

Insecurity and Personality Characteristics of Inhabitants in Calabar Metropolis, Cross River State – Nigeria



Psychology

Keywords: Insecurity, Personality Characteristics, etc.

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Abstract

The study sought to determine insecurity and personality characteristics of inhabitants of Calabar Metropolis, Cross River State-Nigeria. A survey design was adopted. Data collected from the population of study consisted of all inhabitants in Calabar Metropolis, Cross River State. The sample size was 393 (232 female representing 59 percent and 161 males representing 41 percent) subjects. An instrument captioned Insecurity Questionnaire (IQ) and Personality Characteristics Questionnaire (PCQ) was used to collect data. Descriptive statistics was used in answering the research questions while simple regression analysis were used in testing the hypotheses at .05 alpha level. The study revealed high level of insecurity. Also, insecurity has significant influence on personality characteristics among inhabitants in the area. Based on the findings, recommendations were made that youth energies should be properly channeled towards useful pursuits and other practical endeavours through entrepreneurship education.

Introduction

Security is the prime responsibility of everybody in a nation. Harmonious and peaceful co-existence is very crucial ingredient for national development. Unfortunately, there have been high incidences of insecurity that have resulted in death and psychological trauma for individual and families in Nigeria (Udoh, 2015). Observation shows a dramatic increase in violence, terrorism and the likes in Nigeria. There have been series of bombing, shooting, killing, kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, militancy among others (Imhonopi and Urim, 2012; Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim, 2013).

Ojo (2015) indicated that Nigeria had witnessed between January 1 2010 and June 30, 2014 over one hundred cases of bomb blast across the country with casualty figure of over 2000 people dead, many people injured, and millions of Naira worth of properties destroyed. It was also revealed that militants from other countries such as Somalia, Chad and other Islamic sects have invaded the country. Also, Human Right Watch Report on Nigeria in January 2012 estimated the number of death lost as a result of violence and terrorist activities between 2009 and 2011 rated at 935 persons (Laden, 2012). Insecurity is on the increase and virtually affects every sectors of the Nigerian economy ranging from politics religion, production and education.

The 1999 Nigeria constitution made provisions for the rights of citizens to include, right to social life, right to social security, right to work, right to livelihood, just and favorable remuneration, right to a standard of living adequate for the health of the individual and his family, including food, clothing, housing and right to education. No wonder, Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and natural resources to aid the attainment of these rights (Ali, 2013). Unfortunately, both past and present government have failed in the attainment of these rights hence, the onus is on the individuals to seek means of survival and to meet their daily needs. This

has resulted to violence and destruction of lives and properties. Insecurity has impacted negatively on the peaceful existence in the nation.

Table 1
Data on Global Peace Index for Nigeria from 2007-2015

Year	Global Peace Index (GPI)	Global Peace Rank (GPR)
2007	2.898	117 th
2008	2.724	129 th
2009	2.602	129 th
2010	2.756	137 th
2011	2.743	142 nd
2012	2.801	146 th
2013		148 th
2014	2.71	151 th
2015	2.910	151 th

Source: Human Development Report
(various issues. Global Peace Index (2015) retrieved from Google Scholar.

The data in table 1 shows a total decline of peace in Nigeria. The peace ranking declined from 2.898 in 2007 to 2.910 in 2015. Nigeria position dropped from 117th in 2007 to 151th in 2015.

The high level of insecurity has continued to pose serious threat to national integration, affecting virtually every sector of the economy, created fear, dispute and anxiety in different parts of the country. Thus, impacting unpleasant consequences on the personality characteristics of the inhabitants of Calabar Metropolis. Calabar metropolis over the years has been known for its hospitality characterized by peace and tranquility but recently, has witnessed serious security challenges ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, killings among others. Different cult groups such as Vikings, Mafias, Buccaneers, Pirates and Sea-dogs operate in the city in broad day light. Public places such as banks, markets, churches and schools are no longer safe as such has resulted to fearful living. Life and properties are being threatened and has left unpalatable consequences for the state's economy and its growth.

