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ANALYSIS OF THE FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR BANDITRY IN KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Banditry is a global problem that affects countries all over the world. The study examined the factors responsible for banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study utilized the frustration-aggression theory to explore the factors responsible for banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling technique was adopted for the study which involved six (6) stages namely Local Government Areas, electoral wards, villages/communities, houses, household and individual/respondent. The methods of data collection utilized for the study was questionnaire. The questionnaires were analyzed quantitatively using the ordinary least square regression. Findings of the study established that poverty, unemployment, proliferation of arms and moral decadence are major factors responsible for banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. On the basis of these findings, the study recommends that Nigeria must first look inwardly and address all the social and political anomalies that has hitherto eaten deep into the fabric of the Nigerian society and Federal Government should devised a means banditry could be dealt with by equipping the Nigeria army with other sister's agency with the needed equipment that would aids their fight against banditry with the region. Also, there should be prompt and adequate responses in case by the Federal Government in area of support and intervention the community affected by the banditry in order to reduce the pains of the affected people.

Keywords: Examination, Banditry, Kaduna State, Nigeria

1. Introduction

Universally, banditry has risen in nearly three quarters of the 28 member states of the European Union over the last year (Global Slavery Index, 2020). Banditry is global problem that affects countries all over the world from the United States and Mexico to many countries in Africa, Asia, and beyond. Criminal cases such as banditry, terrorism, robbery, arson, assassination, thuggery, kidnapping, hostage-taking to mention but a few, pervade our national dailies and crime diary, with our security operatives working round the clock, but unable to mitigate the onslaught of these enemies of our society (Babangida, 2021). Thus, Nigeria has been adjudged to be a dangerous and unsafe nation for business and investment. The unsavory rating of Nigeria as a crime haven no doubt scares both domestic and

foreign investors from investing in the resource studded Nigerian economy. However, of all the reported criminal cases in Nigeria, banditry seems to 'stand tall' as the undisputed champion.

Although some nations have to a large extent curtailed the menace of banditry in their societies and achieved significant degree of security, other are struggling with the problem and are yet to attain the desired level of security. Banditry which is now prevalent in Nigeria is a form of organized crime that is committed by outlaws. Banditry is an offshoot of other criminal activities that bandits have taken advantage of in Nigeria. It is now a widespread practice in both urban and rural areas of Nigeria, particularly in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Banditry in Nigeria takes various forms that range from cattle

rusting, kidnapping, armed robbery, attack on gold miners, to waylaying victims on the highways, storming and sacking a whole village to collection of taxes. Bandits in Nigeria engage in one-time raid or follow a nomadic form of appropriation (Abdul-Rasheed, 2021). Banditry in Nigeria has gone to the point where bandits find it economically advantageous to form rebel government with power to impose tax on communities. The criminal escapades of bandits and occasional reprisal attacks from communities have the tendency of snowballing into crisis of unimaginable effects.

Many scholarly studies have termed bandits as a collection of criminal groups who carry out large scale assault like kidnappings, cattle rustling, armed robbery, sexual assault, village marauding especially in Kaduna State, Nigeria (Ahmed & Ahmed, 2021). Bandits operate in autonomous clusters without a formal structure and they operate mostly in rural residential settlements with their enclaves inside the forests. In most occasions, the primary motive is self-enrichment; they have no political, ethnic or religious connotations.

The activities of these notorious gangs have disrupted the lives and livelihood of over six (6) million Nigerians in Kaduna State alone (Osasona, 2020). Similarly, Olalekan (2021) in line with Osasona (2020) submitted that six thousand, three hundred and nineteen people have been abducted in Kaduna State between 2011 and 2022. At the same time, two billion, eight hundred and five million, forty-nine thousand, seven hundred and forty-eight naira (#2,805,049,748.00) has been paid as ransom by government, victims and family members, while the bandits have operated from about one hundred and five (105) camps in the state (Olalekan 2021).

It is reported that between July and December 2021, over 343 persons died due to banditry, communal clashes, violent attacks, and reprisals in Kaduna state. Southern Kaduna senatorial zone recorded the majority of these deaths. The development in no small measure disrupted farming activities in Southern Kaduna due to constant attacks and the kidnapping of farmers working in their fields. Reports also show mass

migration from affected communities in, Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Giwa, Chikun, Kauru, Kajuru, Kachia, Kagarko, Zangon Kataf, Jema'a and Sanga Local governments. (Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna state, 2021). The rural economy of the frontline areas, which is sustained by crop and livestock farming, has nearly collapse due to banditry attacks. The weekly markets, a dynamic means of sustenance in the above mentioned communities, have been suspended and residents dispossessed.

