

Assessment of Human Rights Abuses and Investigations in Niger State, 2013-2019.

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Abstract

This study assessed human rights abuses and investigations in Niger State, 2013 - 2019. During this period, NHRC receives about 752 complaints of human rights violations and investigated them. This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. Primary method of data collection was used to generate the data. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 20.0 versions were used to analyze the data. Multiple linear regression analysis was used to analyze the data, while regression analysis was calculated at 5% (0.05) level of significance. Structural-functionalism was used as a theoretical framework. Finding from the study reveals that, NHRC received a total number of seven hundred and fifty two (752) complaints of human right abuses in Niger State out which 286 (38%) of the complaints were investigated. The study concludes that, NHRC to some extent has investigated and addresses some Human Right abuses in Niger State. The researcher therefore recommends that, NHRC should come up with institutional mechanism for investigating all cases of human right abuses/violations in Niger state.

Introduction

The National Human Rights Commission on daily basis receives numerous cases of human rights violation and investigates them. The Commission received not less than 200 cases of allegations of human rights violations. And in both 2009 and 2010, the commission received not less than 6,000 complaints of human rights violation all over the country (The National Human Rights Commission News Letter, 2010). Despite the effort of the commission for the Protection and Promotion of human right in Nigeria, Nigerian citizens had their political rights violated through intimidation, undemocratic imposition of candidates for political offices, assassination and the huge finances on political environment (Akhaine and Chizea, 2011).

The Commission realised that human rights campaign cannot be achieved solely without

the development of protective laws or establishment of mechanisms to implement those laws. In addition it engages in series of educational and public enlightenment programmes to raise public awareness on human rights issues. A robust and effective complaint response mechanism has been put in place at its Headquarters in Abuja and all the thirty six (36) Offices across the country to handle all complaints of human rights violations. All victims of human rights violations are obliged to access the services of the Commission free of charge. But, it cannot be ascertained whether these complaints have been addressed by the Commission or not. This study, therefore, seeks to assess human rights abuses and investigations in Niger State, 2013 - 2019.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria is among the countries where human right abuses are recorded daily and virtually in all human endeavours. But there is no empirical evident to shows how this human right abuses are investigated and reported especially in Niger State where human right abuses occurs every day. This study has been come imperative in order to fill the research gap. Niger State was selected as a case study because the study of the nature cannot cover many States and there is a need to carryout in-depth analysis on human abuses and investigation within the period under review.

The study seeks to answer the following research questions;

- i. To what extent has National Human Right Commission received complaints of human right abuses in Niger State?
- ii. To what extent has the National Human Right Commission investigate Human Right abuses in Niger State?
- iii. To what extent have the National Human Right Commission Addressed complaints of human right abuses in Niger State?

The specific objective is to assess the following;

- i. To ascertain whether National Human Right Commission has received complaints of human right abuses in Niger State.
- ii. To determine whether National Human Right Commission has investigated human right abuses in Niger State.
- iii. To find out whether National Human Right Commission has addressed complaints of human right abuses in Niger State.

The following Hypothesis were drafted to guide the study

- i. There is no significant relationship between National Human Right Commission and complaints received on human right abuses in Niger State.
- ii. There is no significant relationship between National Human Right Commission and investigation of human right abuses in Niger State.
- iii. There is no significant relationship between National Human Right Commission and addressing complaints on human right abuses in Niger State.

Literature Review

Concept of Human Rights

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland (FDFA) (2008) defined human rights as all the freedoms the individual can claim on the sole basis of his or her humanity, rights which are safeguarded by society on ethical grounds. Human rights are rights that people are born with and to which everyone has equal entitlement regardless of gender, ethnic origin or beliefs. They are an essential principle in the organisation of modern society, and the very basis of peaceful cohabitation at the national and international levels, in the community and in the family.

FDFA Switzerland, (2008) defined human rights as a long and continuing process of development that has not yet reached its conclusion. It has its roots in the philosophy of the ancient Greeks and in the religious concept that "all men are equal in the eyes of God". Together with the secular tradition of natural rights – human rights have their roots in human nature and the inherent dignity of humanity, the concept of human rights has progressively developed as an ethical standard through the ages. Some Human beings are born equal in dignity and rights. These are moral claims which are inalienable and inherent in all individuals by virtue of their humanity alone, irrespective of caste, colour, creed, and place of birth, sex, cultural difference or any other consideration. These claims are articulated and formulated in what is today known as human rights.

