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Xenophobic Attacks and Nigerian-South African Relations: Investigating the CauseNwanganga Michael Chinwendu*¹, Nwawube Arinze Victor², & Sabastine Ediba³¹Department of International Relations Gregory University Uтуру²Department of Political Science University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria³Department of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution Nigerian Army University Biu, Nigeria**Article History**

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Abstract: The Nigeria South African Relations has been affected by xenophobic attacks against Nigerians and other foreign nationals living in South Africa. Xenophobia is gradually becoming a tradition in South Africa due to the inability of the South African government to reduce the spate of xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals. Therefore, this study pursued one objective: to analyze the link between the deepening poverty situation of South Africans and the rising incidence of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians within the periods of study. The study employed the documentary method of data collection and content analysis method of data analysis. The Trend research design was used to observe changes in the variables of study at different points in time. Utilizing the Theory of social production of material wealth was advocated by Marxian scholars. The study found that there is a link between the deepening poverty situation of South Africans and the rising incidence of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians. Consequently, the study recommended that there should be a proper reorientation of South African citizens by the government of South Africa, the African Union, the United Nations and other relevant bodies on the need to accommodate their African brothers and the implications of xenophobic violence on the economy of South Africa.

Keywords: Xenophobic attacks, Nigeria, Relations, South Africa.

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INTRODUCTION

Over the years, Nigeria and South Africa enjoyed a robust and symbiotic relationship. This relationship is motivated by the national interest of both countries. There exists an element of cooperation and confrontation in the relationship between Nigeria and South Africa. The cooperation is borne out of trade relations and economic relations between Nigeria and South Africa while the confrontation between both countries can be traced through the roots of apartheid, xenophobia and the leadership tussles in the African continent and the international arena.

As a result of the Sharpeville massacre, Nigeria and South Africa first came into conflict on March 21, 1960. Black South Africans were protesting racial dominance and inequality when the incident occurred, and white South African police attacked them. The incident, which resulted in the deaths of 72 black people and numerous injuries, marked the beginning of a diplomatic dispute between Nigeria and South Africa. As a result, Nigeria was at the forefront of calls for international political and economic sanctions against apartheid South Africa, which led to South Africa's suspension from the Commonwealth of Nations in 1961 and the imposition of a trade embargo under the auspices of the now-defunct Organization of African Unity (OAU). Nigeria played a key role in the international community's desire for complete isolation

of South Africa. The apartheid South African regime fell in 1994 as a result of pressure from Nigeria and other countries, non-governmental organizations, and powerful people.

The Nigeria-South African diplomatic relations have deteriorated in recent times. This is due to poor accommodation of Nigerians by the South African nationals, otherwise framed in the xenophobic discourse. Xenophobia has been on the rise in South Africa since the end of Apartheid, between 1997 and 2007 several acts of violence has been reported by South African media where non-nationals are the primary targets, however, one that reverberated throughout the world was the May 2008 violence (Onyia, 2018). The available data on xenophobic attacks in South Africa shows that in May 2008 in Alexandra township of Johannesburg xenophobic violence claimed the lives of about 64 immigrants while thousands were displaced, and many sustained severe injuries (Dauda *et al.*, 2018). In the same year 2008, xenophobic violence in South Africa, attacks were carried out on foreigners living in all parts of the country where 670 immigrants were injured, dozens were raped, properties worth millions of Rands were looted or destroyed and more than 100,000 persons displaced (Dauda *et al.*, 2018).

Nevertheless, available data shows that anytime violence is unleashed on foreign nationals in

South Africa, a sizeable number of the victims were Nigerians, for example from 1999 to 2018, 118 Nigerians lost their lives in xenophobic attacks, and more so in April 2015, Nigerians lost properties worth 21 million nairas, the heat of the February 18, 2017 attack also recorded destruction and burning of five buildings, a mechanic garage with 28 cars under repairs with other vital documents all belonging to Nigerians living in South Africa (Adebisi, 2017; & Onyia, 2018). Nigerians residing in Kuruman Community Cape Town province were in 2017 given up to June 17, to vacate the community while landlords in Klaarfontein community, Extension 5 in Johannesburg were also directed not to renew the rent of Nigerians with the sentiment that Nigeria contributes to the rise in prostitution and illicit drugs in the community (Onyia, 2018).

