

TAXONOMY OF NGOS ADVOCACY AND PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the taxonomy of Non-Governmental Organizations in advocating for and preserving human rights in Nigeria. Despite the country's rich cultural diversity and potential for democratic governance, Nigeria faces significant challenges related to human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and gender-based violence. Non-Governmental Organizations have emerged as vital actors in this landscape, working tirelessly to promote awareness, influence policy, and provide support to marginalized communities. However, through a qualitative analysis of various Non-Governmental Organizations operating in Nigeria, this study assesses their strategies, achievements, and the obstacles they encounter. Again, it highlights successful advocacy campaigns and offers insights into the collaborative efforts between Non-Governmental Organizations and international bodies. However, the findings underscore the importance of sustained funding, capacity-building, and legal reforms to enhance the effectiveness of NGOs in protecting human rights. Ultimately, this study argues that a robust civil society is essential for the advancement of human rights in Nigeria, calling for increased support and engagement from both local and global stakeholders.

KEYWORDS: *Advocacy, Preservation, Organizations, Governmental, Human rights*

INTRODUCTION

Taxonomy of Non-Governmental Organizations advocating and protecting human rights in Nigeria. it plays an important role in campaigning for and safeguarding human rights in Nigeria. Again, Non-Governmental Organizations in Nigeria played an important role in addressing a variety of human rights issues, including political repression, gender-based violence, and the rights of vulnerable populations such as internally displaced persons and ethnic minorities. Nigeria's political landscape has been riddled with obstacles, particularly in terms of free expression and assembly. According to Adeyemi, O. F., & Jimoh, O. (2021). Non-Governmental Organizations such as the Civil Liberties Organization and Human Rights Watch have been active in opposing the Nigerian government's attempts to silence dissent and suppress rallies. A typical example, NGOs played a big role in the 2020 End SARS rallies, which demanded the disbandment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) owing to alleged human rights violations. These organizations not only reported atrocities, but also gave legal aid to arrested protestors. The protests emphasized the importance of non-governmental organizations in organizing public opinion and holding the government accountable for human rights breaches. Gender-based violence remains a significant issue in Nigeria, and non-governmental organizations have been at the forefront of attempts to address it. Non-Governmental Organizations such as the Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) have done substantial lobbying and provided assistance to victims of gender-based violence. According to an Ebrahim, A. (2003) asserted that these Non-Governmental Organizations have played an important role in advocating for and enforcing tighter domestic violence laws. These organizations' relentless efforts have resulted in improved implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, which was passed in 2015. Furthermore, Non-Governmental Organizations have worked to raise awareness about gender-based violence through community outreach programs and media campaigns. Another major area of emphasis for Nigerian Non-Governmental Organizations is the

condition of internally displaced individuals (IDPs) as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency and intercommunal violence. These groups have helped IDPs in camps and host communities by providing humanitarian aid such as food, housing, and medical care. In addition, Non-Governmental Organizations have reported human rights violations against IDPs, campaigning for their rights and demanding improved living conditions. According to Ivanytskyi (2024), studied, Non-Governmental Organizations such as the International Rescue Committee and Médecins Sans Frontières have played an important role in meeting the humanitarian needs of IDPs while also advocating for long-term solutions to the displacement problem. Ethnic and religious minorities in Nigeria have frequently suffered discrimination and violence, and Non-Governmental Organizations have played a critical role in protecting their rights. The Christian Association of Nigeria and the Islamic Council of Nigeria, among other non-governmental organizations, have worked to promote interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence. According to Ojo, E. (2021) opined that these organizations have participated in conflict mediation efforts and given platforms for minority groups to express their concerns. Furthermore, non-governmental organizations have been involved in documenting and publicizing incidents of ethnic and religious violence in order to raise worldwide awareness and urge the Nigerian government to respond. Children's rights are also a major priority for Nigerian non-governmental organizations. Organizations such as the Child Protection Network and Save the Children have worked relentlessly to eliminate child labour, trafficking, and abuse. They have fought for stricter implementation of child protection legislation and have offered rescue and rehabilitation assistance to vulnerable youngsters. These Non-Governmental Organizations in advocating for legislative improvements, such as the passage of the Child Rights Act by various Nigerian states. Furthermore, these organizations have established educational programs to keep children in school and prevent exploitation. Non-Governmental Organizations faced considerable hurdles including restrictive government regulations and security threats. The Nigerian government implemented various steps that were viewed as attempts to limit the activity of non-governmental organizations. The Non-Governmental Organizations Regulatory Commission Bill, introduced in 2017 but still debated, aimed to rigorously control NGO operations. Critics suggested that such restrictions may be used to silence criticism and hinder the functioning of non-governmental organizations. Despite these hurdles, numerous non-governmental organizations continued to work, often modifying their techniques to handle the tight environment.

