
**PROLIFERATION OF ARMED BANDITRY AND FOOD SECURITY IN
KONTAGORA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF
GOVERNMENT ROLES**

UMAR ABDULRASHEED BALA¹

+2348067790794

aubala1993@gmail.com

Department of Political Science,
Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai,
Niger State

ALIYU TANKO AHMED, PhD

Email:atahmed2003@yahoo.com

Phone number: +2348037006930 & +2348039782201

Department of Political Science,
Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai,
Niger State

Abstract

The primary responsibility of every government is to provide an assured welfare and security within its defined territory. Experience has shown that; post independence Nigeria has experienced failure to achieve this progress largely traceable to inability of the government to tackle rural armed banditry. It is against this backdrop that this paper investigates government intervention in tackling rural banditry to ensure food security in Kontagora local government in Niger State. The paper relies on both primary and secondary sources of data generated. The data was analysed using descriptive method of analysis and chi-square test. The theoretical framework for this study is the frustration aggression theory. The study reveals that banditry poses a significant challenge to the security and development of local communities in the study area. The study further exposed that the absence of security personnel triggered insecurity in the study area. The study therefore, recommends that there is need for government to introduce the policy of community policy, combined efforts between the security forces and local community members. This can strengthen security apparatus and ensure that there is safety. Government can adopt a strategy aimed at improving the quality of life of the bandits to reduce their rate of poverty and illiteracy.

Key Words: Rural banditry, banditry, food Security, food Insecurity, insecurity

Introduction

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Food availability addresses the “supply side” of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade. n adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not in itself

guarantee household level food security. Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on incomes, expenditure, markets and prices in achieving food security objectives.

The role of government can be an effective tool in tackling rural banditry to ensure adequate food security across the globe, Africa and particularly in Nigeria where insecurity is very severe. The role of government is essential to enhance adequate food crop production and increase the source of livelihood of people and improve daily activities of communities preventing people from engaging in crop production. This can increase the output of the community especially the farmers. Although in Africa there is the prevalence of rural armed banditry, which is a major security challenge

The rural banditry which is in form (or acts) of robbery and violence on the people particularly rural dwellers who mainly engage in agricultural production, processing and marketing have led to shocks. According to Abdulahi (2019) the prevalence and severity of banditry in West Africa has contributed to the rising increase in regional insecurity with a potential threat to regional integration of the sub-region most especially in Nigeria where the study.

Studies reveal that Kontagora local government area is known for its political violence in the past years but not with issues relating to armed banditry. Even though, the local government was noticed for its seasonal farming activities but the activities of rural armed bandits have put some farming activities of some communities on hold while others decrease. Banditry didn't only disturbed farming activities in rural communities of Kontagora local government, but also affected financial activities of the city.

Food security is a multidimensional concept to eliminate hunger and is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nation. To achieve food security the challenge of rural banditry must be tackled. The concept of food security is a situation where there are available nutritional and adequate and safe foods or the ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways that is unlimited. Niger State is one of the States that is known for rural banditry. Most of the agricultural farming systems have been affected by this challenge. Therefore this paper seeks to analyze the effect of rural banditry on food security in Kontagora local government in Nigeria.

Literature Review

Conceptual Discourse

The term rural banditry refers to criminal acts associated with armed robbery and violent crime in remote areas especially rural dwellers. Banditry involves the use of threat or force to intimidate targets, with intent to kill or rob the victims and deprive them from their belongings.

Banditry: Banditry refers to a situation of criminal act that is associated with acts of

armed robbery, theft/stealing, the use of force or threat and violent crime by intimidating targeted victims and to kill targeted victims. Banditry involves the use of threat or force by predators to intimidate victims that are attacked who are their prey, with intent to steal, kill and destroy the victims.

Food Security: Food security obtains when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (FAO, 1996). Food security also refers to food availability, food accessibility, and food utilization. This means that a nation whose food production level is unable to satisfy these three criteria is said to be food insecure.

Food Insecurity: food insecurity is a situation where there is the absence of food and the inability to access food, absence of nutritional and dietary needs requirement to have a healthy life. According to FAO (2010), food insecurity refers to the consequences of inadequate consumption of nutritious food, considering the physiological use of food by the body as being within the domain of nutrition and health. Malnourishment also leads to poor health; hence individuals fail to provide for their families.