Donnelly (2005) defined Human rights as fundamental rights, basic rights, inherent rights, natural rights and birth rights. Human rights are not just abstract values such as liberty, equality, and security. They are rights, entitlements that ground particular social practices to realize those values. Human rights claims express not mere aspirations, suggestions, requests, or laudable ideas but rights-based demands and in contrast to other grounds on which goods, services, and opportunities might be demanded for example, justice, utility, divine donation, contract, or beneficence human rights are owed to every human being, as a human being.

The definition given by Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland does not specify the right peculiar to the activities of National Human Right Commission in Nigeria. This study therefore, define human rights as an individual's statutory right to achieve equal treatment and free from discrimination as well as provide civil remedy for compensation or to punish violators.

Amnesty International (2011) defined Human rights as what every human being needs to live a dignified and fulfilled life and to participate fully in the society. They are entitlements you have them just because you are human.

Nowak, (2005) defined Human rights as rights that every human being by virtue of his or her human dignity enjoy. Human rights are the most fundamental rights of human beings. They define relationships between individuals and power structures, especially the State. Human rights delimit State power and, at the same time, require States to take positive measures ensuring an environment that enables all people to enjoy their **human rights**.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948) defines human rights as “rights derived from the inherent dignity of the human person.” Human rights when they are guaranteed by a written constitution are known as “Fundamental Rights” because a written constitution is the fundamental law of the state (UDHR, 1948:215).

Peter (2008) defined Human rights as a rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. “We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination”. In collaboration with view given by Peter, United National Organization Development Commission (UNODC) defined human rights as universal, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible and constitutes the basis of the concepts of peace, security and development. These civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. They are expressed in treaties and other sources of law at the national, regional and international levels (Peter 2008).

Nowak (2005:89) defined human rights from the legal standpoint view as the sum of individual and collective rights recognised by sovereign States and enshrined in their constitutions and in international law. Governments and other duty bearers are under an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, which form the basis for legal entitlements and remedies in case of non-fulfilment. In fact, the possibility to press claims and demand redress differentiates human rights from the precepts of ethical or religious value systems.

Darcy (2007) defined Human rights as a claims every individual have against everyone else; that is, they are not restricted to the relationship between state and individual. Human rights claims are universal in that, if they are valid at all, they are valid for everyone, since they are based on general assumptions about human needs and capacities.

Comasito, (2012) defined Human rights as an entitlement held by all persons equally, universally and forever. Comasito opined that, human rights are universal, they are always the same for all human beings everywhere in the world. “You do not have human rights because you are a citizen of any country but because you are a member of the human family. This means children have human rights as well as adults” (P. 93).

Nowak conclude that, Human rights are universal because they are based on every human being’s dignity, irrespective of race, colour, sex, ethnic or social origin, religion, language, nationality, age, sexual orientation, disability or any other distinguishing characteristic. Since they are accepted by all States and peoples, they apply equally and indiscriminately to every person and are the same for everyone everywhere (P. 20)

Human rights are inalienable and individual cannot lose these rights any more than one can cease to be a human being (Comasito, 2012, P.95). Human rights are inalienable insofar as no person may be divested of his or her Human rights save under clearly defined legal circumstances. For instance, a person’s right to liberty may be restricted if he or she is found guilty of a crime by a court of law (Nowak, 2005:4).

Comasito, (2012) equally asserted that, Human rights are universal and inalienable; indivisible; interdependent and inter-related. They are universal because everyone is born

with and possesses the same rights, regardless of where they live, their gender or race, or their religious, cultural or ethnic background. It is Inalienable because people's rights can never be taken away. Indivisible and interdependent because all rights – political, civil, social, cultural and economic are equal in importance and none can be fully enjoyed without the others. They apply to all equally, and all have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. They are upheld by the rule of law and strengthened through legitimate claims for duty-bearers to be accountable to international standards (P. 97).

Nowak equally defined Human rights as indivisible and interdependent because each human right entails and depends on other human rights, violating one such right affects the exercise of other human rights. For example, the right to life presupposes respect for the right to food and to an adequate standard of living. The right to be elected to public office implies access to basic education. The defence of economic and social rights presupposes freedom of expression, of assembly and of association. Accordingly, civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights are complementary and equally essential to the dignity and integrity of every person. Respect for all rights is a prerequisite to sustainable peace and development (P. 4).

