

*Original Research Report*

## **The Role of Home Economics in Curbing Insecurity and Inflation in Nigeria**

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**Abstract:** This paper examined the role of Home Economics in curbing insecurity and inflation in Nigeria. It investigated into the contributory factors of insecurity and inflation in Nigeria. The survey research design was adopted for the study. Seventy (70) respondents were used for the study. The respondents were lecturers, final year students and some post graduate students offering Home Economics Education in Enugu state tertiary institutions namely: University of Nigeria, Federal College of Education Eha-Amufu and Enugu State College of Education (Technical). A 30-item questionnaire was used to elicit responses from the respondents. 70 questionnaire copies distributed were completed and returned. The respondents agreed with all the items listed as causes, and consequences of insecurity and inflation in Nigeria and equally agreed with all the items suggested as how to manage the challenges of insecurity and inflation through Home Economics Education in Enugu State. The researchers concluded that Home Economics must be given adequate attention by the government to ensure effective skills training that will guarantee job opportunities for Nigerians and makes for healthy living by all.

**Keywords:** Education, Home Economics, Inflation, Insecurity, Security

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## 1. Introduction

One of the fundamental human rights of the people in any given state is the right to security. Security has long been a part of human existence and sustenance and could be viewed as freedom from threat or violence. Security is a situation in which citizens are free from any threats to their lives and means of livelihood, safe from bodily harm, diseases, unemployment and human rights violation wherever they may find themselves within a sovereign nation, thus, security according to Nwagboso (2012) is an important concept which is associated with the elevation of threat to the survival of individuals or groups of people. Insecurity, according to Achumba, Ighomercho and Akpo-Robarao (2013) “means lack of safety or the existence of danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of trust, doubtful, inadequately guarded or protected, lack of stability, disturbed, lack of protection and unsafe. Ajodo-Adebanjoko and Ugwuoke (2014) opine that insecurity is the state of being subject to terror, threats, risk, molestation, bullying, among others.

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The activities of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) had led to loss of lives and properties in almost all parts of Nigeria. Some of these activities includes bombing, suicide bomb attacks, sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens, bombing of police stations, churches, kidnapping of school children’s and men and women in the families. The incessant taking of life through bombing, shooting and other forms of violence renders the sanctity of life which many African cultures uphold to be baseless (Udoh, 2015). Insecurity problems in Nigeria are very high as they continued to attack families, farmers, schools, students and many others. Many families are living miserable lives due to lack of food caused by inability of the farmers to continue their farm work as a result of fear of losing their lives. All these have caused food insecurity in Nigeria which has led to food inflation. The menace of insecurity remains a threat to individual, families, economic growth, and government at large (Nwejeh, 2022). Amidst the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with daunting developmental challenges which pose serious threat to socio-economic development. These developmental challenges includes endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Ewetan & Uhie, 2013).

The agricultural sector was never spared as people were forced to remain in the house because of the activities of the Fulani herdsmen especially in some part of Enugu State. For instance, farmers and families has fled away due to Fulani herdsmen clash in some part of Enugu state like Nimbo in Uzo Uwani, Eha Amufu to mention but a few. Due to fear of death, people no longer go to farm, students and lecturers has stop going to school because insecurity has brought a halt to academic activity in Enugu State especially on Monday sit at home. Students and lecturers were noted to have observed the order causing lectures to be cancelled with the fear imbed in these inhabitants, and important lectures continued to be cancelled. Some other business activities in Enugu State have been brought to a halt leading to abject poverty, unemployment, hunger, and frustration Obi (2015).

Inflation is an economic term describing the sustainable increase in the prices of goods and services within a period of time. In Economics, inflation is a general increase in price and fall in the purchasing value of money. It is an economic situation when price rises over time and money loses value. Thus, inflation has brought a shift in the patterns of distribution of income and wealth in the country. Inflation has a direct influence on different categories of people such as school children, youths, adults as well as wage earners. Therefore, inflation can hurt the standard of living of an individual or family by cutting the purchasing power of the income while increase their daily

expenditure. According to Asakunovo (2016), there have been some studies in Nigeria which investigated the effect of exchange rate depreciation (a traditional cause of inflation) on the country's domestic inflation. Families spend money on foods, clothing, school fees, medical bills, transportation to mention but a few. Rising prices especially affects low income individuals including college students. Students face price increase for tuition, food, housing, travel and utilities. Millions of students find themselves in this predicament. On the other hand the fixed income groups such as teachers, lecturers and many others are always the loser during inflation because their incomes do not always increase as fast as the prices. Therefore insecurity and inflation can hurt the standard of living of families which home economics is concerned about (Aliko, 2022).