Empirical Review

The study of Abdullahi and Muktar (2022) on armed banditry as a security challenge was carried out in Northwestern Nigeria. The study adopted content analysis. Strain theory and Rational Choice theory were used to provide theoretical reference for the study. The study found that armed banditry has affected security and education in northwestern Nigeria, and the overall economy of the country. Despite efforts made by government and community to curtail the menace, armed banditry continues to become even more devastating. Similarly the study of Faruk and Abdullahi (2022) investigated the impact of armed banditry and kidnapping on socio-economic activities in six local governments of Katsina State, Nigeria. The study adopted a survey research design and administered structured questionnaires to 430 respondents drawn from various communities across the selected local governments. The data collected were analyzed using tables and percentages. It was found that armed banditry has significant negative consequences on poverty, unemployment, food security, education, health, income, and the general standard of living of the people living in the state. Furthermore, the study found that armed banditry affects other socio-economic activities in the region. Based on these findings, the study recommends the establishment of tight border security patrols to prevent the proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition and proactive measures from security agencies to secure the life and properties of the residence.

Although the study Rosenje et al. (2022) investigated the role of armed banditry in the collapse of education in Nigeria's Northwest. They used descriptive survey research design, the researchers administered questionnaires to a sample size of 250

respondents derived from a population of 3,458,854 in the prone areas of Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara. They found that before the onset of armed banditry in the region, the teaching and learning environment had been conducive, with thriving learning activities, unwavering student enrollment, and encouraging academic performances, leading to a flourishing education sector. However, the study revealed that the presence of armed banditry, border porosity, arms proliferation, illegal migration, and the existence of ungoverned spaces had a significant and positive relationship with the collapse of education in Nigeria's Northwest. But Brigid et al. (2022) conducted a study on the impact of banditry crisis in Nigeria, which has resulted in the emergence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the creation of Internally Displaced Persons Camps (IDPCs). Using a political economy approach, the study revealed that bandits attack as a result of poverty, unemployment, the proliferation of arms, and the desire to belong to society. The crisis has led to loss of lives and properties, undermined security, peace, and development, and made women vulnerable to many societal ills.

Abdussalam et al. (2022) examined the impact of banditry on rural development in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study found that banditry poses a significant challenge to the security and development of local communities in Kaduna State, leading to frequent attacks, kidnapping, carnage, and destruction of lives and properties. The study employed a mixed-method approach, sourcing primary data from questionnaires and secondary data from journal publications, periodic reports, and newspapers. The study revealed that the suspension of weekly markets and attacks on farmers significantly impacted the rural economy, and there is a need for better security for farmers and local communities. Additionally, the study identified factors responsible for the rise of banditry in Kaduna State, including massive unemployment, weak security, poverty, and the porousness of the country's borders. The study recommends that the ongoing banditry and kidnapping activities in Kaduna State must be tackled urgently, and holistic measures should be implemented to provide basic social amenities and create job opportunities for the populace.

Faruk and Abdullahi (2022) conducted a study to investigate the impact of armed banditry and kidnapping on the nutrition status of under-five children in Katsina State, Nigeria. The study utilized cluster sampling to select six of the worst affected local governments from two senatorial districts in Katsina State. The findings revealed that armed banditry and kidnapping have had negative impacts on the food security of the study areas, leading to malnutrition among under-five children. The study also found that other factors contributing to the death of under-five children in the state include inadequate health care centers, low staffing in rural areas, low income, unsafe drinking water, and poor eating habits. The study recommended that the government should equip security agencies with modern arms and weapons to combat the menace of armed banditry and kidnapping, and also provide farming inputs to revive

agricultural production in the region.

Similarly the study of Ibrahim, Ozdeser and Cavusoglu (2021) investigated “Rural Migration and Relative Deprivation in Agricultural and Pastoral Communities under the Threat of Cattle Rustling in Nigeria. The study surveyed 1,750 agricultural and pastoral families to have adequate information about the activities of both the farmers and the pastoralist. The study used linear regression to achieve its objectives and they discovered that the loss of lives, income diversity, cattle rustle, literacy and the size of herd are the most contributing factor to migration pattern. The study findings shows that relative deprivation is a major push factor though migration in response to cattle rustling and deprivation would not decrease inequality due to weaknesses in social capital amongst the parties.

Theoretical Framework

Frustration Aggression Theory

The frustration–aggression theory, also known as the frustration – aggression – displacement theory, is a theory of aggression proposed by John Dollard, Neal Miller, Leonard Doob, Orval Mowrer, and Robert Sears in 1939, and further developed by Neal Miller in 1941 and Leonard Berkowitz in 1969. The theory says that aggression is the result of blocking, or frustrating, a person's efforts to attain a goal. The hypothesis attempts to explain why people scapegoat. It attempts to give an explanation as to the cause of violence. Frustration is the condition which exists when a goal-response suffers interference, while aggression is defined as an act whose goal-response is injury to an organism (or an organism surrogate). The theory says that frustration causes aggression, but when the source of the frustration cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced onto an innocent target. For example, if a man is disrespected and humiliated at his work, but cannot respond to this for fear of losing his job, he may go home and take his anger and frustration out on his family. This theory is also used to explain riots and revolutions, which both are believed to be caused by poorer and more deprived sections of society who may express their bottled up frustration and anger through violence.

