

## INSECURITY AND ITS EFFECTS ON SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN UKANAFUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

<sup>1</sup>Udo, Saviour Sebastian, <sup>2</sup>Willie, Clement Etti and <sup>3</sup>Udom, John Paul

<sup>1</sup>Department of Economics, College of Education, Afaha Nsit, Akwa Ibom State

<sup>2</sup>Department of Sociology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Evangel University Akaeze, Ebonyi State

<sup>3</sup>Department of Sociology, Federal College of Education, Ididep, Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State

<https://doi.org/10.60787/aasd.vol3no1.86>

### Abstract

*This study examines the effects of insecurity on Secondary school attendance in Ukanafun Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The study used a survey method in the analysis. Research objectives and questions were set to guide the study. Questionnaire known as Effect of Insecurity on School Attendance (EISA) was developed to collate data for the study. A random sampling technique was used to select 107 parents in 10 Secondary Schools that were affected by the activities of insurgency in the study area. Responses to the questionnaire were summarized using percentages to study students attendance in schools before and during the insecurity. The Queer Ladder theory proposed by Daniel Bell 2010 was adopted. It was observed that the level of school attendance before the crisis in the study Area was high and low during and after the crises. The result also revealed gender imbalance. Male student's attendance during the crisis was higher than female student's attendance. Furthermore, the result shows that parents who were willing to send their children back to the affected schools were 58 out of 107 and which was merely above 50% of the total population. Based on these findings, the study recommended among others that education administrators should help students overcome emotional distress gotten during the crises through sensitization programmes, town hall briefings, and visit to churches in the affected communities. It was further recommended that teachers should embrace methods that will reduce emotional anguish instigated by the insurgency. Finally, government should tackle youth restiveness by providing employment give Special incentives to engage aggressive youths in the affected communities.*

**Keywords:** Secondary School, Insecurity, Counselling, Attendance, Insurgency

### Introduction

No economy of the world can grow in area of insecurity and thus any education system where there is no peace and security is bound to have no development. This is to say insecurity is an antidote for a successful teaching and learning environment. What then can we say insecurity is? Though there is no specific and acceptable definition of insecurity but many approaches and efforts have been made to explain what it

is. In the context of this work insecurity may be regarded as none protection of life and property of citizens from fear, danger and violence or an act capable of marring the development and existential wellbeing of the people. This means the presence of fear and war. Before now, insecurity was seen as the non- protection of a nation from foreign violence and internal insurgency. This was the

reason security personnel like: the Nigerian army, Nigeria police, civil defence, and other intelligence agencies were used as the main tools for maintaining peace and unity. This approach to the definition of insecurity is today regarded as archaic and non-operational. Recently the concepts of insecurity and the laws governing its operation have changed to include: Physical insecurity and this has to do with violent on personal ground and property crimes. Social insecurity is another area of insecurity which affects the illiteracy and ignorance level of the people. The rate at which diseases or illnesses, malnutrition, water borne diseases, discrimination and exclusion affect the people is equally seen as a result of insecurity.

Another dimension of insecurity is the human rights violations. This occurs when the governments at different levels victimize people based on political affiliations by denying the fundamental rights of the person. Public insecurity which is another dimension involves violent conflicts, insurgency and terrorism. Denying good and social democratic governance to the citizens is a political dimension of insecurity. Again once people are poor and the level of unemployment is high economic dimension of insecurity occurs. Therefore, it could be ascertained that these dimensions of insecurity are linked and hence cannot be treated in separation. No country can be secured among starvation, which means peace cannot be built without alleviating poverty, and freedom cannot be built on injustice and lies. Lasting peace needs a wider idea that will touch education, health, democracy and human rights, protection against environmental squalor and the proliferation of deadly weapons. In this context insecurity will be approached considering the summation of the above dimensions.

Insecurity has enormous effects on human formation. The question of what human insecurity is approach by many such as United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) that sees human security as freedom from fear and wants (Okorie, 2021). Japanese foreign policy's view on human security may include all the menaces that threaten human survival, daily life and dignity – for example, environmental degradation, violations of human rights, transnational organized crime in illicit drugs, refugees, poverty, anti-personnel land mines and other infectious diseases such as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Ebola and Corona Virus. Insecurity is associated with chronic threats of disease, hunger, terrorism and poverty which are equally linked to irregular attendance to school. It can therefore be said that insecurity and poverty cannot be divorced from each other. High rates of poverty may lead to all kinds of security threats like crime, unemployment, domestic violence and sickness.