In addition to government-imposed problems, Non-Governmental Organizations in Nigeria faced security risks, especially in conflict-affected areas. The Boko Haram insurgency and banditry in northern Nigeria posed serious threats to the safety of non-governmental organizations. Despite these threats, non-governmental organizations remained devoted to their aims, frequently operating under risky conditions to provide help and advocate for human rights. These groups' tenacity and dedication highlight their value in the Nigerian setting. The international world has recognized Nigerian NGOs' work to promote human rights. International donors and partners have offered financing and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of local non-governmental organizations. This assistance has helped Nigerian Non-Governmental Organizations to launch large-scale projects and reach more people. A typical example, international alliances have made it easier to execute initiatives targeted at increasing marginalized populations' access to justice and enhancing the legal framework for human rights protection. However, Nigerian non-governmental organizations performed an important role in promoting and safeguarding human rights despite severe hurdles. They made major contributions to addressing political repression, gender-based violence, IDP rights, and the protection of ethnic and religious minorities.

Taxonomy of Non-Governmental Organizations Advocating for and Protecting Human Rights in Nigeria Despite facing restricted government regulations and security concerns, these organizations remained steadfast in their advocacy for vulnerable people's rights. The international community's backing strengthened their ability to affect change. Non-Governmental Organizations activity in

Nigeria during this period demonstrates the importance of civil society in furthering human rights and holding governments responsible.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Taxonomy of Non-Governmental Organizations advocacy and preserving human rights in Nigeria seeks to investigate the numerous challenges faced with serious human rights concerns, exacerbated by issues such as police brutality, pervasive corruption, and breaches of civil freedoms. Non-Governmental Organizations played an important role in advocating for human rights, assisting victims, and holding the government responsible. Despite their efforts, Non-Governmental Organizations encountered various challenges, including stringent regulations, harassment, and intimidation by state actors. Ojo, E. (2021) The adoption of the Non-Governmental Organizations Regulatory Bill, for example, threatened to limit these groups' freedom and operating capacity by implementing severe registration and control regulations. However, the taxation of NGOs advocating and protecting human rights in Nigeria is the interest of this study. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened pre-existing human rights violations, as lockdowns were frequently imposed with disproportionate force, leaving minority groups vulnerable. Non-Governmental Organizations attempted to address these multiple concerns, but their efforts were frequently hampered by a lack of funding, restricted access to affected communities, and an increasingly hostile atmosphere for civil society groups. Adeyemi, O. F., & Jimoh, O. (2021). However, this period highlighted the crucial need for a more supportive framework in Nigeria that allows Non-Governmental Organizations to successfully advocate for and preserve human rights.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Non-Governmental Organization

