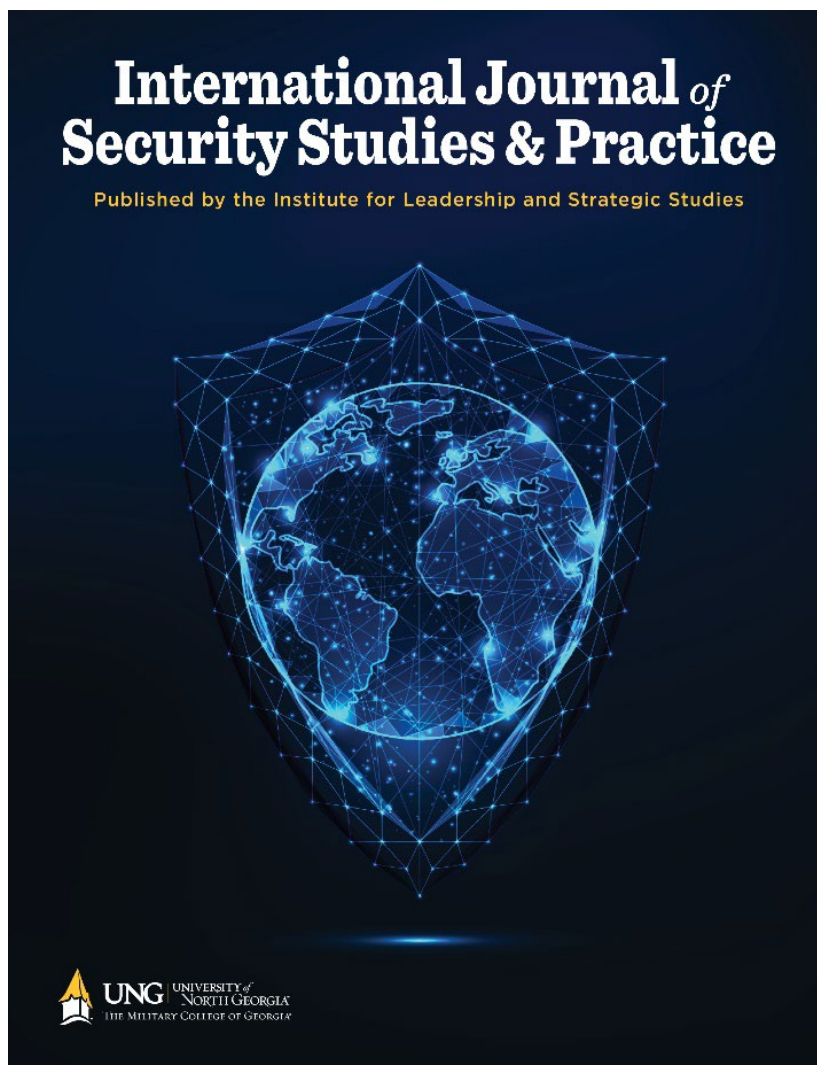


2023

Assessment of the Level of Human Security in Ilorin Kwara State, Nigeria



Dare OGUNFOLAJI
University of Ilorin, Nigeria
foladare.o@gmail.com

Adedapo ADENIYI
Kwara State Polytechnic

Recommended Citation

Ogunfolaji, D., & Adeniyi, A. (2023). Assessment of the level of human security in Ilorin Kwara State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Security Studies & Practice*, 3(1), Article 5. <http://ijssp.ung.edu>

This focus article is brought to you for free and open access by Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in the International Journal of Security Studies & Practice by an authorized editor.

Assessment of the Level of Human Security in Ilorin Kwara State, Nigeria

Dare Ogunfolaji
Department of Geography and Environmental Management
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Ilorin
Kwara State, Nigeria
Foladare.o@gmail.com

Adedapo Adeniyi
Department of Geography
Kwara State Polytechnic
Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

The authors declare that there is no potential conflict of interest related to this article.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Dare Ogunfolaji, e-mail:

Foladare.o@gmail.com

Abstract

Human security simply means the security of people and the community. It forms an important part of people's well-being and is extremely interconnected with development. This paper assessed the level of human security in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Primary data were used in the study. The primary data were sourced through a structured questionnaire coupled with personal interviews. Three hundred and eighty-four (384) questionnaires were administered using the Kobocollectv1.14.0a software package which is based on the OpenDataKit. Data collected were analyzed using mean and percentages. The study revealed that most of the sampled respondents have access to food and healthcare facilities. This implies that they are secured in terms of access to food, a fundamental human right. However, most of the respondents do not have access to water and cannot afford quality healthcare services. On average income, most of the respondents are low-income earners. The average income of the sample was inadequate to provide economic security. The study recommends that the Nigerian government should be more committed to the provision of the basic needs of life and the task of improving the socio-economic well-being of the people: Government policies should be centered on improving human security.