Many Nigerians argue that the real reason for the violence is not ethnic or religious differences rather the scramble for land, scarce resources and political clout. Poverty, joblessness and corrupt politics drive extremist from both sides to commit horrendous atrocities. Although the nation makes billions of dollars in oil revenue annually, majority of Nigerians live with less than a dollar a day. (Handley, 2010).

According to National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's unemployment rate increased from 19.7 percent in 2009 to 21.1 percent in 2010, 23.9 percent in 2011. In 2012, the rate moved up to 27.4 percent, 29.5 percent in 2013, 29.7 percent in 2014 compared to 2015 with 20.15 percent.

According to Igbuzo (2011), insecurity has led to the breakdown of institutional infrastructures. This breakdown has provoked the deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, thus paralyzing the existence of formal and legitimate rules rested in the hierarchy of social order. Insecurity as the function of government failure manifest in the inability of the state government to deliver public goods to its citizen. This lack of basic necessities has created growing army of frustrated people who resort to violence at the slightest provocation. Even when the state has the resources to provide for the needs of the inhabitants, the culture of corruption in public service has resulted in the death of basic necessities leading to what Hazen & Horner (2007) calls a "paradox of plenty". This has resulted to high crime rate and the security of lives and properties are no longer guaranteed.

To address these threat, present government of Cross River state have provided more security groups such as Operation Skolombo and several joint security forces which includes the Police, Army, Navy and Civil defense. These various security forces were posted to different strategic points. Despite all the efforts, the level of insecurity is still at alarming rate. Against this background, this paper seeks to examine insecurity and personality characteristics of inhabitants of Calabar Metropolis.

Beland (2005) defined insecurity as a state of fear and anxiety due to the absence or lack of protection. Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpan-Robaro (2013) sees insecurity connoting different meaning such as absence of safety, danger; hazard, uncertainty; lack of protection and lack of safety. Achumba et al (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subjected to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is the expression of vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. In the context of this paper, insecurity is anything that hampers peace and security whether social, economic, political or religious that can lead to death and distortion of the personality characteristics of an individual and that of the peace and harmony of the state.

Purpose of the study

The study sought to determine the prevalence of insecurity and its influence on the personality characteristics of the inhabitants of Calabar Metropolis. Specifically, the study intends to do the following:

- i.) Prevalence of insecurity among the inhabitant of Calabar Metropolis.
- ii.) The extent insecurity predicts personality characteristics such as aggression, emotional stability and anxiety level of inhabitants of Calabar metropolis.

Research questions

- i. To what extent is insecurity prevalent in Calabar metropolis?
- ii. Does insecurity predict personality characteristics such as aggression, emotional stability and anxiety?

Research hypothesis

- i. Insecurity does not predict the personality characteristics of the inhabitants of Calabar metropolis.

Literature review

Records abound on the high prevalence of insecurity in different parts of Nigeria. According to Nwagboso (2012), the Niger Delta conflict arose in the early 1990s due to tensions between International Oil Companies (IOCs) and some representatives in Niger Delta minority ethnic groups who were exploited without due compensation. This led to the death of many prominent leaders and many properties.

Looking at prevalence of security crisis in Nigeria, Okorie (2011), Tega (2002), Salawu (2010), Onyishi (2011), Ezeoha (2011) and Lewis (2002) have identified several causes of security crisis that posed serious consequences to national development. One of the majors is ethno-religious conflicts that have claimed many lives in Nigeria. (Ibrahim & Igbuzor, 2002; Hazen & Horner 2007). Ethno-religious conflicts exist when the social relations between members of one ethnic or religious and another of such group in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion, fear and a tendency towards violence confrontations to settle grievance. These conflicts have resulted to loss of lives. (Adagba, Ugwu & Eme 2012).

