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**EFFECTS OF INSECURITY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA:  
A STUDY OF SELECTED STATES IN THE SOUTH-EAST OF NIGERIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

This study examined the effect of insecurity on the socio-economic development of Nigeria, using selected states in the South East region as case study. As a survey design, the study used a sample of 279 respondents from Anambra and Abia States respectively. An item structured instrument was developed to reflect a modified five-points Likert scale. Pearson product moment correlation coefficient and chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test of independence were the major statistical tools used for analysis. Major findings were that insecurity is strongly related to socio-economic development in the country and that insecurity has negative implications for business growth and economic development. It was also found that past efforts of the government towards reducing the rate of insecurity have not yielded impressive results due to poor implementation strategies, lack of adequate funding as well as corrupt practices. The study recommended among others that there is need to start massive investment in the development of infrastructure which are largely lacking especially in the rural areas. This is to stem the rural-urban migration which has created much urban problems particularly insecurity. The agricultural sector should be properly developed with incentives to attract the unemployed youth.

*Keywords:* Insecurity, Development, Likert scale, Nigeria