Nowak, (2005:4) conclude that his defined with the fact that, some of the worst human rights violations have resulted from discrimination against specific groups. The right to equality and the principle of non-discrimination, explicitly set out in international and regional human rights treaties, are therefore central to human rights. The right to equality obliges States to ensure observance of human rights without discrimination on any grounds, including sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, membership of a national minority, property, birth, age, disability, sexual orientation and social or other status. More often than not, the discriminatory criteria used by States and non-State actors to prevent specific groups from fully enjoying all or some human rights are based on such characteristics.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948:147) concludes that, Human rights reflect basic human needs. They establish basic standards without which people cannot live in dignity. To violate someone's human rights is to treat that person as though he or she were not a human being. To advocate human rights are to demand that the human dignity of all people be respected. In claiming these human rights, everyone also accepts responsibilities: to respect the rights of others and to protect and support people whose rights are abused or denied. Meeting these responsibilities means claiming solidarity with all other human beings. All people everywhere have the same human rights which no one can take away. This is the basis of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms (World Commission on Human Rights (WCHR), 1993). The principles of equality, universality and non-discrimination do not preclude recognizing that specific groups whose members

need particular protection should enjoy special rights. This accounts for the numerous human rights instruments specifically designed to protect the rights of groups with special needs, such as women, aliens, stateless persons, refugees, displaced persons, minorities, indigenous peoples, and children, persons with disabilities, migrant workers and detainees. Group-specific human rights, however, are compatible with the principle of universality only if they are justified by special (objective) reasons, such as the group's vulnerability or a history of discrimination against it. Otherwise, special rights could amount to privileges equivalent to discrimination against other groups (Nowak, 2005:4).

From the above definitions, the study accepted the definition given by Nowak, (2005) who defined human right to means protecting the rights of individual needs in all classes and races, such as women, aliens, stateless persons, refugees, displaced persons, minorities, and indigenous peoples, children, persons with disabilities, migrant workers and detainees without making references to any institution.

The definition of human rights in this study, focused on institutional performance in relations to promotion and protection of human right and the ability to provide compensation to the victim of human right abuses or to punish such abusers when it is reported and investigated.

2.2 Human Right Abuses

There is now near-universal consensus that all individuals are entitled to certain basic rights under any circumstances. These include certain civil liberties and political rights, the most fundamental of which is the right to life and physical safety. Human rights are the articulation of the need for justice, tolerance, mutual respect, and human dignity in all of our activity (Kennedy, 2009). Rights allow us to express the idea that all individuals are part of the scope of morality and justice. To protect human rights is to ensure that people receive some degree of decent, humane treatment. To violate the most basic human rights, on the other hand, is to deny individuals their fundamental moral entitlements. It is, in a sense, to treat them as if they are less than human and undeserving of respect and dignity. Examples are acts typically deemed "crimes against humanity," including genocide, torture, slavery, rape, enforced sterilization or medical experimentation, and deliberate starvation. Because these policies are sometimes implemented by governments, limiting the unrestrained power of the state is an important part of international law. Underlying laws that prohibit the various "crimes against humanity" is the principle of nondiscrimination and the notion that certain basic rights apply universally (Hubert and Thomas, 2001).

Some of the Human Rights abuses in Niger State are: sexual violence, domestic violence, reproductive Rights, harmful cultural practices, gender based, women trafficking discriminations, forceful marriage, denial of access to Children, Right to Survival, Child Labor, Commercial/Formal, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Sexual abuse, unlawful arrest, detention, cruel, inhuman treatment, torture, child abandonment, dismissal/Wrongful and ,non-payment of Benefit, Human trafficking and its forms, Extrajudicial killings and its Forms and Torture and other Degrading treatments.

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

Human Rights and prosecution against the violators

Ezejiakor (2016) examined institutional mechanisms for human rights protection in Nigeria: an appraisal. The study reveals that, Human rights are guaranteed in the constitutions of various countries of the world. There are legal and institutional mechanisms for protecting the human rights guaranteed in these constitutions. This paper has focused on the institutional mechanisms for human rights protection in Nigeria. The meaning, features and importance of human rights are dealt with in the introduction. This paper discussed three major institutions that are involved in the protection of human rights within Nigeria. These are: the National Human Rights Commission, the Public Complaints Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It discussed the mandate statutorily given National Human Rights Commission, its activities and the complaint mechanism. The Public Complaints Commission is discussed in line with its powers and duties under the law that established it.