Recently, Akwa Ibom in particular and Nigeria in general is noted for crimes ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping, political thugs, ethno-religious conflicts, organized violent groups, economic based violence, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, trafficking and recently the menace of Boko Haram (Security Watch, 2023). Ukanafun Local governments Area in Akwa Ibom State in particular and some parts of the state have been experiencing security threats because of the activities of insurgency. This group of boys and their sponsors through their activities have forced many children to abandon school in an already ill-educated and disadvantaged local government though the extent of the drop out is what cannot be ascertain. As reported by Security Watch, (2023) the effects of the insurgency is not felt by the students in affected

area only but teachers and others doing business in the area. As a result of insecurity, school enrolment in such region has gone down (Bwala, 2021; Udoka, 1998). According to the Nigerian Education Data Survey (NEDS, 2022) as cited in Saleh (2020) continuous attacks of area makes it difficult for teachers and planners of

The effects of insecurity on school attendance in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. Survey by both print and electronic media indicates that over 85% of the school children in Ukanafun and OrukAnam local government areas of Akwa Ibom state do not attend school again due to insecurity in the State (Ekong,2022). These crimes propagated in Ukanafun may be ascribed to those who dropped out of school and these dropouts in may be on the increase every day as a result of this insecurity. The meaning of this is that the future of an Ukanafun child who may drop out of school is in serious danger and thus, need serious attention. Though insecurity has negative impact on school attendance leading to school dropout it has mostly affected economic and social problems in the area. This is the reason Chijioke and Innocent (2021) argued that kidnapping, bomb throwing (explosion) and violent crimes will become part of the daily life of the young people and their sponsors in areas where violence crime is high.

Ukanafun in particular and Nigeria in general are victims of these insecurity and conflicts that lead to insecurity affecting not only school attendance but also their lives and property. For educational progress and development in our states to be achieved, regular school attendance by children is vital. Past histories and experiences have shown that

education in such areas to convince parents to allow their children continue in school. This is as opined by Fafunwa (2011) that insecurity problems have forced school children to drop out of school.

there is always negative impact on the educational development of the child, the school and the community when the child does not attend school regularly. Because of this, there are laws in many countries making it compulsory for all children to attend school. Informed of this may be the reason the administration of Godswill Akpabio introduced free and compulsory education policy in Akwa Ibom State, a policy sustained by the present administration in the state.

The habit of attending school regularly is formed early in life during secondary education. A child who develops good attendance habit in the early years of education is more likely to continue throughout the school career which he will take to his real life situation. The opposite is that of a child who does not attend school. He will miss planned and sequential instructions developed by education planners. This problem has affected economic activities, movement of people, goods and services. The extent of impacts of this insurgency on school attendance in Ukanafun Local Government Area is what cannot be ascertained and it is on this notion that this study is carried out. Studies carried out by others on insecurity have not showed convincing empirical evidence. This is the reason this work is investigating the level of influence the insecurity had caused school attendance in the local government.

To enable this study be effectively carried out, the following questions were asked:

- i. What was the level of school attendance before the situation in Ukanafun Local Government Area?

### Objectives of the Study

The study investigates the origin and effects of insecurity in school attendance in Ukanafun Local Government Area, Akwalbom State. Other specific objectives are to:

- i. examine the causes of insecurity in Ukanafun Local Government Area;

- ii. What was the level of school attendance during the situation in Ukanafun Local Government Area?

- iii. Are Parents willing to send their ward back to school after the crises in Local Government Area?

- ii. assess the effects of insecurity in school attendance in the affected communities;

- iii. ascertain the emotional/psychological effects of insecurity on parents, teachers and students in the affected communities.

### Review of Literature

#### The Concept of Insecurity in Nigeria

Nigeria in recent times has recorded unprecedented security challenges such as Boko Haram Terrorists attacks, militancy, armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, Fulani- Herders farmers clash, cultism among other social vices. These security threats not only undermine national stability and the rule of law but also have adverse effects on the economy, affecting price, output, employment, trade balance and so on. It has turned into an unending challenges, not only by defying security procedures but making scorn of the

efforts of the law enforcement agents and the millions of naira annually budgeted by the government as security votes. In analysing the motivations behind the formation of insurgent groups and their activities against the state, academic debates have been sharply divided. On the one hand are scholars who emphasize insurgency as fallout of religious activities, while on the other hand is those who prioritize geostrategic politics or political marginalization as the root cause. Either claim, however, is only valid in part and obscures a holistic understanding of insurgency as a political phenomenon. Using Boko Haram as a case study

#### Causes of Insecurity in Ukanafun LGA

Prior to this new found peace, Ukanafun and Etim Ekpo Local Government Areas of Akwalbom State had been two most terrorised areas in the state for more than two years.

