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# **Artificial Intelligence and Security Enhancement in Nigeria for National Development: A Sociological Analysis**

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## **Abstract**

The focal point of the study is on security in Nigeria, security is pertinent for the socio-economic development and sustainability of any nation. Currently, militancy, Boko Haram crisis, Fulani, herdsmen, cow herders, local formers' clashes, and the heightening wave of kidnapping sums up the current state of security in Nigeria. Poor data management techniques on the part of government agencies have stalled various government efforts targeted towards, changing the status. Leaked strategies, poor speed of data gathering and processing have been prevalent as shown by several failed or near-miss intervention missions. This paper present and discusses the potential role of AI technology, (machine learning, big data, deep learning, and others as an efficient tool for detecting, preventing and curbing insecurities in Nigeria. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools have shown increasing promise concerning information gathering and analysis. AI can optimize time and source leakage of laid down strategies. The conflict theory of society by Karl Marx was adopted for this paper.

**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, security enhancement and national development

## Introduction

Concept of Artificial intelligence:

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, reasoning, perception, language understanding. AI systems use algorithms and data to make decisions, often independently, and can improve their performance over time through machine learning.

John McCarthy introduce the term artificial intelligence in the 1950s, defining it as “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines”. Since then, the field has the defining of AI. Currently, there is no single universal definition of AI.

Consequently, it is obvious that freedom from danger, threat, or harm (security) is a fundamental right and the primary duty of the government of any nation. Security is crucial for economic stability, growth and development in any nation. In Nigeria, insecurity issues in recent times such as Boko Haram crisis, Niger-Delta militancy, illegal Oil Bunkers, Fulani herdsmen, farmers tussles, cattle rustling, banditry, increased rate in kidnapping and in our higher institutions, there are violent crimes such as assaults, homicides', sexual assaults, domestic violence, hate crimes, mass shootings among others (Ajahi and Edet, 2023). Most Nigerian universities are battling with property crime, including theft, burglary, vandalism, arson and other criminal acts where property is the main target (Kumar, 2022). This has resulted in the loss of lives and properties, internal displacement of individuals, which serves as a deterrent to the achievement of millennium development and sustainability goals.

Consequently, in 2009 and 2017 it was recorded that 75% of Northeastern Nigerian's were either killed, injured, or displaced by the Boko Haram crisis. In 2017, the herdsmen insurgency led to the loss of about 1,425 lives. Similarly, militancy within the Niger Delta region has led to increase in the abduction of foreign personnel and vandalism. Recent cases of cattle resulting, local farmers-cattle grazers, clashes, kidnapping and rape are documented as follows. Example, in Zamfara state, bantitry alone caused about 1,321 deaths, 1881 cases of injury people, loss of 10,000 cattle, 688 hectares of farmland 10,000 houses.

Security challenge	Book haram	Cattle rustling	Fulani herdsmen	Farmer cattle grazer conflict	Niger Delta Militancy
Fatalities	1,240	470	1,425	1895	97
Number of incidents	71	12	47	59	32
Average facilities per incident	17	39	30	32	3

Table of incidents and fatalities verified by SBM intel

More so, the government response to the issues is either to send military troops, declare a state of emergency or dialogue. These counter-measures, which are effective within the past, are incapable of countering the recent time wave due to the expanded advancement in the area of their sponsor. Access to the internet has enabled the perpetrators to possess access to more sophisticated equipment and sponsors, hence increased government effort in curbing insecurity is needed. Between 2015 and 2021, report shows that the government spent about \$12.3 billion on military equipment and kidnapping related crimes. Less attention is paid to modern supplementary tools like AI technology tools that provide increased speed of data processing and

analysis and should complement the difficulties faced by security officials internally and externally.

### Classification Of Concepts Issues Of Insurgent Groups

The following are the major insurgent groups in Nigeria whose nefarious actions have posed serious threats to attainment of growth and development in the country.

**Boko Haram:** Boko Haram is an Hausa phrase which means “western education is forbidden or sinful” Thom-Otuya (2013). This phrase is used to refer to the Borno base Islamic sect called Jama “Atu Ahlis Snca Lidda” await Wal-Jihad which in Arabic means people committed to the propagation of the prophet’s teachings and jihad (Social and economic right action centre report, [Www.serac.org:4](http://Www.serac.org:4)).