KEY WORDS: Assessment, Accessibility; Affordability; Human Security

Assessment of the Level of Human Security in Ilorin Kwara State, Nigeria

Human security simply means the security of people and communities. According to United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 1994), there are two primary aspects of human security. First, it is the protection from such chronic dangers as hunger, disease, and repression, and second, it is safety from unexpected and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life whether in homes, jobs, or communities. Human security is people-centered, multi-sectoral, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented. The UNDP 1994 report argued that human security requires attention to both freedom from fear and freedom from want. Freedom from Fear concerns the protection of individuals from violent conflicts and recognizes that such violence is strongly associated with poverty, lack of state capacity, and other forms of discrimination. Freedom from Want promotes a universal approach to achieving human security and claims that the threat program should be expanded to include hunger, disease, and natural disasters since they are inseparable ideas in addressing the root of human insecurity.

According to the Commission of Human Security (2003), human security means protecting all human lives in ways that improve human freedoms and human fulfillment. It means protecting fundamental freedoms, that is, freedoms that are the core of life. Human security means protecting people from severe and widespread dangers and circumstances. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means building social, environmental, political, military, economic, and cultural systems that collectively give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood, and dignity.

Jolly and Ray (2006) reported that human security is primarily an "analytical tool" that focuses on ensuring security for the individual, not the state, while Nishikwa, (2009) opined that the primary goal behind the concept of human security is the need to restore the security of people. According to Thakur (2004), human security is both "human-centered" and "security-oriented." It is human centered in the sense that it focuses on people both as individuals and as groups of individuals or communities, and it is security oriented because its emphasis is on freedom from fear and wants. Human security is related to all dimensions of human life and all these dimensions are interrelated. It classifies different types of threats and their relationship to traditional security as well as illustrates the inter-connectedness of threats (Singh, 2014). According to Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy (2007), human security emphasizes the role of the state as the "fundamental purveyor"

for the protection of its citizens, and Enwerem (2016) reported that the concept of human security is an essential solution to societal, political, social, and economic development and progress.

Human security and development are extremely interconnected, and the synergy between the two widens the scope for examining the origins and consequences of underdevelopment. Stewart (2004) opined that human security forms an important part of people's well-being and is therefore an objective of development. This assertion was also made by the UNDP in 1994, and paraphrased by Orire and Ogunfolaji in 2021, and contends that the security of a person means that they can properly clothe and educate their children, invest in the construction of a house, and to be confident that the little they had today would not be taken away from them. The absence of human security has adverse effects on economic growth and development.

However, in the city of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria, it was noted by Ahmed in 2009 that most of the socio-economic and developmental projects that could enhance the security of the citizenry such as standard schools, access to food at an affordable rate, stable electricity supply, good roads, access to quality of health care facilities, and potable water supply, among others, are nowhere to be found. This implied that the level of human security was low in the state. However, between the years 2009 and 2021 many socio-economic and developmental projects have been accomplished by successive governments in Kwara State, which improved the human security situation. It is against this background, therefore, that this study is aimed at assessing the level of human security in Ilorin, Kwara State.

The Study Area

Ilorin is the capital city of Kwara State. It is located between latitude 8°22' and 8°36' north of the equator and between longitudes 4°28' and 4°42' east of the Greenwich Meridian. Ilorin is situated in the North Central Zone of Nigeria. Ilorin shares boundaries with three Local Government Areas, namely, Moro Local Government to the north, Asa Local Government Area to the west, and Ifelodun Local Government Area to the east (see Figure 1). Ilorin has experienced rapid population growth. The national headcount in 1953 showed that Ilorin had a population of 40,994 with a growth rate of 1.6% (Akorede, 1977, as cited in Ahmed 2009). In 1991, the national census put the Ilorin population at 532,080 with a 2.8% annual growth rate while in 2006 the population increased to 766,000 with a growth rate of 2.5% (National Population Commission, 2006). On the socio-economic activities in the city, much of the population is engaged in trading, blacksmith work, banking, teaching, industrial, and administrative activities, among others