Residents could not go to bed with their two eyes closed just as many fled to neighbouring villages, towns and even Uyo, the state capital. For visitors passing through the two local governments, it was even worse as they lived in

fear of the unknown. Local administration in the areas almost collapsed and schools were shut down. It was a reign of terror and impunity by these set of hoodlums who stole food crops, livestock's and other items from their owners at will. This was because of the combined activities of the dreaded militants, cultists and kidnapers.

In the past two years more than 200 persons were reportedly killed, hundreds kidnapped, properties including vehicles and houses were burnt. The aged, clergy, students, civil servants, politicians, farmers and businessmen were not spared whenever the heavily armed hoodlums decide to go on rampage. In such instances, it was like a near breakdown of law and order as security operatives including army, mobile police force, Directorate of State Security (DSS) and others special security teams deployed to the areas couldn't contain it. Thus, the situation deteriorated on a daily basis with some of the security operatives being killed. Their arms were snatched and their vehicles set ablaze by the hoodlums. Subsequent peace talks by

The following factors are the primary causes of insurgency in the region:

2. **Poverty and Unemployment:** High rates of poverty and a lack of meaningful employment opportunities for the youth are significant drivers. Many young people, frustrated by economic hardship, have resorted to criminal activities such as kidnapping, armed robbery, and militancy.
3. **Political Exploitation and Thuggery:** Politicians have frequently been accused of recruiting and arming local youths to serve as "enforcers" or "thugs" during election cycles. Once elections conclude, these groups are

concerned groups and even several solemn assemblies organised by various church leaders to calm the rampaging cultists had no tangible result

With the kicking off the amnesty deal, it also brought to the fore the grievances of the hoodlums. When the governor visited the locality to witness the kick-off of the amnesty deal, the shocked communities watched as the cultists and militants came out in their numbers, went on their knees and prayed for forgiveness for the pains melted on people and the communities over the years. According to them, some of their grievances against the government that made them take up arms and cause instability in their areas were the poor social amenities, lack of government attention to their communities for several decades, lack of good public schools and lack of employment opportunities. These they said compelled them to take up arms and rise against the society. Also, they lamented that they had no government appointment for their areas, just as they complained that politicians over the years abandoned them after being used to attain their political height without providing good jobs for them, hence they were frustrated to start living a life of crime.

often abandoned without further support or jobs, leading them to use their weapons for criminal gain.

4. **Marginalization and Lack of Development:** Local communities have historically complained of a lack of basic social amenities, such as good roads, schools, and health facilities. This perceived neglect by both state and federal governments has fuelled resentment and a sense of "resource injustice".
5. **Cultism and Proliferation of Arms:** Rivalry between various cult groups (such as Iceland and Debam) has led to frequent "reigns of terror,"

including targeted killings and arson. The easy availability of firearms has further escalated these conflicts into full-scale local insurgencies.

- 6. Failures in the Amnesty Program:** Recent protests in 2025 by ex-militants, under the aegis of the Ukanafun Freedom Fighters (UFF), highlight grievances over the federal government's alleged failure to fulfill the 2009 amnesty deal. Lack of

### **Insecurity and School Attendance**

Insecurity negatively affects students by causing fear, anxiety, and trauma, leading to poor attendance, low enrolment, disrupted learning, and reduced academic performance due to school closures, teacher reluctance, and redirected resources. It creates unstable learning environments, hinders curriculum delivery, and can force displacement, ultimately harming educational quality, increasing illiteracy, and limiting future opportunities, especially for girls. We found that relative advantage and compatibility predicts attitude towards school enrolment.

Also, perceived attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control predict school enrolment in Nigeria. Attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control to school enrolment are moderated by

However, scholars have identified the following effects of insecurity on Secondary Schools.

- 1. Destructions of infrastructural facilities:** Akor, et al (2021) reported that many School facilities like classrooms, administration blocks, ICT facilities, tables, chairs, and instructional materials have been destroyed by bandits in many of the affected areas. School sites had been

promised training, welfare, and empowerment has led some to return to agitation.

- 7. Governance and Security Gaps:** Weak institutional structures and a lack of trust between the community and security agencies have hindered effective conflict resolution. Limited channels for dialogue often force communities to resort to "self-help" or vigilante-style security.

gender. Female are more influenced by attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control than male. That means that female gender will enrol to school due to their positive attitude, social encouragement and their ability to attend more than male.

There is no gain in saying that insecurity has done more harm than good to the existence of Nigeria as an independent nation. The socio-political and economic landscape in Ukanafun has been ravaged by endemic insecurity, ranging from banditry, kidnapping, farmer-herder conflict, communal clashes, armed robbery, assassination cattle rusting, and destruction of basic infrastructures and so on. The menace has negatively impacted the basic institutions of learning, especially secondary Schools that become a soft target of the criminal elements' activities.

damaged by the changing weather and climate as grasses have grown thick and students and facilities in educational institutions in affected communities (Seji, et al, 2020).