**Bandits:** Bandits are robbers or outlaws, often associated with organized crime or historical figures like highwaymen. In broader sense, bandits might describe individuals or groups exploiting or taking advantage of others. Bandits are assortment of non-ideologically, but economically driven organized criminal groups or gangs involved in large-scale cattle theft, sexual violence, extortion, rankets, kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery, pillage and targeting road users in Northwest Nigerian (<https://internationalreview.incorg,27june2023>).

**Herdsman-farmers:** Herdsman are mostly Muslims from the Fulani ethnicity while the farmers are mostly Christians from other ethnic groups. The conflicts between the two usually start as a competing interest over access to nature resources such a land and water, and most often taken an ethno religious dimension (<https://forum.futureafrica.com>).

**Illegal oil bunkers:** Bunkers is a term used to describe the process of filling a ship with oil or coal. “illegal bunkering as used in respect to oil is an euphemism for oil theft. Illegal oil bunkering otherwise, known as oil thief siphons the main source of Nigerian economy for private gains.

### Concepts of Artificial Intelligence

Furthermore, Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the ability of machines to mimic human intelligence through tasks like reasoning, learning planning and problem-solving (Kumar, 2022). Russel and Norving (2020) affirmed that artificial intelligence (AI) involves computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception and decision-making artificial intelligence refers to the use of machines to simulate human intelligence. Herein, machines, often replicate actions like learning, logical reasoning among others that were once considered unique to humans. Presently, different kinds of AI for security have evolved. For instance, Kowalski et al (2022) observed that AI powered video analytics deployed across camera networks can automatically detect anomalies and alert staff in real-time to threats. More so, Salaam et al (2022) found that Ai optimized patrol routing using productive analytics can help security teams display resources more strategically to key risk areas.

Consequently, AI at the helm bottom of the fourth industrial revolution with a significantly increasing role in sectors like education, health, finance, manufacturing advertising an so on. In 2011 United States Naval force uncommon operations managed a Central Intelligence Agency Operation to capture Osama bin Leaders, the establishing father of AI Qaeda, the group

responsible for many terrorist exercise including the September II attacks. This paper proposes the utilization of AI to curb insecurity in Nigeria.

### Theoretical review

The study adopted conflict theory as propounded by Karl Marx. The theory is premised on the social, political and material inequality that characterized every social group and as long as this inequality exist, there must be conflict in the society. Conflict is based on the view that the fundamental causes of crime are the social and economic forces operating within society. The criminal justice system and criminal law are thought to be operating on behalf of the rich and powerful social elites with the aim of using the police to control the poor. Nigeria operates a capitalist system where the socio-economic and criminal justice favour the rich over the poor. This inequality definitely results to oppression and conflict.

Therefore, this people fell that there are being marginalize, insurgents initially started by deliberately contravening the state laws and regulations and then involved to challenging constituted authorities before going into this extreme violence.

### Threats of insecurity to peace and development

Threat is a declaration of an intention of determination to inflict pain, injury, damage or other hostile action in retaliation for, or conditionally upon some actions or course. Chambers 21<sup>st</sup> century Dictionary (1999). On April 14, 2014 the Boko-Haram insurgent group stormed government civil secondary school, Chibok in Borno state and kidnapped 276 female students and until now many of the girls are yet to regain their freedom irrespective of government's efforts. On Monday February 19, 2018 Boko Haram again struck government Girls' science and technical college (GGSTC), Dapchi in Yobe State and abducted 110 female students. Onah et al (2023) observes that the "abduction is in reminiscent of the April 14, 2014 kidnap of over 200 students of government Girls' secondary school, Chibok. Within three months, five schools were attacked in Kastina, Zamfara and Kaduna states, a total of 318 students both males and females were abducted by gunmen and hoodlums.

Consequently, in Niger State, the criminal attacked government science school, Kagara and killed a student, abducted 27 others were teachers and their families, but were released after a week shockingly again, on 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, Bandits attacked and abducted 344 students from government science secondary school, Kankara in Kastina. They were released after six days.

Again, on 15<sup>th</sup> march, 2021, bandits invaded Rema primary school, magajin in Kaduna State and kidnapped 3 teachers, while 2 pupils identified as Ahmed Halilu and Kabiru Yahaya were missing. Through found later. (Lawal, Samson, Tukuru and Aoddu 2021). In another development, Bandits attacked university of Maiduguri on 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 on February 10, 2018. (Ndome et al. 2022) again, daily post reports that, on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2023, bandits invaded three females hostels and abducted unspecified number of students of the federal university, of quasau, Zamfara state. the above incidents are clear indication of the threats of insecurity to [peace and development in our nation, which call for the adoption of AI in other to help security department function properly in their duties.

