
CHALLENGES OF ACCESSING BASIC NECESSITIES BY INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN GARAKU IDP CAMP, KOKONA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NASARAWA STATE - NIGERIA

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Abstract

One red-hot issue that has trapped the attention of the international community is that of internal displacement resulting from both man-made and natural occurrences. The paper examines challenges of accessing basic necessities by internally displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria. The social survey research design was adopted for this paper. Data were collected using quantitative methods. 152 questionnaires were distributed among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Garaku IDP Camp, through simple random sampling techniques. Data collected showed that sex, religion, and educational attainment have influenced the challenges of accessing basic Necessities by internally displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria. The paper recommends that Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Security operatives, and other critical stakeholders should overhaul the relief material distribution process through the strict monitoring of the distribution team to avoid misuse of authority, diversion of relief materials, segregation, harassment, gender bias, and other irregularities before, during and after distribution. Also, there is the need for proper coordination among NGOs and other humanitarian bodies to ensure items provided for IDPs (especially women and children) are not diverted.

Keywords: Internally Displaced Persons, Challenges, Necessities, Displacement, Camp

INTRODUCTION

One red-hot issue that has trapped the attention of the international community is that of internal displacement resulting from both man-made and natural occurrences. Worldwide, nations are fronting threats from terrorism and insurgency, disasters, ethno-religious conflicts, banditry, and other politically driven conflicts. Countries of the world are either at war or faced with other forms of conflicts or disasters. No region or continent in the world is free from war, disaster, and other forms of conflicts. Africa has recorded various incidences of war, disasters, and conflicts, be it regions war, disaster, insurgency, or ethnic conflicts since 1980. Seen (1999) cited in Alao, (2015) observes that after 1945, there have been more conflicts and wars within states than between states. The conflict-related map (2008) cited in Alao, (2015) shows that 88 percent of the deaths related conflicts

worldwide from 1990 to 2007 were located in Africa, while the share of the Middle East was only 4 percent.

The drivers of displacement in Nigeria are multi-faceted and complex and often overlap. The militant Islamist group Boko Haram has triggered significant displacement in the marginalized north-east of the country since 2014. Competition between pastoralists and farmers has caused tensions in the central region, culminating in significant levels of violence and displacement. Long-standing ethnic conflict between Fulani pastoralists and Hausa farmers in north-western Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states also triggers displacement. Flooding displaces thousands of people every year. Conflict and violence led to 248,000 new displacements across 19 states in 2019. The on-going insurgency in the north-east triggered 105,000 criminal violence in the north-west and north-central states 88,000, and communal violence in the central region 55,000. About 2.6 million people were living in displacement as of the end of the year. Flooding affected most of the country in 2019 and triggered most of the 157,000 new displacements recorded (International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 2020).

However, the consequence of war, disaster, conflict, and violence, shows that millions of people have died since the end of the cold war, while more millions have been displaced and turned to refugees. Over 45 million people have been displaced from their homes following the war, disaster, conflict, and violence of varying degrees across the different continents of the world. The world is reported to be having its highest number of displaced persons since 1994 when millions of people fled ethnic violence in the former Yugoslavia and genocide in Rwanda. The multi-dimensional conflicts in Nigeria as well as the fallout of Boko Haram insurgency left behind inestimable damage on every facet of life, most especially the plight of persons internally displaced (Alao, 2015).

Recent statistics from the United Nations High Commission on Refugee (UNHCR, 2014) reveal that the total number of internally displaced persons stood at 5,554,479. Furthermore, in Africa, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) stood at 5.4 million and Nigeria has more than 2million IDPs (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC, 2020).

Statistics from Human Rights Watch (HRW) (2020) asserts that the IDP figures have risen unprecedentedly in the preceding years due largely to the increasing number of Boko Haram attacks, heavy-handed counter-insurgency, and on-going inter-communal violent conflicts, banditry, natural disasters in some communities across the country. For instance, the clashes between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in states of Katsina, Sokoto, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba, Zamfara, and Kaduna displaced 248,000 persons across 19 states in 2019 (International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 2020).