Rural development is an essential phenomenon in the realization of sustainable national development due to the fact that it forms the foundation upon which growth and national development is built. The economy of the rural communities seeks to enhance development and improve livelihoods by implementing comprehensive development initiatives for rural areas where most people live in poverty (Abang, 2021). Banditry has led to dire humanitarian consequences in Kaduna state and beyond. It has taken the form of shooting and killing, cattle rustling, kidnapping, rape, torching of entire villages, and looting of valuables, and the numbers of fatalities and displaced people have continued to rise. This has grossly affected the rural economy and socio-economic development of the affected areas and the state at large. There can be no doubt that banditry poses a serious threat to the security of Kaduna State, the Northwest states, and the country, given its growing impact and implications.

In present-day Nigerian Society, especially Kaduna State to be specific, the issue of banditry has taken a frightening dimension thereby generating anxiety among the populace. Publics are no longer sure of their safety and the security of the places they stay such as churches, markets, homes, and streets have become the luxury apartment for these insensitive human beings. There is growing strain now in the society about this threat as people move about their lawful businesses with perpetual fear because nobody knows who is going to be the next target or victim. And this has hindered significantly the socio-economic activities in the society.

Unfortunately, despite all these stringent laws, no reported case of banditry has been successfully prosecuted to serve as a deterrent to other potential bandits. Nigerians and non-Nigerians residing in the country are living in fear as regards who will be the next victim since bandits spare no one as far as their motives are achieved. Over the last few years, the wealthy and the income earners have been picked up by bandits who only free their victims after payments of ransom. Old people, as well as children between the ages of two and five years, have been taken, hostage. Therefore, the study examines the factors responsible for banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

- i. H_0 : There is no significant relationship between Poverty and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria
- ii. H_0 : There is no significant relationship between unemployment and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria
- iii. H_0 : There is no significant relationship between proliferation of arms and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria
- iv. H_0 : There is no significant relationship between moral decadence and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria

2. Literature Review

2.1. Conceptual Issues

Concept of Banditry

Banditry refers to the incidences of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or market raids. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons too to, rape, or kill (Okoli & Okpaleke 2014). Banditry also means the occurrence or prevalence of armed robbery or violent crime. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person with the intent to rob rape, or kill. Banditry is a crime against persons. It has been a common genre of crime, as well as

cause violence in contemporary societies (Nigeria Watch, 2011). Slatta (1994) also posited that banditry involves the taking away of property by force or the threat of force, often by a group of men that usually operate in the shadows, often on the fringes of the society, in geographically isolated areas. Conklin (1992) adds that banditry is a proto-type, unprovoked and unpredictable kind of crime most feared by the public that usually involves theft with violence or threat of violence by a person with whom the victim has had no previous contact. From the point of view of Shalangwa (2013), banditry is the practice of raiding and attacking victims by members of an armed group, whether or not premeditated, using weapons of offence or defense especially in semi-organized groups for the purpose of overpowering the victim and obtaining loot or achieving some political goals. Such bandits are usually regarded as outlaws and desperate lawless marauders who do not have a definite residence or destination.

Within the context of this study, banditry is an organized crime carried out by individual(s) who by way of conspiracy have resolved to invade the safety, tranquility and secure nature of a whole or part of a Nigeria. Their conspired resolve would often be unleashed in form of various vices such as killing, kidnapping, arson, etc preceded by infliction of terror. Their infliction of terror could be determined by their level of armament, operative maneuver and inhuman treatment to their captives which could be a whole village, country or state, as the case may be and as it exists in several states in the geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

2.2. Theoretical Framework

This study was positioned within the Frustration Aggression theory. The Frustration-aggression theory which was developed by John Dollard and colleagues in 1939 and modified by the duo of Berkowitz and Aubrey (1962) appears to provide the most common explanation for violent criminal behavior, apparently stemming from the inability to fulfill needs (Ugwuoke, 2015). According to the theory, frustration, defined as the state that emerges when circumstances interfere with a goal-response, often leads to aggression. The theory assumes

that hostility is the result of blocking or frustrating a person's efforts to attain a set goal. It explains further that frustration causes antagonism, but when the source of the frustration cannot be challenged, the bellicosity gets displaced onto an innocent target. In Nigerian social and cultural life, the emphasis is on success defined purely in monetary terms and wealth has become the yardstick for measuring success. However, there is no corresponding emphasis on the approved or legitimate means of attaining the much-cherished goal of success.

