
EFFECT OF BANDITRY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGER STATE**MOHAMMED UMAR KITABU**Department Of Public Administration,
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Abstract

This paper examines the effect of banditry on socio-economic development of Niger State, which has become of great concern to the Nigerian government, citizens and even international communities. It is not a hidden fact that Niger state is under severe security threat occasioned by banditry, kidnapping and other form of security challenges which has affected virtually all social economic activities most especially farming activities, because farming is one of their major occupation. This paper relied on documentary method to source data from journals, news papers, magazines and other relevant materials as regards to the title of this paper. However, the paper used system theory which is traceable to Bertalanffy, L.V e'tal (1969), in a study titled, general system theory, foundation, development and applications, which seek to explain the factor taken into consideration in arriving at strategic outcome. Furthermore, the paper also discussed concepts of banditry, factors promoting banditry, implication of banditry on agricultural activities, socio- economic development, barriers to economic development and indicators of economic development. Therefore, the paper concludes that the problems of banditry is traceable to the problem of unemployment among citizens, injustice by those in the position of authority, using and dumping of youths by politicians, porous nature of Nigerian borders, poor motivation of security agents among other, and recommends measures in arresting the menace of banditry in the state, the need to acquire the security gadgets in curbing these menace of threats been faced by citizens for effective intelligent gathering and this will go in a long way fighting the danger confronting the society, also deliberate steps should be taken by government to reduce problem of unemployment by creating enabling environments for citizens to imbibe on the culture of farming business which will serve as a means of ensuring sustainable living through provision adequate financial incentives with lesser interest charges from intervention agencies, and lastly, there should be respect to rule of law and all perpetrators found wanting in the fight against banditry should be brought to the justice as this will serve a deterrent to others who have the same thinking.

Key words: Banditry, economic development, security, threat, socio-economic development,

Introduction

The pervasive nature of banditry is a threat to socio-economic development in the Northern part of Nigeria and some part of North central particularly, Niger State, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi and Niger State. It has become a worrisome and

threat to National Security.(Olaniyan and Yahaya 2016). Report has indicates that it is high time to flush bandits and kidnapping groups, whose members were seen displaying weapons, terrorizing herders, farmers, villagers and in the high ways with the mission of killing people, kidnapping and pillaging cows (Olaniyan, 2018). It was further reported by Sahara reporter (2020), that between October, 2013 and March 2017, over 7, 000 cattle were rustled from commercial livestock farms and traditional hardens in Northern Nigeria (Bashir, 2014; Tauna, 2016). While about 330 attacks were made by bandit and 1, 460 deaths were recorded between January and July, 2019 (Abdullahi 2019). In most cases, the bandits killed, maimed the people and raped the women before dispossessing them of their cows (Akowe and Kayode, 2014). While in some instance, they also kidnap girls or women in the process (Adeniyi, 2015).

Suffice to the Northwestern region of Nigeria which encompasses seven states namely; Kano, Jigawa, Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna and Kebbi, five of these states, which are Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi have been mostly affected by the scourge of banditry. But Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara have been most critical hot spots. It is however, pertinent to note that the incidence of banditry and kidnapping is not limited to northwestern Nigeria only. In fact, it is also prevalent in some parts of North central region state. Like Niger, Nasarawa, Benue and Plateau which are equally regarded as hotbeds (Kuna and Jibrin, 2016).

According to Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016), Suleiman (2017) have advanced several factors for the causes and prevalence of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria. Some of these factors they argued include the fragility of the state, weak state institutions, especially the security agencies, availability of grossly ungoverned spaces, porosity of Nigeria borders with its neighboring countries and arms proliferation, weak leadership, corruption, unemployment and mass poverty.

Furthermore, despite the federal framework adopted by Nigeria's forefathers; Nigeria security architecture since the incursion of the military in Nigeria's politics is contrived in such manner that the control of every security outfit is placed in the hand of the president at the centre. Although, the state governors are recognized by Nigeria's constitution as chief security officer of the state, but in actual sense, the governor wields a power over the police and military that could be used to arrest any crisis situation. This precarious situation places every governor at the mercy of the president in the period of crisis at the state level denying the opportunity to confront security challenges with expediency and expertise. This is one of the reasons why people are clamoring for restructuring, as this will among others effort the creation of state police to meet the immediate needs of every state.