Amid the above-enumerated crisis in relation between Nigeria and South Africa, the Nigerian government has taken bold steps to correct the anomaly given that Nigeria had a rich friendly relationship with South Africa because of Nigeria's role in dismantling apartheid both in human and material resources. The bold steps taken by the Nigeria government include summoning Nigeria High Commissioner to South Africa for consultations by Good luck Jonathan's administration in April 2015, in 2017 the Nigeria Foreign Affairs Ministry brought the South African Minister for discussions on the assaults during which the South African Representatives apologized in the interest of his nation. In the same vein, the Nigeria House of Representatives went to South Africa to dialogue with the South African Parliament on the most proficient method to guarantee better insurance for Nigerians in South Africa led by the former Majority Leader, Femi Gbajabiamila (Adebisi, 2017). More so, in 2017, the Nigerian government through the Senior Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora to President Muhammadu Buhari, Abike Dabiri- Erewa called on the African Union to take decisive measures to protect Nigerian citizens within South African borders (Saharareporters, 2017).

The inconsistent policies of different administrations in addressing the root causes of xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals in South Africa, especially Nigerians have attracted the attention of scholars, for instance, Dunami, (2015); Adebisi (2017); Adewale (2017); & Classen (2017), wrote on the causes of xenophobic attacks in South Africa, these scholars argued with the theoretical postulations of frustration-aggression as a major propelling factor which largely underpinned a good number of the xenophobic attacks that had occurred in South Africa. The above scholars further opined that the high rate of unemployment in South Africa, poverty and frustration, and perception of foreigners as an economic threat by South African citizens fuelled the xenophobic attacks in South Africa. The above argument is based on the

increase in unemployment in South Africa, between 1999, 2006 and 2016; the unemployment rate in South Africa averaged 25.37% reaching an all-time high of 31.20 % in the first quarter of 2013, therefore as of 2016 it stood at 26.6% (Trading Economics, 2017).

Ige (2018).p94-95 equally presented a similar argument in congruence with the infrastructure and welfare decay in South Africa and therefore opined that: The motive behind xenophobic violence has been attributed to a combination of factors which includes; local political pressures over time, an increase in prices of basic goods, a high level of unemployment estimated at 25 per cent and growing concerns and frustrations at the inability of the South African government under erstwhile President Jacob Zuma to provide essential services to poor people. However, these resulted in economic hardship and tensions surrounding crime and competition over scarce resources by the non-national population. The continued socio-economic issues are pushing the average black South African into extreme poverty amid plenty and there is a high level of dissatisfaction with the scheme of things after the fall of the apartheid regime

Awotunde *et al.* (2018); & Oni & Okunade (2018) saw the matter from a different perspective as they noted that xenophobic attacks in South Africa cannot be attributed to a particular cause rather, there exist some remote and immediate causes which include; exposure to the Apartheid policy which entails the forceful separation of the whites and blacks. A poor, ignorant, marginalized, and shattered black society was produced by this systematic segregation. One of the world's most blatantly unequal cultures resulted from this. Usually, the anguish of suffering is translated to hatred of people who are thought to be foreigners who can enjoy themselves while others suffer. Thus these scholars recommend that the government of South Africa should do the needful to stem the tide having in mind the perceived effect of xenophobic violence on the Nigeria South African relationship.

However, none of these scholars evaluated the correlation between the material conditions of the South Africans and the rising incidence of xenophobic attacks which is the objective of this research

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study will adopt the thematic approach, and themes for review will be built around the topic and objective of the study. Generally, the study undertaken by scholars in this field will be divided into two themes, and much of the review shall centre on the following themes:

- Post-Apartheid Economic Policies of South Africa

- Poverty situation and Xenophobic Violence in South Africa

Post-Apartheid Economic Policies of South Africa

The emergence of majority rule in South Africa brought about the establishment of an economic policy based on Reconstruction and Development for its 1994 election campaign and its first periodic government thereafter and this reconstruction and development emerged with a set-out objective of achieving development through the enabling role of the state, a thriving private sector as well as active involvement by all sectors of civil society which in combination would lead to sustainable growth (Hittler, 2009). However, as noted by Padayachee & Desai, (2008) government adopted the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) in 1994, a development vision cutting across all spheres of societal development. The RDP was accepted as the de facto policy framework of the new government, functioning as a 'blueprint' for social and political transformation in South Africa. The RDP was institutionalized in the form of the RDP Ministry and the RDP Fund. The erstwhile RDP office formed a focal point of donor support from 1994 to early 1996. The RDP sought to facilitate cross-cutting policy approaches and encouraged new approaches to public sector management and budgeting to meet the government's overall reconstruction objectives.