For example, every year, Nigerian universities and other tertiary institutions churn out hundreds of thousands of graduates. Many of these graduates have little or no prospects of securing paid employment in the already saturated Nigerian labour market. Confronted with a bleak future but desirous of making ends meet and be accorded celebrity status in a society that glorifies and even worships wealth, many of these jobless youths resort to heinous crimes such as banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, hostage-taking, prostitution, etc.

The relevance of the frustration-aggression theory derives from the thesis that the activities of bandits appear to be the by-products of the frustrations they encounter in their socio-cultural, economic, and political environments. The incidence of banditry in Nigeria is traceable in part, to the outpouring of accumulated frustration and grievances motivated by unemployment, poverty, and the get-rich-quick syndrome.

2.3. Empirical Review

Factors Responsible for Banditry in Nigeria

Many reasons are given as probable factors responsible for banditry in Nigeria. Inyang (2009) linked the problem of unemployment as one of such reasons why banditry in Nigeria is often associated with youth unemployment. He used the widely acknowledged adage, which says that "an idle man is the devil's workshop" to present the situation of unemployment in Nigeria. He noted that there are uncountable able-bodied men and women in Nigeria roaming the streets in search of non-existing job. Out of frustration together with

mounting responsibilities to tackle many idle young persons have ventured into criminal activities of which banditry are not an exemption. Inyang further acknowledged that, a graduate who is unable to secure a job is psychologically bereft of other means of survival. Such situation the young person could develop a negative attitude towards society and attribute his failure to that society. Furthermore, Inyang (2009) also believed that, the proliferation of arms as a result of political patronage of miscreant who were dumped after elections may indirectly encourage and enhanced banditry. Inyang likened today's banditry situation to the scourge of arm robbery in the early eighties where many young able-bodied men who fought during the Nigerian civil war were discharged and sent home with nothing. Meanwhile since the schools they left behind were destroyed and there were no jobs to engage them and keep them busy. Many of them consequently took to armed robbery, since as ex-soldiers they were armed with weapons, having acquired the skills and guns during the war. The story is almost the same today as politicians' employ idle youths as political thugs and later dumped them after elections. Therefore, the youths (thugs) who have been abandoned by their masters after winning elections are now busy kidnapping innocent persons and relatives of those persons they surged to be wealthy. Similarly, just as the oil boom in the 1970's increased the scale of armed robbery dramatically in the country, the stupendous empowerment of political office holders and their cronies have led many who are far away from these juicy government contracts to turn to kidnapping in order to have their share of the "national cake" as their reward.

The issue of "moral decadence" and the "quest to get rich quick" syndrome have been identified as some of the causative factors of banditry. Again Inyang (2009) confirmed these in his proposition that in Nigeria, nobody asks questions on how people make their wealth. According to him, a poor person today can show up with an expensive car tomorrow and nobody dare to question the sudden wealth. Also, people who have donated money to develop their communities are rewarded with chieftaincy titles thereby creating a wrong impression in

the minds of Nigerian youths who thereafter take to banditry. The inconsistency between economic transparency and accountability in the running of normal government affairs and the desire to amass wealth among public office holders at different levels of government often also contribute to the leverage by bandits. They believe that, when those in government employment loot government treasury openly without fear, they too can as well take the laws into their hands by abducting people for ransom. An argument that easily turns into insignificant when it is considered that businessmen, foreigners and other wealthy people who are very far from government's purse have also falling victim to these fraudulent acts. Another reason for banditry is poverty, which is one of the major driving forces that usually push people to go into the act. Poverty and lack over a long period of time usually leads to frustration, depression and a feeling of helplessness. This is enough motivation for some people to accept to go into banditry when the carrot of easy money is dangled before them. As such the poor needs money to keep life going and because of that, they can easily be convinced to venture into the field of banditry to make money to be able to provide for himself and his family.

Hazen and Horner (2007), also observe that, hostages have been taken for two primary reasons: which are political and economic gain. This broad classification of kidnapping is very important for understanding the underlying factors of the problem, especially kidnapping for ransom. But beyond these broad typologies, persons are kidnapped and abducted by criminals for various reasons and intentions, such as for adoption, begging, camel racing, illicit intercourse, marriage, prostitution, ransom, revenge, sale, selling body parts, slavery, unlawful activity, murder and for other purposes (NCRB, 2014).

