



Armed banditry's nature and character on human security in Niger state, Nigeria

BY

MOHAMMED Umar J G., LIMAN Abdullahi N Prof., YUSUF Usman Alhaji Prof., &
OYINLOYE Gabriel Olayinka

¹⁻⁴Department of Security and Strategic Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi

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Abstract

With an extensively porous boundary with Northwest and Northeast reputed for illicit mining and terror cells activities, the impact of banditry on the agrarian communities in Niger State could be seen from cattle rustling, kidnapping of school children, barn and market raids, market levies, and taxes, the inability of lone farming endeavours amongst others. It was against this background that this study engaged the Queer Ladder Theory in a survey study to examine the effects of armed banditry's nature and character on human security in Niger State, Nigeria. This study focused on Niger State, in the North Central geopolitical region of Nigeria whose population is 5,556,200. The population of this study is large and finite, hence this study employs the Taro Yamani sampling technique that gave a sample size of 400 respondents. The study purposively choose banditry hotbeds in six LGAs of Kontagora and Mariga LGAs which fall under the Niger North senatorial district, Gbako, and Lapai LGAs areas fall under Niger South senatorial district while Rafi and Shiroro LGAs are situated in Niger East senatorial district. The study's target respondents are bandit victims and families (identified by Police reports and Ward's head), clerics, farmers, herders, youth leaders, Traditional leaders, law enforcement agents, transporters, public servants particularly teachers and school administrators, farmers, vigilante groups, within these locations. The study revealed that armed banditry in Niger State is not ideologically driven but sheer means of material and financial acquisitions through outlawry. While the character of banditry is executed through violence and weapon amassment of which porous border and neighbouring State mining activities serve as a purveyor. Based on these findings, the study concludes that acts of good governance by all tiers of government that evolve employment of youths could mitigate against banditry, also study concludes that enabled community-oriented policing will go a long way in addressing banditry since every act of banditry is localized and community-oriented policing is the closest to the communities. The study recommends that tackling corruption at all tiers of government could mitigate the get-rich-quick syndrome, as tackling corruption could lead to equitable distribution of wealth. The study also recommends that government reinforce the country's border patrol system, particularly against gun-running and illegal immigrants whose activities aggravate banditry in the Niger State.

Keywords: Banditry Nature, Human Security, Outlawry, Queer Ladder Theory

Introduction

The defining weakness and undoing of Government Security Agencies (GSA) is their inability to collaborate among themselves in sharing intelligence but such could not be said of the underworld. Where crime and criminality is driven by interconnectedness in information sharing and collaboration, hence the elusive ability of criminal outside the reach of Government Security Agencies (Afuzie, 2022). Extensive networking of crimes, could be seen from how insurgents of Boko Haram, ISWAPS, and Niger delta militancy have unbridle access to drugs, and arms and ammunition, which equally feed banditry tools for kidnapping, cattle rustling, raiding of villages, barns, market taxes and travelers raiding. Thus while insurgents and militancy are into wholesale crimes, bandits could be said to hold on to the retail end of

*Corresponding author: **MOHAMMED Umar J G**

Department of Security and Strategic Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria.

crime and criminalities. Assessing the nature and character of banditry could guide in mitigating its spread (Mungadi et al., 2021).

The nature and pattern of armed banditry in contemporary Nigeria particularly in border town like Niger State, is so pervasive that only a few Nigerians that travel or live within the border communities can claim not to have suffered its impact. These nature may include waylaying victims on the highways, ransacking of whole villages, stealing hundreds of cattle, burning down of uncooperating farmers' barns while lives are also not spared. Bandits are well armed in contemporary Nigeria that Government Security Agencies could be seen threatened with weaponry sophistications displayed by bandits (Nahuche, 2022). The height of a threatened human security could be gleaned from report indicating that Niger State has witnessed over seven years of banditry incursion with over 380 killed, N79m paid as ransom, 71 abducted while some local government areas are constantly invaded and almost completely overrun are Shiroro, Munyan, Rafi, Mashegu and of recent Paiko (Mosadomi, 2021).