Obviously, among the IDPs, the most affected vulnerable groups are children, aged, and women who are exposed to severe socio-economic challenges. Even though the Nigerian government has made efforts to address the plights of IDPs by providing IDPs

camps, there are still socio-economic challenges of overcrowding, poor sanitation, joblessness, poverty, increase in the level of illiteracy and insecurity in the IDPs camps and host communities across the states of the country (Alao, 2015).

More so, the IDPs who fled to neighbouring communities (which are the majority) are forced to begin life afresh in their host communities where they are abandoned to their fates. In their new communities, the IDPs are regarded as strangers and of course treated as 'nobodies' by their host communities. Worst of all, they are exposed to severe socio-economic challenges such as starvation, poor accommodation, unemployment, social discrimination, child labour, inadequate healthcare, sexual harassment, and its attendant teenage pregnancy. They are also faced with the problems of intimidation, humiliations, and other forms of social exclusions. Furthermore, the displacement also affects national productivity as the youth population, which constitutes parts of the productive forces of the country, is also displaced. All these challenges militate against government development efforts and account for the continuous downwards trends in Nigeria's development index that demands urgent attention (Itumo & Nwaboshi, 2016).

The portions of the economic infrastructure ruined by terrorism and insurgency, disasters, ethno-religious conflicts, banditry, and other politically driven conflicts in the country, have significantly impeded access to food, shelter, water, income, and other basic necessities. In addition to the loss of basic necessities faced by IDPs and even the host community who are mostly farmers that were denied, access to their land to plant crops and raise livestock, non-agricultural livelihoods were also affected. Local markets in most of the country were destroyed or abandoned because businesses were either forced to close down because of insecurity or business owners migrated to safer states and Local Government Areas as IDPs (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank, 2016). Furthermore, IDPs are faced with insecurity and all forms of exploitation and abuse, including rape, having camped in congested shelters, isolated, insecure or inhospitable areas; they were also separated from their families especially, unaccompanied children and teenagers, the elderly and sick, the handicapped and pregnant women, whose special needs and privacy was not attended to, due to fragmented and uncoordinated humanitarian response to the needs of IDPs (Dauda, 2014, Famutimi, 2013, & Mohammed 2017). It is against this background that, this paper examines the Challenges of accessing basic Necessities by Internally Displaced Persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

The challenges faced by internally displaced persons in accessing the basic necessities due to terrorism and insurgency, disasters, ethno-religious conflicts, banditry, and other politically driven conflicts is disheartening. This situation has on some occasions forced the IDPs to even flee the IDP camps for their safety, an action that worsens their predicaments. Internally Displaced persons are mostly victims of the brutality of man

against man various kinds of injustices or violent confrontations, are perpetrated either by their government against them or by others, such as terrorism, communal clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters, and so on (Itumo & Nwaboshi, 2016).

More so, internally displaced persons in Garaku IDP camp are faced with a variety of challenges including food, clothing, shelter, occupation, loss of a family member, and abuse. Most internally displaced persons live and share resources with host communities. Just as Abba, Musa & Abba, (2017) observed that there is a likely preponderance of social and economic consequences linked to the emergence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

According to United Nations High Commission on Refugee (UNHCR) (2017) assessment on Nigeria Situation 2017 Supplementary Appeal, IDPs are facing enormous challenges and dire living conditions due to lack of food, shelter, water, and sanitation, as well as limited and overstretched health facilities. Also, IDPs in the country and Garaku IDP camp in particular face grave human rights violations and abuse including death, injuries, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), arbitrary detention, disappearances, forced displacement, and forced recruitment, which directly lead to diverse socio-economic hardship.