Onifade, Imonohpi and Urim (2013) indicated that the collapse of moral values within Nigeria is also a critical factor that has posed serious security challenges. The disintegration of communal value system which placed high premium on human life and despised greed, oppression and exploitation of the weak among others has also contributed to insecurity challenges. Other factors include; disconnect between the people and the government whether military or civilian, non-prosecution of perpetrators of violence. The failure of security agencies such as the police, military, state security services and paramilitary units to share intelligence information has also been identified as one of the factors negating the quick apprehension of culprits (Omede, 2011).

Nwagboso (2012) revealed a high prevalence of kidnapping in south-east Nigeria. According to his report, kidnapping has transmuted into a profitable business mostly among the youths in Abia particularly Aba, Imo, Ebonyi, Anambra and other states in the zone. Nwogu (2008) observed from 2007 to 2010 several prominent residents and indigenes in Aba and its environs were kidnapped for ransom.

This adversely affected the personality characteristics of the people. According to Nwagboso (2012), the kidnapping of school children has created fear, tension and anxiety in the environment. The report also revealed that during the same period, many commercial banks were robbed. Another security crisis was the Jos crisis which claimed numerous lives of Nigerians and properties worth millions of naira. Muslims, between 2007-2010 slaughtered over 10,000 Christians.

A survey data to determine the influence of insecurity on school attendance and co-curricular activities among senior secondary students in Jimeta-Yola Adamawa state was carried out by Ajake (2015). One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and simple regression analysis were used in testing the hypotheses at .05 alpha level. The result revealed high level of insecurity, poor school attendance and low involvement of students in co-curricular activities. Similar studies regarding high prevalence of insecurity were carried out in Yobe by Umam and Terhema (2014), Saleh (2011) and Bilah (2013). These studies revealed that constant violence and insecurity had made it difficult for teachers and other stakeholders to allow their children to stay at school.

Mueler and Roeder (2014) investigated the relationship between personality characteristics and protective strategies of university students. Students were asked through questionnaire their specific worries, anxiety and other personality traits as regards security crises. A cluster analysis was conducted to distinguish the different personality types resilient are characterized by low values in Neuroticism or emotional stability and low extraversion, in the combination with a high agreeable and conscientiousness (N=66). Cluster 3 were people who have low measures of extraversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness (N=71) significant differences were found with respect to general perception of security at night $F(2,290) = 3.03$; $P = 0.05$ nsquare $= 0.02$. Resilients showed a huge security perception. Group differences were also found with regards to fear of sexual harms that students were tensed and so afraid and therefore avoided the campus at night.

Klama and Egan (2011) also found a positive correlation between Neuroticism and Agreeableness as well as negative correlation with openness. According to these findings, a relationship between personality and the fear of crime seems to be plausible. Bhagat (2014) studied job insecurity and emotional stability of professionals at their work place using 200 subject randomly selected (male professionals) from industries, banking, health and educational sectors in Mangalore Karnataka, India. Psychological questionnaire for emotional stability and interview schedule was to access job insecurity. The result showed that there is a relationship between emotional stability and job insecurity.

From the above literature, most of the empirical works done were on the prevalence of insecurity; other empirical works was on job insecurity and personality characteristics and perception of security and protective strategies: differences between personality prototypes which were all foreign. This present study on insecurity and personality characteristics of inhabitants of Calabar Metropolis tends to bridge the gap in literature.

Methodology

Subject and data collection:

The research design was a Survey. Accidental sampling technique was used for subject selection. A total of 393 (232 female representing 59 percent and 161 males representing 41 percent) were used for the study.

Instrumentation

Insecurity Questionnaire (IQ) and Personality Characteristics Questionnaire (PCQ) were used. The instrument had three sections. Section A contained demographic information of respondent such as sex, location and occupation of respondent. Section B was an 11 item four-point scale that measured the prevalence of insecurity while section C was a 30 items that measured the three personality characteristics used in the study. The validity of the instrument was determined by two experts in Educational Psychology.

Data analysis

Data generated were analysed with simple percentages and bar chart for research questions while the hypotheses were tested with simple regression analysis.