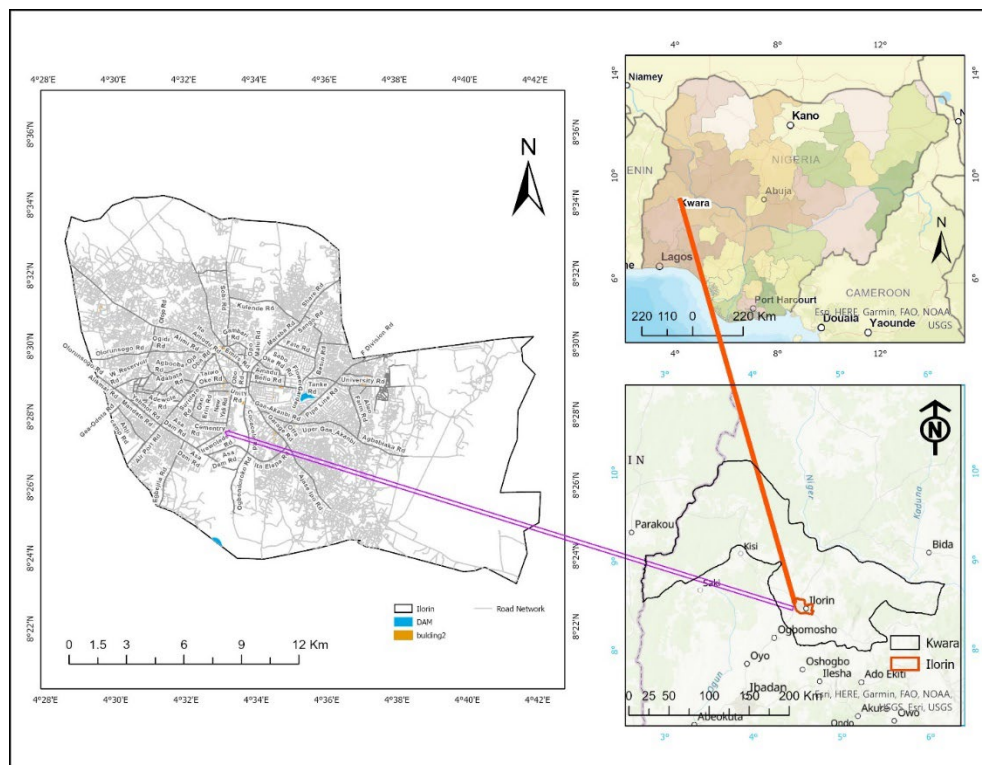
(Olorunfemi, 2001). Major craft industries in the city include bead making, pottery, weaving, and the traditional textile industry. According to Ajadi and Tunde (2010), the main occupations within the Ilorin metropolis, include distributive trading, civil service of varying cadres, and a host of informal sector services.

Agricultural activities in Ilorin are mainly for domestic consumption. Some of the common cereal crops cultivated include maize, beans, and vegetables while tuber crops like yam and cassava are mainly done on the outskirts of the city. According to Ajadi, et al. (2011), the level of poverty is very high with households barely able to afford a decent living, especially in the indigenous areas of the city where much of the population was excluded from Western educational opportunities.

This study becomes imperative as it focuses on the problems and solutions to human security by ensuring full and comprehensive development strategies to bring human insecurity to a halt in the study area. Figure 1 is a map of Nigeria showing Kwara State and the study area, the Ilorin Metropolis.

Figure 1

Map Showing Kwara State and Ilorin Metropolis, Nigeria



Note: Created by the author in 2021.

Materials and Methods

According to the 1994 United Nations Development Programme report, which has been adopted by countries such as Japan, India, and Canada among others, and scholars in academia such as Kanti and Bajpai, among others (as cited by Orire & Ogunfolaji, 2021), there are seven essential dimensions associated with human security. These are economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political security. James (2005) grouped human security into physical security (survival), economic security (livelihood), and political security (dignity). There are many indicators and parameters to measure each of these human securities. Some of these indicators include access to food, water, education, income, electricity, health care facilities, freedom from political oppression, and enjoyment of civil rights. This study assessed the level of human security in Ilorin based on physical, economic, and political security. Primary data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. Three hundred and eighty-four (384) questionnaires were administered using the Kobocollectv1.14.0a software package which is based on the OpenDataKit. Descriptive statistics mean and percentages were used in the analysis of the data. Food Accessibility was measured by Food Consumption Score (FCS), a tool developed by World Food Program (WFP), and commonly used as a proxy indicator for access to food (WFP, 2008). It is a weighted score based on dietary diversity, food frequency, and the nutritional importance of food groups consumed (Leroy et al., 2015). To calculate the FCS, the consumption frequencies are summed and multiplied by the standardized food group. Based on the FCS, households are further classified on the thresholds 0-21: Poor, 21.5-35: Borderline, >35: Acceptable.

