

HOME AND FAMILY MANAGEMENT AS DETERMINANTS OF ADDRESSING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated the influence of home and family management as determinants of addressing insecurity in Nigeria. The study was guided by three specific objectives and corresponding null hypotheses. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The researcher targeted 300 experts in home economics for the data collection. The instrument for data collection was a 4-point scale structured questionnaire titled "Home Management and Security Determinants Questionnaire" (HMSDQ). Three experts validated the instrument, which was subsequently pilot tested; a reliability coefficient of 0.82 was obtained. The researcher, with the aid of 12 research assistants, collected the data using the direct approach. The data collected were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS), version 27. Multiple Regression Analysis was used for the test of the null hypotheses at a 0.05 significance level. The outcome of the study indicated that parental monitoring, family value orientation, and conflict management strategies significantly influenced the addressing of insecurity. It was concluded that the family unit serves as a critical pillar in national security architecture. The study recommended, among others, that government agencies should collaborate with religious and community leaders to sensitize parents on proactive home management as a primary tool for crime prevention.

Keywords: Home Management, Insecurity, Parental Monitoring, Value Orientation, Nigeria.

Introduction

National security is a fundamental requirement for the growth and survival of any sovereign state. In Nigeria, the security scenery has become increasingly compounded, characterized by a rise in youth delinquency, radicalization, and communal violence. Traditionally, security has been viewed through the lens of state-centric military and police interventions; however, the persistent nature of these challenges suggests a need for a bottom-up approach. According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2013), education and socialization are essential for national development, yet the role of the family the most basic unit of socialization is often overlooked in security discourse. Adebayo (2022) reported that the home is the primary environment where an individual's character and moral compass are forged, making it the "first line of defense" against social deviance.

Despite the strategic importance of the family, evidence suggests a significant breakdown in domestic management practices across many Nigerian households. Survey studies have shown that the shift in economic priorities has led to a "supervision gap," where parents spend less time monitoring the activities and associations of their children. In contemporary Nigeria, the steady decline in moral instruction and the erosion of traditional family values have

created a vacuum easily filled by extremist ideologies and criminal influences (Okolie, Elom, & Nwajiuba, 2021). This trend underscores a crisis in home management that directly feeds into the national security challenge.

One of the primary factors determining an individual's propensity for deviant behavior is the quality of parental monitoring and supervision. Home management encompasses more than just financial upkeep; it involves the active tracking of associations and the enforcement of discipline. Adekule and Fowowe (2021) argued that effective monitoring provides a psychological boundary that prevents children from engaging in high-risk behaviors. Students and youths who lack this oversight are more likely to be recruited into gangs or insurgent groups, as the home has failed to provide the necessary behavioral checks (Oduwaiye, 2019).

Again, the value orientation established within the home plays a significant role in addressing insecurity. The inculcation of empathy, honesty, and respect for human life acts as an internal regulator for individuals. Olatunji and Garba (2021) stated that families that prioritize ethical training over material desperation produce citizens who are resilient to criminal lure. Furthermore, the conflict management strategies adopted within the household serve as a blueprint for societal interaction. Salisu and Musa (2023) argued that households that utilize dialogue and mediation rather than aggression produce individuals who contribute to communal peace. Conversely, homes characterized by domestic violence socialize members to view aggression as a legitimate tool for conflict resolution (Oshie, 2022).

The implications of these dynamics are profound. A positive home environment that emphasizes proactive management, monitoring, and non-violent conflict resolution can significantly mitigate the factors that lead to national insecurity. Conversely, neglected home settings contribute to the swelling ranks of the "idle-handed" who are prone to radicalization (Musa, 2025). It was based on this that the researchers carried out this study. Specifically, the study sought to: (1) determine the influence of parental monitoring and supervision on addressing insecurity in Nigeria; (2) assess the influence of family home management value orientation on addressing insecurity in Nigeria; and (3) ascertain the influence of household conflict management strategies on addressing insecurity in Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at a significance level of 0.05:

- i. Parental monitoring and supervision has no significant influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria.
- ii. Family home management value orientation has no significant influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria.
- iii. Household conflict management strategies has no significant influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of home and family management refers to the systematic coordination of human and material resources within the domestic sphere to achieve family goals, including the socialization and security of its members. Adebayo (2022) stated that effective home management serves as a critical infrastructure for character development, encompassing

parental supervision, the inculcation of moral values, and the emotional climate that dictates an individual's response to societal pressures. Haruna and Ibrahim (2023) argued that the family is the primary unit of the social system, and its management patterns shape foundational behaviors and attitudes toward law and order long before individuals interact with the broader state security apparatus.