Home economics education is a broad field of study that is primarily concerned with the improvement of life and total welfare of individual and family (Anyakoha, 2016). According to Alabi and Keswet (2015), home economics is also a diversified field of knowledge that involves education and research in many areas including: food and Nutrition, clothing and Textile, Family life and human development. Every individual comes from a family both good and bad individual. The family, according to Anyakoha (2013), performs multifaceted functions in the society and the society in which the family exists and functions is constantly changing. Consequently, different issues and challenges arise in the society and have over time continued to impact the family. Such issues or concerns are insecurity, inflation, environmental problems, barrage of natural and man-made disaster to mention but a few. Since issues highlighted above are broad, Home Economics become and still is a very broad, complex and dynamic field of study that enable family take charge of their lives, maximize their potentials and function very well to achieve its aim (Anyakoha, 2013). According to Adekoya (2010), despite the effort of successive government in Nigeria to tackle the issue of unemployment and scourge of poverty by different approaches, the issue of wealth creation and poverty still remain elusive hence the need for skill oriented academic approach.

The role of Home Economics in insecurity, inflation time and poverty reduction cannot be over emphasized as it helps in creation of jobs and preparation of individuals for employment to alleviate poverty, evolving appropriate income generating activities, teaching about home gardening for availability of foods to avoid high demands from market, educating the individuals on family budgeting to avoid unnecessary expenditure, equipping the families and individuals with the knowledge of money management and savings to reduce inflation (Arogundade, Adebisi & Ogunbo, 2011). Insecurity and inflation has caused more harm than good to people of Enugu state and needs urgent attention to address these challenges. It is in line with this, therefore, that this research was carried out to identify the factors responsible for insecurity and inflation in Nigeria and consequences of insecurity and inflation on the people of Enugu state and the result of the finding will help to curb insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu state.

### *1.1. Statement of Problem*

Insecurity and inflation has reached an alarming proportion showing its ugly head in various facets of our national life, lives were lost on daily basis, businesses in a mess, investors are relocating, shops closing ups, hospitals destroyed, unemployment soaring and the populace in fear especially in Enugu state. The increasing rate of insecurity and inflation in Nigeria demands that there should be redirection of the country's educational system towards skill acquisition in order to reduce unemployment. This is because these two monsters are believed to be perpetrated by frustrated unemployed members in the society. Despite this need for possession of saleable skills by Nigerian graduates, Home Economics lacks some basic facilities for equipping the learners with activities

(Abubakar, 2019). A lot of studies have been carried out to find solution to the above mentioned concerned but has not brought in Home Economics Education into play.

### *1.2. Purpose of the Study*

The general aim of this study was to investigate the role of Home economics in curbing insecurity and inflation in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

- (a) Identify the major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria.
- (b) Find out factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria.
- (c) Determine the consequences of insecurity on the wellbeing of people in Enugu state.
- (d) Determine the consequences of inflation on the people of Enugu state.
- (e) Identify ways Home Economics will help to manage the insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State.

### *1.3. Research Questions*

- (a) What are major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria?
- (b) What are the major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria?
- (c) What are the consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State?
- (d) What are the consequences of inflation on the people of Enugu state?
- (e) How will Home Economics help to manage insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State?