Relevance of the Underpinning theory

The theoretical framework for this study is the frustration aggression theory. The theoretical framework shows the relationship among groups. The frustration-aggression theory can be used to explain dynamics of stereotyping, prejudice, and out-group hostility. The theory of explains how a group become scapegoats because of a preconceived idea about the certain group or community is probably the most well-known application of the frustration-aggression theory to the study of prejudice. The theory places emphasis on making a particular group scapegoats as a result of been frustrated and so gives the impetus for aggressive behaviour to occur.

Therefore this theory is important for this study especially in Kontagora local government where the community experience relative occurrence violence. The theory serves as a link to situations that can make certain group or individuals (rural bandits) experience absence of the quality of life to improve their well-being. This often leads to situations of been frustrated, and once a group is frustrated it can lead to aggressive and violent situations. This aggressive nature of rural bandits is an action forcefully attacks Kontagora community which is a natural form of retaliation against the initial source of frustration. On the other hand, there could be situations that can limit or prevent a person from being able to react against the actual source of frustration; especially, when the frustration is caused by a very powerful person or group.

Methodology

A descriptive and inferential methodology for this study was used because they give significant tools for categorical analysis on the hypothesis of the responses on the challenges of rural banditry on human security vis a vis on its implication of Kontagora local government. The target population of this research comprise of people or the respondents leaving in the study area for not less than ten years. The sample size was statistical determined using Taro Yanmane formula for a finite population. The need for each item was based on the five point rating interval that was used in the study. Chi-square test statistic was used to bring out the challenges of rural banditry on human security on Kontogora local government. The level of significance used in the test was 5% in the analysis no response and indifference were taken as indifference, while No and yes were retained as a decision rule. As a decision rule in the chi-square test, accept the null hypothesis if the calculated chi-square is less than the table vale, while if the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value, the research hypothesis was not supported by the research finding and thereby refuted.

The data collected was analyzed using frequency and percentage from the personal data of the respondents. Frequency, percentage and mean were used to analyze and to answer the research question. The mean for each item was calculated based on five point rating interval that was used in the study. In addition, the research hypothesis was tested using chi-square test statistic. The research hypothesis was tested at 0.05% level of significance. The analysis was performed using IBM statistical package for social sciences (IBM SPSS 20) and MINITAB 13. To strengthen the analysis, high point for some valid views and opinions of respondents interviews was discussed as they relate to the objectives of the study were appropriately cited. The analysis is interwoven with findings from the result of in-depth interview and quantitative survey.

Based on 2006 population census, Kontagora local government has a population size of 151,968. Based on Nigeria's Population Bureau of statistic projection model of 2.9 % growth rate in Nigeria, the population of Kontagora was projected to be 213,667 in 2021. The population of the study consists of men, women as well as farmers and

traders of the area under study. The study adopted Taro Yamene's formula for arriving at sample size: the method is depicted as follows:

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

Where: n= Sample size, N= Population size, c= Level of significance (5%)

To find N, it is the sum total of (213,667) population of Kontagora LGA

N= 213, 667

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

$$n = \frac{213,667}{1 + 213,667(0.0025)}$$

n=399

Both Simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used. The reason is for the simple random, a sub-set of individuals (a sample) chosen from a larger set (population) in the community was taken. Each individual is chosen at any stage during the sampling technique process. And so the people in the community were given equal chance of being selected to contribute to this research. The purposive sample, also commonly known as Judgmental sample. This is because the community affected by banditry is known and so the target population is the community who can contribute because they are being affected directly and can give their response because they are knowledgeable of the issue. Therefore they are selected based on the knowledge of a population and the purpose of the study.

Results and Discussion of Findings

This section investigated the efforts made by the government in tackling armed banditry to improve food security in Kontagora local government area, Niger State, Nigeria. In addition, the test for hypothesis was conducted to see if Food security in Kontagora local government area does not depend on how armed banditry is tackled.