Results and Discussion

Access to Food

Table 1 shows the average Food consumption score in each of the common food groups indicated by the respondents in the study area. The table revealed that the total Food Consumption Score of 74.7 falls above the acceptable score of 35. Access to food is one of the three pillars of food security, and when food is available, human survival is secured.

Table 1*Access to Food Among the Respondents*

FOOD GROUP	FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE
Rice	7.76
Cereals food	5.93
Beans	9.45
Milk	9.99
Egg	10.42
Meat/fish	21.53
Vegetable	1.67
Fruits	3.06
Sugar	1.24
Oil	3.65
Total	74.7

Note: Source of Table 1 data is the authors' fieldwork, 2021

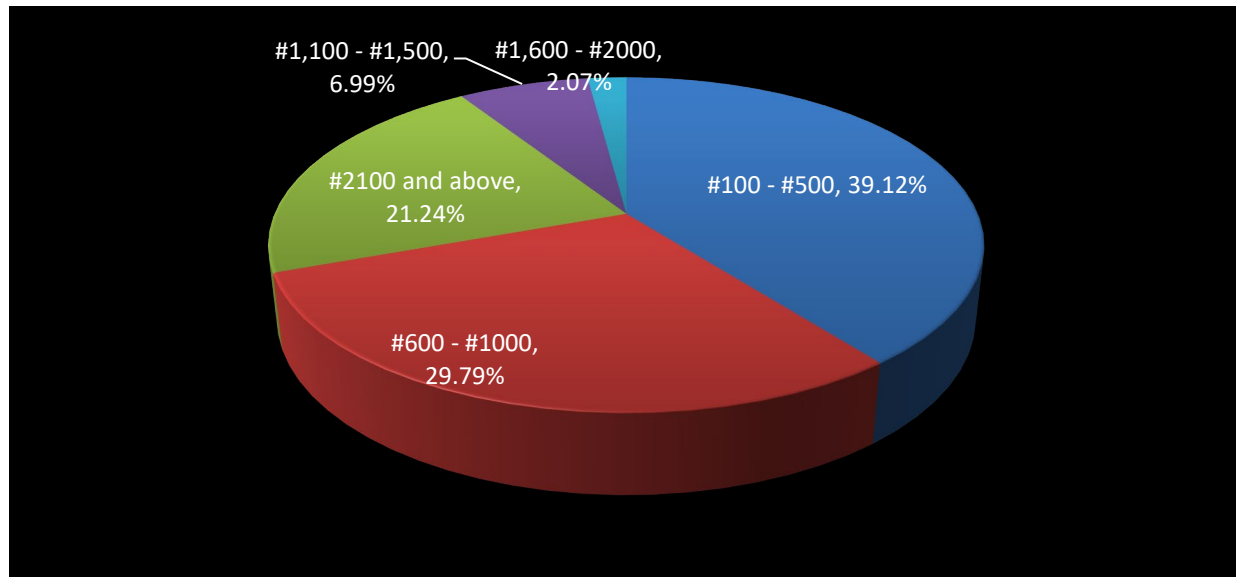
Accessibility and Affordability of Healthcare Services

Health infrastructures are important human elements that influence the socioeconomic well-being of people. Inaccessibility to medical facilities constitutes a threat to human security. Accessibility to healthcare facilities is measured in terms of physical accessibility (distance and time) and socioeconomic accessibility (affordability of services). These two-yard sticks were used as indicators of the level of health security. Table 2 represents the time spent to travel to a health facility while Figure 2 represents the cost of accessing health services. The highest number of respondents, 287, spend less than 10 minutes commuting to healthcare facilities (Table 2). Furthermore, it cost 39.1% of the respondents between ₦100 and ₦500 to access health facilities (Figure 2).

Table 2*Time (in minutes) Spent Commuting to Healthcare Facilities by Respondents*

Time Spent Commuting	Frequency	Percentage
less than 10 mins	287	74.7
10-30 mins	77	20.1
35 – 60 mins	20	5.2
Total	384	100.0

Note: Source of Table 2 data is the authors' fieldwork, 2021.

Figure 2*Cost of Accessing Healthcare Services by Respondents*

Note: Source of Figure 2 data is the authors' fieldwork, 2021.

As depicted in Table 2, over 74% of respondents spend less than 10 minutes to reach a healthcare facility. On the other hand, 20.1% of the respondents spend 10 to 30 minutes commuting to a healthcare facility, and 5.2% spend 35 to 60 minutes commuting. Respondents with the shortest distance to health facilities are health secure while those traveling greater distances are faced with health insecurity.