Poverty has been identified as one of the factors that have contributed to the rate of banditry in the state, as well as the country in general. Aigbakhon (2008) defines poverty as "a state of long-term deprivation of wellbeing, a situation considered inadequate for decent living". Decent living in this context can be narrowed

down to mean, access to things like qualitative education, safe drinking water, affordable health care and sanitary facilities, nutrition, shelter and clothing. Poverty is a complex phenomenon with a multi-dimensional facets, it is a dynamic process of socio-economic, political or other form of deprivations, which affects the individuals, households, or societies and usually bring back lack of access to basic and elementary requirements of human survival.

Adegba, Ugwu and Eme (2012) in Achumba et al (2013), avers that, the outcome of high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, adversely attracts violent crimes. In the same vein, Nwagboso (2012), argues that, the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major causes of insecurity in the country. Poverty and unemployment are like Siamese twins, who give support to each other. In Nigeria, unemployment is one of the most enduring social problems.

Aigbakhon (2010) in Katsina (2012), argues that, employment means the number of people working for wages in cash or kind in public and private enterprises. This includes those that are gainfully employed or engage. The above states the differences or categories of unemployment found in Nigeria, this can be blamed upon the governments' inability to equip its people with the requisite skills that will help them get employment and also the creation of necessary environment for meaningful employment opportunities. It is a fact that people are daily recruited by the Boko Haram terrorist group to unleash mayhem on the nation. A crop of these people are youths who are not gainfully employed, thus making their involvement cut across other criminal activities that pose threats to our national security. All of these can be directly or indirectly linked with unemployment in the country, as these culprits try to meet up with their demands for livelihood, by resorting to illegitimate means. And once they have tasted the

handsome reward that comes from such illicit engagements, stopping it then becomes a problem.

The above suggests that, Economic deprivation and a sense of desperation has planted the seeds of banditry as a way of getting money in poor communities. It can then become a way of life, even when legal options become available (Catlin Group, 2012). The disparity between the rich and the poor is growing, and thanks to the internet and global media, everyone can see how the rich are living. This fuels resentment and a desire for a bigger share (Catlin Group, 2012).

The proliferation of arms as a result of political patronage of miscreants, who were dumped after elections, may directly and indirectly encourage and enhance banditry (Marshal, 1998). Such miscreants who no longer have access to their political masters may resort to using the arms at their disposal to take to banditry as an alternative source of livelihood.

Many people today who are desperate for economic and social needs are often the ones who venture into banditry. Given the constant widening gap between the rich and the poor and where the possibilities of earning money in an honest way often seems difficult to attain, kidnapping turns out be a lucrative means to fall back on and to draw attention to what is considered an intolerable situation (Chidi & Uche, 2015).

3. Methodology

This study was conducted in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The cross-sectional survey design was adopted for this study. This design involves collecting data from respondents for the purpose of analysis. The study uses cross sectional survey research design due to its ability to elicit data from a large population easily. The study population consist of all adult residing in six selected Local Government Area of Kaduna State which include Zaria and Sabon Gari (Kaduna North Senatorial District), Giwa and Birnin Gwari (Kaduna Central Senatorial District) and Zango Kataf and Kaura (Kaduna South Senatorial District) who are 18 years and above

estimated at 838,851 populations as at 2022 (NBS, 2022). Smith (1984) sample technique was used to estimate a sample size for the study population. The Smith (1984) formula is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{3 + Ne^2}$$

Where:

N = Population size

3 = Constant

e = Margin of error (5%)

$$n = \frac{N}{3 + Ne^2}$$

Substituting into the formula we have

$$n = \frac{838,851}{3 + 838,851 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{838,851}{3 + 838,851 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{838,851}{2100.1275}$$

$$n = 399.50$$

$$n = 400 \text{ app}$$

This formula gives the degree of accuracy of the sampling technique. It gives an idea as to how many samples have to be studied taking into consideration the error. From the population of 838,851 respondents the formula yielded a sample size of 400 respondents from the study population. The study employs multistage sampling technique. A multistage sampling technique involves selecting sample from another sample. In this sampling procedure, the primary groups and sub-groups are selected on the basis of geographical distribution rather than other characteristics. Multistage sampling technique was employed in the selection of local government, electoral wards; villages/communities; houses/compounds, household and respondent/individual. The questionnaires were analyzed quantitatively using ordinary least square regression

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Regression Results

Table 1: Regression Result Showing the Relationship between Poverty and Banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Poverty	Coef.	Std. Err	T	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Banditry	-0.6126	0.1635	-3.75	0.003	-0.1220	0.01141
_cons	3.7112	0.1144	32.44	0.000	4.12117	5.23219