As further argued by Bhorat *et al.* (2014) expectations that the new government would swiftly make all the right decisions were naive, South Africa is a young country with a complicated political economy that presents many difficult challenges. The rest of the packages which were launched have not been driven consistently by the government. While the National Development Plan appears to have the support of the ANC government and many in the broader community (though not those on the left of the trade union movement), its limitations are that it is not much more than a framework to guide policy to 2030 and that it is not yet evident that the government or the ANC have a systematic approach towards its implementation. The challenge to roll back poverty, unemployment and inequality becomes all the more difficult in this context (Bhorat *et al.*, 2014)

However, Joshe (2008) claims that the failure of the Reserve Bank's inflation targeting program has largely undone the anti-poverty impact of social grant expenditure, making rising inflation a second major contributing reason to the violence. The now regular site of high-speed government convoys of black luxury sedans escorted by scores of police shoving through traffic points to a similarly misguided and extraordinary arrogance on the part of those who had promised a better life for all in 1994 (Owen, 2009).

Arising from the foregoing, scholars are of the view that major economic policies embarked upon by the South African government after apartheid did not address the deepening poverty situation in South Africa, because poverty, unemployment and poor standard of living are still the order of the day in the major province of South Africa thus frustration of South African citizens increases the spate of xenophobic attacks against Nigerians and other foreign residents, the truism of the above view cannot be overemphasized.

Poverty Situation and Xenophobic Violence in South Africa

Politics have a connection to South Africa's growing poverty, as argued by Padayachee *et al.* (2008) whether examining its causes and history, its contemporary manifestation, or potential solutions, poverty in South Africa is inextricably linked to politics. The burning subject of whether the South African income distribution has improved in terms of a decrease in poverty and inequality after the democratic transition has given rise to a growing body of literature since the turn of the century. South Africa is an upper-middle-income nation in terms of GDP per capita, yet despite this relative richness, the majority of South African households endure absolute poverty or persistent vulnerability to poverty. Additionally, South Africa has one of the most uneven income and wealth distributions in the world.

The above scholars further trace the rate of poverty in South African native provinces, thus: Poverty in South Africa has racial, gender and spatial dimensions, a direct result of the policies of the successive colonial, segregationist and apartheid regimes.

Poverty is distributed unequally among the nine provinces. Provincial poverty rates are highest for the Eastern Cape (71%), Free State (63%), North-West (62%), Northern Province (59%) and Mpumalanga (57%), and lowest for Gauteng (17%) and the Western Cape (28%). Three children in five live in poor households, and many children are exposed to public and domestic violence, malnutrition, and inconsistent parenting and schooling (Padayachee *et al.*, 2008).

However, experts debated the topic extensively to determine the connection between South Africa's poverty rate and xenophobic attacks. For instance, according to Duponchel (2013), relative poverty increases the likelihood of victimization, and households located in high-unemployment areas are more likely to experience xenophobic violence. The above scholar further opined that if a high level of unemployment might not trigger violence it increases the scale of violence with residents of those areas with a high level of unemployment facing higher chances of xenophobic attacks. Similarly, Mamabolo (2015, p.144), assert that:

Xenophobic violence and reprisal attacks could have an impact on Africa's ability to assume leadership in the future in Africa Nigeria and South Africa. After South Africa's twenty years of democracy, poverty and unemployment remain critical concerns, especially for the underprivileged in the majority of the township and rural communities. Despite the country's initiative to identify policies and strategies that could be adopted to address the status quo, the bulk of the population has continued to live in extreme poverty and degrading unemployment. The lack of economic opportunities in South Africa continues to create hatred between foreign nationals and locals, sparking xenophobic attacks. Poverty and lack of access to resources can only affect the powerless and desperate the people that are suffering from poverty and unemployment are likely to be confused and desperate to the extent of developing hatred against successful foreign nationals. Perceptions and sentiments such as these have seemed to perpetuate tension that unfolded into violent abuses across South Africa.