As presented in Figure 2, medical facilities are not free and people pay before they are treated. Figure 2 shows that 39.12% of the respondents pay between ₦100 - ₦500.00 to obtain

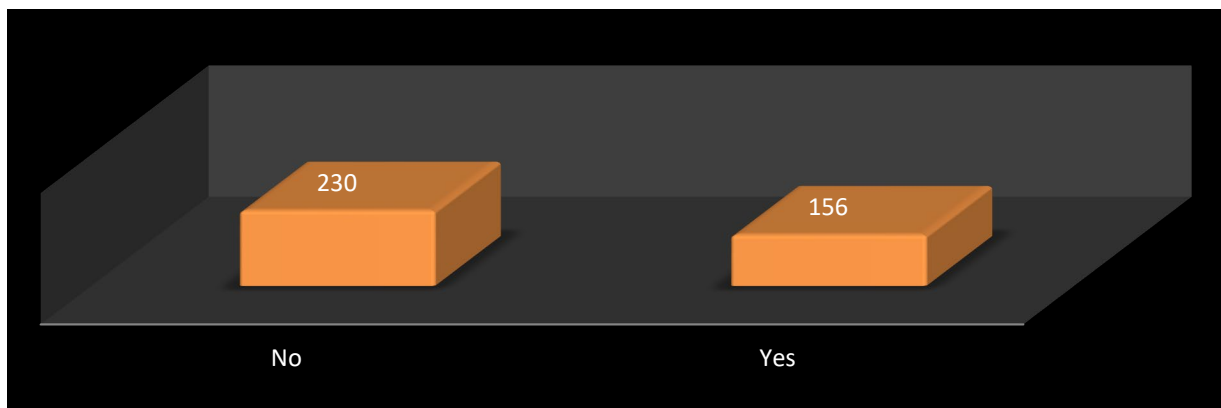
services for health problems like fever, cough, stomach problems, and others, while about 21.24% usually spend more than ₦2000.00. Generally, these are minor health issues; surgery and referrals to general hospitals cost more. Most of the respondents choose private hospitals over general hospitals because general hospitals generally provide a lower level of medical care. As a result of choosing private hospitals to get better healthcare, people pay much more for hospital services. According to the field survey, they usually spend over ₦10,000.00 for minor surgery and any other serious medical condition. Again, this cuts across the study area and indicates a high level of insecurity for a basic need. This poses a great disadvantage to the people, especially when the cumulative impact of poor health conditions and low-income earnings are considered. Hence, the Health Security in the Ilorin Metropolis is generally poor when compared to the amount paid by individuals and the services they receive in return.

Accessibility to Water

Figure 3 shows that 156 (40.41%) of the respondents have access to a minimum of 50 Liter Consumption Per Day (LCPD) while 59.59% do not have access to this quantity of water at any point in the year. Many of the respondents rely on wells/boreholes either dug by individual households or provided by neighbors. The frequency of daily water supply as shown in Table 3 reveals water insecurity because while 33.16% could access water at least once a day, only 47.40% of the respondents could only access water once per week. This implies that water insecurity is one of the major threats faced by the people in the study area.

Figure 3

Access to 50 Liter Consumption Per Day of Water Among Respondents



Note: Source of Figure 3 data is the authors' fieldwork.

Table 3*Frequency of Water Supply Among Respondents*

NUMBER OF DAYS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Once a week	183	47.40
Once a day	128	33.16
Once in two days	42	10.88
Once in three days	12	3.10
Two days a week	21	5.44
Total	384	100.0

Note: Source of Table 3 data is the authors' fieldwork.

Education and Average Income of Respondents

Table 4 reveals that 45.3% of the respondents had attained Secondary School Education, 44% had attained Tertiary Education, 9.6% had attained Primary Education, and 1.04% of the respondents had no formal education. Since the level of education influences employment opportunities and income, and since the highest level of education most respondents reported was secondary education, many people fell within the low-income group. As depicted in Table 4, 14.8% of respondents earn less than ₦10,000 income per month, about 27.7% of respondents earn between ₦10,000 and ₦20,000 per month, 23.8% earn between ₦31,000 and ₦40,000 per month, and only 5.7% of respondents earn above ₦100,000.00 per month. This shows that about 27.7% of the respondents are low-income earners. This implies that the average income of people is not enough for them to be economically secure.