- 2. Disruption of the academic programme:** Insecurity has always disrupted the academic programme of not only secondary Schools but all institutions of academic learning. Over

time a lot of Schools have shut down their academic programmes. This is seeking admission into academic institutions at all levels. For instance, the Foundation Polytechnic and other boarding schools were shut down owing to the kidnapping of founder of the Polytechnic, and students. Reports have indicated that many parents and students vowed never to send their children to boarding Schools.

Ogunode and Ahaota (2021), posit that the continuous closure of schools by the government, whenever there is any attack, is also responsible for the unstable academics of various institutions especially, the Secondary Schools which are most affected in the region. Schools operate on a planned academic calendar that specifies academic sessions, terms, and which that school is open for teachers, and the learning scheme of work & syllabus is to cover within the plan.

3. **Death of students:** According to Ogunode and Fatima (2021), the constant attacks on basic Schools in the affected communities have caused the death of many innocent children sent to Schools while others were kidnapped, local media reported that some students abducted by a bandit in areas died in the process. UNICEF

### **Emotional and Psychological Effects of Insecurity on Parents**

Parental insecurity, stemming from economic hardship, childhood trauma, or unstable environments, triggers significant psychological and emotional distress, leading to increased anxiety, depression, and stress, eroding self-confidence, fostering emotional instability, distrust, and a feeling of helplessness, which then cascades into harsh parenting, poor relationship quality, and

reported that in 2020, there have been 20 attacks on Schools in Nigeria, and about 1,436 children were abducted and 16 of them died.

4. **Lack of confidence by parents/guardian:** Okafor (2014), cited in Sunday et al (2022) posited that as a result of insecurity, parents have vowed not to release their children to school again. In short, some households have relocated from their original homes to peaceful parts of the country. Reports, both on print and electronic media, show that many parents/guardian have left their home of origin and spread across the country where there is relative peace.
5. **Secondary school administration:** The School administration system depends on external influences (Chinelo, 2022). Thus, they are affected by the level of crime, victimization, and violence in the society as they promote fear and loss of lives and property. And the challenges of insecurity need to be effectively handled by the relevant agencies and departments by providing a better policy framework to curb the recurrence of attacks on Schools in Nigeria.

negative impacts on children's mental well-being, creating cycles of insecurity.

- i. **Mental Health Issues:** Higher rates of stress, anxiety, depression, and even suicidal ideation are linked to insecurity, especially economic insecurity and food insecurity.
- ii. **Emotional Instability:** A persistent sense of vulnerability, fear, worry, and general unease.

- iii. **Lack of Confidence & Inadequacy:** Feelings of inability to cope with life's demands, leading to helplessness.
- iv. **Interpersonal Distrust:** A heightened sense of relational

threat and difficulty forming secure bonds.

- v. **Trauma Response:** Unresolved childhood experiences can manifest as implicit memories, influencing adult behaviours and reactions, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and ScienceDirect.com.

### Theoretical Framework

#### Queer Ladder Theory:

The Queer Ladder Theory (QLT) is traced to an American Sociologist, Daniel Bell (1919-2011). He pioneered the idea of "*Queer Ladder Theory*" in his attempt to explain the phenomenon of organized crime as means through which individuals attain socioeconomic empowerment and social upward Mobility. The central assumption of the theory is that organized crime such as the current incidence of banditry and kidnapping for ransom, armed robbery is instrumental behaviour; and it is considered a means to the end; it is a form of social mobility struggle for socio-economic advancement; and it is considered as a measure to accumulating wealth and build power by the perpetrators and syndicates. It is often argued that organized crimes thrive in contexts where the government has failed in its capacity to dictate, deter and sanction crime poor; where corruption is endemic, and where the prospect for legitimate livelihood and opportunities are getting slimmer, (Nwoye, 2000; Loyman, 2001 cited in Rosenje and

Adeniyi (2022). Under these prevailing situations, the chances to indulge in crime are high, while deterrence from criminal tendencies is very low. This means that people will engage in criminal activities when they consider that the benefits of committing a crime out weight or surpass the costs and/or risks involved.

The theory provides us with an understanding that the prevalence of insecurity in Northern Nigeria. It is rightly observed that the prevalence of insecurity has been driven by the criminal quest for economic accumulation in vulnerable societies and institutions where students are the soft target. According to Resenja and Adeniyi (2022), the situation has been worsened by the prevailing socio-economic challenges with attendant livelihood crisis in Nigeria, and Niger State in particular. In addition to the seemingly nonchalant attitude of the indolent government toward arresting the horror and ugly situation, the theory provides us with an understanding of the untoward pattern and nature of social mobility in the Country.