Data Analysis

Research question 1: To what extent is insecurity prevalent in Calabar metropolis?

As presented in table 2, the results of data analysis showed that 70.2 % of the subjects reported that within the last three months in Calabar metropolis, there has been frequent armed robbery attack, while the rest 22.6% ,4.6% and 2.6 % respectively reported often, sometimes and never. The frequency showing the indices of insecurity is further presented in pictorial form in figure 1.

Table 2
Frequency and Simple percentages showing the extent of insecurity. (N = 393)

S/N	Insecurity: within the last three months	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Never
1	Robbery attack in on the increase	276 (70.2%)	89 (22.6)	18 (4.6%)	10 (2.6%)
2	Robbery incidence has affected business activities	253 (64.4%)	91 (23.2)	29 (7.4%)	20 (5.1%)
3	Kidnapping is on the increase in the town	182 (46.3)	142 (36.3%)	51 (13%)	18 (4.6%)
4	Recent increase of cultist activities	250 (63.6%)	105 (26.7%)	30 (7.6%)	8 (2%)
5	Cultist/armed robbers have been affected from Learning institution	170 (43.3%)	113 (28.8%)	85 (21.6%)	25 (6.4%)
6	Recent terrorist attack in the town	128 (32.6%)	116 (29.5)	109 (27.7%)	40 (10.1%)

7	There is no security check in the town	118 (30%)	96 (24.4%)	125 (31.8%)	54 (13.8%)
8	There is police patrol in various strategic points in the town	165 (42%)	117 (29.8%)	87 (22.1%)	24 (6.1%)
9	There has been constant fighting and shooting in the town	200 (50.9%)	120 (30.5%)	53 (13.5%)	20 (5.1%)
10	Assassination and killing is on the increase	158 (40.2%)	134 (34.1%)	61 (15.5%)	40 (10.1%)
11	Rape is on the increase	46 (11.7%)	165 (42%)	103 (26.2%)	79 (20.1%)