There is no gain saying that fact that banditry and kidnapping poses a serious challenge not only to the socio-economic development of Northwest states but to the country at large in view of its every increasing impact and application. The level at which armed bandits operate within the northwest region and some parts of North central calls for attention by both the state and federal governments more security apparatus. This complex situation of social violence and insecurity in the affected state had been on for almost a decade now. (Okoli and Orinya, 2013). The increasing attacks of bandit groups have led to destruction of lives and properties, displacement of people from their community and a growing number of widows, widowers and orphans, who now reside in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps following the continued attacks of armed bandits and kidnapping on both farmers and pastoral communities across different areas of the states (Okoli & Ugwu, 2019).

The Nigerian Police are traditionally responsible for the maintenance of peace, law and order within the nation; it appears that its personnel are being overstretched by the responsibility of securing the political process and political functionaries of the state apart from the fact that they are ill-equipped to meet the challenges of contemporary security needs. In addition, Nigeria is under – policed, its personnel are grossly inadequate, running short of the United Nation requirement or ratio of one police to four hundred citizens. Furthermore, the salary of the police personnel is poor, welfare service are not in existence, while there has been no incentive to boost their morale. The general social discontent and distrust among citizens have made the probable collaboration between the security men and people fragile thus inhibiting the efficient and effective performance of security agencies in successfully confronting the bandit groups. This defects has therefore, affected government efforts in achieving the desired goal of crushing banditry and other social menace in the affected states.

Statement of Problem

Nigeria has turned to a playing ground of carnage, incessant banditry and kidnapping which discourage many people to have hope in better Nigeria or to have belief in promised change. Many researches shown that things have completely changed in Nigeria because the bandits and kidnappers are usually supported by influential people to gain grand of huge ransom and those behind it are youths that suppose to be the leaders of tomorrow, but because of the corruption, injustice, poverty, and unemployment, they become bandits and kidnappers. There is no gain saying that mass- media has exhausted their tenacity in reporting the cases of kidnapping and banditry in Nigeria. Considering the speed with which evil activities are growing in Nigeria and the merciless ways that lives of innocent ones are being

used is worrisome.

However, (Ejimabo, 2013) the horror of banditry and kidnapping has impacted the economy in the sense that it created a state of insecurity in all four walls of the nation. This evidence as we witnessed the torture of Boko haram in the North east, the insurgences of the militants in the south, the kidnapping walks in the southeast and ritualism in the Midwest. Thus, the incident of banditry and kidnapping has affected Nigerian's image as a nation abroad. It has also affected Nigeria attempt to develop viable tourism industry an attract investors. Security challenges in the nation have hampered economic growth as the youth unemployment escalates. The obvious challenges facing the nation are to streamline measures to tackle the impediments or obstructions to the solution of banditry and kidnapping behaviors. (Nwogwugwu et al, 2012) argues that the terror created by banditry and kidnapping in the nation has by extension affected Nigeria's economic growth, because of the monolithic nature of the national economy.

Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016), Suleiman (2017) have advanced several factors for the causes and prevalence of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria. Some of these factors they argued include the fragility of the state, weak state institutions, especially the security agencies, availability of grossly ungoverned spaces, porosity of Nigeria borders with its neighboring countries like Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin Republic, proliferations of arms, weak leadership, corruption, unemployment and mass poverty. Consequently, to achieve effective and efficient results regarding this carnage of insecurity occasioned by banditry activities in Niger state, there is need for security architecture in the country to be completely overhaul using modern equipments with a view of bringing to an end to this incessant security threats to the state and the country at large so as to enables citizens to go about normal life activities.

Methodology

The result of this study is based upon documentary method which relied on Secondary data; through relevant articles, magazines news papers and others related literature through which will suggest a possible outcome on the effect of banditry on socio-economic development of Niger state with a view of ensuring that citizens are well secured and contributes to the rapid economic development of the state. The study covers places affected with this banditry attacks in Niger state, in the light of this; predominately the state is an agrarian state where virtually those affected by these challenges of banditry are subsistence farmers as their major occupation, also the study considered the need to secure their immediate environment and farm land in order to improve standard of living and contribute to the rapid economic development of the state and the country in general.