The Government Provides Enough Security Personnel in our Community, in order to protect our Life and Property

Table 4.1: Response Rate on How the Government Provide Enough Security Personnel in Our Community, in order to protect our Life and Property

	Frequency	Percent
No response	3	1.0
Strongly Disagree	190	62.1
Disagree	74	24.2
Neutral	20	6.5
Agree	6	2.0
Strongly Agree	13	4.2
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

Table 4.1 reveals the findings on how the government provides enough security personnel in the respondents' community in order to protect life and property. The result of the findings show that 62.1% strongly disagreed that government provides enough security personnel in their community in order to protect life and property, 24.2% disagreed, and 3.5% are neutral. Furthermore, it shows that 2% and 4.2% agreed and strongly agreed that government provides enough security personnel in their community. Therefore, the study concludes that majority (86.3%) opined that government does not provide enough security personnel in their community in order to protect life and property in the study area. This finding is in agreement with the study of Abdulsalam et al. (2022) and Nahuche (2021). Abdulsalam et al. (2022) studied the impact of banditry on rural development in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study found that banditry poses a significant challenge to the security and development of local communities in Kaduna State. This has led to destruction of lives and properties, kidnapping, and frequent attacks. While that of Nahuche (2021) investigated the causes and effects of banditry in Northwestern Nigeria particularly Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara and Katsina States. The study found that banditry led to loss of lives and properties, sustained grief and fear of victimization.

The Government has often sent Relief Material to Victims of Armed Banditry

Table 4.2: Response Rate of How the Government has often sent Relief Material to Victims of Armed Banditry

	Frequency	Percent
No response	5	1.6
Strongly Disagree	208	68.0
Disagree	74	24.2
Neutral	11	3.6
Agree	3	1.0
Strongly Agree	5	1.6
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

The findings in table 4.2 shows the response on how the government has often sent relief material to victims of armed banditry. 68% of the respondents strongly disagreed that government has often sent relief material to victims of armed banditry, 24.2% disagreed, and 3.6% are neutral, while 1% and 1.6% agreed that government has often sent relief materials to victims of armed banditry. Therefore from the findings, it has been established that majority (94.2%) opined and indicated that government have not sent relief materials to victims of armed banditry in the study area.

There are Food Security Personnel in my Community to Protect Rural Farmers

Table 4.3: Response Rate on How there are Food Security Personnel in my Community to Protect Rural Farmers

	Frequency	Percent
No response	4	1.3
Strongly Disagree	215	70.3
Disagree	65	21.2
Neutral	8	2.6
Agree	10	3.3
Strongly Agree	4	1.3
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

The result in table 4.3 shows response rate on how there are food security personnel in my community to protect rural farmers. But the result revealed that 70.3% the respondents strongly disagreed that there are food security personnel in their community to protect rural farmers, 21.2% disagree, 2.6% were neutral, 3.3% did not agree and 1.3% strongly agreed. The outcome of the findings revealed that majority (91.5%) did not agree that there were no food security personnel in their community. Therefore the study concludes that there were no food security personnel in the community to protect rural farmers in the study area. The findings is in line with the study of Faruk and Abdullahi (2022) who carried out a study on the impact of armed banditry and kidnapping on socio-economic activities in six local government of Katsina State, Nigeria. Where the study found that armed banditry has negative consequences on poverty, unemployment, food security, education, health, income and the general standard of living of the people in the State. Further banditry affects other socio-economic activities in the region.

Government compensate rural dwellers after bandits attack to cover their lost

Table 4.4: Government compensate rural dwellers after bandits attack to cover their lost

	Frequency	Percent
No response	7	2.3
Strongly Disagree	186	60.8
Disagree	62	20.3
Neutral	21	6.9
Agree	18	5.9
Strongly Agree	12	3.9
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

Table 4.4 reveals the findings on how government compensates rural dwellers after bandits attack to cover their lost. But the result shows that 60.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed that that government compensate rural dwellers after bandits attack to cover their loss, 20.3% disagreed, 6.9% were neutral, 5.9% agreed and 3.9% strongly agreed. In conclusion, the findings were able to establish that majority (81.1%) of the respondents indicated that government did not compensate rural dwellers after bandits attack to cover their loss.

There are Enough Security Checkpoints on Road, Leading to my Community

Table 4.5: Response Rate on whether there are Enough Security Checkpoints on Road, Leading to my Community

	Frequency	Percent
No response	2	0.7
Strongly Disagree	94	30.7
Disagree	25	8.2
Neutral	56	18.3
Agree	71	23.2
Strongly Agree	58	19.0
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2023)

The findings in table 4.5 reveal the response rate on whether there are enough security checkpoints on road, leading to the community of the respondents. The findings show that 30.7% and 8.2% strongly disagreed and disagreed that there are enough security checkpoints on road, leading to their community respectively while 18.3% were neutral. Also 23.2% and 19% agreed and strongly agreed that there are enough security checkpoints on road, leading to the community respectively. Therefore, since majority (42.2%) agreed, we conclude that there are enough security checkpoints on road, leading to the community in the study area.