The writer noted that while the first two institutions discussed are permanent in nature, the last is ad hoc. This paper concludes by making some recommendations that will strengthen these institutions in the discharge of their duties under enabling laws. It must be pointed out that the court is a major institution involved in the protection of the first generation rights.

Dada (2013) examined impediments to human rights protection in Nigeria. The study reveals that, The promotion and protection of human rights have engaged the attention of the world community, and though the African country of Nigeria has subscribed to major international human rights instruments, violations continue to occur with disturbing frequency and regularity in that nation. Why is this so? This article examines the multifarious and multidimensional impediments which have hamstrung meaningful enjoyment of human rights in Nigeria. It points out the shortcomings of the dualist model under the Nigerian Constitution and stresses the objectionable wide amplitude of the derogation clauses. It also makes suggestions for reform.

De-Beco (2011) assessed UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Another Role for National Human Rights Institutions. The study reveals that, national obligation for the implementation of human rights through Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities does not promote Human right in host countries but rather the Paris Principles. Several models for designating the independent mechanism in accordance with article 33 are not practicable. The Commission's recommendations has been implemented by the government and other collaborative agencies

Smith (2006) examined the Unique Position of National Human Rights Institutions: A Mixed Blessing. The study reveals that, the public funding of NHRIs as being a source of "ongoing tension with the need for NHRIs to maintain independence". The study also reveals some problems faced by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, demonstrating that not only NHRIs in developing countries, countries in transition also struggle to establish viable NHRIs.

Koo & Ramirez (2004) examined National Incorporation of Global Human Rights: Worldwide Expansion of National Human Rights Institutions. The study revealed that, A number of hypotheses concerning the likelihood of countries adopting NHRIs under various circumstances are discussed with the result that "What we find is that the political culture of the world is the only variable that consistently and positively influences both adoption rates". National Human Rights Commission and the alleged violations of human right abuses in Nigeria.

Nariman (2002) assessed an Act of National Human Rights Commission in India. The study revealed that, India indeed has formal mechanisms for ensuring the realization of human rights. The paper focuses on the various provisions of India's constitution and discusses how this document-particularly the non-justifiable, Directive Principles of Part IV powerfully seeks to ensure that all Indians are treated with dignity and provided with "rights enforceable against (arbitrary action by the) State and State agencies.

Studies by Ezejiofor (2016); Dada (2013); Beco (2011); Smith (2006); Koo & Ramirez (2004) and Nariman (2002) has deficiency in the application of appropriate method, area of scope and effective technique of data analysis and time frame. All the studies reveals above has no appropriate theoretical theory for effective theoretical analysis. The entire gap identified in the above studies will be filled in this current study.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

Structural Functionalism was adopted to explain the relevant of National Human Right Commission as an institution for the enforcement of human right in Nigeria.

Almond (1963) propounded Structural-Functionalism Theory while Almond & Powell, (1966) introduced structural-functionalism into the policy sciences as a means of comparing different political systems (describe their approach as probabilistic functionalism and emphasise that structures within political systems are highly interdependent. The political science approach to structural-functionalism is probabilistic because it assumes that if one structure within the system changes, then there is a high probability that other structures in the system will also adjust to accommodate for that change (Almond & Powell, 1966). The political science application of structural-functionalism, however, provides particularly good insight into how structural-functionalism might be applied to describe the structures and functions of complex public organisation or bureaucratic organisation. Structural-functionalism, however, departed from Systems theory, because, it recognition social systems as systems of action rather than systems of communication as advanced by system theory but Structural-functionalism use the idea of system theory to explain the interrelations within the social system (Alrnoldi, 2001). Structural-functionalism therefore, conceptualises society as a system of inter-relationship and interaction that promote stability or transformation within the whole system. This conceptual approach suggests that, to understand social systems, it is crucial to look at the parts of the system that substantiate particular activities and their interrelations (Chilcott, 1998).

Assumption of the Structural Functionalism

Hence, some of the overarching core (and most useful) assumptions underpinning structural-functionalism include; society, structure and function.

Society consists of both structures and functions that are interconnected and interdependent, and ultimately focused on maintaining or mediating societal equilibrium (Radcliffe-Brown, 1935) and or necessary transformation.