Theoretical Frame Work

There are number of theories explaining banditry in Northern Nigeria, relation to its origin which also serves as platform for shaping the scenario on ground. This is why Gupta 2004. Explains that a military approach alone cannot effectively combat any form of insecurity but there must be ideological rebranding and good social services delivery to the teeming population. In essence, political, social and economic causes of banditry in Niger state, when taking as key elements in strategy majors, make it effective in its explanation. The theories that have been utilized in banditry conflict not only explain its roots causes but also pay crucial roles in shaping majors. These theories include frustration aggression theory (Flynn 2011), consequently upon the literature review, the study adopt system theory (Bertalanffy L. V et al, 1969) as a theoretical corridor that guide this study, which is lively anchored on general system theory foundation, development and application. A system could be defined has a complex interaction of various components from the work of Bertalanffy L.V. (1969). General system theory, foundation, development and application, a system is a connection of parts into a whole and what affect a part, affect the whole system. The history of system theory is traceable to Kenneth Boulding et al (1999) in their study modern political theory.

System theory which seeks to explain the reasons for quest in tackling the menace of all sort security challenges with a view of ensuring there is absolute restoration of peace and stability in a society setting to live with one another, agriculture, education, commercial activities being part of the system. It is against this background that this studies seeks to explain the reasons or Nigeria's quest to tackle the menace of banditry in the Niger state considering its socio-economic activities, and taking into consideration at strategic policies, the role of the actors involve and how feedback revert to authorities concerned and policy makers for proper redressed.

Empirical Review

(Ngwama, 2014), in their study "Insecurity and socio-Economic Development in Nigeria" seek to critically examine the issue of insecurity, as a major challenge of the Nigerian state, and its imminent implications for Nigeria's socio-economic development. However, the present paper is an extension of their work and this paper extends beyond that to 2019. The study adopts content analysis and came up with the findings which includes; unemployment, political motives, porous nature Nigerians borders and proliferation of light weapons. Since 2014 the paper has identified these threats and factors behind its rise have continued to slow down socio-economic development with current related literature. The paper recommends that government should be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats through modern method

intelligence gathering and sharing among security personnel, training, logistics, motivation and deploying advance technology in managing security challenges.

(Adeniyi, 2020). The Impact of Banditry on Nigeria's security in the fourth republic, the paper adopted descriptive method of date analysis and find out that the causes of the banditry in the study area is a result of scarcely governed space, high level of unemployment, weak security system, porosity of Nigeria's borders and proliferation of arms.

(Asmau and Abdurashheed 2020) insurgency, armed banditry and corruption in Nigeria, the bane of socio-economic underdevelopment, the paper used documentary analysis in analyzing data, which find out that, unemployment, corruption, poverty, porous nature of Nigeria borders are some of the issues causing banditry in the country. He therefore concluded that the country should evolves a sustainable social security system which will discourage public office holders from engaging in corruption, good information sharing techniques, providing gainful employment opportunities for the citizenry and so on.

(Suleiman, 2020), Impact of banditry on Food Security in Katsina State. The study used content analysis in analyzing the data. The result which shows that banditry has negatively affected food security in Katsina state. These negative effects include killing and kidnapping of farmers, chasing of farmers from their farm lands, cattle rustling, burning and raiding of grains and blocking of local trade routes.

(Olabanji and Ese, 2019), examined the pertinent issue of insecurity in Nigeria and its implication for socio-economic development. They recommended that government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, and information sharing among security personnel, training, logistics, motivation, and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges.

(Egwu, S. 2016), reviewed the long term cost implication of insurgency to economic development a study of Zaria metropolis. The result of the research revealed that the result and effects of any uprising affect the socio-economic activities of an economy thereby thwarting its progress. It's therefore recommended that economic opportunities should be made available to the teeming populace via the construction and provision of sustainable social amenities.

(Achumba, 2019), Study security challenges in Nigeria and the implication for business communities and sustainable development. The findings for the studies reveled that bad governance, poverty, weak judicial system, corruption, unemployment; poor security system constitutes the causes of banditry in Nigeria.

They recommended the need to evolve a safe business environment that allows for effective and a sustainable development process. The security management models recommended to achieve this are aimed at combating the creators and perpetrators of situation of insecurity and simultaneously addressing and removing the sources of dissatisfaction and discontentment which spur security breaches and the involvement of all stakeholders both in public and private capacity, government, business organization, society, religious groups, communities and individuals to supply resources, expertise and information that are required to ensure a safe environment.

The findings from the previous studies have shown that causes of banditry is as result of porous border, proliferation of arms, corruption, and unemployment.