However, Ige (2018) blamed the government of South Africa for not providing the essential social amenities which will enhance the standard of living of South African citizens According to his opinion, several factors, including local political pressures over time, price increases for basic goods, high unemployment estimated at 25% and growing frustrations over the South African government's failure to provide basic services to the underprivileged, as well as the ensuing economic hardship and tensions surrounding crime and competition, are to blame for the explosion of violence.

Therefore, according to Oni & Okunade (2018), any attempt by foreigners to compete with them on benefits accruing to local citizens after apartheid would be resisted. They believe that the xenophobic action in South Africa can be linked to their suffering and discrimination which the apartheid regime introduced. In a similar line, these Scholars stated that there have been issues with job openings and admittance to universities that are allegedly open to international nationals. However, the main issue is the shifting of their target against foreigners as a result of ingrained hatred and discontent, Similar to Dunami (2015), who suggested that perceptions of foreigners as an economic threat who are stealing jobs and social benefits intended for the locals are the root of xenophobia and hostility toward Nigerians and other foreigners living in South Africa. He also mentioned that racism, nationalism, isolation, and perceptions of outsiders as physical security risks are some additional causes of xenophobia.

To support the aforementioned claim, Classen (2017) asserts that the theories of absolute deprivation, relative deprivation, and dissatisfaction with government account for the majority of the supporting data. Increased xenophobia is linked to both having experienced poverty personally and having bad opinions about the state of the economy, with opinions serving as a buffer between the consequences of poverty and xenophobia.

Similar to this, Matunhu *et al.* (2012) argued that poverty increases xenophobic attacks while this hostility towards the out-group can be laid at the door of economic deprivation which is a precursor to poverty. This hypothesis implies that poverty begets frustration and by extension aggression and also triggers a state of disequilibrium in the state of mind. This unpredictability encourages people to take part in xenophobic attacks.

Gap in Literature

In summary, in an attempt to ascertain the link between deepening poverty and the rising xenophobic situation in South Africa scholars have blamed the continued socio-economic issues as factors pushing average black South African into extreme poverty while relative poverty with a high level of unemployment increases the scale of xenophobic attacks Matunhu, *et al.* (2012); Duponchel (2013); Mamabolo (2015); Classen, (2017); & Ige (2018). Put differently Neo cosmos (2008); & Crush (2014), argued in their work that poverty does not justify violence. However, literature emphasizing the sincere efforts made by the South African government to drastically reduce the spate of xenophobic attacks in South Africa are still very scanty and this is one of the gap in the literature reviewed in this research

METHODOLOGY

This aspect unveils the methods of the research, the theoretical framework underpinning the research, the method of data collection, the method of data analysis and research design.

Theoretical Framework

This study deploys the theory of social production of material wealth which the Marxian scholar refers to as dialectical materialism. The theory of social production of material wealth was advocated by Marxian scholars such as Lenina (1975); Nnoli (1981); Ake (1981); Ogban – Iyam (2005); & Stavrou (2011). The basic propositions of the theory as analyzed in Ezeibe (2016) are:

- To assure his survival, man must supply himself with food, clothing, shelter, and other requirements. Man cannot consume raw meat because it must first be prepared; hence, man cannot have all things ready-made from nature. Man must therefore create tangible products from items found in nature to survive. Production evolves, changing in both its

modes and means. • To assure his survival, man must supply himself with food, clothing, shelter, and other requirements. Man cannot consume raw meat because it must first be prepared; hence, man cannot have all things ready-made from nature. Man must therefore create tangible products from items found in nature to survive. Production evolves, changing in both its modes and means. • Man must provide for his own needs, including food, clothing, and shelter.

- Social production and reproduction give character to other human values. Thus, people engage in marital affairs and also divorce, fight or make peace, and socialize or isolate themselves. Meanwhile what is produced and reproduced is often determined by the combination of quality of labour-power, the object of labour, the means of labour and who decides what to be produced, when and how. (Ogban – Iyam cited in Ezeibe 2016),
- The social production system is under the direction of those who determine what should be produced, when, how, where, by whom, and for whom. They typically possess the majority of the output and frequently exhibit greater levels of satisfaction than other members of the production system.
- Those who do not decide what to produce, generally at the end of the social production system, are often not satisfied and they tend to desire to change the system in their favour. Those who decide what to produce, when and where also determine who rules the state and controls the industry, no doubt industry is the hub of technological development of every nation.