The community should organize measures in order to protect themselves

Table 4.6: Response Rate on how the community should organize measures in order to protect themselves

	Frequency	Percent
No response	9	2.9
Strongly Disagree	2	.7
Disagree	1	.3
Neutral	19	6.2
Agree	21	6.9
Strongly Agree	254	83.0
Total	306	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2023)

The findings in table 4.6 revealed the response rate of respondents on how the community should organize measures in order to protect themselves. The result shows that 0.7% strongly disagreed and 0.3% disagreed that the community should organize measures in order to protect themselves, while 6.2% were neutral. In addition, 6.9% and 83% agreed and strongly agreed that the community should organize measures in order to protect themselves in the study area. Therefore the study found that majority (89.9%) opined that the community should organize measures in order to protect themselves. The findings is in agreement with Faruk and Abdullahi (2022) who carried out a study on the impact of armed banditry and kidnapping on socio-economic activities in six local government of Katsina State, Nigeria where the study found that armed banditry has negative consequences on poverty, unemployment, food security, education, health, income and the general standard of living of the people in the State. Further banditry affects other socio-economic activities in the region.

There should also be local vigilantes in every community

Table 4.7: Response Rate on How there should also be Local Vigilantes in Every Community

	Frequency	Percent
No response	9	2.9
Strongly Disagree	2	.7
Neutral	7	2.3
Agree	30	9.8
Strongly Agree	258	84.3
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

The findings in table 4.7 reveals how there is should also be vigilantes in every community. The findings show that 0.7% strongly disagreed that there should be local vigilantes in every community, 2.3% were neutral, 9.8% agreed and 84.3

strongly agreed. In conclusion the study found that majority (94.1%) agreed that there is should also be need to have local vigilantes in every community in the study area.

The Government should also Compensate the Local Vigilantes that Lost their Lives in the Fight against Rural Armed Banditry

Table 4.8: Response Rate on How the Government Should Also Compensate the Local Vigilantes that Lost their Lives in the Fight against Rural Armed Banditry

	Frequency	Percent
No response	9	2.9
Strongly Disagree	1	.3
Disagree	1	.3
Neutral	9	2.9
Agree	27	8.8
Strongly Agree	259	84.6
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

Table 4.8 reveals the response rate where 0.3% and 0.3% strongly disagree and disagree respectively that the government should also compensate the local vigilantes that lost their lives in the fight against rural armed banditry, while 2.9% where neutral. Also 8.8% and 84.6% agreed and strongly agreed respectively that the government should also compensate the local vigilantes that lost their lives in the fight against rural armed banditry. Therefore from the findings since majority (93.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the government should also compensate the local vigilantes that lost their lives in the fight against rural armed banditry, we conclude that there is need for incentives to be given to vigilantes as compensation for those who lost their lives in the fight against rural armed banditry.

There is Need for Government to Provide Police Outpost in every Community

Table 4.9: Response Rate on the Need for Government to Provide Police Outpost in every Community

	Frequency	Percent
No response	9	2.9
Strongly Disagree	1	.3
Disagree	5	1.6
Neutral	10	3.3
Agree	22	7.2
Strongly Agree	259	84.6
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

Table 4.9 reveals the findings on the need for Government to provide Police outpost in every community. From the result it shows that 0.3% strongly disagreed on the need

for Government to provide Police outpost in every community, 1.6% disagreed, and 3.3 were neutral. In addition the result showed 7.2% and 84.6% agreed and strongly agreed respectively on the need for Government to provide Police outpost in every community. In conclusion, it was observed that majority (91.8%) are of the opinion and agreed that there is need for Government to provide Police outpost in every community.

There is need for government to create a joint task force with both local vigilantes, police, military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions

Table 4.10: Rate of Response on How there is need for government to create a joint task force with both local vigilantes, police, military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions

	Frequency	Percent
No response	9	2.9
Strongly Disagree	1	.3
Disagree	1	.3
Neutral	9	2.9
Agree	24	7.8
Strongly Agree	262	85.6
Total	306	100.0

Sources: Field Survey (2023)

The 4.10 reveals the response rate on the need for government to create a joint task force with both local Vigilantes, Police, Military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions. The findings showed that 0.3% and 0.3% strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively, while 2.9% of the respondents were neutral. In addition 7.8% and 85.6% agreed and strongly agreed that there is the need for government to create a joint task force with local Vigilantes, Police, Military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions. Therefore since 93.4% consisting of the majority strongly agreed, we conclude that there is need for government to create a joint task force with local Vigilantes, Police, Military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions.