Studies have been conducted on the Challenges of accessing Necessities by Internally Displaced Persons in many parts of the world including Nigeria. However, none of such studies, to the best knowledge of the researcher, has been conducted on the Challenges of accessing basic Necessities by Internally Displaced Persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria that is the gap the study intends to fill. Therefore, the paper examines the Challenges of accessing basic Necessities by Internally Displaced Persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria. This is the major problem of the study.

Research Hypotheses

This paper tested the following research hypotheses:

- i. There is no significant relationship between sex and challenges of accessing basic necessities by internally Displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between Religion and challenges of accessing basic necessities by internally Displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria.
- iii. There is no significant relationship between Educational attainment and challenges of accessing basic necessities by internally Displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

The concept of Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) is comprehended differently from different perspectives and disciplines. Garba (2019) sees Internally Displaced persons as those who have been forced or obliged to flee or have cause to leave their homes or place of habitual residence to avoid the effect of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violation of human rights, or natural or human-made disaster. These people, when they live within their state border, are referred to as internally displaced persons and if (they) cross an internationally recognized state border are called refugees. The concept of internally displaced person is further described as a person or groups of persons who, because of armed conflict, systematic violations of human rights, internal strife, or natural or man-made disasters have been forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence suddenly or unexpectedly, to another location but have not crossed an internationally recognized state border (Itumo & Nwaboshi, 2016). This has drawn a dichotomy between refugees and IDPs that, when displaced persons are within their border are referred to as an internally displaced person, but if they crossed an international border and falls under one of the relevant international legal instruments, are considered as refugees. Itumo and Nwaboshi (2016) further posit that, in armed conflict situations, IDPs like any other persons benefit from international humanitarian law and the legal protection of international human rights law. However, while they continue to benefit from all of the international human rights instruments and legal protection available to other persons, they are excluded from the specialized protection of international refugee law because they have not crossed an international border. Conversely, Alabi, (2016) termed internally displaced persons as those who have been forced to leave their homes and sources of livelihood but are still within the border of a country undergoing violent internal conflict.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are typically unfortunate victims of the brutality of man against man; various kinds of injustice or violent confrontation are, perpetrated either by their government against them or by others such as terrorism, community clashes, religious conflicts, riots, natural disasters (Olukolajo, Ajayi, & Ogungbenro, 2014).

The African Union Convention for Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention, 2009), defined the term Internally Displaced Persons as; 'persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border'. Durosaro and Ajiboye (2011) in supporting the above definitions, indicated that there are two main components of the IDPs; the coercive or otherwise involuntary movement which takes place within national borders mainly caused by factors such as armed conflict, violence, human rights violation and disaster. These factors afford people

little or no choice at all to leave their homes and further alienate them from the most essential protection mechanisms, such as community networks, access to services, and livelihoods. The second part of the IDPs as acknowledged by Durosaro and Ajiboye (2011) is the movement within national borders which IDPs remain legally under the protection of national authorities of their habitual residence, unlike refugees who have been deprived of the protection of their state (country) of origin, they are expected to enjoy the same rights as those who are not displaced. In any way IDPs are defined, it is worthy to note that they have not crossed internationally recognized boundaries. In other words, their movement might just be temporal. This means that they could return whenever the prevailing circumstances (e.g. conflicts, wars, natural disasters) that made them leave in the first place is no longer in their former place of residence.

This paper agreed to the definitions provided by the African Union Convention for Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention, 2009), that Internally Displaced Persons as; ‘persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border’.

Theoretical Framework

This paper espoused Relative Deprivation Theory as a theoretical framework for this study. Relative Deprivation Theory was propounded by American Sociologist Samuel Stouffer. Relative deprivation is the term used to denote or indicate the tension that develops from a discrepancy between the “ought” and the “is” of collective value satisfaction, and that disposes men to violence leading to various socio-economic challenges (Coady, 1999).