Concept of Banditry

Banditry is a derivative of the term bandit meaning an unlawful armed group terrorizing people and confiscating their properties. It is synonymous with the establishment of gang groups who use small and light weapons to carry out attacks against people. In this regard, banditry could mean a set-up criminal activity deliberately designed and carried out for personal gains. (Egwu, 2016) described banditry as a practice of stealing cattle and animals from herders or raiding of cattle from their ranches. In the same vein, banditry is reflected in criminal escapades like cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, arson, rape and brazen and gruesome massacre of people of Nigerian communities with sophisticated weapons by suspected gunmen which carry reprisal attacks from surviving victims. Development that has been brought to the front burner of national security (Egwu, 2016).

(Shalangwa, 2013) regards banditry as 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 perceived as outlaws, desperate and lawless marauders who do not have a definite residence or destination but roam around the forest and mountains to avoid being identified, detected and arrested. However, where the term banditry is connected to rural, it implies a group of rural outlawed involved in illicit activities such as raiding of villages, kidnappings and cattle rustling for primitive accumulation of wealth. Thus, bandits are gang or groups terrorizing and dispossessing local people or travelers of their valuable items of properties such as merchandise, money, cattle, camel, and sheep, among others. They operate within and along rural borders with the assistance of their local collaborators including in some cases, security agents deployed to work for the safety and security of the people (Abdullahi, 2019).

Furthermore, 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 forces or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill (Okoli and Ugwu, 2019). Economic or political interest motivates banditry. The former refers to banditries motivated by the imperative of material accumulation while the latter has to do with those driven by the quest to rob, to assault or to liquidate a person or a group of persons based on political or ideological dispositions. Thus, banditry in contents of this research work, it is defined as the totality of incidence of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, village raids which involve the use of forces, or treat to that effect, to rob, rape, kidnapping, or kill the person.

Concept of Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development is the process of social and economic development in a society. Socio-economic development is measured with indications, such as GDP life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment changed in less tangible factors are also considered, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm and the extent of participation in civil society (Wikipedia, 2021). According to (Abdullahi, 2019) defined economic development as the capacity of a national economy, whose initial economic condition has been more or less static for a long time, to generate and sustain an annual increase in its GNI at rates of 5% to 7% or more economic development can also be seen as programs, policies or activities that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community. Meaning of economic development may differ from one society to the other. Each community has its own opportunity, challenges and priorities and therefore, economic development planning must include the people who live and work in the community. Thus, economic development as the process whereby simple, low income national economics are transformed into modern industrial economy. The term is sometimes used as a synonym, for economic growth generally, it is employed to describe a change in a country's involving qualitative as well as quantitative improvements.

Economic development as a policy intervention aiming to improve the well-being of people. Economic growth is a phenomenon of market productivity and increase in GDE. The process of economic development should not only generate increased or enhanced means of production but it should also make room for equitable distribution of such resources. Thus, by the term economic development, we mean a process so as to raise the per-capital output with scope for equitable distribution.

Also in addition, economic development as a process whereby per-capital income of a country increases over a long period of time. Here the word “Process” indicates long period changes related to change in the demand side as well as changes in factor of supply. Changes rising on the demand side are mostly related to consumers' tastes and preferences, distribution of income, size and composition of country's population, and other organizational and institution changes. On the other hand, changes arising on the factor supply are also related to capital accumulation, discovery of new resources, introduction of a new and more efficient production techniques, increase in size of population and organizational changes.

Indicators of Economic Development

To understand the level of country's economic development, one needs to make comparisons with other countries, or different time periods.

World Bank (2020) came up with the following as indicators of economic development

1. Growth rate of National income in this indicator, real income is calculated on constant prices if there is risen in national income, this indicates economic development when there is high rate of national income, development rate is high, and vice verses.
2. Per-capital income: The average income of the people living in the country is the per-capital income. A rise in per-capital income is an important indicator of economic development because it indicates economic welfare of the country.
3. per capital consumption: The increase in consumption of goods and services by people is measured in per capital consumption. E.g. clothing, food, education, health etc. increase in per capital consumption shows better quality of life of people and higher economic development of a country
4. Physical quality life index and human development index: Physical quality life index is the overall welfare of the people in life expectancy, infant mortality rate, standard of living. Human development Index on the other hand, measures life expectancy, education and standard of living. There is a rise in PQLI and HDI shows an improvement in quality of life of people and therefore economic development.
5. Industrial progress: Is an important indicator of economic development of a particular country. It helps to increase per capital income and the national

output of the country.