H₀: Food security in Kontagora local government area does not depend on how armed banditry are tackled

Table 4.11: Hypothesis Test

Rural Armed Banditry has Negatively Reduce our Agricultural Activity * There is need for government to create a joint task force with both local vigilantes, police, military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions

		There is need for government to create a joint task force with both local vigilantes, police, military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions					Total
		Strongly disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	No response	
Rural Armed Banditry has	Strongly disagree	0	0	0	0	9	9
Negatively Reduce our Agricultural Activity	Disagree	2	9	5	0	0	16
	Neutral	0	0	18	0	0	18
	Agree	0	0	1	62	0	63
	Strongly agree	0	0	0	200	0	200
Total		2	9	24	262	9	306

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	764.850 ^a	16	.000
Likelihood Ratio	310.026	16	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.069	1	.150
N of Valid Cases	306		

a. 17 cells (68.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .06.

Decision Rule

Accept H_0 if $X_c^2 < X_t^2$,

Reject H_0 if $X_c^2 > X_t^2$,

$X_c^2 = 764.85$; $\alpha = 0.05$; since it is a two tail test we divide α by $2(\alpha/2) = 0.025$.

Therefore we check the chi-square table where degree of freedom is 16 vertically, and horizontally we have 0.025 and the chi-square tabulated value is 28.8

Df = 16; $X_t^2 = 28.8$

Since $X_c^2 (764.85)$ is greater than $X_t^2 (28.8)$, therefore we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Food security in Kontagora Local Government Area depends on how armed banditry are tackled.

Discussion of major findings

The paper was able to establish that 86.3% of respondents opined that government does not provide enough security personnel in their community in order to protect life and property in the study area. This findings is in agreement with the study of Abdulsalam et al. (2022) and Nahuche (2021). Abdulsalam et al. (2022) studied the impact of banditry on rural development in Niger State, Nigeria. The study found also, that banditry poses a significant challenge to the security and development of local communities in Kaduna State. This has led to destruction of lives and properties, kidnapping, and frequent attacks. While that of Nahuche (2021) investigated the causes and effects of banditry in Northwestern Nigeria particularly Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara and Katsina States. The study found that banditry led to loss of lives and properties, sustained grief and fear of victimization.

Although it has been observed that 94.2 indicated that government have not sent relief materials to victims of armed banditry in the study area. The outcome of the findings revealed that majority (91.5%) did not agree that there were food security personnel in their community. Therefore the study concludes that there were no enough security personnel in the community to protect rural farmers in the study area. The findings is in line with the study of Faruk and Abdullahi (2022) who carried out a study on the impact of armed banditry and kidnapping on socio-economic activities in six local government of Katsina State, Nigeria. However, the finding was able to show that majority (81.1%) of the respondents indicated that government did not compensate rural dwellers after bandits attack to cover their loss. While

Therefore, since majority (42.2%) agreed, we conclude that there are enough security checkpoints on road, leading to the community in the study area. But on the contrary it also shows that 89.9% opined that the community should organize measures in order to protect themselves. The findings is in agreement with Faruk and Abdullahi (2022) who carried out a study on the impact of armed banditry and kidnapping on socio-economic activities in six local government of Katsina State, Nigeria where the study found that armed banditry has negative consequences on poverty, unemployment, food security, education, health, income and the general standard of living of the people in the State. Further banditry affects other socio-economic activities in the region.

The study observed that majority (94.1%) agreed that there is should also be need to have local vigilantes in every community in the study area; and so majority (93.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the government should also compensate the local vigilantes that lost their lives in the fight against rural armed banditry. This means that there is need for incentives to be given to vigilantes as compensation for those

who lost their lives in the fight against rural armed banditry. Therefore, majority (91.8%) is of the opinion and agreed that there is need for Government to provide Police outpost in every community. In addition, 93.4% consisting of the majority strongly agreed that there is need for government to create a joint task force with local Vigilantes, Police, Military as well as food security personnel in order to protect food productions. The paper has been able to establish and confirm from the findings of the chi-square test that Food security in Kontagora Local Government Area depends on how armed banditry is tackled.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The paper was able to establish that government have paid adequate attention towards ensuring safety of lives, production and livelihood activities of the community in Kontagora local government. This has adversely affected food security negatively. Although there are challenges faced by the community members that is preventing them from achieving their productive and livelihood activities, government can adopt measures to curb the challenge and menace of rural banditry. And lastly, the study confirmed that that Food security in Kontagora Local Area depends on how banditry is tackled is by the government. This is because armed banditry can affect negatively affect food security.