#### Empirical Review of the Study

Saviour and Ntoiden (2015), in their study investigated how government expenditure on secondary education has affected sustainable development of Akwa Ibom State. The study used a survey method in the analysis. The study also examined the state of secondary education

in Akwa Ibom State, and assessed the contents of secondary education programmes, contributions of secondary education to manpower development, problems of secondary education and ways secondary education could be improved. The study was based on an analysis of data collected from

selected secondary schools in the 3 Senatorial Districts of the State.

The Findings revealed that despite efforts by government to improve secondary education through its funding, secondary education has not been able to achieve completely its developmental roles. Based on the findings of the study, they recommended that government should continue to fund secondary education properly and monitor secondary education and create enabling environment to ensure better performance of secondary education in Akwa Ibom State that will enhance sustainable development.

Stewart (2022) analysed the effect of insecurity on educational development for twenty five countries between 1960 and 1921 and found that educational development affected other sectors of the economy and domestic markets, and essential consumption goods, usually leading to a shortage of foreign exchange for economic inputs, government revenue and private investments including government investment. The study therefore recommended that government should provide machineries to encourage free education that will be free of insecurity.

Saviour and Emah (2022), examined the effects of government expenditure on human capital and economic growth in Nigeria. The study examined the impact of government expenditure on human capital on economic growth in Nigeria. The study used ordinary least

square regression models to examine how expenditure of government on human capital had affected the growth of the Nigerian economy. The study used Secondary data collected from the Central Bank of Nigeria Statistical Bulletin, 2023, National Bureau of Statistics report 2023 and World Bank Annual Report, 2023. The variables used in the study include: government expenditure on education (GED), government expenditure on health (GEH), growth of labour force (GLF), and life expectancy at birth (LEXB. The study revealed that approximately 91% of the variations in the dependent variable (GDP) were brought about by variations in the independent variables. The result indicated that more expenditure by government in developing human capital in Nigeria, the better the level of economic growth will improve.

Based on the above findings, the study recommended that: government should increase her budget on education as this will aid in economy transformation as showing by the result of this study. This should target both formal and informal education. Government and private investors increase their effort in improving the health sector by providing adequate funds and qualified personnel as this will improve the health status of the citizens. The government should put machineries in place to aid improve the standard of living as this will lead to economic growth prompted by a vibrant, healthy and happy citizen.

### **Methodology**

The method adopted in this work is descriptive analysis which used a survey design. The population of the study consisted of randomly selected secondary schools in the affected areas in Ukanafun. The study adopted a random sampling technique to collect data from parents. The total number of respondents was

107. This was to allow both parents fill the questionnaire without fear. The instrument used for data collection was a planned questionnaire with relevant questions. The questionnaire was titled "*Effects of Insecurity on School Attendance*". Security experts were contacted to assist in the formation of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was

administered to the parents in their different village squares. It took an average of three months to administer the questionnaire to the respondents. Additional information on students' attendance was collected from the school attendance register. To answer the

### **Results and Discussion**

The level of school attendance from the registers in schools before the crises in Ukanafun is presented on table 1 and attendance in school during the crises in table 2. The result of the study shows that in Community High School, Ntak Afaha before the insurgency an average of 294 males attended school and 643 females but the attendance reduced to 97 males and 43 females during the crises. It was also observed that Community Secondary School, Nkek recorded average attendance of 493 males and 548 females before the crises but reduced to 93 males and 48 females during the period as indicated in the school register. This shows that 65.95% were male and 34.05%.

The study also reveals that in Afaha High School, Ikot Udo Mbang, 206 males and 641 females attended school before the period but during the period the attendance dropped to 106 males and 41 females respectively. It was equally revealed that in Community High School, Afaha Obo, 228 males and 406 females attended school before the insurgency while 298 males and 306 females attended during this investigation. Christian Community Secondary School, Okoyo, recorded 331 male students and 628 females' students' attendance before the crises but recorded 131 males and 78 females during the insurgency. The result of the study also shows that there were 140 males and 280 females' attendance before the insecurity problem and zero attendance for both males

and females in Good shepherd High School, Ikot Akpan Nkuk, respectively.

questions raised in the study, the percentage of response to each of the response category was computed per item in the questionnaire. The percentage was rounded up to two decimal places for brevity.

and females in Good shepherd High School, Ikot Akpan Nkuk, respectively.