Parental monitoring and supervision are widely recognized as strong predictors of behavioral outcomes, with active parents often fostering higher self-discipline and resistance to criminal peer pressure (Anyanwu, 2020). Studies consistently show that households with robust supervisory frameworks exhibit lower rates of youth delinquency. For example, Ogunleye and Adeyemi (2022) found a significant negative relationship between parental monitoring and youth involvement in social vices, suggesting that consistent oversight acts as a deterrent to criminal recruitment.

The study conducted by Yusuf and Salihu (2021) reported that family value orientation—the internal moral framework of the home enhances an individual's ethical resilience against radicalization. Similarly, Haruna and Ibrahim (2023) highlighted that a home management style anchored on traditional ethical values positively influences a child's respect for the sanctity of life, thereby mitigating the triggers of communal violence. Furthermore, socio-economic stability and effective resource management within the family further shape the susceptibility of members to economic crimes. Olatunji and Garba (2021) noted that families that manage their domestic resources effectively, regardless of income level, tend to produce more content and less desperate individuals. Household conflict management strategies also play a pivotal role; Adekunle and Fowowe (2021) argued that when families utilize dialogue and mediation to resolve internal tensions, they socialize their members to adopt non-violent approaches to societal conflicts, effectively addressing the root causes of civil unrest.

Methodology

The design for the study was a cross sectional survey. The researcher targeted 300 experts in home economics for data collection in the rank of senior lecturers and above in tertiary institutions in Nigeria using convenient sampling technique. The instrument data collection was 40-items questionnaire titled Home Management and Security Determinants Questionnaire (HMSDQ). The instrument was structured on a 4-point scale of Strongly Agree (SA) 4-points, Agree (A) 3-points, Disagree (D) 2-points, and Strongly Disagree (SD) 1-point. The instrument was validated by three experts in the fields of Sociology and Home Management. The validated instrument was subjected to pilot-tested. The reliability of the questionnaire was established using Cronbach Alpha, which yielded a coefficient of 0.82, indicating high internal consistency and suitability for the study. Hair et al., (2019) stated that a reliability coefficient of 0.70 should be considered satisfactory for a survey study.

The data were collected with the aid of 12 research assistants who are lecturers in the institutions involved in the data collection. The data were collected using direct approach, the approach led to a high response rate. The data collection lasted for 10 weeks. The data collected from the study were analyzed using Multiple Regression Analysis to determine the influence of the independent variables on the dependent variable at a 0.05 level of significance. The analysis was conducted using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 26.

RESULTS

The results of the hypotheses is as presented in Table 1

Hypotheses:

1. Parental monitoring and supervision has no significant influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria.
2. Family home management value orientation has no significant influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria.
3. Household conflict management strategies has no significant influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria.

Table 1: Regression analysis on the influence of parental monitory and supervision, family value orientation and conflict management on addressing insecurity in Nigeria

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1 (Constant)	.186	.126			1.478	.150
Monitory	.418	.067	.448		6.201	.000
Orientation	.823	.135	.850		6.080	.000
Management	-.282	.134	-.286		-2.101	.044
a. Dependent Variable: insecurity						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.965 ^a	.931	.924	.25484		

a. Predictors: (Constant), Management, Monitory, Orientation

The regression analysis documented in Table 1 present the results of the test of the three hypotheses. From the Table, the result of hypothesis one suggested that parental monitoring and supervision have a significant positive influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria. The standardized Beta coefficient was .448 and the P-value stood at .000. The Beta coefficient of .448 suggested that there is a corresponding 44.8% improvement in the effectiveness of security measures. Statistically, the t-value of 6.201 confirms that this variable is a powerful and reliable predictor, suggesting that active supervision acts as a critical intervention point for reducing criminal propensity among youths. The hypothesis was rejected.