### *1.4. Research Hypotheses*

- (a) There is no significance difference in the mean rating of lecturers and students.
- (b) The mean rating of the lecturers and students on the major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria
- (c) There is no significant difference between the mean rating of respondents between the age of 26-35 and 36-45 on the consequences of insecurity and inflation on the people of Enugu State.
- (d) There is no significant difference between the mean rating of respondents between the age of 26 – 35 and 36 - 45.
- (e) There is no significant difference between the mean rating of lecturers and students on how Home Economics will help to curb the insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

### *2.1. Design for the Study*

The design of the study was descriptive survey which involves collecting and analyzing data from the population in order to answer research questions. Nworgu (2015) explained that descriptive survey design is aimed at collecting data and describing in a systematic manner the characteristics feature or facts about a given population. The design was adopted because the study involves the use of structured questionnaire to obtain responses from the respondents.

#### *2.1.1. Ethics Approval of Research*

The researchers got the ethical approval from the state to carry out the study. All respondents provided informed consent orally before participating in the research.

### *2.2. Area of the Study*

The area of the study was carried out in Enugu State. The study was conducted in three tertiary institutions in Enugu state which comprised University of Nigeria Nsukka, Federal College of Education Eha Amufu and Enugu state College of Education (Technical). The institutions were chosen because the area the institution are situated are areas that recorded serious insecurity problem especially Eha Amufu and Uzo Uwani in Nsukka Metropolis (Njoku , 2021).

### 2.3. Population and Sample

The target population of the study was 150; Lecturers 30, students 100 and PG 20 (Home Economics Admission list). The sample size of the study was 70 which comprises of 14 lecturers from the three higher institutions; University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Federal College of Education Eha-Amufu and College of Education Enugu, Technical, 100 students from final year were selected from the three institutions respectively, 9 PG students from the University of Nigeria. The sample size was drawn using proportionately stratified random sampling. According to Ashley (2020), proportionately stratified sampling is one that ensures that subgroup (strata) of a given population are each adequately represented within the whole sample population of a research study. It is use when the researchers want to examine subgroup within a population.

### 2.4. Instrument for Data Collection and Study Procedure

The instrument for data collection was a 30 items structured questionnaire titled questionnaire on the role of Home Economics in curbing insecurity and inflation in Nigeria with reliability of the instrument which yielded coefficient of 0.89. It has two sections (A-B) which sought information on five research questions. Section A dealt on the bio-data of the respondent such as institutions, age, categories of the respondents. Section B comprises items relating to the research questions. The responses category in section B was a 4-point rating scale which ranges from 4 – 1 ('Strongly agreed = 4,' 'agreed = 3', 'disagreed = 2' and strongly disagreed = 1'). The instrument was face validated by three experts in Home Economics and hospitality management education at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

### 2.5. Data Collection Technique

Seventy copies of questionnaires were administered to the respondents by the researchers in conjunction with three trained research assistant. The questionnaires were administered by hand and retrieved same after completion ensuring 100% return rate.

### 2.6. Data Analysis Technique

The data collected were analyzed with statistical package for social science (SPSS) using mean and standard deviation. Mean score of 2.50 and above were regarded as agreed while mean score below 2.50 are regarded as disagreed. The null hypotheses were tested using T-test and ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) at 0.05 level of significance. Thus, any hypothesis whose calculated t-value was more than the critical value at 0.05 of significance was rejected as not being significant while those calculated t-values was less than the critical value at 0.05 levels of significance were accepted as not being significant.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Research question one: What are major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria?

**Table 1:** Mean and Standard deviation of responses of respondents on the major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria

S/No	Items Statements	$\bar{X}$	Std. dev.	Remark
1.	Rising cases of youth unemployment and corruption	3.67	0.53	SA
2.	Poverty and hunger	3.57	0.58	SA
3.	Poor state of inequality and absence of fairness and justice	3.30	0.87	A
4.	Failure of successive administration	3.26	0.74	SA

5.	Dislocation and disruption of family relation	3.71	0.57	SA
6.	High increase in demand for goods and services	3.10	0.73	A
7.	Terrorism and kidnapping	3.79	0.66	SA
8.	High inflation rate	3.61	0.77	SA
9.	Ethnic group and religious differences	3.34	0.96	A
10.	Weak foundation of institutional framework	2.81	0.86	A
<i>Grand Mean and Standard Deviation</i>		<b>3.42</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>A</b>

**Key:**  $\bar{X}$  –Mean, SD –Standard Deviation, SA – Strongly Agree, A – Agree.

Table 1 shows that the respondents strongly agreed to item 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 with mean range of 3.57 – 3.79. Similarly, they agreed to items 3, 6, 9, 10 with mean ranging from 2.81 – 3.34. The Grand mean 3.42 also indicate that all the presented items are the major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria. In addition, the standard deviation ranged from 0.53 – 0.86 indicating that the responses of the respondents were close to one another in their opinion on the major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria.