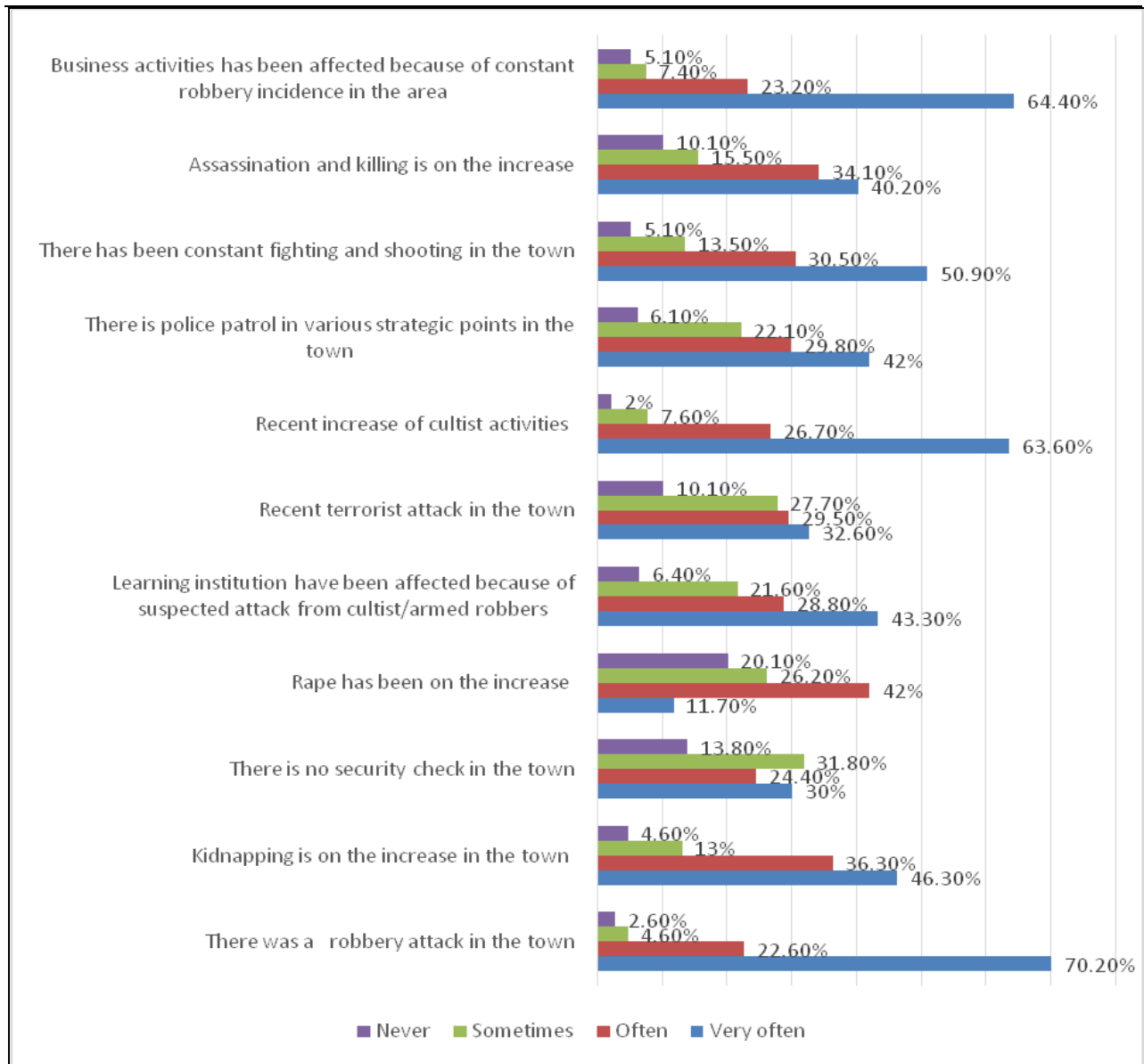


Figure2: Multiple bar chart of the prevalence of insecurity in Calabar metropolis.

Hypothesis by hypothesis presentation of results

H₀1: Insecurity does not significantly predict emotional instability

The independent variable in this hypothesis is insecurity. The dependent variable is emotional instability. Simple regression statistical analysis of the prediction of emotional instability as a result of insecurity was employed in testing for significance. The result of analysis is presented in table 3

Table 3: Simple Regression Analysis: Prediction of emotional instability using insecurity.

Source of variation	Sum of squares	DF	Ms	F	Sig	R	R ²
Regression	1807.60	1	1807.60	66.64	.000*	.382	.146
Residual	10551.48	392	27.12				
Total	12359.08	393					

Variables	Unstandardized B	coefficients Std. Error	Beta	t-value	Sig(p)
Constant	9.65	1.683		5.73	.000*
Insecurity	.397	.049	.382	8.16	.000*

P<0.05, *significant

a: Dependent Variable: Emotional instability

b: Predictors (constant), insecurity

Model:

Emotional instability = $\beta_0 + \beta_1$ insecurity + ϵ

Regression equation:

Emotional instability = 9.65 + 0.397 (insecurity)

The result on table 3 shows the Analysis of Variance and regression analysis of the prediction of emotional instability. It also shows F-value of 66.64 which is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that insecurity is a significant predictor of emotional instability. It further shows R value of .382 which is a positive relationship and R² value of .146, which means that the independent variable (insecurity) can explain 14.6% of the variance in the dependent variable (emotional instability). The lower part of the table shows the predictive capability of insecurity on emotional instability. The table shows the t-value that represents the predictive capability is 8.16, this is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that insecurity is a significant predictor of emotional instability. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate is upheld.

H₀2: Insecurity does not significantly predict aggression

The independent variable in this hypothesis is insecurity. The dependent variable is aggression. Simple regression statistical analysis of the prediction of aggression as a result of insecurity was employed in testing for significance. The result of analysis is presented in table 4.