In order to sustain and improve the challenge of rural banditry on food security, agricultural food production and farming systems in the study area, the following suggestions and policy recommendations are made: There is need for government to introduce the policy of community policy, combined efforts between the security forces and local community members. This can strengthen security apparatus and ensure that there is safety. Government can adopt measures and strategies such as amnesty to bandits by introducing the policy of ensuring quality of life such empowerment, education, skills and training of those involved rather than stigmatizing the rural bandits. And so it is a situation of lack of opportunity to improved quality of life which has resulted to rural banditry. And there is need to have the political will by the Government to involve those that are in the act of rural banditry to be engaged by the Government. Secondly the government can adopt a strategy aimed at improving the quality of life of the bandits to reduce their rate of poverty and illiteracy. This can be done by attending to their needs and demands.

Reference

- Abdullahi A. (2019). Rural banditry, regional security and integration in West Africa. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences*. 2019;2(3):654-664. DOI: 10.31014/aior.1991.02.03.107
- Adeniyi, O. (2018). Beyond the banditry in Zamfara. Retrieve at: .

thisdaylive.com.index.php/2018/04/05/beyond-the-banditry-in-zamfara/(accessed October 16, 2021).

- Abdussalam, Aisha Ajoke, Richard Ayoola Olayiwola, Praise Fisayo Akinniyi-Duyile (2022). Impact of Banditry on Rural Development in Kaduna State. *KIU Journal of Social Sciences*. Kampala International University ISSN: 2413-9580; 8(2):71-80.
- Agaptus, N., S, and Modupe, B.A. (2019). National Security and the Challenges Food Security in Nigeria. Landmark University, Omo-Aran. Kwara State.
- Ahmad, A. J. (2019). Insight into the dynamics and menace of cattle rustling: A case study of Lake Chad Area in northern Nigeria. *World Journal of Social Science Research*, 6(1), pp. 18-33.
- Ahmad S. Abdullahi and Jamilu I. Mukhtar (2022). Armed Banditry as a Security Challenge in Northwestern Nigeria. *African Journal of Sociological and Psychological Studies(AJOSAPS)*ISSN 2752-6585 (Online); ISSN 2752-6577 <https://doi.org/10.31920/2752-6585/2022/v2n1a3>.
- Asiwaju, A. I. (2004). Border Security and Trans-border Crimes: The Nigerian Experience in Comparative Historical Perspective In: Alimeka, E. E. O and Chukwuma, I. C. (Ed.) *Crime and Policing in Nigeria: Challenges & Options*, Cleen Foundation. Nigerian. PP.49-59.
- Ayande, I., Otekunrin, O., Akinbode, S. and Otekunrin, O. (2020). Food Security in Nigeria: Impetus for Growth and Development. *Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development*. 2020;6(2):808-820.
- Bankoff, G. (1998). Bandits, banditry and the landscape of crime in the nineteenth century Philippines. *Journal of South East Asian Studies*. 1998;29(2):319-339.
- Bashir, A.M., Azlizan, T. and BIY usof, R. (2018). Cattle rustling in Kaduna State, Nigeria: An assessment of the existing preventive approaches. *International Journal of Management Research and Review*, 8(9), pp. 20-29.
- Breuer, J., & Elson, M. (2017). Frustration-Aggression Theory. In P. Sturme (Ed.), *The Wiley Handbook of Violence and Aggression* (pp. 1-12). Chichester: Wiley Blackwell.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119057574.whbva040>
- Brigid , Ochi Ijeoma, Ortindi Boniface, Arinze Emmanuel Okonkwo (2022). Crisis of Banditry and the Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria: A Political Economy Approach. *Scholars Journal of Economics, Business and Management*, pp247 – 256. Published by SAS Publishers, India.