**3.2. Research question two:** What are major factors responsible of inflation in Nigeria?

**Table 2:** Mean and Standard deviation of responses of respondents on the major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria

S/No	Items Statements	$\bar{X}$	Std. dev.	Remark
1.	Civil unrest	3.61	0.55	SA
2.	Government economic policies	3.44	0.71	A
3.	Devaluation of Naira	3.76	0.43	SA
4.	Price of fuel	3.14	0.69	A
5.	Decline to food Production by farmers	3.49	0.58	A
6.	High taxes	3.33	0.74	A
7.	Pre-election and campaign spending	3.49	0.79	A
8.	Poverty	3.53	0.70	SA
9.	Insurgency	3.50	0.83	SA
10.	Expectation of inflation	2.59	0.89	A
<i>Grand Mean and Standard Deviation</i>		<b>3.39</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>A</b>

**Key:**  $\bar{X}$  –Mean, SD –Standard Deviation, SA – Strongly Agree, A – Agree.

Table 2 shows that the respondents strongly agreed to item 1, 3, 8 and 9 with mean range of 3.50– 3.76. Similarly, they agreed to items 2, 4 – 7 and 10 with mean ranging from 2.59 – 3.49. The Grand mean 3.39 also indicate that all the presented items are the major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria. In addition, the standard deviation ranged from 0.53 – 0.89 indicating that the responses of the respondents were close to one another in their opinion on the major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria.

**3.3. Research question three:** What are the consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State?

**Table 3:** Mean and Standard deviation of responses of respondents on the consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State

S/No	Items Statements	$\bar{X}$	Std. dev.	Remark
1.	Deeping of hunger and poverty in the family	3.69	0.60	SA
2.	Dehumanization of men, women and children	3.50	0.85	SA
3.	Destruction of family ties.	3.29	0.95	A
4.	General atmosphere of mistrust, fear and anxiety	2.99	1.01	A



5.	Destruction of family property	3.64	0.80	SA
6.	Underdevelopment	3.54	0.86	SA
7.	Children out of school because of high school fees	3.21	0.92	A
8.	Losing of loved ones	3.81	0.60	SA
9.	Family crises	2.83	0.88	A
10.	Armed robbery	3.14	0.92	A
<i>Grand Mean and Standard Deviation</i>		<b>3.36</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>A</b>

**Key:**  $\bar{X}$  –Mean, SD –Standard Deviation, SA – Strongly Agree, A – Agree.

Table 3 shows that the respondents strongly agreed to item 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8 with mean range of 3.50 – 3.81. Similarly, they agreed to items 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 with mean ranging from 2.83 – 3.39. The Grand mean 3.36 also indicate that all the presented items are the consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State. In addition, the standard deviation ranged from 0.60 – 1.01 indicating that the responses of the respondents were close to one another in their opinion on the consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State.

**3.4. Research question four:** What are the consequences of inflation on the people of Enugu state?

**Table 4:** Mean and Standard deviation of responses of respondents on the consequences of inflation on the people of Enugu state

S/No	Items Statements	$\bar{X}$	Std. dev.	Remark
1.	Inflation increases cost of education as schools fees increases.	3.40	0.84	A
2.	Inflation makes people borrow with high rate of interest	2.99	1.01	A
3.	Inflation affects wage earners mostly	3.56	0.79	SA
4.	Inflation affects students mostly	3.47	0.86	A
5.	Inflation causes low purchasing power	3.26	0.86	A
6.	Increase in price of commodity	3.64	0.66	SA
7.	It increase hunger and anger	3.30	0.75	A
8.	Marriages break up because of hardship	3.20	0.89	A
9.	It causes frustration and depression	3.29	0.76	A
10.	Money losses its value	3.69	0.47	SA
<i>Grand Mean and Standard Deviation</i>		<b>3.38</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>A</b>