The theory also focuses on feelings and actions of an individual or groups’ feelings of deprivation that resulted from accessing necessities of life. The central idea of relative deprivation theory and its relevance to the study under investigation are more visible as the theory suggests that individuals or groups feel deprived when their current conditions are negatively compared to the situation of others, which has been experienced by the Internally Displaced Persons, particularly in the areas of lack of necessities of life such as food, shelter, water, housing, hygiene, healthcare, education, cultural and leisure activities; so also poverty and harshness of life, access to food aid, sexual violence and abuse, family displacement, career opportunities, access to clothing and shelter among others.

It is informative to note that certain groups within the displaced communities faced issues of discrimination and exclusion. Any deprivation related feelings are attributes of IDPs. The theory provides a vital background for analyzing and assessing issues of internally displaced persons. Despite the criticism of relative deprivation theory, the relevance of this theory to the study is very apparent, as the theory explains the causes of social movement

and how the IDPs faced continuous deprivation in the course of accessing the necessities of life in terms of the provision of socio-economic services and resources allocation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the Challenges of Accessing Basic Necessities

One of the overwhelming challenges confronting the Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria lies in accessing the necessities of life – food, clothing, and shelter. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2020) reported that as part of Nigeria's 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the findings of the protection sector working group revealed a full spectrum of protection concerns in Nigeria, with over 2 million people (IDPs) estimated to need protection and assistance in a different part of the country.

In Nigeria, the incidence of internal displacement occurred solely because it has ethnic, religious, and political undertones. Displacement leaves negative socio-economic footprints in the lives of millions of people worldwide (Olukolajo et al, 2014). IDPs are often unable to exercise their basic rights to food and essential household items such as sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, soap, and cooking utensils. They usually lose access to their sources of revenue when they flee. Assistance for those living in camps, when provided, is inadequate. The destruction of property, crops, and stores of food at the time of displacement is a major driver of food insecurity among IDPs. During the early phases of displacement, state governments and aid agencies provided basic food items through SEMAs, but supplies were often quickly exhausted. IDPs may then be forced to turn to their hosts for help in meeting their basic needs (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 2016).

For Ladan (2012), during violent conflicts or natural disasters, IDPs are usually forced to leave; most houses and properties are destroyed, looted, or burnt down. It leaves the displaced with the quest for shelter and survival. However, with the incapacity of IDPs, these quests are usually hindered. Meanwhile, they are either catered for by relatives/philanthropist or the government. While it is the constitutional responsibility of the latter that these needs are met, the former through social ties and a sense of communal relationship may provide such. It should be noted here that the primary needs of IDPs remain to be food, shelter, clothing, and opportunities to reduce dependence. The conflicts have brought about fundamental problems of human security in the north-eastern region, particularly concerning humanitarian crises (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2008).

Olukolajo et al, (2014) shown that most IDPs reportedly preferred to seek shelter with relatives rather than living in camps. The vast majority of displaced persons in Nigeria reportedly seek refuge with family, friends, or host communities in areas where their ethnic or religious group is in majority. This is further justified in the assessment by International Organisation for Migration, (2016) which reported that the vast majority of IDPs identified

in Nigeria are living in host communities, with friends and relatives, or in rented/donated houses. The data collected in the field indicates that 81 percent of IDPs live in host communities while 19 percent live in camps or camp-like sites. This has to some extent revealed the level of suffering IDPs experienced in securing shelter as one of the necessities.

Furthermore, UNICEF (2014) reported that a large majority of the IDPs are women and children and over 90 percent are accommodated in host families within communities who are themselves poor and consequently putting pressure on already scarce resources. This is partly because of their tentative assurance of freedom, care, and provision, which is comparatively better provided by relatives than in IDPs camps and camp-like settings. A report by UNHCR (2017) revealed that displaced populations are living in squalid conditions characterized by overcrowding and limited access to safe, sanitary, and undignified accommodation. IDPs and returnees hosted in camps and displacement sites are often living in congested shelters or isolated in insecure or inhospitable areas, making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The situation is most precarious in settlements such as camps, displacement sites, and uncompleted buildings. The lack of shelter is, therefore, a major and persistent challenge of accessing necessities of life by IDPs. Pressed for food always without money, most of the displaced persons do whatever was possible to obtain a meal. The deprivations have led to a thriving system in which displaced person trade sex for food.