- Egwu, S. (2015). The political economy of rural banditry in Contemporary Nigeria. In Kuna, M.J and Ibrahim, J. (eds). *Rural Banditry and Conflicts in Northern Nigeria*. Abuja: Centre for Democracy and Development.
- Emmanuel O. and Peter F. Adebayo (2012). Food Security In Nigeria: An Overview. *European Journal of Sustainable Development (2012), 1, 2, 199-222* ISSN: 2239-5938.
- Fadare, O., Akerele, D., Mavrotas, G. & Ogunniyi, A. (2019). Effect of conflict and food price shocks on calorie intake and acute malnutrition in Nigeria: A micro-panel data analysis. Paper presented at the 93rd Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Society, University of Warwick, England, 15 – 17 April 2019. <https://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:ags:aesc19:289676>
- Faruk, Bashir Umar and Abdullahi, Mustapha Muhammad (2022). The Impact of Armed Banditry and Kidnapping on Socio-Economic Activities: Case Study of Selected Local Government Areas In Katsina State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Review, 12(1), 308 – 322*. March. (ISSN: 2276-8645)
- Faruk, Bashir Umar and Abdullahi, Mustapha Muhammad (2022). An Assessment of the Impact of Armed Banditry and Kidnapping on the Nutrition Status of the Under-Five Children in Katsina State, Nigeria. *European Modern Studies Journal, 6(3), pp.523 – 539*.
- Gadzama, I. U., Saddiq, N. M., Oduche, T. C. and Dariya, C. J. (2018). Appraisal of Rural Banditry in Kamuku forest in Birnin Gwari Local Government of Kaduna State. *Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology, 18(1), 42-49*.
- Kwaja, M. A & Ademola-Adelchin, B. I. (2018). Responses to conflict between farmers and herders in the middle belt of Nigeria: Mapping past efforts and opportunities for violence prevention. <https://www.sfcg.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/03/Responsesto-Conflicts-between-Farmers-and-Herders-in-the-Middle-Belt-FINAL.pdf>
- Lee, J. and Frongillo E. (2001). Nutritional and health consequences are associated with food insecurity among U.S. elderly persons. *The Journal of Nutrition. 2001;131(5):1503-1509*. [PubMed][Google Scholar]
- Maxfield, M.G. (1987). Lifestyle and Routine Activity Theories of Crime: Empirical Studies of Victimization, Delinquency, and Offender Decision-Making. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology. 3 (4): 275-282*. doi: 10.1007/BF01066831. JSTOR 23365565. S2CID143901845
- Mburu, N. (1999). Contemporary Banditry in the Horn of Africa: Causes, History and Political Implications. *Nordic Journal of African Studies, 8(2):89-107*.

- Miro, F. (2014). Routine Activity Theory. In Miller, J. Mitchell (ed.). *The Encyclopaedia of Theoretical Criminology* (1st ed.). doi:10.1002/9781118517390. ISBN 978-1- 18517390.
- Mohammed Adamu, and Abdullahi, Muhammad (2021). Armed Banditry and Socio-Economic Development In Zamfara State: *The Assessment*. *EPRA International Journal of Research and Development (IJRD)*, 6(12).
- Muhammad, A. (2019). Impact of Rural Banditry to Human Security in Northern Nigeria Kaduna State University, Kaduna.
- Muhammad, T. A. (2014). Pastoralism, socioeconomic development and security issues in Nigeria. Keynote Address at the Conference on "Violent Conflicts in Nigeria: Perspectives on Pastoral Insecurity in Rural Area, organized by African Research and Development Agency (ARADA), Kano, and Network for Justice (NJ), Kaduna, held at the Centre for Democratic Research and Training, Mambayya. House (Bayero University), Kano. May 31.
- Muhammad, T.A. (1990). Pastoral ascendancy in the savannah: a sociological assessment of the impact of the 1804 Jihad on pastoral Ful'be. in Kani, Ahmad, M., and Gandi, KabirA., eds., *State and society in the Sokoto Caliphate*. Sokoto: UsmanuDanfodiyo University (Series 1)
- Musa, E. (2020). Threats of Rural Banditry On Human And Food Security In Niger State, Nigeria Department of Sociology IBB University, Lapai: Niger State
- Rosenje Musharafa Olapeju, Zubair Olayiwola Soluade, Oluwadamilare Adeolu Olatoye, Temitope O. Peju - Rosenje, And Oluwatobi Peter Adeniyi (2022). Armed Banditry and the Collapse of Education in NorthWest Nigeria. *Journal of Lexicography and Terminology*, 6(2), 2022. pp. 94-115 Print ISSN: 2517-9306; Online ISSN: 2664-0899
- Sardauna F. (2020). Food Crisis Looms as Banditry Resurfaces in Katsina. <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/05/09/food-crisis-looms>
- Sekaran, U. (2000). *Research Methods for Business: A Skill Business Approach*. John Wiley& Sons, New York.
- Saifullahi Sani Ibrahim , Huseyin Ozdeser, Behiye Cavusoglu, and Aminu Abdullahi Shagali (2021). Rural Migration and Relative Deprivation in Agro-Pastoral Communities Under the Treat of Cattle Rustling in Nigeria. [Journals.sagepub/home/sgo](https://journals.sagepub/home/sgo)
- Umaru , Musa Emmanuel (2020). Threats of Rural Banditry On Human And Food Security In Niger State, Nigeria. Department of Sociology, IBB University, Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria