognized the potential of digital platforms, including social media and citizen journalism, in amplifying human rights issues. Additionally, they stressed the importance of enhancing transparency through online reporting and data sharing to address human rights concerns effectively.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

The study reveals various systemic factors contributing to human rights violations in Nigeria, spanning issues within government agencies, challenges faced by international organizations, limitations of NGOs and activists, and the media's role in exposing violations. These findings emphasize the need for comprehensive efforts involving multiple stakeholders to address these complex issues.

Personal accounts from victims underscore the urgent need for comprehensive human rights reforms in Nigeria, highlighting problems like arbitrary detention, abuse of power, lack of accountability, and the need for legal protections for victims. These stories stress the importance of addressing root causes and consequences.

The study identifies significant obstacles when seeking accountability for human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria, indicating the complexity of pursuing justice in such cases.

The proposed reforms and strategies offer a comprehensive approach to prevent and address human rights violations in Nigeria, focusing on root causes, accountability mechanisms, transparency, and justice within the government. Education and awareness initiatives are crucial in fostering a culture of human rights respect. Successful international examples provide valuable lessons for Nigeria. The study underscores the multifaceted nature of human rights



violations, their impact on victims, the challenges in seeking accountability, and the need for comprehensive reforms and collaboration to protect and promote human rights in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations based on the study's findings and conclusions regarding human rights violations by government agencies in Nigeria:

1. **Government Reforms:** Implement comprehensive reforms within government agencies to enhance transparency, accountability, and professionalism. Address issues like bureaucratic red tape, inefficiency, corruption, and political interference.
2. **International Engagement:** Strengthen international oversight and collaboration to pressure Nigeria's government to address human rights violations. Work closely with international organizations and bodies for a coordinated approach.
3. **Support for NGOs and Activists:** Provide legal protection and support for human rights defenders and activists on the ground. Ensure their safety and ability to work without fear of reprisals.
4. **Media Freedom:** Promote media freedom and safeguard journalists reporting on human rights violations. Ensure access to information and prevent censorship or self-censorship in media reporting.
5. **Historical Context:** Acknowledge and address historical events and policies contributing to human rights violations in Nigeria. This includes recognizing past grievances and promoting reconciliation.

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