6. Capital formation: It means, investing in transportation, irrigation, roads, electricity, technology etc. higher capital formation will lead to higher economic development.

Barriers to Economic Development

(Antoine Niyungoko, 2020) outlined some of the following points as obstacles to economic development of most African countries.

1. Inadequate education System: Education in Africa is a heritage of colonial system which did not intent to develop entrepreneurship in colonies countries curriculums of school system are not related to entrepreneurship, but full of content foreign literatures like French, English, History, etc. courses offered by universities are disconnected to labour market needs and new technologies. Therefore education sector constable access to educator, irrelevant curriculum and poor learning outcome.
2. Division and War: African counties are not united. Some o levy have much diversity in culture, religion, ethnicity, etc. in the place of using the diversity in generating new ideas, creativity and innovation, the diversity is the basis of was in African countries. No entrepreneurship can seriously take place in the situation of war.
3. Heavy administrative procedure: The report of the World Bank (2019) indicated that sub-Sahara Africa as still underperforms regarding electricity, commerce and registering property.
4. Difficult Access and High Lending interest Rate: in most African countries, it is difficult to get financing. Not getting financing reduces entrepreneurship activities. To grow, a company needs financial resources to make investment in productive equipment. Sometimes, one must use financial institution credit. However, the cost of financing is too high in the region. According to trending economics (2020) it is clear in Africa Banks lending rate is too high compared to developed countries.
5. Low Income or Poverty: Poverty in most African countries is very high. It becomes difficult to initiate new product or service where populations are not able to buy the product. Aftermath, entrepreneurs are profit driven they must be sure that their ideas or product generates enough profit. Entering in business is a difficult decision. Nevertheless, a person decides to do so if he

finds that profit will be high compared to work salary to get. The low income reduces the capacity of making saving for beginning business in the future.

6. High corruption” Corruption is destroyed economic, social and political development in African countries. It constitutes the main obstacle to economic development. A country with corruption cannot attract entrepreneurs.

Factors Promoting banditry in Nigeria

Several factors have been adduced as the driving forces of banditry in Nigeria and most especially in the northwest region of the country. Drivers of banditry in northwestern and north central Nigeria consist in some socio-existential conditions that characterize the interior as well as the frontiers of the region. Prominent among these conditions are the scarcely governed spaces the hinterlands, forestlands and borderlines of the region. The northwestern hinterlands are marked by extremely dispersed rural settlements, separated by rangelands and farmlands that are susceptible to violent contestations.

1. **Forestland:** They are also interspersed by diverse forested landscapes, some of which are dotted by wetlands, rocks and caves. Apart from being separated from each other they are equally far separated from the centers of governance at the local and state levels. The forestlands of the region are vast, rugged and hazardous. Most importantly they are grossly under-policed to the point that makes them conducive for all forms of jungle criminality. In view of this, violent crimes, such as banditry, have festered and thrived in such forested areas. Most attacks occur in remote villages, close to forested regions in the north-west where there is little security presence.

In likewise manner, banditry occurs in large swathes of forest reserves that are generally out of the reach of the Nigerian security operatives. Most of the bandit activities take place in state-owned reserves such as the Kamuku, Kiyabana, and Fagore forests in Northern Nigeria. The forests offer perfect locations as hide outs for the criminals to evade arrest from security forces. The reluctance of the Nigerian security operatives to enter these forest areas seems to be largely due to inefficiency, connivance of the local people, lack of sophisticated equipment and poor motivation of the Nigerian security forces (Olaniyan and Yahaya, 2016).

2. **Unemployment:** Another factor that promotes banditry in Nigeria is the high level of unemployment rate. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2019 puts Nigeria's unemployment rate at 23.1% of which youth unemployment is 55.4%. Equally, the poverty index in the Northwest is 77.7% (NBS, 2012).