The need to investigate the nature of armed banditry is germane; are the actors of the locals or of transnational nature, viz a viz the helplessness of the Nigeria Police in quelling such development is also worrisome. The Nigeria Police was rated as the 'worst', out of 127 countries assessed; in terms of its inability to handle internal security challenges. Inferentially, an agency so negatively rated on combating internal security would possibly be struggling to ensure human security which is a further subset of internal security (World Internal Security and Police Index International, 2017).

In many farming communities across the state for instance, locals no longer go to farms due to fear of bandits. These are people who cultivate crops and other food items that which the city dwellers relied on. They also produce certain raw materials needed for the continued survival of local industries such as edible oil refineries, bakeries, animal feed production firms As long as these farmers keep away from their farms for fear of their lives, the local production of food and these raw materials would be affected and the resultant effect will be an unprecedented increase in price of food and other human necessities in the markets (Wuyo, 2021)..

The rationale for choosing Niger State as a case study for this study could be seen in eighteen out of her twenty five Local Government Areas been affected by banditry such that commercial motorcycles has been banned with remotely located schools shut down. Also the study's choice could be seen as a result of the fact that Niger State is one of the States situated in the North Central region sharing boundary with both North West States of Kaduna, Kebbi, Zamfara with close proximity to the North East region of the country and these mentioned regions are already overwhelmed with insurgency, terrorism and banditry. Niger State is also very central as it shares boundary with Federal Capital Territory and proximate boundary with Southern region of the country.

The ungoverned space in Niger State, due to the absence of government presence, occupied by bandits whose nefarious operations could possibly be said to have overwhelmed the already thinly overstretched Government Security Agencies (GSA) shows clearly that there exist an issue that deserves national and international attention even as it is clear that the security forces do not possess the needed technology to address the daunting situation at hand. Niger State presently has the largest landmass in the country part of which most is term as ungoverned space. Ideally, the proximity of Niger State to the seat of Federal government make it strategic as one of the gateway States to the Southern region of the country which

could also offer greater platforms for crime to thrive because criminals may have greater access to the wealthy and their relation. The uniqueness of this study could also be seen in the constructs engaged to measure armed banditry on human security in Niger State.

To achieve the objective of this study, following null hypotheses are tested;

H₀₁:Nature and character of armed banditry has no significant effect on Human security in Niger State.

H₀₂:Armed banditry has no significant effect on Human Security in Niger State.

The significance of this study could be seen from practical perspectives as the result of the work could be of benefits to Niger State Government, Northern State Governors Forum, Civil Society Organisations to understand the nature and character of armed banditry that is affecting the State. That should be arrested in order to mitigate against armed banditry. The academia and Policy makers could also find result emerging from this study interesting for further studies as the importance of human security is a further call on government to be more responsible to the people in terms of good governance.

Literature Review

Evolving Measures for Curbing Armed Banditry

Safe School Initiative

The Safe Schools Declaration is an intergovernmental political commitment that provides countries with the opportunity to express support for protecting students, teachers, schools, and universities from attack during times of armed conflict; the importance of the continuation of education during armed conflict; and the implementation of concrete measures to deter the military use of schools. The Declaration was developed through consultations with states in a process led by Norway and Argentina in Geneva in early 2015. Nigeria was part of the first group of 37 states that “endorsed” the Safe Schools Declaration on May 29, 2015 and signed the letter of endorsement on March 8, 2018. Safe School Initiative was launched after the Chibok girls were abducted to bolster security in schools in north-eastern Nigeria by building fences around them (Orjinmo, 2020). To fight impunity for attacks on education by promoting and supporting a range of accountability measures (Humanitarian Response, 2018).

Commercial Lease of Ungoverned Space for mechanized Farming

Most ungoverned space in the Northwest and East, devoid of household farming could be commercially leased white farmers, middle Eastern countries investors for value chain farm and not merely raw produce for immediate export. The arrangement should public hearing at both State Houses of Assembly and National Assembly, leading NGOS and Community Based Organisation should be involved to ensure transparency and representation of all vested interest. issues ranging from royalty, compensations and value chain from such ventures should be publicly x-rayed on both sides of Costs and benefits as against what transpired in the Dominion Farms Ltd land saga of 30 000 ha rice plantation in Taraba, backed by the Nigerian government and the G8’s New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa (Akanle, 2017).