## **Adoption Ai and optimization of security initiatives higher institutions and Nigeria as a nation.**

The adoption of artificial intelligence Ai has had a significant impact on the optimization of security initiatives in our higher institutions and Nigeria at large. Ai technologies offer advanced capabilities for threat detection, Analysis, and response, leading to improved security outcomes. According to a study by Stidhar et al. (2019). The use of Ai based video analytics system in higher institutions allow for real time monitoring of campus activities, embarking the identification of potential security threats more efficiently, also, Ai powered algorithms can analyze large volumes of data from various sources, such as surveillance cameras, access control systems, and anomalies indicative of security risk, (Gao et al. 2025).

### **The role of Ai technology in curbing insecurity in Nigeria.**

Access to information is power. Ai technology has proven to aid the collection and analysis of information. Premeditated crimes such as the ones occurring in Nigeria require planning and relay of information, and with increased access to the internet. Ai tools can aid the mixing of these data and tracing the trend.

Intelligent analysis of collected data help in identifying criminal characteristics, investigating crimes, and links to the criminals. Identifying criminal tendencies creates the initiative for the investigation, however this is often challenging due to the complexity and vast amount of data. Ai tools can be used to track crime. using the approach crime information is usually automatically collected and entered into enforcement databases we must not forget the thought that information and its analysis lies at the center of the successful fight against crime, also due to the management of this counteraction.

- (a) Collecting data (information):** Collecting data devising the specified knowledge from data sets. This is often an approach to urge hidden relationships between organizations aid individuals committing crimes by using Ai methods. The big choice of data moving applications has become an enormous area of research in recent time, as a neighborhood of those applications is related to detection, prevention, and curbing crimes.
- (b) Criminology:** Criminology is one of the foremost important areas of application of intelligent data analysis. It has a process whose purpose is to identify criminal characteristics.
- (c) AI training, deep learning and fighting crime:** machine learning, computer algorithms that permit seek out the bent figure with an outsized amount of data are widely employed by technology giants like Google, apple and Netflix. The same technology that allows programs to recommend films or to line the order google search this is now successfully to combat crimes of varying severity.

**Detecting crimes:** AI is a position to research a huge amount of data, it's often opt to investigate and stop crime. An example of this is often the advertising of sex services online. Sex workers are thought to be relatively, anonymous and advertise their services almost under the nose of enforcement authorities. But every message online leaves a digital trace. Cyber experts can use algorithms for digital tracking data on the web to

determine if women volunteer or are coerced to advertise their service focus on seemingly insignificant details.

**Cybercrimes:** With the aid of AI, companies can prevent cybercrimes, which will cause financial damage and harm their reputation. It is often trained to acknowledge keywords or topics associated with harmful content, thus stopping the potential cyber-attack.

**DNA Analysis:** Modern forensic expertise of DNA is critical to the investigation of crimes, but the interpretation of the DNA code is often quite complicated. Specialized AI training techniques are often apt of simplify the interpretation of DNA. Especially when it involves DNA samples of several individuals. There's an enormous amount of knowledge that's not currently read solely due to our limited capabilities, but the PC algorithms of AI can easily do that.

**Face recognition:** A standard method of combating crime using AI is face detection technology. It's often used at airports to incorporate mapping of human images into enforcement database files, which allows identifying the perpetrator of crimes.

### **Prevention of crimes of a terrorist**

**Nature:** Scanning social networks to seek out people that are often radicalized is another activity that AI can effectively perform after appropriate training in recent time, some agencies are already using social media attempts to recruit new members of terrorist organizations like ISIS et al. monitoring tool is named AWACS or the AWACS internet system. This name is analogous to the abbreviation employed by the us military to explain its intelligence stations. AWACs aims to stop negative events by monitoring the activity on the web, identifying and locating potential criminal scenarios.

### **Conclusion**

This paper found that artificial intelligence AI was effective in optimizing security initiatives in quality service delivery in higher institutions. The above-mentioned artificial intelligence in the security sphere impresses with the breadth of application and the possible positive effect. The worrisome state of insecurity in Nigeria will drastically change positively. This paper among other gives a review of AI as a solution to Nigeria's insecurity.

### **Recommendations**

This paper recommends the following, that the management of higher institution and security practices. All security personnel's should be trained to start using AI for security operations in all part of the country including campus through comprehensive hands on workshops that will educate them on how to interpret data insight from AI systems.

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