Social systems consist of both structures and functions that are necessary for the ongoing health or survival of that system (Chilcott, 1998); Structures exist to meet the functional needs of a system (Merton, 1949); and Systemic functionality (i.e. how parts of the system work) across and within structures serves to reinforce and maintain the stability of the system's structures in the context of an ever-changing, complex and unpredictable system.

The key concepts of defined structures and their contribution towards systemic functionality are at the heart of structural-functionalism. Structures are the more 'static' elements of a system (Sewell, 1992). That is not to say that structures are immobile, rather they change at a slower rate than the functions, which tend to be more dynamic and less robust than structures. Structures are identifiable as they are usually organized or institutionalised in a specific manner and consist of many interrelated, interdependent, but also autonomous parts, including alliances of different actors within the system (Sewell, 1992). For example, in the a policy system applications of structural functionalism structures include, the institutional alliances that run processes or are involved in goal setting in the policy cycle (such as government agencies, industry groups, non-government organisations, community groups, and individuals). The way in which structures operate is evidenced by their expressed contribution towards achieving a goal of the system as a whole (Kalu, 2011).

Structures in bureaucratic systems may include the social and institutional networks that carry out typical roles within the strategic policy or planning system being analysed. While structures are largely responsible for running particular processes, they also produce outputs (e.g. formal documents such as legislation, policies, strategies, plans) and outcomes.

The functions are the traits that describe how structural aspects of a particular system work or how the system is stabilised. Within bureaucratic systems, certain functions must be present for the system to survival (Almond & Coleman, 1960). Functions connect the structures in a system but also represent the relationships between them.

Relevance of the theory to the Study

This theory is therefore useful for this study because, National Human Right Commission (NHRC) is a public organisation or bureaucratic organisation with the political system.

Public managers or Decision makers can consider institutions and their interactions or alliances of institutions as the 'parts' that contribute to the overall structure of a system. In line with the theory, this approach also recognises that institutions can exist at multiple scales and are interconnected, interdependent, and autonomous. The theory explains how

institution is organised, or the role and activities of an institution within the system. theory considers the system as a whole and the cumulative influences of:

- a. The broad political, social, economic and cultural contexts of the system;
- b. The configuration of institutions around organizational tasks (e.g. goal setting);
- c. The internal organisation of institutions and the way in which institutions interact
- d. The role of institutions in the survival of the system

Institutions are likely to fulfil more than one role and multiple institutions may have the capacity to fulfil the same role. The same is applicable to National Human Rights Commission. The Commission is an institution that fulfils more than one role such as implementation of National and international human right treaties in Nigeria, monitoring, promoting and protect the rights of Nigerians, partnership with development partners and NGOs towards the promotion and protection of human rights.

National Human Right Commission is a concrete social structure like others Government department and Bureaus that maintain the stability of the whole system (Nigeria). The commission performs specific functions of promoting and protecting human right in Nigeria. National Human Right Commission therefore is an administrative system that performs it stated mandate of promoting and protect the rights of Nigerians.

3.0 Research Methodology

The Researcher attempts to present the method used to identify the target population, sample and sampling size, instrument design and developing administration of data collection sources and method of data collection and analysis.

The population of the study is the victims of human right abuses. Simple random sample technique was used to select the sample size.

A total number of Four Hundred & One (401) sample populations were selected as sample size using Taro Yamane statistical formula for sample size determination. Those that were randomly selected to respond to the questionnaires will represent the entire population of the study. The population size of seven hundred and fifty two (752) victims of human right abuses was narrowed down as follows.

A statistical formula was used in determining the sample size according to Taro Yamane:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n=sample size

N=total population size

1 is constant

e = the assume error margin or tolerable error which is taken as 5% (0.05)

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{752}{1 + 752(0.05)^2} = 1.88 = 401 \text{ (sample size)}$$

Two methods of data collection were utilized. Primary and secondary method, the primary data were generated through two basic instruments; email questionnaire. The questionnaire was distributed to the victims of human rights abuses

Secondary data were collected through the review of existing information about the issues under investigation from related articles, related journals, related books and the profiles of the commission. The main materials to be consulted consist of; National Human Rights Commission website, statistical data on the performance of National Human Rights Commission, National Human Rights Commission officials annual reports, bulletins and publication.