All tiers of governments should be seen investing on the scheme and not to see it as cash out ventures. Governments, investors should invest heavily in infrastructure, including land clearing, buildings and farm infrastructure like roads, storage facilities of Siloes, cottage industries as the value chain extensions, workshops, equipment, boreholes to supply water for household and farm use, electricity generation of

solar and windmill and chicken and livestock pens, the dairy and poultry farmers. These types of arrangement will reclaim ungoverned space from bandits while such good governance narrative will open space for an inclusive participation by all.

Deployment of Space Based Assets to Combat Banditry

The need to reconsider tackling banditry outside consideration of an already overstretched security forces is overdue. Space based assets like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and low earth Observations Satellites could go a long way in restraining activities of bandits. Space based assets will be way beyond the capabilities and capacity of bandits hence such new fronts could be a game changer that is deployable to protect farming communities in the face of dearth of manpower for physical security provision.

Evolving Community Oriented Policing

The overwhelmed status of Government Security Agencies in combating plethora of internal insecurity, and terrorism has seen many community receding and looking inward to secure themselves via Vigilante initiatives mostly driven by volunteers. This has largely signal the need for the Nigeria State to evolve Community Policing approach where security should be taken closer to the people as against the present nation's security architecture whose controls and commands are not only overcentralised but reactive and largely not proactive (Afuzie, 2022; Maibashira, 2022)

Empirical Review

Nature and Character of Armed Banditry and Human Security

Nahuche (2022) investigated causes and effects of banditry in north western Nigeria with particular emphasis on Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara and Katsina state. The study engaged descriptive survey using percentages and frequencies on in-depth interviews conducted with the selected border community leaders, police officers and victims of banditry. Findings of the study showed that banditry is a social evil that continue to inflict injury, leads to raping, loss of lives and properties, sustained grief, fear of victimization and anguish among citizenry. These have been attributed to the influx of ex-combatants with fire arms from neighboring war-torn countries, rising unemployment, inadequate and outdated weapons used by the security operatives. The study was done in the Northwest while this study focused on specifically on Niger State.

Mungadi *et al* (2020) employed thematic study to investigate solution to armed banditry, insurgency and kidnapping in the northwest region of Nigeria. Findings from the study showed that the North West insurgence calls for a multipronged approach with all tiers of government and international communities to subdue the armed groups, protect communities across the vast ungoverned territory and eliminate the nexus of jihadist activities so that the region will not become a land bridge connecting Islamic insurgencies in the Central Sahel with the decade-old Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad region of Northeastern Nigeria. Study focused on Northwest region while this study is State specific.

Ladan and Matawalli (2020) engaged focus group discussion to examine the nexus between food security and banditry in affected local government areas of Katsina State. The study adopted qualitative study approach. Results from study revealed that banditry has negatively affected food security in has been

negatively impacted by banditry which entailed kidnapping and killing of farmers, seizing of farmlands, theft of cattle, chasing of farmers out of their farmlands, blocking of local trade routes, burning and raiding of grain silos. The study done in Katsina captures only effect of banditry on food security of which this study captures more constructs to measure the impact of armed banditry on human security using food security, education security, social security and informal security network.

Afzal (2020) engaged interdisciplinary approach to assess the linkage between education and Boko Haram. The study adopted triangulation research approach with reliance on public opinion survey data, interviews conducted with students, education officials, journalists and practitioners in the field of countering extremism, study of textbooks and curricula and a review of the broader historical narratives in the country. Findings from the study showed insurgents terrorist, insurgents and bandits are mostly education averse and sees nothing wrong in the disruption of western education of which they do not believe in and seen already as imposed cultures on their belief. Analysis showed that support for Boko Haram in the north does not fall linearly with education. Nigeria's northern citizenry requires a more representative education system that can both accommodate its religiosity and that can boost its educational as well as employment prospects. Study was a country wide study while this study focuses on Niger State and impact of banditry on human security.