Furthermore, Community High School, Usung Atiat had 210 males in attendance and 520 females before the problem but dropped to zero males and females during the crunches. This was because Community High School, Usung Atiat and Good Shepherd High School, Ikot Akpan Nkuk were at the centre of the captured communities where the kidnapers claimed as their headquarters. In the study it was also revealed that Community High School, Ikot Effiong recorded 283 males and 481 females' attendance before the security challenges but recorded 183 males and 181 females in the midst of the disasters. It was also discovered that Western Annang Secondary Commercial School was also one of the worst affected school outside Good Shepherd High School, Ikot Akpan Nkuk and Community High School, Usung Atiat.

In this school 480 male students and 345 females were present before the crises as recorded in the registered for the period under investigation but the number in attendance dropped to 80 males and 35 females during the insurgency. The study also indicate that Community Comprehensive Secondary School, Edem Idim had a total of 878 in attendance and of this 360 males and 518 female students were in attendance before the insecurity. The number actually dropped 120 male students and 81 females during the uprising.

This shows that attendance of female students was lower than that of male students as at the time of this investigation. The meaning

of this is that insecurity has substantial effect on the attendance of students in all the schools in Ukanafun. The result of this work agrees with the work carried out by Bwala, (2021) and Eric (2022).The result of their work show that insecurity in Maiduguri Metropolis has affected school enrolment negatively by reducing the

enrolment by 28%. The effects of this were not borne by the students alone but also by the teachers, parents, school and the community. It is because of this that this work also took the responses of the parents seriously as provided in table 2.

**Table 1:** Male and female students Average school attendance before the insurgency

S/N	Schools	Male	%	Female	%	Total Attendance
1	Community High School, Ntak Afaha	294	31.3	643	68.6	937
2	Community Secondary School, Nkek	493	65.95	548	34.05	1,041
3	Afaha High School, Ikot Udo Mbang	206	72.10	641	27.90	847
4	Community High School, Afaha Obo	228	49.33	406	50.66	632
5	Christian Community Secondary School, Okoyo	331	62.67	628	37.33	959
6	Good Shepherd High School, Ikot Akpan Nkuk	140	0.00	280	0.00	420
7	Community High School, Usung Atiat	210	0.00	520	0.00	730
8	Community High School, Ikot Effiong	283	50.27	481	49.73	764
9	Western Annang Secondary Commercial School, Ukanafun	480	69.56	345	30.43	825
10	Community Comprehensive Secondary School, EdemIdim	360	46.7	518	53.22	878

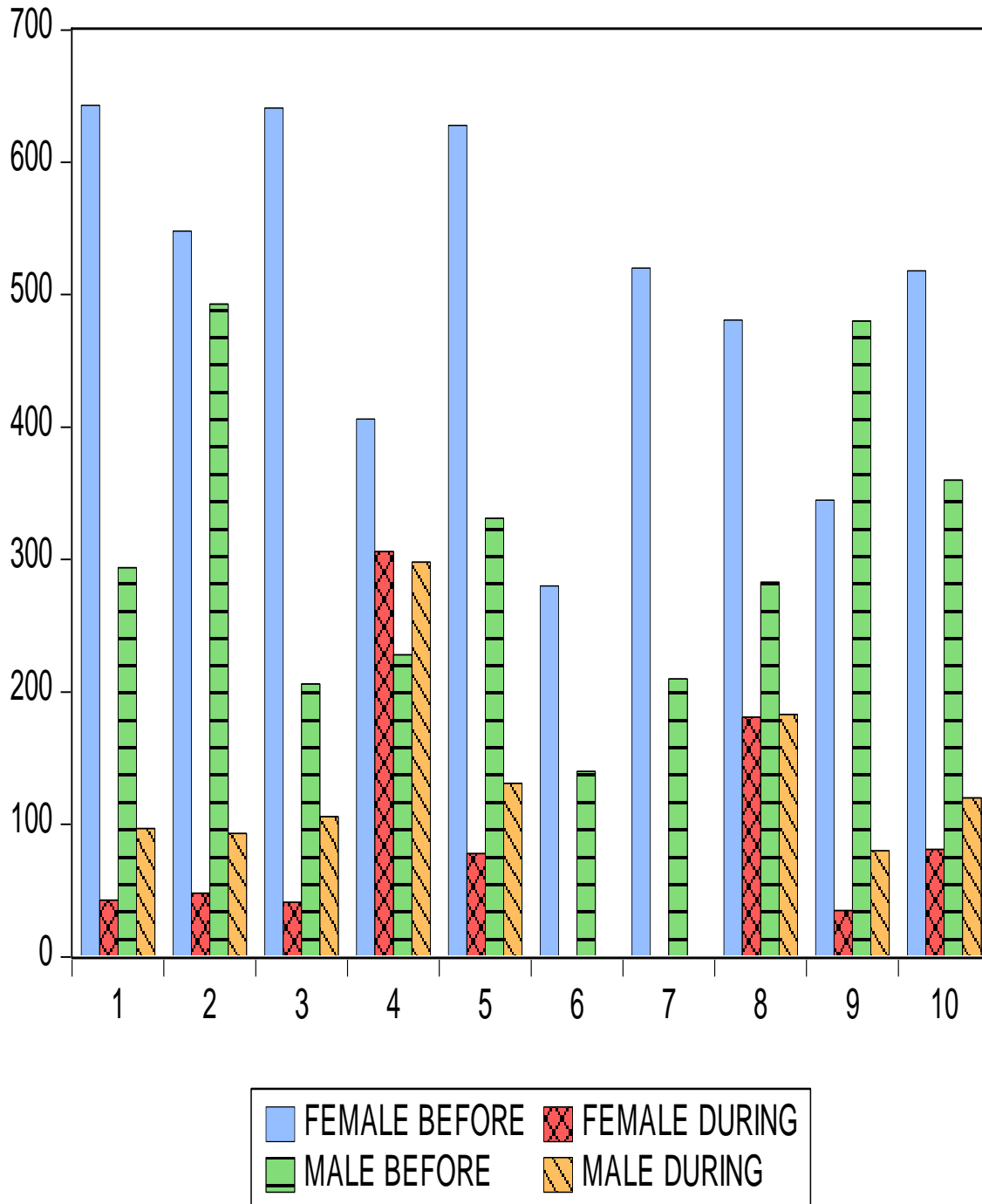
**Source:** Author's Compilation from Attendance on School register