An assessment conducted by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in March 2014, reported that in Borno state, 70 percent of IDPs living with host families responded that water and sanitation facilities are overstretched as a result of the influx of population from high-risk local government areas to low-risk local government areas. In Yobe State 60 percent of the IDPs living with host families responded that access to good water and sanitation in the local government areas covered is adequate while in Adamawa state 65 percent of IDPs living with host families responded that the availability of water supply had decreased from an estimated pre-crisis availability of 75 litres per person a day to an average of 20 litres per person a day. The assessment indicated that access to water treatment chemicals has also become increasingly difficult and water utility establishments in most parts of the affected local government areas have become moribund (National Emergency Management Agency, 2014). The situation has been further aggravated by the obvious lack of privacy in a context where thousand find themselves crammed into the perimeter of a primary school, a church or a clinic creating intense health challenges among the families due to the degraded living conditions of the affected families Perhaps more alarming than the numbers of IDPs is the poor conditions under which most of them live.

A vast majority of Nigeria's IDPs, as captured by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) (2016) about 3.3 million displaced persons are housed in overcrowded camps across the country. These camps are mainly school facilities and empty government buildings with few basic amenities that are supervised by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Displacement rendered families increasingly

vulnerable to impoverishment and abuse by undermining their community support systems and their ability to meet their most basic needs. The strong family bond has been severely disrupted by these crises and displacement challenges as several members were killed. In this process widows and widowers found themselves in new environments, many times without any economic means of survival, breadwinners, and schools for their wards and family cohesion.

Finally, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and The World Bank (2016) assessment reveal that displacement in Nigeria has affected every single aspect of people's lives. Individuals and families have lost all their productive assets, homes, and possessions, casting most of them into conditions of extreme poverty overnight. Traditional livelihoods have been destroyed, making them food insecure and dependent on external support to cover almost all their necessities of life, from shelter to food, clothes, health care, and education, and the like, to mention but a few. Services previously available in their places of origin have also been affected, limiting access of entire communities to health, education, justice, and other social services. This worsens their situation in both camps and host communities thereby increased their vulnerability.

METHODOLOGY

Garaku is headquartered in Kokona Local Government Area of Nasarawa State about 103 kilometres from the capital city Abuja. A social survey design was adopted. It provides the researcher with the opportunity to conduct a descriptive analysis of data. This method is employed because it allows the collection of large data from different respondents while allowing extensive comparison of results and so the researcher draws conclusions that can be used to generalize the population. For purposes of the paper, the population is defined as all internally displaced persons (IDPs) both male and female residing in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area of Nasarawa State-Nigeria. The study population comprises both male and female displaced persons, ages 10 years and above, living in the study area. According to the Nasarawa State Emergency Management Agency (2020), the population of displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp is 947. The paper employed the sample size of 152 respondents using Krejcie Morgan's formula (1970) which is given as;

$$S = \frac{x^2 NP(1-P)}{d^2(N-1) + x^2(1-P)}$$

Where;

S= Squared sample size

X^2 = the table value of chi square for degree of freedom derived confidence level (3.81410)

N= the population size (947)

P= the population assumed to be 0.5 since this will provide the maximum sample size

d= the degree of accuracy expressed as a portion (0.05)

$$s = \frac{3.814 \times 947 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}{0.05^2(947-1) + 3.814(1-0.5)}$$

$$= \frac{902.96}{5.18}$$

$$= 152$$

(Source; Krejcie & Morgan, 1970)

For this paper, a simple random sampling technique was employed to select the respondents because the sample element in the sample universe has an equal chance or probability of being selected. The primary data were collected through questionnaires. Quantitative data were analyzed using bivariate analysis. The bivariate analysis involves the use of chi-square to show the relationship between two variables.