Application of Theory

This theory is adequate in explaining the South African xenophobic attacks against foreigners living in South Africa. This is particularly true given those white people who were in charge during the apartheid government still dominate the majority of the South African economy. But there is no denying that the white continues to dominate the economy after a thorough investigation of all capital sources in South Africa (Anwar, 2017). Speaking at the beginning of a significant policy gathering of the ruling African National Congress, former South African President Jacob Zuma stated that the problems of unemployment, poverty, and inequality posed a long-term risk for Africa's richest nation and that the government must take drastic action to ensure that the black majority can benefit from South Africa's wealth. Zuma continued by saying that because white men continue to hold the majority of economic power, the economy's structure has largely stayed unchanged since the apartheid era. The aforementioned statement merely makes clear that white South Africans control who gets what, when, and how in the nation, whereas those who do not decide what to produce are typically at the end of the social production system, are frequently dissatisfied, and have a propensity to want to change the system in their

favour. Apartheid has left South Africa's black majority economically and educationally disadvantaged, so they will be forced to make sure their family have access to food, clothing, and other basics to ensure their subsistence since they cannot get all these ready-made from nature. However, South Africans' inability to satisfy these needs—which include a solid job and other welfare services—led them to take out their frustration on foreigners who are doing business legally in South Africa. Because of their economic difficulties and inability to compete with the white South Africans who own and control the economy, xenophobic attacks committed by black South Africans against Nigerians and other foreigners in various South African provinces serve as a vehicle for the expression of their grievances.

Method of Data Collection

The study adopted the documentary method in generating data for investigating our hypotheses. Therefore, data for this study will be sourced from documentary sources such as books, journal articles, government documents, internet sources, newspapers and official documents from, Statistics South Africa, Trading Economics, World Bank South African Migration Project and other secondary sources.

Method of Data Analysis

To analyze data, the study adopted content analysis; this technique is also known as qualitative descriptive analysis. Thus, the use of this method is informed by the simplicity by which it summarizes, exposes and interprets relationships implicit in a given data by giving a qualitative description or explanation to the variables under study.

Domestic Economic conditions of South Africa and Attacks on Nigerians

The post-apartheid economic condition of South Africa has not been very rosy because of unemployment, poverty and poor conditions of living. Arising from the above assertion South Africa became very hostile to foreign residents who legally engaged in their daily economic activities. However, available data shows that anytime violence is unleashed on foreign nationals in South Africa, a sizeable number of the victims were Nigerians, for example from 1999 to 2018, 118 Nigerians lost their lives in xenophobic attacks, and more so in April 2015, Nigerians lost properties worth 21 million naira. However, the heat of the February 18, 2017 attack also recorded destruction and burning of five buildings, a mechanic garage with 28 cars under repairs with other vital documents all belonging to Nigerians living in South Africa (Adebisi, 2017; & Onyia, 2018). Thus it will be pertinent and this point to trace the linkage of these attacks to the economic conditions of post-apartheid South Africa and examine how the domestic economic conditions of post-apartheid South Africa have resulted in hostility towards foreign nationals in South Africa.

In the build-up to the 1994 multi-party elections, the ANC ran a campaign that made enticing promises to the people. This raised the hopes and expectations of citizens as they looked up to enjoy the dividends of black majority rule. Having won the election, the government promised to build a new society based on a culture of inclusiveness, tolerance and human rights and this was embodied in the 1996 constitution (Adjai & Lazaridis, cited in Onyia 2017).

As years rolled by, black South Africans were not experiencing any change in their economic well-being. The more things seemed to change, the more they remained the same. Tshitereke (1999) observed that with their heightened expectations they realized

that delivery was not immediate. Thus, discontentment and indignation set in providing the perfect breeding ground for xenophobia to take root and flourish. Not getting what was promised them after the 1994 elections came the feeling that the little they have is being shared by African immigrants. The locals were not willing to put up with this.