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The ordinary least square regression was used to test the relationship between Poverty and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. From the result, it shows that the poverty has effect on the banditry. This effect is significant at 5%

level of significance, since the p-value is less than 0.05. This finding is in conformity with the prior expectation of this study that poverty has significant on banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Table 2: Regression Result Showing the Relationship between Unemployment and Banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Unemployment	Coef.	Std. Err	T	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Banditry	-0.6141	0.1622	-3.81	0.003	-0.1243	0.01153
_cons	3.7141	0.1169	32.31	0.000	4.16421	5.238642

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The ordinary least square regression was used to test the hypothesis on unemployment and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The data generated revealed that unemployment has effect on banditry in Kaduna State,

Nigeria. This effect is significant at 5% level of significance, since the p-value is less than 0.05. This implies that unemployment has positive significant on banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Table 3: Regression Result Showing the Relationship between Proliferation of Arms and Banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Proliferation of Arms	Coef.	Std. Err	T	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Banditry	-0.6381	0.1671	-3.61	0.003	-0.3150	0.01243
_cons	3.7921	0.1523	33.51	0.000	4.26181	5.23581

Source: Field Survey, 2023

In this table, the ordinary least square regression was used to test the hypothesis on the proliferation of arms and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Result collected shows that proliferation of arms has effect on banditry. This

effect is significant at 5% level of significance, since the p-value is less than 0.05. The findings of the study demonstrate that proliferation of arms has significant influence on banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Table 4: Regression Result Showing the Relationship between Moral Decadence and Banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria

Moral decadence	Coef.	Std. Err	T	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Banditry	-0.6126	0.1635	-3.75	0.003	-0.1220	0.01141
_cons	3.7112	0.1144	32.44	0.000	4.12117	5.23219

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The ordinary least square regression was used to test the relationship between moral decadence and banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Data generated from the study indicates that moral decadence has effect on banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This effect is significant at 5% level of significance, since the p-value is less than 0.05. Therefore, the study data revealed that moral decadence has significant impact on banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

4.2. Discussion of Findings

Findings on the factors responsible for banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria indicates that poverty, unemployment, proliferation of arms and moral decadence has significant effect on banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. This shows that poverty, unemployment, proliferation of arms and moral decadence are major factors responsible for banditry. This was corroborated by Inyang (2009) that unemployment, poverty, proliferation of arms and moral decadence are given as probable factors responsible for banditry in Nigeria. He linked the problem of unemployment as one of such reasons why banditry in Nigeria is often associated with youth unemployment. He used the widely acknowledged adage, which says that “an idle man is the devil’s workshop” to present the situation of unemployment in Nigeria. He noted that there are uncountable able-bodied men and women in Nigeria roaming the streets in search of non-existing job. Out of frustration together with mounting responsibilities to tackle many idle young persons have ventured into criminal activities of which banditry are not an exemption. Furthermore, Inyang (2009) also believed that, the proliferation of arms as a result of political patronage of miscreant who were

dumped after elections may indirectly encourage and enhanced banditry.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study embarked on a rigorous exploration of the intricate interplay between factors responsible for banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study outcomes unequivocally established that poverty, unemployment, proliferation of arms and moral decadence has significant impact on banditry in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Banditry has cast a dark shadow over the economic landscape of the Kaduna State, Nigeria. The disruptive nature of banditry has led to a considerable slowdown in economic activities, resulting in a tangible loss of livelihoods and valuable assets. Furthermore, the prevalent insecurity perpetuated by banditry has significantly compromised the security dimension. Lives have been lost, and communities have been thrown into turmoil, necessitating urgent measures to restore a sense of safety and stability.

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- Banditry is a phenomenon which must be condemned, resisted, fought and eliminated at all levels-local, regional, states, and national. Conditions necessary for wiping out banditry must be cultivated and strengthened at all levels. There is the need to form and collaboration bilaterally or multilaterally with the neighbouring states to fight banditry. Bandits acts confronted by a state cannot be eliminated by the affected States alone. This is because of the international linkage of the insurgent groups.

It is, therefore, clear that all the nations must form a common front to fight banditry. To put an end to this problem, Nigeria must first look inwardly and address all the social and political anomalies that has hitherto eaten deep into the fabric of the Nigerian society.

- ii. The study recommended that Federal Government should devised a means banditry could be dealt with by equipping the Nigeria

army with other sister's agency with the needed equipment that would aids their fight against banditry with the region.

- iii. There should be prompt and adequate responses in case by the Federal Government in area of support and intervention the community affected by the banditry in order to reduce the pains of the affected people.

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