Taxonomy of Non-Governmental Organizations Advocacy and Preservation of Human Rights in Nigeria, A Non-Governmental Organization is a non-profit, volunteer organization that functions independently of the government. Non-Governmental Organizations are often organized around specific topics or causes, such as environmental conservation, human rights, or social assistance. They are led by people who share a similar interest in a specific issue and seek to influence public policy, offer social services, or campaign for social change. Non-Governmental Organizations lack the authority to establish or enforce laws, but they can influence public policy and opinion through advocacy, research, and education. Adeyemi, O. F., & Jimoh, O. (2021). Non-Governmental Organizations can be referred to both huge multinational organizations like Amnesty multinational or Oxfam and smaller, community-based groups. Its work can span from local, regional, national, and worldwide levels, and its activities might include humanitarian help, development initiatives, advocacy and lobbying, as well as research and policy formulation. Non-Governmental Organizations frequently operate in places where governments are reluctant or unable to provide services, filling gaps in social services, health care, education, and disaster. Ebrahim, A. (2003) The advocacy is one of the key functions of non-governmental organizations, which entails supporting certain policies or changes in social attitudes. Non-Governmental Organizations utilize a variety of strategies to achieve their advocacy aims, including public campaigns, lobbying government officials, and collaborating with the media to increase awareness about their causes. They frequently create research reports, policy papers, and other types of material to support their ideas and influence legislators. Human Rights Watch, for example, conducts thorough investigations and produces comprehensive reports on human rights violations all around the world, which they utilize to advocate for legislative changes and accountability. Uche, P. (2022).

Non-Governmental Organizations also play an important role in delivering services that the government or private sector cannot effectively supply. This can include immediate humanitarian assistance, such as giving food, shelter, and medical care in the aftermath of a disaster, as well as long-term development programs aimed at improving health, education, and economic prospects in

underserved communities. Doctors Without Borders, for example, provides crucial medical services in conflict zones and disaster-affected places, frequently operating under difficult and dangerous conditions Adeyemi, O. F., & Jimoh, O. (2021). Another important role of Non-Governmental Organizations is to serve as watchdogs, monitoring government actions and holding officials accountable for their decisions and policies. NGOs such as Transparency International work to prevent corruption by monitoring government actions, encouraging transparency, and pushing for anti-corruption policies. They collect data, write reports, and mobilize public opinion to put pressure on governments to fight corruption Omojola, A. (2022).

Non-Governmental Organizations frequently collaborate with other organizations, including governments, other NGOs, and international organisations such as the United Nations. These alliances can improve effectiveness by pooling resources, knowledge, and reach. For example, the worldwide Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria collaborates with a wide range of partners, including governments, civil society, and the commercial sector, to tackle these diseases on a worldwide scale. NGOs can be funded through a variety of sources, including private donations, membership dues, foundation grants, and government support. While government funding might give significant financial assistance, it can also make it difficult for Non-Governmental Organizations to preserve their independence and legitimacy.

In conclusion, the taxation of NGOs. Advocacy and Preservation of Human Rights in Nigeria is motivated by principles like justice, equity, and human rights, and they play an important role in promoting social change and development. NGOs play critical roles in tackling global concerns, promoting social justice, and providing humanitarian assistance. Their autonomy from official institutions enables them to push for change, deliver services where they are most needed, and hold authorities accountable. Although they encounter funding, accountability, and political issues, their contributions to society are significant and long-lasting Non-Governmental Organizations will continue to be important in the search of a more just and equitable world if they adapt and change.

PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

The preservation of human rights in Nigeria are the fundamental rights and liberties to which all individuals are entitled, regardless of nationality, gender, ethnicity, religion, language, or other status. These rights are inherent in all people and are founded on ideals of dignity, equality, and mutual respect. Human rights have changed over time, impacted by historical events, intellectual ideas, and international accords. The founding of the United Nations during World War II laid the groundwork for modern human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, is a key text outlining the fundamental rights and liberties that all persons should have. It was created by a broad collection of people from various legal and cultural backgrounds, resulting in a comprehensive and universal approach to human rights. Human rights are often divided into two categories: civil and political rights, and economic, social, and cultural rights. Free speech, assembly, and religion are examples of civil and political rights, as is the right to a fair trial and participation in government. These rights are critical for protecting individuals from government abuses and ensuring their participation in public. Mgbonyebi V., Umerah E. S (2024). Again, Economic, social, and cultural rights include the right to labor, education, health care, and a reasonable quality of living. These rights are critical in ensuring that people can live with dignity and actively participate in society.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), enacted in 1966, along with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), serves as the foundation of international human rights law. The protection and advancement of human rights are continual problems. There are several international, regional, and national mechanisms in place to monitor and implement human rights norms. The UN Human Rights Council, founded in 2006, is critical to resolving human rights violations and encouraging global collaboration on human rights concerns.