**Key:**  $\bar{X}$  –Mean, SD –Standard Deviation, SA – Strongly Agree, A – Agree.

Table 4 shows that the respondents strongly agreed to item 3, 6 and 10 with mean range of 3.56– 3.69. Similarly, they agreed to items 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 – 9 with mean ranging from 2.99 – 3.47. The Grand mean 3.39 also indicate that all the presented items are the consequences of inflation in Nigeria. In addition, the standard deviation ranged from 0.47 – 1.01 indicating that the responses of the respondents were close to one another. In their opinion on the major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria.

**3.5. Research question five:** How will Home Economic Education help to curb the insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State?

**Table 5:** Mean and Standard deviation of responses of respondents on how Home Economic Education will help to curb the insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State

S/No	Items Statements	$\bar{X}$	Std. dev.	Remark
1.	Home economics extension workers should be recruited by Enugu State government to teach the rural and urban women on family related issues.			

		3.21	0.90	A
2.	Reorientation of Home Economics teachers on the new trends in the society so as to follow the trend in teaching.	3.24	0.94	A
3.	Adult schools should be encouraged for home economics teachers to teach the saleable skills.	2.79	1.09	A
4.	Promote home garden and extension services	3.01	0.99	A
5.	Teach and prepare families to identify needs, make decisions and utilized the scarce resources to improve life through home management skills	3.77	0.66	SA
6.	Create massive awareness on the need for skill acquisition for self reliance.	3.36	0.83	A
7.	Provision of youth skill acquisition centres where career related courses in Home Economics should be taught to less advantaged youths in the society.	3.61	0.75	SA
8.	Peace education should be included in home economics curriculum both in primary to tertiary institution to develop the children early on importance of living in peace both at home and outside environment.	3.57	0.69	SA
9.	Parents should be trained on adequate home .... Budgeting to meet the very important needs with the limited resources.	3.34	0.80	A
10.	Through home economics extension worker, the family should be guided in how to produce some things needed in the family to reduce high demands of goods in the market.	3.60	0.69	SA
<i>Grand Mean and Standard Deviation</i>		<b>3.35</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>A</b>

Key:  $\bar{X}$  –Mean, SD –Standard Deviation, SA – Strongly Agree, A – Agree.

Table 5 shows that the respondents strongly agreed to item 5, 7, 8 and 10 with mean range of 3.57 – 3.7. Similarly, they agreed to items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 9 with mean ranging from 2.79 – 3.36. The Grand mean 3.35 also indicate that all the presented items are how Home Economic Education will help to curb the insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State. In addition, the standard deviation ranged from 0.66 – 1.09 indicating that the responses of the respondents were close to one another in their opinion on how Home Economic Education will help to curb the insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State

**3.6. Research hypothesis one:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of lecturers and students on the major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria.

**Table 6:** t-test analysis of the grand mean responses of lecturers and students on the major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Df	Mean diff.	t-value	p-value	Sig. Level	Remark	Decision
Students	56	3.40	0.25	68	-.09	-1.26	0.21	0.05	NS	Not Reject
Lecturers	14	3.49	0.27							

Key: S = Significant, NS = Not Significant.

Result on Table 6 shows  $t(2, 68) = -1.26, P = 0.21$ . The table showed t-value of -1.26, at 68degree of freedom and p-value of 0.21 which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis



was not rejected. Thus, there is no significant difference between the mean responses of lecturers and students on the major factors responsible for insecurity in Nigeria.

**3.7. Research hypothesis two:** There is no significant difference of mean responses of respondents between the age of 25 to 35 and 35 to 45 on the major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria based on their age.

**Table 7:** Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of grand mean responses of the respondents on major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria based on their age

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	p-value	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	.109	3	.036	.767	.517	0.05	NS
Within Group	3.129	66	.047				
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.238</b>	<b>69</b>					

**Key:** S = Significant, NS = Not Significant.

The analysis of data presented in Table 7 shows  $F(3, 69) = 0.767$ ,  $P = 0.517$ . With a significant P value (0.517) which is greater than 0.05 alpha value at which it has been tested; therefore, the null hypothesis was not rejected. With this result, age of the respondents is not a source of difference in their mean ratings on major factors responsible for inflation in Nigeria.