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20.0 was used to present and analyze the data collected. The descriptive statistics such as, tables, frequencies, percentages were used to present the data, while inferential statistics such as regression analysis was used to analyzed the data. The regression analysis was calculated at 5% level of significance. The regression analysis was calculated at 5% level of significance. The Multiple Linear Regression model is stated as: $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + e$

Where Y is dependent variable (or response variable)

Where β_0 is constant or intercept

Where B_1, B_2 is the co-efficient of X

i.e β_1 is called coefficient of X_1 ; β_2 is called coefficient of X_2

Where X_1, X_2 , is the Independent variable

Where e = 0 or equivalent

Result and Discussion

Accept the alternative hypothesis if the calculated level of significance is less than the estimated value of X at 0.05 or otherwise accept the null hypothesis.

Table 1: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.985 ^a	.969	.969	.08238

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Satisfaction with the response of the commission, Receiving and investigating of cases of human right abuses and addressing complaints of the victims in Niger State.

Table 2: ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	78.871	5	15.774	2324.289	.000 ^b
	Residual	2.498	368	.007		
	Total	81.369	373			

a. Dependent Variable: Efforts of National Human Rights Commission in addressing human right abuses

b. Predictors: (Constant), Satisfaction with the response of the commission, Receiving and investigation cases of human right abuses and addresses the human right complaints in Niger State.

The value of R in table 1 shows that, there is correlation between independent and dependent variable. R Squared is 0.96 in the model which shows that 96% variation in the dependant variable is described by the independent variable of the performance of National Hunan Right Commission and 4% variation is not explained by the independent variables. The value of F=2324.28 and is significant supporting the model relevant to the study.

Table 3: Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.063	.016		4.027	.000
Complaints Received	.492	0.31		4.839	0.00

investigating cases of human right abuses and address the human right complaints	.384	.029	.104	3.196	.002
Satisfaction with the response of the commission on redressed	.086	.022	.926	40.502	.003

a. Dependent Variable: Efforts of National Human Rights Commission in addressing human right abuses

The result from the analysis shows that, the calculated value of X^2 stood at 0.00 which shows the relationship between the two variables and the level of significance is 0.00 is less than the estimated value of X at 0.05. Since the calculated regression value is less than the estimated value of X , we will reject the null hypothesis which stated that; National Human Right Commission did not received complaints of human right abuses in Niger State and accept the alternative hypothesis which stated that, National Human Right Commission has received complaints of human right abuses in Niger State. The finding is in line with data retrieved from National Human Rights Commission Niger State Office. The Data shows that, a total number of Seven Hundred and Fifty Two (752) complaints received by Niger State Offices of National Human Rights Commission from 2013 – 2019. Break down of the cases received shows that, a total of Eight Nine (89) cases were received in 2013; Fifty Nine (59) were received in 2014; One Hundred and Seventeen (117) were received in 2015; One Hundred and Thirty Nine (139) were received in 2016. One Hundred and Thirty One (131) were received in 2017; One Hundred and Two (102) were received in 2018 and One Hundred and fifteen (115) were received in 2019. The table shows also nature of Complaint received which include; Domestic violence, Child abuses, Negligence of family, violence and Extra-judicial killing. The Data is presented in the table below:

Table 4: Number of Complaints Received By Niger State Offices of National Human Rights Commission between 2013 – 2019

S/N	YEARS	Nature and Number of Complaint received	Total Number of Complaints Received	Total Number of Complaints Investigated	Total Number of Complaints
1	2013	Domestic violence – 27 Child abuses- 33 Negligence of family – 29	89	24	89

2	2014	Underage marriage – 8 Child abuses – 17 Negligence of family – 34	59	31	59
3	2015	Torture – 41 Extra-judicial killing – 13 Domestic violence – 63	117	48	117
4	2016	Child abuses – 28 Negligence of family – 51 , Domestic violence – 48 Extra-judicial killing - 12	139	42	139
5	2017	Domestic violence - 34 Child abuses – 27 Negligence of family – 31 Extra-judicial killing – 39	131	37	131
6	2018	Extra-judicial killing – 56 Child abuses – 21 Negligence of family – 8 domestic violence – 17	102	29	102
7	2019	Child abuses – 23 Negligence of family – 42 Domestic violence – 36 Extra-judicial killing – 14	115	75	115
			752	286	752

Source: National Human Right Commission Niger State Office, 2019

The result from the analysis shows that, the calculated value of X^2 stood at 0.00 which shows the relationship between the two variables and the level of significance is 0.2 is less than the estimated value of X at 0.05. Since the calculated regression value is less than the estimated value of X . we will reject the null hypothesis which stated that; National Human Right Commission did not investigate human right abuses in Niger State and accept the

alternative hypothesis which stated that, National Human Right Commission has investigate human right abuses in Niger State.