Non-governmental organizations like as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch also work ceaselessly to document violations and advocate for victims. Hearn, J. (2007).

Despite these efforts, human rights violations continue to be a global issue. Millions of individuals continue to face prejudice, inequality, and violence. Conflicts, authoritarian regimes, and economic inequality frequently exacerbate these issues, emphasizing the necessity for ongoing attention and advocacy. Individual rights are an essential component of individual dignity and society development. They are necessary for individual protection as well as the advancement of equality and justice. While tremendous progress has been made in establishing and promoting human rights around the world, continued efforts are required to resolve chronic abuses and guarantee that these rights are fully realized for all individuals.

These rights that are really inalienable to man are comprehensively noted **by** Iwe et al. (1986), to include but not limited to the following:

- a) The right to life, including the status of the conceived but unborn child, the right to life, the right to bodily integrity, and the right to a decent and healthy standard of living.
- b) Fundamental social rights, such as the right to meet and associate, the right to free movement and residence within the state, and the right to emigration and immigration.
- c) Fundamental Moral-Cultural rights include the right to respect and repute, education, and the ability to seek truth.
- d) The right to choose one's state of life, including religious freedom and profession/occupation.
- e) Fundamental economic rights, including the right to material goods, work, fair remuneration, and ownership of property.

THE CHALLENGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

What are the human rights challenges in Nigeria? To solve Nigeria's human rights concerns, it is critical to comprehend the complex sociopolitical landscape that has shaped the country's record. Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and greatest economy, faces numerous difficulties that affect its inhabitants' rights and freedoms. This essay examines these issues through a variety of perspectives, including political instability, ethnic and religious tensions, security concerns, and socioeconomic inequities. Political instability has long plagued Nigeria, impacting human rights everywhere. According to Amnesty International, 2020, the country's history of military control and inadequate democratic institutions has fostered an environment of impunity among political elites. This impunity frequently leads to crimes such as electoral fraud, intimidation of opposition voices, and disdain for the rule of law. The absence of accountability jeopardizes citizens' rights to political engagement and fair governance. Ethnic and religious divisions worsen Nigeria's human rights concerns. The country is home to about 250 ethnic groups, each having their own cultural and linguistic identities. Political actors have used these various identities to fuel divisions for their own gain Amnesty International, (2020). The ensuing disputes have resulted in severe human rights violations, including forced displacement, discrimination, and violence against minority communities. Amnesty International, (2020).

Security issues play an important part in determining Nigeria's human rights situation. The country is dealing with an insurgency in the northeast led by groups such as Boko Haram, which has committed multiple crimes, including abductions, massacres, and the displacement of millions (Human Rights Watch, 2021). The government's response to these security difficulties has frequently been criticized for human rights breaches, including extrajudicial murders, arbitrary arrests, and the use of excessive force (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Socioeconomic differences exacerbate Nigeria's human rights concerns. Despite being a major oil producer, a sizable section of the population lives in poverty, with limited access to basic necessities including healthcare, education, and clean water. Gender inequality is another major issue affecting human rights in Nigeria. Women and girls endure numerous forms of discrimination, including limited access to school, healthcare, and economic opportunities Akinyemi, S. (2021). Despite being illegal under

national law, cultural traditions such as child marriage and female genital mutilation continue to exist in some places Akinyemi, S. (2021). The legal system in Nigeria also poses problems to human rights protection. Corruption, inefficiency, and political meddling all pose challenges to the judiciary's ability to preserve the rule of law and protect citizens' rights.

However, the Civil society and media organizations play critical roles in pushing for human rights in Nigeria. However, they frequently suffer harassment, intimidation, and restrictive legislation, limiting their effectiveness Amnesty International, (2020). The government's campaign on dissenting voices, including journalists and activists, stifles free expression and undermines efforts to promote accountability and openness.