**3.8. Research hypothesis three:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of lecturers and students on consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State.

**Table 8:** t-test analysis of the grand mean responses of lecturers and students on consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Df	Mean diff.	t-value	p-value	Sig. Level	Remark	Decision
Students	56	3.33	0.29	68	-.16	-1.84	.07	0.05	NS	Not Reject
Lecturers	14	3.49	0.29							

**Key:** S = Significant, NS = Not Significant.

Result on Table 8 shows  $t(2, 68) = -1.84$ ,  $P = 0.07$ . The table showed t-value of -1.84, at 68 degree of freedom and p-value of 0.07 which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis was not rejected. Thus, there is no significant difference between the mean responses of lecturers and students on the consequences of insecurity on the people of Enugu State.

**3.9. Research hypothesis four:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of respondents on consequences of inflation on the people of Enugu State based on their ages.

**Table 9:** Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of grand mean responses of the respondents on consequences of inflation on the people of Enugu State based on their ages

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	p-value	Sig.	Remark
Between Groups	.437	3	.146	2.017	.120	0.05	NS
Within Group	4.763	66	.072				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.200</b>	<b>69</b>					

**Key:** S = Significant, NS = Not Significant.

The analysis of data presented in Table 9 shows  $F(3, 69) = 2.017$ ,  $P = 0.120$ . With a significant P value (0.120) which is greater than 0.05 alpha value at which it has been tested; therefore, the null hypothesis was not rejected. With this result, age of the respondents is not a source

of difference in their mean ratings on consequences of and inflation on the people of Enugu State.

**3.10. Research hypothesis five:** There is no significant difference between the mean responses of lecturers and students on how Home Economics will help to manage insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State.

**Table 10:** t-test analysis of the grand mean responses of lecturers and students on how Home Economics will help to manage insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State

Variable	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Df	Mean diff.	t-value	p-value	Sig. Level	Remark	Decision
Students	56	3.33	0.40	68	-.114	-.94	.35	0.05	NS	Not Reject
Lecturers	14	3.44	0.43							

Key: S = Significant, NS = Not Significant.

Result on Table 10 shows  $t(2, 68) = -0.94$ ,  $P = 0.35$ . The table showed t-value of  $-0.94$ , at 68 degree of freedom and p-value of  $0.35$  which is greater than  $0.05$ . Therefore, the null hypothesis was not rejected. Thus, there is no significant difference between the mean responses of lecturers and students on how Home Economics will help to manage insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu State.

The result of the study showed that all the items listed as the causes of insecurity in Nigeria and all items listed as causes of inflating in Nigeria were all accepted. These findings are in line with the view of Adesina (2013) who opined that the rising level of unemployment in the country is directly responsible for the increase security challenges in the country. Nwagbosa (2012) also pointed out that the causes of insecurity in Nigeria are the failure of successive administration in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities. Furthermore Otite (2012) argued that the state of insecurity in Nigeria could be attributed to security lapses on the part of security agents. Umezulike (2011) observed that idleness has dragged many Nigeria youths to advanced fee fraud, prostitution, armed robbery, cultism among others. Eme and Johnson (2012) in their study of exchange rate finds out that devaluation of Nigeria currency increase unemployment, increase inflation, reduce purchasing power of the citizens, increase the domestic goods which affect all citizens both, young and old, students, lectures among others.