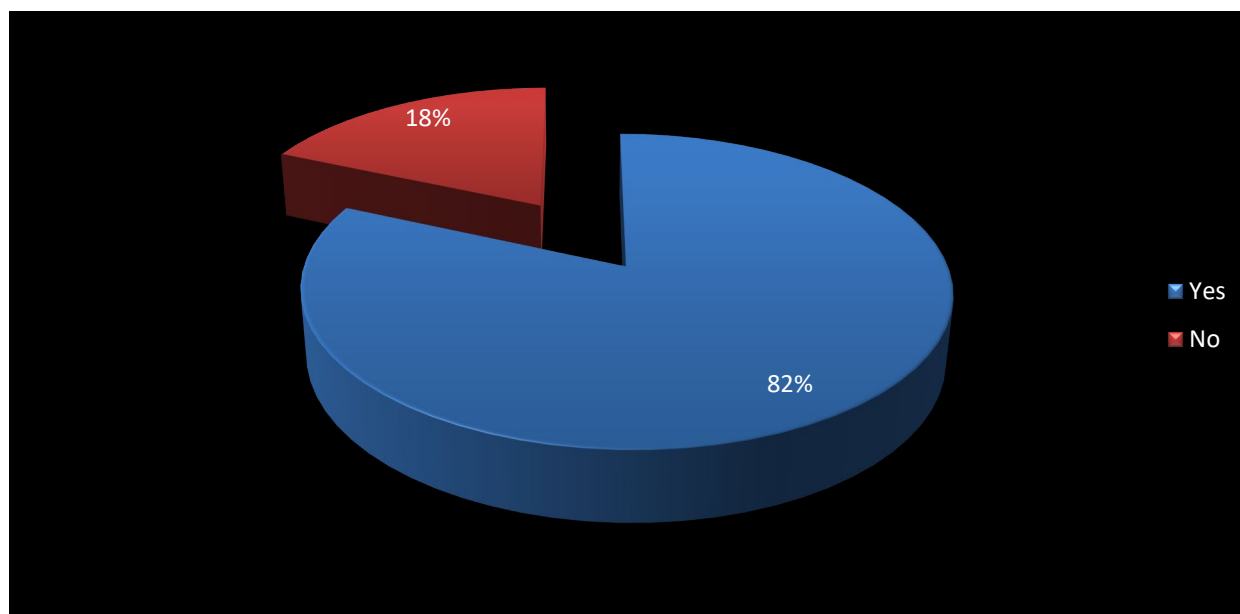
Table 4*Educational Attainment and Average Income of Respondents*

CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Level of Education		
Secondary School Education	175	45.3
Tertiary Education	170	44.0
Primary School Education	37	9.6
Non-formal Education	4	1.0
Total	384	100.0
Income		
Below ₦10,000.00	57	14.8
₦10,000 - ₦20,000	107	27.7
₦21,000 - ₦30,000	67	17.4
₦31,000 - ₦40,000	92	23.8
₦41,000 and above	41	10.6
Other	22	5.7
Total	384	100.0

Note: Source of Table 4 data is the authors' fieldwork, 2021.

Access to Electricity

Electricity is a significant contributor to off-farm employment opportunities that boost household income. In Ilorin Metropolis, electricity is a human/socioeconomic development that influences human security. Figure 4 and Table 5 present access to electricity among respondents. In Figure 4, 82% of respondents have access to electricity; however, note that access to electricity may be irregular. Eighteen percent do not have access to electricity at all in their homes. Table 5 presents the consequence of human insecurity felt from lack of access to regular electricity among those who have and those who do not have it at all in their homes. The excessive cost of electrical energy was a major barrier identified by 131 (33.9%) of the respondents whose occupations were mainly artisan. Reduced income was identified by 127 (32.9%) of the respondents whose occupation is trading, while boring urban life was experienced by 29.79% of the respondents. Reduced productivity at work was also identified by 12 (3.11%) of the respondents. This implies that one of the reasons behind the low income of the people in the metropolis is an inability to produce goods and services due to a lack of a regular supply of electricity.

Figure 4*Access to Electricity Among Respondents*

Note: Source of Figure 4 data is the authors' fieldwork.

Table 5*Consequent Human Insecurity from Lack of Access to Electricity*

RESPONDENT'S VIEWS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
The excessive cost of electricity	131	33.9
Reduces income	127	32.9
Boring urban life	115	29.8
Reduces efficiency at work	12	3.1
Total	384	100.0

Note: Source of Table 5 data is the authors' fieldwork.