The analysis of the second hypothesis reveals that family home management value orientation is the most significant determinant. The results shows a standardized Beta coefficient of .850 with P-value of .000. The Beta coefficient suggested that family home management has 85% positive influence on addressing insecurity in Nigeria. The t-value of 6.080, value orientation is proven to be the strongest determinants of curbing the insecurity. The hypothesis was therefore rejected.

The interpretation of the third hypothesis shows that household conflict management strategies significantly influence security, though the relationship is inverse. The standardized Beta coefficient of -.286 and a significance value of .044 indicate that the null hypothesis is rejected. The negative t-value of -2.101 implies that as poor or aggressive conflict management increases within the home, the ability to address national insecurity significantly decreases. This suggests that households characterized by high levels of domestic tension and violent

dispute resolution contribute directly to the normalization of violence in the broader Nigerian society. The hypothesis was also rejected.

The Model Summary indicates a very strong relationship between the predictors and the dependent variable, with an R value of .965. Specifically, the R Square value of .931 reveals that 93.1% of the variance in addressing insecurity in Nigeria can be explained by parental monitoring, family value orientation, and household conflict management. This high coefficient of determination suggests that the model is extremely reliable in predicting security outcomes based on home management practices.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The results of hypothesis one revealed that parental monitoring and supervision significantly influence the ability to address insecurity in Nigeria. This finding is consistent with the position of Anyanwu (2020) who reported that parental supervisory at home enhance higher self-discipline and create a resistance to criminal peer pressure among youths. It was also supported by Odinko and Adeyemo (2021) who argued that a lack of consistent domestic oversight is a primary driver of adolescent delinquency and negative behavioral attitudes. Similarly, Adebayo (2022) opined that when parents bridge the "supervision gap" through active tracking of associations, the home functions effectively as the first line of defense against social deviance. This finding concurred with that of Ogunleye and Adeyemi (2022) whose study established that family relationship has influence on addressing atrocities among their children.

The results of hypothesis two indicated that family home management value orientation is a critical determinant of national security. This finding was in agreement with that of Okolie, Elom, and Nwajiuba (2021) who reported that the erosion of traditional moral instruction at home environment has created a vacuum easily filled by extremist ideologies. The finding also agreed with the submission of Olatunji and Garba (2021), which stated that families prioritizing ethical training and integrity over material desperation produce citizens who are significantly more resilient to the lures of criminal ventures. Similarly, the study conducted by Yusuf and Salihu (2021) found that a strong internal moral framework within the domestic sphere enhances an individual's ethical resilience, specifically regarding radicalization. In line with the finding, Haruna and Ibrahim (2023) stated that a family management style anchored on deep-seated ethical values positively influences a child's respect for the sanctity of life, thereby mitigating the triggers of communal violence.

The results of hypothesis three revealed that household conflict management strategies significantly affect the mitigation of broader societal insecurity. The finding was in alignment with the assertions of Adekunle and Fowowe (2021) who stated that when families utilize dialogue and mediation to resolve internal tensions, they successfully socialize their members to adopt non-violent approaches to societal conflicts. Oshie (2022) also found that parenting practices involving constructive conflict resolution are proactive tools that enhance national security by reducing the normalization of violence. The finding of Salisu and Musa (2023), Musa (2023) all reported that households employing emotional intelligence and mediation in their management styles produce individuals who contribute positively to communal peace and stability. These according to the authors reduce the tendency of disunity, delinquency, and vulnerability to violent extremism among the youths.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that home and family management is a significant determinant in addressing insecurity in Nigeria. The results demonstrate that proactive parental monitoring, a strong ethical value orientation, and the adoption of constructive conflict resolution strategies within the home significantly reduce the propensity for social deviance. It is evident that the family serves as the foundational security unit of the nation; when domestic management is effective, it produces resilient, disciplined citizens, whereas its breakdown provides the human capital for insurgency, banditry, and communal unrest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based strictly on the findings of this research, the following recommendations are made:

1. Parents should move beyond providing financial support to actively tracking their children's social associations and digital activities to prevent early-stage criminal recruitment.
2. Households should intentionally re-prioritize ethical training, integrity, and respect for human life over the pursuit of extreme materialism, which often fuels economic crimes.
3. Families should transition from aggressive or violent methods of settling internal disputes to mediation and dialogue-based approaches to ensure that members do not socialize violence as a legitimate means of expression.

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