Increased Unemployment Situation in South Africa

As of 1999, South Africa's unemployment levels placed it in 9th position in the global ranking. By 2017, it has climbed to the 6th position with the unemployment levels averaging 24% over 23 years. South Africa's unemployment rate over the period is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. South Africa's Unemployment Levels 1999 – 2018

Year	Unemployment Rate	Global Ranking
1999	25.4%	9th
2000	26.7%	5th
2001	25.4%	8th
2002	27.2%	7th
2003	27.1%	8th
2004	24.7%	10th
2005	23.8%	9th
2006	22.6%	12th
2007	22.3%	10th
2008	22.5%	9th
2009	23.7%	8th
2010	24.9%	6th
2011	24.8%	6th
2012	24.9%	7th
2013	24.7%	9th
2014	25.1%	9th
2015	25.3%	8th
2016	26.7%	7th
2017	24.8%	6th
2018	27.7%	7 th

Source: Trading Economics, 2019; Statistics S.A

The official unemployment rate for South Africa is rising. The unemployment rate rose from 22.5 per cent to 27.7 per cent in the last ten years (2008–2018). The term "unemployed" refers to those who were not working but had made efforts to find employment or launch a business and we're prepared to accept employment if it had been offered. The primary issue now is with people who have been out of work for a longer period and are still unable to find work. People who have been unemployed for a year or longer are considered to be long-term jobless. The percentage of those experiencing long-term unemployment among all unemployed people is represented by the long-term unemployment rate. According to Statistics South Africa (2018), 6.2 million South Africans are now unemployed, and 4.3 million of them have been unemployed for a year or longer. Between Q3: 2008 and Q3: 2018, the number of persons who were in long-term unemployment increased by 1.7 million, from 2.6 million in 2008. This has resulted in the proportion of

persons in long-term unemployment increasing by 9.4 percentage points from 59.4% in Q3: 2008 to 68.8% in Q3: 2018.

However, women and young people were the most affected. Compared to 2008, there were 51.4% more males than women who were unemployed in 2018. However, both in 2008 and 2018, a greater proportion of women than males were experiencing long-term unemployment. Youth are more impacted by long-term unemployment than adults are. Although the proportion of young with long-term unemployment decreased by 7.4 percentage points between 2008 and 2018, in 2018 youth (15–34 years) made up nearly two-thirds of individuals with long-term unemployment. The organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) claims that long-term unemployment places a significant mental and financial strain on those affected and their family. High rates of long-term unemployment are also of special concern to

policymakers since they show that the labour markets are not functioning properly. After a period of prolonged unemployment, a person's chances of landing

a job decrease, putting them in danger of remaining permanently out of the labour market.

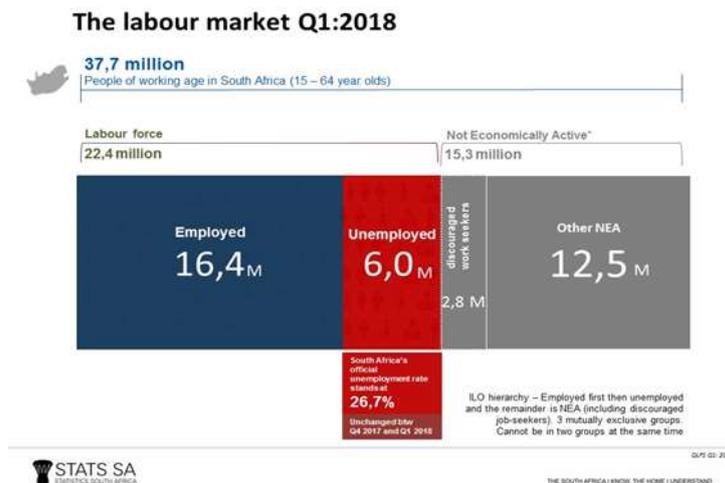


Figure 1: Rising Poverty Situation of South Africans

According to a World Bank assessment from 2018, almost half of South Africa's population is regarded as persistently poor at the national poverty level of ZAR 992 per person per month (2015 prices). High poverty persistence is a characteristic of this population group. The second group of people has a higher than average likelihood of becoming impoverished (the transient poor). The non-poor but vulnerable group, which faces higher than average chances of falling into poverty even though their most basic requirements are now being satisfied, makes up the third section. These last two constituted 27% of the total population. When these two groups are combined with the chronically poor, it is estimated that roughly 76% of people live in poverty daily.

According to the report, South Africa also has a significant concentration of people who earn low incomes (the poor) and a small number of people who earn extremely high incomes (the rich or elite), but very few people who earn moderate incomes, leading to a high degree of income polarization. The expansion of the middle class, which made up roughly 20% of the population between 2008 and 2015, is slowed by this extreme level of income polarization. Only 4% of the population can be categorized as elite, with living levels significantly higher than the national average. People who are in a better position to sustain a non-poor standard of living even in the case of adverse shocks make up the middle class. In comparison to other nations, South Africa's middle class is much smaller. For instance, about 80% of people in Mauritius may be categorized as middle class.