The finding is in line with data retrieved from National Human Rights Commission Niger State Office which shows that, out of Seven Hundred and Fifty Two (752) complaints received, only Two Hundred and Eighty Six (286) were investigated by National Human Rights Commission office in Niger State 2013 – 2019. Break down of the cases received shows that, Twenty four (24) Cases were investigated out of Eight Nine (89) cases received in 2013; Thirty One (31) cases were investigated out of Fifty Nine (59) received in 2014; Forty Eight (48) cases were investigated out of One Hundred and Seventeen (117) cases received in 2015; Forty Two (42) cases investigated out of One Hundred and Thirty Nine (139) were received in 2016. Thirty Seven (37) cases were investigated out of One Hundred and Thirty One (131) cases received in 2017; Twenty Nine (29) cases were investigated out of One Hundred and Two (102) received in 2018 while Seventy Five (75) cases were investigated out of One Hundred and fifteen (115) were received in 2019. The table shows also nature of Complaint received which include; Domestic violence, Child abuses, Negligence of family, violence and Extra-judicial killing. The Data is presented in the table below:

Table 4: Number of cases investigated By Niger State Offices of National Human Rights Commission between 2013 – 2019

S/N	YEARS	Total Number of Complaints Received	Total Number of Complaints Investigated
1	2013	89	24
2	2014	59	31
3	2015	117	48
4	2016	139	42
5	2017	131	37
6	2018	102	29
7	2019	115	75
		752	286

Source: National Human Right Commission Niger State Office, 2019

The result from the analysis shows that, the calculated value of X^2 stood 0.00 which shows the weak relationship between the two variables and the level of significance is 0.00 is less than the estimated value of X at 0.05. Since the calculated regression value is less than the estimated value of X , we will reject the null hypothesis which stated that; National Human Right Commission did not address complaints of human right abuses in Niger State and accept the alternative hypothesis which stated that, National Human Right Commission has addressed complaints of human right abuses including awarding of compensation and prosecuting of offenders in Niger State.

The finding is in line with data retrieved from National Human Rights Commission Niger State Office which shows that, out of Two Hundred and Eighty Six (286) cases investigated by National Human Rights Commission office in Niger State between 2013 – 2019. Only Two hundred and Seventy (217) were Human Right violation while, Sixty Nine (69) were none cases of Human right violation. Out of the Two hundred and Seventy (217) were Human Right violation cases discovered, only Thirty Nine (39) were compensated, 126 sent to jail were while the remaining Fifty Four (54) were settle out court by the commission . The Data is presented in the table below:

Table 6: Number of cases addressed By Niger State Offices of National Human Rights Commission between 2013 – 2019

S/N	YEARS	Total Number of cases addressed	Total number of compensation awarded to victim of human right abuse	Convicted cases	Out court settlement
1	2013	28	6	18	14
2	2014	21	3	24	9
3	2015	19	6	12	4
4	2016	42	8	25	12
5	2017	44	5	16	7
6	2018	27	7	11	9
7	2019	36	4	20	3
	Total	217	39	126	54

Source: National Human Right Commission Niger State Office, 2019

Conclusion

The Niger State office of NHRC have made significant progress in the area of investigating some the complaints received from the victims of human rights abuses within the period under review, the total complaints received were 752. National Human Right Commission has made little impact in the area of initiating proceedings for prosecution against the violators, take appropriate actions including awarding of compensation to the victims of human right abuses in Niger State. The study can conclude that, NHRC has initiated only 8% (23) proceedings including awarding of compensation to the victims of human right abuses out of the two hundred and eighty six (286) complaints investigated in Niger state. We can equally conclude that, the performance of National Human Rights Commission in addressing human rights abuses in Niger State is poor considering the fact that, two hundred and eighty six (286) complaints have been investigated for the period under review.

- i. National Human Right Commission must ensure that, complaints received are followed to the logistical conclusion. This will encourage more human right victims has trust on the commission ability to addressed the challenges.
- ii. National Human Right Commission should come up with institutional mechanism to ensure all cases of human right abuses are properly investigated in Niger State and take appropriate actions against the violators
- iii. National Human Rights Commission should intensify more efforts in the fight against human right abuses in Niger State.

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