Table 4: Simple Regression Analysis: Prediction of aggression using insecurity.

Source of variation	Sum of squares	DF	Ms	F	Sig	R	R ²
Regression	3983.04	1	3983.04	95.94	.000*	.445	.198
Residual	16106.75	392	41.51				
Total	20089.79	393					

Variables	Unstandardized B	coefficients Std. Error	Beta	t-value	Sig(p)
Constant	1.26	2.08		.606	.545
Insecurity	.589	.060	.445	9.79	.000*

P<0.05, *significant

a: Dependent Variable: Aggression

b: Predictors (constant), insecurity

Model:

Aggression = $\beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{insecurity} + \epsilon$

Regression equation:

Aggression = 1.26 + 0.589 (insecurity)

The result on table 4 shows the result of Analysis of Variance and regression analysis of the prediction of aggression. It also shows F-value of 95.94 which is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that insecurity is a significant predictor of aggression. It further shows R value of .445 which is a positive relationship and R² value of .198, which means that the independent variable (insecurity) can explain 19.8% of the variance in the dependent variable (aggression)

The lower part of the table shows the predictive capability of insecurity on emotional instability. The table shows the t-value that represents the predictive capability is 9.79, this is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that insecurity is a significant predictor of aggression. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate is upheld.

H₀₃: Insecurity does not significantly predict anxiety.

The independent variable in this hypothesis is insecurity. The dependent variable is anxiety. Simple regression statistical analysis of the prediction of anxiety as a result of insecurity was employed in testing for significance. The result of analysis is presented in table 5.

Table 5: Simple Regression Analysis: Prediction of anxiety using insecurity.

Source of variation	Sum of squares	DF	Ms	F	Sig	R	R ²
Regression	1185.77	1	1185.77	34.83	.000*	.286	.082
Residual	13275.73	392	34.04				
Total	14461.50	393					

Variables	Unstandardized B	coefficients Std. Error	Beta	t-value	Sig(p)
Constant	11.16	1.88		5.92	.000*
Insecurity	.321	.054	.286	5.90	.000*

P<0.05, *significant

a: Dependent Variable: Anxiety; Predictors (constant), insecurity

Model:

$$\text{Anxiety} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{insecurity} + \varepsilon$$

Regression equation:

$$\text{Anxiety} = 11.16 + 0.321 (\text{insecurity})$$

The result on table 5 shows the Analysis of Variance and Regression Analysis of the prediction of anxiety. It also shows F-value of 34.83 which is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that insecurity is a significant predictor of anxiety. It further shows R value of .286 which is a positive relationship and R² value of .082, which means that the independent variable (insecurity) can explain 8.2% of the variance in the dependent variable (anxiety)

The lower part of the table shows the predictive capability of insecurity on anxiety. The table shows the t-value that represents the predictive capability is 5.90, this is significant at 0.05 level. This implies that insecurity is a significant predictor of anxiety.

Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate is upheld.

Discussion

The study revealed that insecurity was very prevalent in Calabar Metropolis. Also, insecurity can be used in predicting the personality characteristics such as emotional stability, aggression and anxiety level of the people. This implies that people whose area were prone to high level of insecurity were more aggressive, more emotionally unstable and has high anxiety level. This finding was supported by previous studies of the following (Nwagboso, 2012; Mueller & Roeder 2014; Klama & Egan 2011 & Ajake 2015).

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study shows that insecurity is one of the greatest challenges facing Nigeria especially Calabar Metropolis which has impacted negatively to the peace and tranquility Cross River State had enjoyed over the years.

This has also posed serious damage to the personality characteristics of the inhabitants of the environs. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made.

- 1) Policies to reduce unemployment and ensure equity in the distribution of resources should be promoted.
- 2) Youth energies should be properly channeled towards useful pursuits and other practical endeavours through entrepreneurship education.
- 3) Proper security measures should be introduced in all facet of the state.

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