South Africa is experiencing an increase in poverty, according to recent data issued by Stats SA. Despite an overall decline in poverty between 2006 and 2011, according to the most recent Poverty Trends in

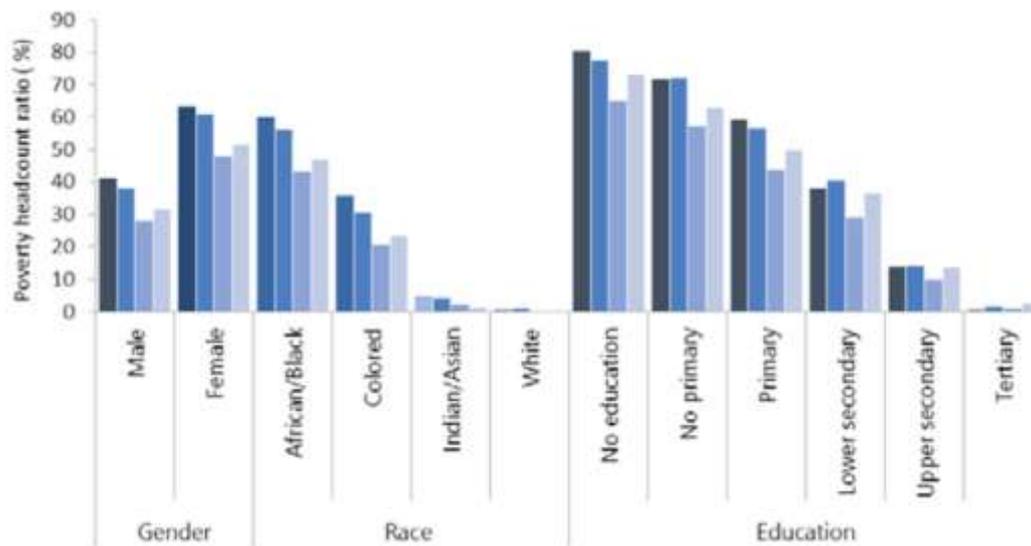
South Africa study, poverty levels in the country increased in 2015. More than half of South Africans lived in poverty in 2015, with the number rising from a series low of 53.2 per cent in 2011 to 55.5 per cent. The results were computed using the 2015 price level of R992 per person per month as the upper-bound poverty line (UBPL). In 2015, this equates to more than 30.4 million South Africans living in poverty. Even while the recent increase in population is regrettable, the country's poverty level today is nevertheless better than it was a decade ago, when it was estimated that close to two-thirds of South Africans (66.6% or roughly 31.6 million people) were living below the UBPL in 2006.

A combination of international and domestic factors, including low and weak economic growth, persistently high unemployment rates, lower commodity prices, higher consumer prices (especially for energy and food), lower investment levels, increased household reliance on credit, and policy uncertainty, have contributed to the South African economy and living conditions over the past five years, particularly between 2011 and 2015. Due to these economic constraints, South African households have seen their financial health deteriorate in recent years, which has pushed more families and individuals into poverty.

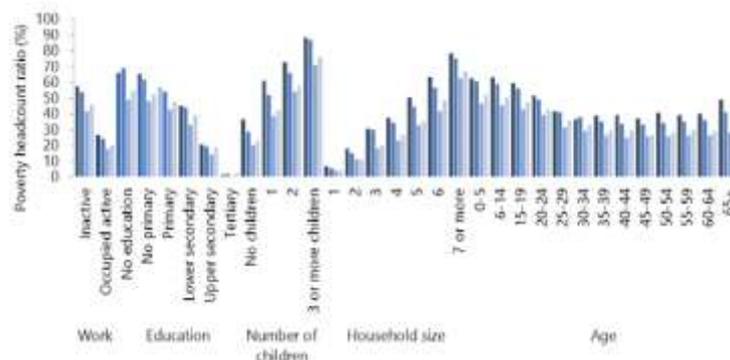
According to a 2018 World Bank research, female-headed households, black South Africans, and children under the age of 15 regularly have the greatest rates of poverty, and these groups are also more likely to experience hardship. However, as one age, poverty levels tend to decline and only begin to rise once again beyond the age of 55. Children are more likely to be poor and to live in households that are farther from the poverty line, according to poverty gap values. One of the biggest risks to good childhood development is growing up in poverty. According to the most recent