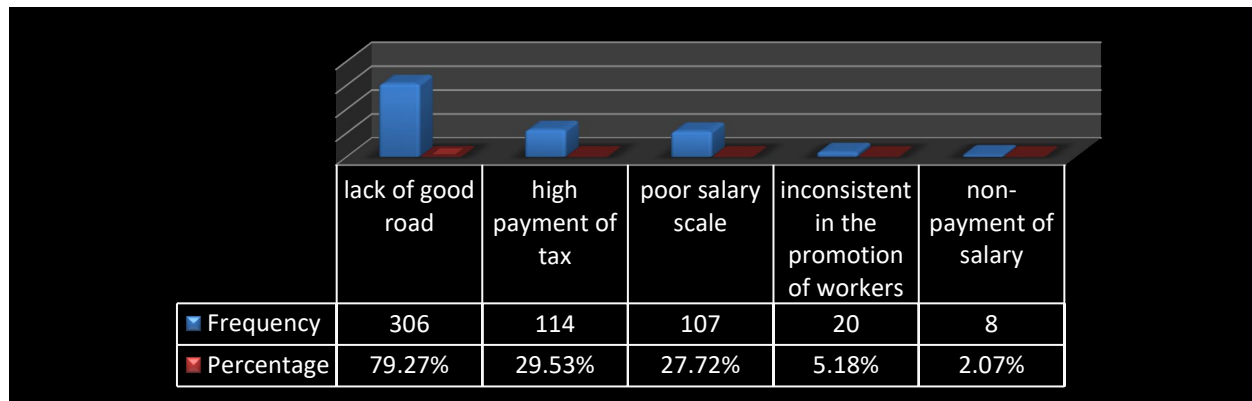
Political Oppression (Dignity)

The dignity indicators measure the quality and openness of governance and opportunity for participation. The indices of measurement for political oppression are done in proxy as there is no straight-forth indicator for political oppression. The proportion of the population who suffer political oppression in terms of poor access to some socio-economic opportunities is shown in Figure 5. About 79.27% of the respondents lack good roads, 29.53% identified high taxes as the

political oppression experienced in their neighborhood, 27.72% indicated low salary, 5.18% experienced inconsistency in the promotion of workers, and only 2.07% experienced non-payment of salary. From Figure 5 it is obvious that all the respondents experienced political oppression in one form or the other.

Figure 5

Political Oppression Among Respondents



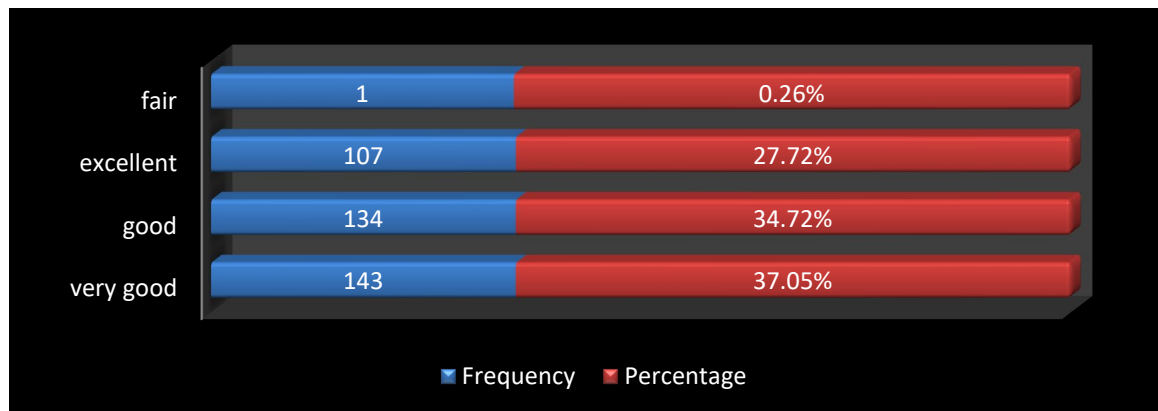
Note: Source of Figure 5 data is the authors' fieldwork, 2021.

Access to Human Rights

Figure 6 revealed that 37.05% of the respondents rated their access to basic human rights as very good, 34.72% as good, 27.72% as excellent, and 0.26% rated theirs as fair. This implies that the fundamental human rights of the respondents within the Ilorin Metropolis is being respected and people are free to exercise their rights.