These figures have continued to drastically increase yearly as Nigerian institutions keep graduating batches of youths with the prior impression of getting better jobs and opportunities after graduation (Adegoke, 2019). The anxiety from Nigerian graduates that later turn to frustration and then to aggression on the government is what has fuelled the emergence of most of these bandit attacks and security threats in the country (Suleiman, 2017, Mustapha, 2019). Furthermore, Kilishio, Mobolaji, Usman, Yakubu and Yaru (2014 as cited in Abdullahi, 2017). Canvassed that the rising wave of crime in Nigeria has been blamed on the increasing level of unemployment. Thus, the idle youths tend to engage in illegal activities in order to meet up with contemporary trends. Suffice to say that the youths easily get enticed to riches as a result of the prevailing “get rich quick syndrome” that pervade the country. Hence, they tend to do whatever it takes to get rich quick. Therefore, the Nigeria's high rate of unemployment, especially the increasing rate of youth's unemployment is what majorly prompts the jobless youth in the country to resort to violent crime like banditry (Epron, 2019).

3. **Weak Security System:** There is no gain saying the fact that weak security system complements the alarming rate of banditry in the northwest region of Nigeria. This could have possibly been caused by the inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training (Achumba, 2013) this is in addition to poor attitudinal and behavioral disposition of security personnel. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. Even when these exist, some personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are easily prejudiced by their personal interest to serve their people, rather than the nation (Achumba, 2013). Thus, instead of being national watch dogs and defending national interest and values, and protecting people from being harmed by criminals, they soon become saboteurs of government efforts, by supporting and fueling insecurity through either leaking vital security information or conniving with criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law.
4. **Poverty and Poor Governance:** (Adeoye, 2018) Noted that poverty as well poor governance contributed significantly to the rising wave of banditry in Nigeria. The failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address the challenges of poverty bedeviling the nation has made life burdensome and only the fittest survive. In concurrence with (Adebayo, 2018) perception, (Adeoye, 2018) noted that Nigeria has overtaken India as the country with the

largest number of people living in extreme poverty, with an estimated 87 million Nigerians, or around half of the country's population, estimated to be living on less than \$1.90 a day, Also, (Atere and Alao, 2015) linked banditry, terrorism and other criminal acts to poverty. Although not all forms of criminal acts could be linked to poverty, it has been contended that economic deprivation influences people to resort to illegal means of meeting their daily needs. It was discovered that because of the attractive benefits accruing from banditry activity, most people, especially the youths tend to join the bandit gangs in the Northwest of Nigeria (Epron, 2014, Adegoke, 2019).

5. **Proliferation of Arms:** Another driving factor of banditry in Northwestern/North Central of Nigeria worthy of mentioning is the issue of arms proliferation. There has been an incremental influx of small arms and light weapons (SALWS) into Nigeria from the Sahel since the fall of Ghadffi's regime in Libya. These arms and weapons end up in the hands of non-state actors like terrorists, militants and bandits, who use them to terrorize individuals and communities. In September 2018, military troops in joint operations with personnel of the department of State Service (DSS) arrested two suspected illicit arms dealers along Funtua-Gusau road with 1, 479 rounds 7.62mm (Special) ammunition, on their way to deliver the weapons to armed bandits (Adeniyi, 2018). Incidents such as this have been prevalent in the various states of northwestern Nigeria where banditry has become the order of the day (Okoli and Ugwu, 2019).
6. **Illegal Mining Activities:** Completion over access to mineral resources deposits in most of the affected states exacerbates already existing tensions. Order terror groups control the minefields and are able to act with inequity because of the undue patronage they benefit from the authorities through contenance. The syndicates also fund banditry and cattle rusty in mining communities, displacing and inciting violence among Fulani pastoralist and farming communities.
7. **Controversial Peace Agreements between some state governments and criminal groups:** In an attempt to stop these attacks, and due to larger failures on the part of the federal government initiated direct negotiations with these criminal groups. As part of these negotiations, the governors offered the criminal groups amnesties and other incentives to end violent attacks. Some have even agreed to release all arrested persons from such groups in exchange for hostages. So far, these agreement have failed for a number of reasons first these criminal groups lack central command and a

common goal, so it has been difficult to bring them all to a common negotiation. Moreover, agreements made with one group are not banded on others secondly, the dialogues excluded the local communities that bear the brunt of violence and expect the state to deliver forms of compensation, justice and protection as a condition for durable peace.

8. **Porous Nigeria Borders:** Nigeria's border with Niger, Chad and Cameroon is poorly policed by the Nigeria Custom and Immigration Services. The porous nature of these borders heightens the potential spread of terrorist activities into Northwestern/North Central of Nigeria.