Living Conditions Survey conducted by Statistics South Africa, sadly, this was a reality for almost 13 million children living in South Africa in 2015. The figures below show that members of female-headed households are up to 10 per cent more likely to slip into poverty and 2 per cent less likely to escape poverty than members of male-headed households. Race remains a strong predictor of poverty in South Africa, with black Africans being at the highest risk of being poor. Large families, children, and people in rural areas are especially vulnerable to being in poverty for a long time. Contrarily, the two main factors that determine whether a household in South Africa would achieve economic stability are the household head's higher level

of education and access to a stable source of income from the labour market. Higher educational attainment of the household head is a reliable indicator of decreased vulnerability to poverty. When compared to people who live in homes where the head has no formal education, living in one where the head has some postsecondary education reduces the average risk of poverty by roughly 30%. For those who earn more on the job market, poverty also tends to be a more transient condition. This leads us to the conclusion that expanding access to excellent higher education, facilitating entry into the labour market, and raising the availability and standard of work possibilities are all important prerequisites to further poverty reduction.



Poverty Headcount Ratio
Adapted from World Bank report (2018)



According to the World Bank's 2018 study, South Africa's poverty has a significant spatial component, demonstrating the long-lasting effects of apartheid. Rural areas in South Africa have the largest concentration of poverty, as is characteristic in most of Africa. Rural areas were home to 60.3% of the impoverished in 2006. This marginally dropped to 59.7% in 2015. Between 2006 and 2015, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo were regularly the three poorest provinces. Eastern Cape had the greatest

poverty rate in 2015, at 59.1 per cent, and the smallest decrease in poverty levels. With headcount ratios of 67.1 per cent in 2006, 71.5 per cent in 2009, and 52.7% in 2011, Limpopo had the highest levels of poverty. In 2015, it had a 56.0% poverty rate. For 15 years, Gauteng and the Western Cape have continuously had the lowest rates of poverty (19.0 per cent in 2015). These provinces, which are thought of as the nation's economic centres, have wealthier populations and greater employment opportunities. In 2016, the number

of households in the Western Cape that were multidimensional poor dropped to 2.7% from 6.7 in 2001; yet, KwaZulu-Natal had the highest proportion of impoverished people in South Africa.

CONCLUSION

Broadly, the study analyzed the Nigerian-South African relations and security of Nigeria citizens in South Africa from 1999 to 2018. Specifically, the study pursued one objective which is to analyze the link between the deepening poverty situation of South Africans and the rising incidence of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians.

In the first place, the study concluded that there is a link between the deepening poverty situation of South Africans and the rising incidence of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians because most xenophobic attacks in South Africa are carried out in major cities whose poverty and the unemployment rate is high for example in the province such as Gauteng. However, in De Doorns (Western Cape), Kwazulu Natal in Durban and other provinces there is an increasing record of poverty and unemployment. More so, there is increased unemployment and poverty among the black South Africans, uneducated and young South Africans who find it difficult to secure jobs and live above the poverty line and therefore seek ways to change the system in their favour and therefore resort to xenophobic attacks. This conclusion is validated using reports gleaned from World Bank 2018 Reports, Statistics South Africa 2015 and 2018 reports Quarterly Survey of Statistics SA, among others.

FINDINGS

Drawing from the foregoing, we state the following findings:

There is an increasing record of poverty, tough living condition and unemployment in South Africa among population groups mostly the black, uneducated South African youths which led to their quest to change the system in their favour, thus, resolving xenophobic violence as a way of showcasing their grievances and changing the system.

Recommendation

Arising from the above findings, therefore, the study puts forward the following recommendations for policy implementations:

Since the perpetrators of xenophobic attacks are black South Africans who are mostly poor and unemployed, there should be a proper reorientation of South African citizens by the government of South Africa, the African Union, the United Nations Organization and other relevant bodies on the need to accommodate their African brothers and the implications of xenophobic violence on the

economy of South Africa, thus identifying that their black brothers are not responsible for their economic conditions and Nigerian government should endeavour to device means to ensure the safety of its citizens living abroad and to take immediate actions if Nigerians are attacked in any country abroad.

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