**Table 2:** Male and female students average school attendance during the insurgency

S/N	Schools	Male	%	Female	%	Total Attendance
1	Community High School, NtakAfaha	97	69.3	43	30.7	140
2	Community Secondary School, Nkek	93	65.95	48	34.05	141
3	Afaha High School, IkotUdoMbang	106	72.10	41	27.90	147
4	Community High School, Afaha Obo	298	49.33	306	50.66	604
5	Christian Community Secondary School, Okoyo	131	62.67	78	37.33	209
6	Goodshepherd High School, IkotAkpanNkuk	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7	Community High School, UsungAtiat	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
8	Community High School, IkotEffiong	183	50.27	181	49.73	364
9	Western Annang Secondary Commercial School, Ukanafun	80	69.56	35	30.43	115
10	Community Comprehensive Secondary School, EdemIdim	120	59.7	81	40.29	201

Source: Author's Compilation from Attendance in School Register

Figure 1: Graphical Representation on Male and Female Attendance in School Before and During the Insurgency



Source: Author's Compilation, 2025

Figure 1 above is the graphical representation of the male and female attendance in school before and during the insurgency in Ukanafun

Local Government Area. This is gotten from table 1 and 2 above which show the picture at a glance of how male and female students were

affected in terms of attendance during the crises. The picture indicates that female attendance was higher than that of the male before the insurgency but otherwise during the

crises. This means during the insurgency female attendance reduced drastically giving way to the males.

**Table 3:** Responses of Parents and Teachers Willingness to Allow Their Wards Return to School

S/N	Schools	Sample	Willing	%	Not willing	%	Undecided	%
1	Community High School, NtakAfaha	9	5	55.6	2	22.2	2	22.2
2	Community Secondary School, Nkek	11	6	54.5	2	18.2	3	27.3
3	Afaha High School, IkotUdoMbang	12	8	66.6	2	16.6	2	16.6
4	Community High School, Afaha Obo	13	12	92.3	1	7.6	0	0.0
5	Christian Community Secondary School, Okoyo	10	7	70.0	2	20.0	1	10.0
6	Goodshepherd High School, IkotAkpanNkuk	8	5	62.5	2	25.0	1	12.5
7	Community High School, UsungAtiat	9	3	33.3	1	11.1	5	55.5
8	Community High School, IkotEffiong	14	2	14.3	8	57.1	4	28.5
9	Western Annang Secondary Commercial School, Ukanafun	12	8	66.6	2	16.7	2	16.7
10	Community Comprehensive Secondary School, Edemldim	9	2	22.2	4	44.4	3	33.3

Source: Field survey, 2025

The Responses of Parents' willingness to send back their children to the affected schools in Ukanafun is as presented in table 3 above. The finding shows that out of 9 parents interviewed in Community High School, NtakAfaha 5 parents representing 55.6% of the parents were willing to send back their children to the affected school, 2 representing 22.2% were not willing and 2 which represent 22.2% were undecided. Parents whose children are in Community Secondary School, Nkek, 6 out of 11 interviewed were very ready to send their children back to the school, 2 which represent 18.2% were not willing but 3 which is about 27.3% were not able to decide. The result for Afaha High School, IkotUdoMbang reveals that 12 parents were interviewed and 8 representing 66.6%, 2 representing 16.6% and 2 which also represent 16.6% were willing, not willing and undecided respectively. Looking at the table

closely, it is observed that out of 13 parents whose wards are in Community High School, Afaha Obo, 12 which represent 92.3% were willing to send their wards back to school, 1 representing 0.07% were not willing while none appeared for undecided.