Test of Hypothesis

The tables below are presented the hypothesis formulated in this paper. To ensure this is achieved, cross-tabulation and chi-square test are used to indicate whether there is a relationship or not between Sex, Religion, Educational attainment, and challenges of accessing basic necessities by internally displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria

Table 1: The relationship between the Sex Distribution of Respondents and Challenges Faced Accessing Necessities by Internally Displaced persons

Challenges faced Accessing basic necessities by internally Displaced persons	Sex Distribution of Respondents		Total
	Male	Female	
Discrimination by Distributors	2(3.2)	15(16.8)	17(11.2)
Harassment by the Security Agents	2(3.2)	31(34.8)	33(21.7)
Difficulty in processing the raw food	2(3.2)	0 (00)	2(1.3)
Spending days before accessing the basic needs of life	11(17.4)	36(40.4)	47(30.9)
Gender Prejudice	25(39.6)	0(00)	25(16.4)
Discrimination on the bases of religion and cultural differences	13(20.6)	7(7.8)	20(13.1)
Others	8(12.7)	0(00)	8(5.3)
Total	63(100)	89(100)	152(100)

Pearson Chi-Square value= 83.520^a; df =6, Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) = .000 and Critical value =12.592

Table 1 indicates the relationship between the sex distribution of respondents and challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons. Data in the table

shows that a higher percentage of the total respondent agreed that the sex distribution of respondents influenced the challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons. The chi-square test shows that the calculated value is 83.520 with a degree of freedom df. 6 and at .05 level of confidence and the critical value is 12.592 at the degree of freedom of 6 and .05 level of confidence. Given that the calculated chi-square value is greater than the critical value, it is therefore concluded that there is a significant relationship between sex distribution of respondents and challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons.

Table 2: The relationship between the Religion of the Respondents and Challenges faced Accessing necessities by internally Displaced persons

Challenges faced Accessing basic necessities by internally Displaced persons	Religion of the Respondents			Total
	Christianity	Islam	Tradition alist	
Discrimination by Distributors	0(00)	17(18.6)	0(00)	17(11.2)
Harassment by the Security Agents	31(58.4)	2(2.1)	0(00)	33(21.7)
Difficulty in processing the raw food	0(00)	2(2.1)	0(00)	2(1.3)
Spending days before accessing the basic needs of life	22(41.5)	25(27.4)	0(00)	47(30.9)
Gender Prejudice	0(00)	25(27.4)	0(00)	25(16.4)
Discrimination on the bases of religion and cultural differences	0(00)	19(20.8)	1(12.5)	20(13.1)
Others	0(00)	1(1.1)	7(87.5)	8(5.2)
Total	53(100)	91(100)	8(100)	152(100)

Pearson Chi-Square value= 204.643^a; df =12, Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) = .000 and Critical value =21.026

Table 2 demonstrates the cross-tabulation result of religion of the respondents and challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons. The findings showed that the religion of the respondents predisposed challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons. The chi-square test on deciding on the relationship between religion of the respondents and challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons indicates calculated values of 204.643, df =12 and at .05 level of confidence and the critical/table value is 21.026 at df=12 at confidence level .05. Given that the calculated chi-square value is greater than the critical/table value, it is therefore concluded that there is a significant relationship between the religion of the respondents and challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons.

Table 3: The relationship between the Educational Attainment of the Respondents and Challenges faced Accessing necessities by internally Displaced persons

Challenges faced Accessing basic necessities by internally Displaced persons	Educational Attainment of the Respondents				Total
	No Formal Education	Primary Education	Secondary Education	Tertiary Education	
Discrimination by Distributors	2(2.8)	13(30.2)	1(3.7)	1(7.6)	17(11.1)
Harassment by the Security Agents	31(44.9)	0(00)	1(3.7)	1(7.6)	33(21.7)
Difficulty in processing the raw food	0(00)	0(00)	1(3.7)	1(7.6)	2(1.3)
Spending days before accessing the basic needs of life	36(52.1)	0(00)	10(37.0)	1(7.6)	47(30.9)
Gender Prejudice	0(00)	12(27.9)	12(44.4)	1(7.6)	25(16.4)
Discrimination on the bases of religion and cultural differences	0(00)	18(41.8)	1(3.7)	1(7.6)	20(13.1)
Others	0(00)	0(00)	1(3.7)	7(53.8)	8(5.2)
Total	69(100)	43(100)	27(100)	13(100)	152(100)