Implication of banditry on agricultural activities in Niger State

Agricultural product grown and produce in 25 local government of \Niger state served as major sources of income to populace. The agricultural activities in the state have declined because many time bandits have repeatedly killed many farmers in their farm lands. On December 9, 2021, over fifteen (15) worshippers observing early morning prayers in Mosque were killed and number of people kidnapped at mazakuka village of Mashegu local government of the state. Punch (2020), the secretary to the Niger state government Alhaji Ahmed Matani said, the killing of farmers by the bandit have seriously affected the agricultural produce in the state Sabiu 2020.

From 2015, thousands of people have fled their homes mostly which are farmers to other state due to killing and gunshot Mustapha (2017). Animal husbandry is a common farming business in Niger state especially with nomadic cattle herders who have move from one place to another to fee their animals. The violence live little hope for those within the state to return home and continue with another business (Merrick 2018).

And investigation shows that several hectares of land prepared for the cultivation of rice, yam and other grains in the state has been abandon. It was gathered that virtually all the farmers involved in rice, yam and other grains cultivation abandon the vase expense of land at shiroro, munya, rafi, mariga and mashegu because of the menace of banditry in these areas(Offem and Ichoku ,2015), they destroyed of large hectare of farm land have increase the food shortage and pervert levy.

Implication of Banditry on Educational System of Niger State

In Niger state, the effect of banditry has seriously affected the educational system in the state because many pupils have completely abandon education because of the fear of being killed. Daily post (2021) reported that, bandit attack Government

science college Kagara on February, (2021), and kill one students, the same time kidnap two staffs with many students.

It was reported by the Nation newspaper (2021), 136 school children of Islamic Qur'anic in Tegine town of Niger state were kidnapped along with some teachers on May (2021). This situation has forced many children to abandon education completely because of the fear of being killed or kidnapped. Many of these children now run on the street, some became beggars. The fear now is what well be the future implication of this ugly situation.

Implication of Banditry on Commercial Activities in Niger State

Studies carried out by Umar A. (2021) revealed that banditry in the state have affected many markets within the affected local government of the state. These markets include Gwada market under Shiroro local government, Mariga market, Mariga local government and many other markets in the affected areas. The menace of banditry has affected rural populace income lively head thereby making lives difficult for them Umar (2021) investigate that, Gwada market under Shiroro local raided severally by bandits between 2019 and 2020 and killed many business men, this menace have affected the business of these areas especially Mariga market and many more. Marketers Association stated that "There is no business and the markets in the affected areas collapsed completely. These markets are known for their cheap perishable products that attract the masses, just as it serves as a depot for producers like yam, groundnut, maize, bean, animals among other which some of these products are not only consumed in Nigeria but exported to neighboring countries. Many shops owners in these affected areas close down their shops because mostly they are the target of these bandits.

Conclusion

Obviously, banditry is one of the social problems in Niger state and it has adverse effects on the socio-economic development of the state. The phenomenon of banditry has assumed on unprecedented dimension in Nigeria and there seems to be no end to the problem. Hence, this worrisome situation of banditry activities in Nigeria is trace to the issue of unemployment, large forestry land, use and dumping of youths by politician, porous nature of Nigeria borders. Poor motivation of security agents, lack of seriousness on the part of government, lack of modern equipment for tracking down criminals and lack of synergy among security agents etc. However, these challenges have affected the socio and economic activities of the state, as government and individual have lost urge amount of money, properties, animals and hectare of farm lands. The scenario has discouraged investments and this owing to the fact that local and foreign investors have lost the will to invest in the state because no investor

will like to invest in environment that security is guarantee.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

1. There is the need to equip the security agencies with modern equipment as this will in long way help in fighting the menace in order restored peace to the affected areas.
2. There should be a deliberate step by the government to reduce unemployment by supporting youths through imbibe farming activities as a way of encouraging and provide them with basic incentives to boost their morale.
3. There is need for government to resettle internally displaced people back to their villages in order to continue their normal activities.
4. There should be respect for the rule of law and all perpetrators found wanting in the fight against banditry should be brought to the justice.
5. There should transparency in all government activities, as this will reduce corruption in the country.
6. Security personnel's found to be abating criminals should be made to face wrath of law of the military institution accordingly.
7. There is need for intelligence gathering to track informants of these bandits within the communities affected by the scourges.
8. There is need to sensitize and engages members of communities by security agency on the need to collaborates in order to ensure the society is free from any form of threats.

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