Furthermore, it is seen that 10 parents interviewed in Christian Community Secondary School, Okoyo, 7 representing 70% of the population were willing, 2 which stands for 20% and 1 representing 10% of the parents were for willingness and not deciding respectively. The result also shows that in Good Shepherd High School, IkotAkpanNkuk a total of 8 parents were interviewed and the responses show that 5 parents representing 62.5% were ready to send their wards back to the affected school, 2 which represent 25% of the parents were not willing and 1 representing 12.5% were not deciding on sending their children back to the affected

school. The total number of parents whose wards were in Community High School, UsungAtiat interviewed were 9 and of this, 3 which represent 33.3% were willing to send their children back to school, 1 which stands for 11.1% were not willing but 5 which is a representation of 55.5% of the entire population were undecided. Considering the responses of parents whose wards are in Community High School, IkotEffiong, 2 which represent 14.3% of 14 parents interviewed for that school were willing to send their children back to school, 8 representing 57.1% were not willing and 4 representing 28.5 were not deciding on sending their wards back to the affected school. For Western Annang Secondary Commercial School, Ukanafun, out of 12 parents 8 of them representing 66.6% of them agreed to send their children back to school. It was also observed that 2 of the parents representing 16.7% each were not willing to send them back to school and again 2 which also represent 16.7% were undecided. The result of the interview also shows that out of 9 parents whose wards school inCommunity Comprehensive Secondary School, Edemldim, 2 of the parents which represent 22.2% were

### **Conclusion**

The study reveals that insecurity has adverse effects on education and it's environ. The study also was conducted to assess the effect of insecurity on secondary school attendance in Ukanafun local government area in Akwalbom State of Nigeria. The result reveals that school attendance during the crisis in Ukanafun has been low and also the result further reveals that the rate of male student attendance was more than that of the female. This means the impact of insecurity on secondary school attendance were found to be significant in Ukanafun and this means if the government does not check the crises, it will lead to permanent dropout of

ready to send their children back to school, while 4 which is a representation of 44.4% were not willing and 3 representing 33.3% did not decide.

It shows that on the average 53.79% of the parents were willing to send their children back to the affected schools, 23.89% were not willing and 22.32% were unable to decide. The result here disagrees slightly with the study of Sale (2011) which found out that attacks and insurgency around schools make it difficult for education administrators to convince parents to let their children go back to school for fear of regular attacks and rapes of the students. While aligning with the work of Umoh, Ekpo, Effiong and Asangausung, (2023), it shown the slide variation between parents that agree to send their children back to school and the sum of those who are not will and those not taking a decision in the matter. This research work has exposed to the government and public the disturbing nature of insurgency and the hazard that exist on the education system in Ukanafun in particular. Dropouts in future will be used as political thugs and exposing them to other economic and social vices.

many school children not only in Ukanafun but across Akwalbom State in particular and Nigeria in general. The work, just like other studies, such as, Effiong, Ekanem and Ottong, (2023), also reveals that some parents had shown interest of sending their children back to the schools inUkanafun if assurance is given that government will control the insecurity.

This study because of the above findings recommend that stakeholders in the sector should assist students to overcome the emotional suffering as a result of the hostile effects of insecurity on school attendance by organising talks in churches, village halls, and market places in these communities. The study also recommends that teachers on their part

should adopt strategies to control the emotional suffering caused by the insurgency by embarking on aggressive counselling. The intervention and counselling by the education stakeholders will make those who were not willing to send back their wards to the affected schools in Ukanafun to have a change of mind for parents to return their children to schools. It is worthy to note that individual may adjust well in the society as a result of counselling, thus this counselling should be extended to the youths in Ukanafun. This will help the youths to embrace peace and dialogue; this is because no nation of the world can achieve meaningful development without peace.

Government should provide special incentives to teachers who want to teach in such schools. Government should also provide special incentives to the students of such

community like in addition to the general WAEC fee paid to all Akwalbom students provide school uniform to them. Based on this, it is important that the government of Akwalbom State in particular and Nigeria in general should make concerted efforts to raise the educational attainment of all its youths by ensuring security of the students and school property to ensure regular school attendance. This is important because the hope for the country seems to be grim if children cannot go to school. This study therefore in conclusion recommend, that the government should provide enough and effective security personnel to schools in Ukanafun Local Government area to stop the attacking of students, schools and the community.

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