The findings are also in line with Egbebo (2021) who opined that insecurity has rendered children orphans, family means of livelihood shattered, children's future being Jeopardize as they find it difficult to go to school, misunderstanding, arguments over small issue because of hardship caused by insecurity as well as inflation. Umezulike (2011) observed that idleness has dragged many Nigeria youths to advanced fee fraud, prostitution, armed robbery, cultism among others. The study also found out that inflation affected the wage earners mostly and this was in agreement with Timi (2022) who opined that the rising cost of living is impacting globally but differently. He also emphasized that currently, even with a steady regular salary living has become costly with heightened uncertainty, high inflation and low purchasing power, especially for the masses including civil servants and many others. To support this, he said that in Nigeria context a loaf of bread that was ₦350 in 2020 is now about ₦700, a hundred percent increase and same with high percentage increase in health care, rent, diesel, cooking gas and many others. Purchasing power has declined and apart from decline in food production by farmers due to insecurity, decline in production of finish goods caused by inflation has affected individual standard of living. More so, due to epileptic power

supply for production of goods and services and high taxation in Nigeria especially on imported goods such as raw materials for industries, production has become inefficient which increases the price of goods and these affected both the students and lecturers.

The menace of insecurity and inflation no doubt calls for a new approach that will be founded on credible intelligence gathering, and that government must not only continue to engage the security personnel but it must also recognize the need to devote more attention to capacity building to meet the global practices standard and acquisition of modern skills and technology. Thus, Home Economics should be given serious attention so as to help curb the challenges insecurity and inflation has posed to people of Enugu State in particular and Nigeria at large. Uloko and Ejikeonye (2010) stressed that unemployment has grown at a geometric progression. They believed that when youths are empowered through the acquisition of vocational skills, there is a tendency for using their skills in creating new avenue for wealth through the performance of various types of jobs that will better their life and that of their family. According to Agi and Yellowe (2013), education is important to the development of human resources, impartation of appropriate skills, knowledge and attitude and Home Economics is not far from achieving the above mentioned development. Home Economics Education will help to reduce poverty, unemployment, family crises, marriage breakup, hunger, and destruction of family ties. According to Arogundade, Adebisi and Ogunto (2011), Home Economics is the vehicle for helping in poverty reduction, hunger, and hardship. Thus, the aim of Home Economics is to help families skillfully manage meager family resources and generate more resources. Hence, Home Economics Education is a vital tool for managing insecurity and inflation in Nigeria. This is based on vocational nature of the programme. It is an imperative that adequate administration and management of Home Economics programme are instituted in all schools starting from primary to tertiary institutions for effective acquisition of tertiary institutions for effective acquisition of skills that will help the individual, families and nations at large.

Nevertheless, these results must be interpreted with caution and a number of limitations should be borne in mind including the issue of insufficient sample size for statistical measurement. This has affected this study. Based on this study, larger sample size could have generated more accurate result. This is because adequate sample size is greater in quantitative studies than in qualitative studies. This was another limitation as the researchers do not have many years of experience of conducting research and producing academic papers of this large size. In the scope of discussion, parents in the family could have been included in this study but the researchers were unable to do that. Such limitations like time and money were encountered as limitations. The researchers found this challenging especially while collecting data from the respondents in various institutions as Monday sit-at-home and strikes become an issue. Time is another problem as journal research has deadline for submission. Therefore, researchers suggest adequate time to be given to this kind of study for proper result findings.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Basically, a call for refocusing of Home Economics for management of insecurity and inflation challenges in Nigeria in general and Enugu state in particular is a clarion call. This is because of the increase rate of insecurity and inflations in Nigeria demands that there should be redirection of the country's educational system towards skill acquisition in order to reduce unemployment and other problems emanating from insecurity. Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that, insecurity and inflation are serious problems threatening Nigeria at large and Enugu indigenes in

particular. The consequences are innumerable and beyond catastrophically estimation. This study has just highlighted some of them. Based on the findings of the study also, it was concluded that home economics is a vehicle towards curbing the insecurity and inflation challenges in Enugu state. In line with the findings of this study, the following recommendations are submitted: Home Economics should be given priority in the nation's budget. There should be provision of credible youth skill acquisition centers especially in rural areas where Home Economics career courses should be taught to less advantaged youths in the society. Home Economics should be made compulsory from primary schools to secondary school to catch them young. Creating awareness campaign on the need for skills acquisition for self reliance is recommended as well.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

### **Author Contributions**

Both authors conceived the study. The second author distributed the questionnaires to the research assistants and guided them on how to administer and retrieve the questionnaires from the respondents for the analysis. The final draft was approved for publication by both authors.

### **Data availability Statement**

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article. Further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

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