Figure 6

Access to Respect for Basic Human Rights and Freedom



Note: Source of Figure 6 data is the authors' fieldwork, 2021.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Human security is the first and foremost requisite for development. Human security does not simply refer to the questions of survival alone, but it also refers to the basic needs of life. The focus of this study was on the assessment of the level of human security in Ilorin based on physical, economic, and political security. The study revealed that most of the sampled respondents have access to food and healthcare facilities but are economically disadvantaged. This implies that they are secured in terms of access to food and distance to healthcare. However, healthcare security in the Ilorin Metropolis is generally poor when the amount paid by the individual and the services they get in return are taken into consideration.

However, because of a low average income, many of the respondents did not have access to good water and cannot afford quality healthcare services: The average income of the people was not enough for them to be economically secure. The result also shows that many of the respondents still find it difficult to satisfy their basic needs from the environment to achieve a socially acceptable standard. Inadequate supply of electricity and inaccessibility to potable water are the major challenges faced by the people. The result also shows that most of the respondents experienced political oppression in one form or the other. In other words, many of the respondents are not physically, economically, or politically secure.

This study, therefore, recommends that the Nigerian government should be more committed to the provision of the basic needs of life, infrastructure development, and improving the socio-economic well-being of the people.

References

- Ahmed, Y. A. (2009). Settlement pattern and functional distribution in an emerging community: A case of a Local Government Area of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. *Medwell Journals, The Social Sciences*, 4(3), 256-263.
<https://medwelljournals.com/abstract/?doi=ssscience.2009.256.263>
- Ajadi, B. S., Adeniyi, A., & Tunde, A. M. (2011). Impact of climate on urban agriculture, Ilorin, Nigeria. *Global Journal of Human and Social Science*, 11(1), 45-49.
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Impact-of-Climate-on-Urban-Agriculture%3A-Case-Study-B.S.-Adedapo/f5f10a04e6056864cef47b198ded47c00914ad48/figure/1>
- Ajadi, B. S., & Tunde, A. M. (2010). Spatial variation of waste disposal in Ilorin Metropolis, Nigeria. *Journal of Environmental Studies, India*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09709274.2010.11906327>
- Commission on Human Security Commission. (2003). *Human security now*.
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/503749?ln=en>
- James, M. (2005). *Human security and social development: Comparative research in four Asian countries*. Center for Strategic and International Studies.
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237436681>
- Jolly, R., & Basu, R. D. (2006). *The human Security framework and national human development reports*. United Nations Development Programme, National Human Development Occasional Paper 5. <https://docslib.org/doc/4348721/human-security-framework-and-national-human-development-reports>
- Enwerem, T. K. (2016). *Challenges to human security and development: Terrorism and environmental conflict in Nigeria*. [Unpublished master's thesis]. Eastern Mediterranean University.
<http://i-rep.emu.edu.tr:8080/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11129/3651/enweremtim.pdf?sequence=1>
- Leroy, J. L., Ruel, M., Frongillo, E.A., Harris, J., Ballard, T. J. (2015, June). Measuring the food access dimension of food security: A critical review and mapping of indicators. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, 36(2), 167-95. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0379572115587274>

- National Population Commission (2006). Report of Nigeria's National Population Commission on the 2006 census. *Population and Development Review*, 33(1), 206-210.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25434601>
- Nishikawa, Y. (2009). Human security in South East Asia: Viable solution or empty slogan? *Security Dialogue*, 40(2), 215.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010609103088>
- Olorunfemi, J. F. (2001, November 29). [Lecture notes] *Better by far*. The 51st Inaugural Lecture, University of Ilorin.
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/37009657/better-by-far-national-universities-commission>
- Orire, I. O., & Ogunfolaji, D., (2021). Dimensions of human security and socio-economic development in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State Nigeria. *Ghana Journal of Geography*, 13 (3), 42-65.
<https://doi.org/10.4314/gjg.v13i3.3>
- Singh, J. (2014). Human security: A theoretical analysis. *International Journal of Political Science and Development*, 2(8), 175-179.
<https://www.academicresearchjournals.org/IJPSD/Abstract/2014/September/Singh.htm>
- Stewart, F. (2004). *Development and security*. Working paper 3. Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security, and Ethnicity (CRISE).
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08cd140f0b652dd00159c/wp3.pdf>
- Tadjbakhsh, S., & Chenoy, A. (2007). *Human security: Concepts and implications with an application to post-intervention challenges in Afghanistan*. Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203965955>
- Thakur, R. (2004). A political worldview. *Security Dialogue*, 35(3), 348.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/096701060403500307>
- United Nations Development Programme (1994, January 1). *Human development report 1994: A new dimension of human security*. <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-1994>
- World Food Program (2009, June 18). *WFP Annual Report*.
<https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-annual-report-2008>