METHODOLOGY

Non-governmental organizations' taxes advocacy and the Preservation of Human Rights in Nigeria, the study intends to employ resource mobilization theory, proposed in the 1970s primarily by sociologist Mayer N. Zald and colleagues, challenges traditional views of social movements by emphasizing strategic resource mobilization over grievances as the key to their success. This idea arose in response to previous approaches that primarily focused on psychological and structural variables in explaining collective behavior. Zald contended that movements are not only reactive responses to injustices, but rather proactive initiatives that intentionally amass and use resources to achieve their aims. In Nigeria the advocate for human rights, resource mobilization theory provides a prism through which we may analyze their operational dynamics. Nigeria is a country coping with complicated sociopolitical concerns, has seen the birth of various non-governmental organizations dedicated to combating human rights breaches. Nigeria employs a variety of resources to advance human rights objectives. Financial resources, such as international donor funds and local fundraising activities, are critical components. These funds are utilized not only for direct assistance, but also to support organizational infrastructure and advocacy efforts. Furthermore, human resources such as trained activists, lawyers, and volunteers play key roles in carrying out programs and magnifying advocacy activities. Mgbonyebi V., Umerah E. S (2024)

However, despite encountering severe difficulties, Nigerian non-governmental organizations continue to play an important role in furthering human rights through innovative resource mobilization techniques, collaborative collaborations, and adaptive advocacy practices. Their efforts demonstrate the transformative power of strategic resource management in achieving justice, equality, and accountability in society.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are as follows

Firstly, Non-Governmental Organizations must collaborate more effectively. Coalitions allow Non-Governmental Organizations to pool resources, share information, and present a united front when working for human rights. This collaborative approach can strengthen their impact and ability to achieve change. Also, Prioritizing capacity building programs. Non-Governmental Organizations should invest in training and development programs for their employees and volunteers to improve their abilities in areas such as advocacy, legal frameworks, and digital security. Well-trained staff can effectively engage stakeholders and manage Nigeria's complicated human rights context.

Moreso, focusing on grassroots engagement. Non-Governmental Organizations must collaborate closely with local communities to better understand their unique human rights concerns and empower them to advocate for their rights. This includes launching awareness campaigns, giving education on human rights issues, and establishing venues for community people to express their concerns.

However, using technology can greatly improve the efficacy of human rights Non-Governmental Organizations. Using digital tools for data gathering, monitoring, and reporting can increase

transparency and accountability. Social media platforms and other digital communication channels can also be utilized to increase awareness, rally support, and engage a larger audience.

Finally, promoting a conducive legal and policy environment is key. Non-Governmental Organizations should actively engage legislators to advocate for legislation and regulations that promote human rights and create a favorable operating environment for civil society organizations. This involves fighting for legislation that promote accountability and protection for human rights defenders, as well as opposing restrictive regulations that impede Non-Governmental Organizations activities.

CONCLUSION

Non-Governmental Organizations experienced significant challenges during this time, such as government restrictions and harassment. The Nigerian government-imposed laws that occasionally hampered these organizations' functioning, citing security concerns and the need to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. Despite these hurdles, non-governmental organizations continued to work for human rights, frequently collaborating with international entities and local communities to increase their impact. During this time, there were also considerable advocacy campaigns for legislative reform. Non-Governmental Organizations advocated for the implementation of legislation and policies to better protect human rights, such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act and the Child Rights Act.

However, despite several hurdles, non-governmental organizations in Nigeria have played an important role in promoting and safeguarding human rights. These organizations worked in a complicated context typified by political unrest, economic challenges, and security concerns, notably in the northeastern region devastated by the Boko Haram insurgency. Non-Governmental Organizations concentrated on a variety of human rights concerns, including as women's rights, children's rights, freedom of expression, and displaced persons' rights. They offered vulnerable communities critical services such as legal aid, education, healthcare, and emotional support.

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