Pearson Chi-Square value= 214.691^a; df =18, Asymp. Sig. (2-sided) = .000 and Critical value =28.869

Table 3 shows the relationship between the educational attainment of the respondents and challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons. The findings revealed that the educational attainment of the respondents has a great impact on challenges faced accessing necessities of life by internally displaced persons. From table 3, the calculated chi-square value of 214.691 with a degree of freedom df. 18 and at .05 level of confidence while the critical or table value is 28.869 at the degree of freedom of 18 and at .05 level of confidence. Given that the calculated chi-square value is more than the critical value, it is therefore concluded that there is a significant relationship between the educational attainment of the respondents and challenges faced accessing necessities by internally displaced persons.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study findings from the test of hypotheses demonstrate that there is a strong and positive relationship between sex, religion, and educational attainment and challenges of accessing basic necessities by internally Displaced persons in Garaku IDP Camp, Kokona Local Government Area, Nasarawa State-Nigeria. This was supported by Alao, (2015) that among the IDPs the most affected vulnerable groups are children, aged, and women who are exposed to severe socio-economic challenges. Even though the Nigerian government has made efforts to address the plights of IDPs by providing IDPs camps, there are still socio-economic challenges of overcrowding, poor sanitation, joblessness, poverty, increase

in the level of illiteracy and insecurity in the IDPs camps and host communities across the states of the country. Also, the findings were buttressed further by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank (2016) report which states that forcibly displaced persons have usually had to leave all their belongings behind, they are initially completely dependent on support systems in the displacement sites, traditional livelihoods have been destroyed, making them food insecure and dependent on external support to cover all their needs, from shelter to food, health care, and education attainment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The internally displaced persons (IDPs) condition is characterized by the negative socio-economic result, notwithstanding the provision of some relief material and/or necessities of life largely by Non-Governmental Organisations, philanthropists, relatives with a dotted percentage from the Government. Fundamentally, the challenges associated with IDPs in accessing the necessities (food, clothing, and shelter), occupational challenges, disappearance and death of a family member, sexual abuse mostly perpetrated by NGOs officials and their fellow IDPs. The implication is that, if the problem is left unchanged there will a persistent upsurge thereby complicating the already existing challenge of poor living standard and invariably affect negatively the development index of Nigeria.

The paper makes the following recommendations based on the findings:

- i. Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Security operatives, and other critical stakeholders should overhaul the relief material distribution process through the strict monitoring of the distribution team to avoid misuse of authority, diversion of relief materials, segregation, harassment, gender bias, and other irregularities before, during and after distribution.
- ii. Some of the challenges experienced by vulnerable groups are man-made. Thus, even though the government, NGOs, and other civil society organizations have made adequate provisions for food and other necessities of life, IDP camp coordinators and workers purposefully divert these resources for personal use or sell them, or demand for sex especially from young girls in exchange for these items. Therefore, there is the need for proper coordination among NGOs and other humanitarian bodies to ensure items provided for IDPs (especially women and children) are not diverted. More so, those found to be culprits of such despicable acts should fully face the weight of the law.
- iii. The government of Nigeria has always been a responsive one instead of being practical. They get all the warning signs of violence, invasions from herdsmen, flood alerts, etc., yet they treat such warnings with kid gloves. Hence, such an attitude needs to be addressed. On this note, the government should erect a fully equipped designated area for IDPs in all states, as this will reduce the rush IDPs often face which eventually creates security challenges in camps.

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