Ezinwa and Ezedinachi (2019) analysed highway banditry in contemporary Nigeria with expose on how very few parts of Nigeria are exempted from the menace of highway banditry, robbery and other violent acts. Study identified no fewer than 133 highways across the six-geopolitical zones in Nigeria as major flash points for banditry, kidnapping and other related vices. The study employed descriptive methodology research design which relied on both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include oral information, direct observation and testimonies. Newspapers and magazine reports were also used in conjunction with official records in government publications. Findings of the study established that if one is travelling on some major highways in Nigeria, especially at night, chances are that one may be robbed, abducted, maimed or even killed by armed bandits thus disrupting life activities of citizens who cannot move as they desire. The Study uses Lagos State data hence the need to engage Niger State data in examining nature and characteristic of banditry in Niger State.

Shalangwa (2013) investigated the nature, pattern and consequences of armed banditry in the border communities Adamawa. Study employed a survey research design with in-depth interviews conducted with selected border community leaders, Police Officers and some victims of armed banditry. The quantitative data were analysed descriptively using frequencies while the qualitative data were transcribed and used to support the quantitative data. The findings on the nature, pattern and consequences of armed banditry indicated that the armed bandits attack people on the highways with military type weapons, and violently dispossess victims of their money/valuables and escape into the hills and forests. The findings indicated that, armed banditry can be linked to the influx of ex-combatants from Nigeria's neighbouring war torn countries, especially Chad, Niger and Cameroon, unemployment among youths and easy

Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (2020) employed mixed method research design to investigate the impact of attacks on education for Nigerian women and girls on schools and universities, as well as teachers, administrators, and students, wreaking havoc on an already fragile education system. The study was based on over 175 interviews, conducted in persons as well as follow-up clarification conducted by phone, Skype, and email. Findings from the study showed that Boko Haram frequently target female

students such that the impact of attacks on education on women and girls is often different from that on boys and men setting in motion a range of negative impacts such as loss of education, early marriage, early pregnancy, and stigma associated with sexual violence and children born from rape. Study was region specific and limited to effects on education of girl child and women while this study is a State study using other constructs to measure impact of banditry on human security in Niger State.

Lawal et al. (2020) engaged descriptive tools to investigate the determining factors of people's inclination of night entertainment outfits in Abuja, Nigeria. The study was quantitative in approach and has questionnaire as its main tool of data collection. A total 100 respondents were involved in the study. The data collected were analyzed, interpreted in simple percentage. Findings of the study revealed that challenges encountered in social life and night entertainment include harassment by the law enforcement agents (36%), stigmatization on the part of the general populace (22%) and occasional disturbance due to unruly behaviour of some patrons (30%). Study was conducted in Abuja is limited to social security while present study extends to nature and pattern, measures by governments and community to measure the impact of armed banditry on human security in Niger State

WANEP (2020) investigated armed banditry in the North-West part of Nigeria. The study employed thematic research design. Results of findings revealed that banditry disrupted all feasible lifestyle activities in the communities with a negative impact on young boys and girls, as school activities in vulnerable areas were disrupted. The few existing schools were unable to operate properly for fear of kidnap, as such parents prevented their children from attending schools thus paralyzing social life of numbers of communities. Study submitted that the dwindling income of local farmers and other vulnerable groups especially women, also affect their capacity to support children's education and household income. The study conducted in North West region was not a state specific study with scope also limited to effects of banditry and kidnapping on social life activities while present study extends variables to cover distrust in formal security, prevalence in informal security to measure effects of banditry and kidnapping on human security.

Alao et al. (2019) employed triangulation research design to evaluate effect of violence on food security in Benue State. The study adopted mixed method, using qualitative and quantitative approaches with reliance on secondary data. Result from the study established that violence was negatively significantly correlated with sorghum production alone out of ten food crops examined in Benue State contrary to general perception, thus there was no significant relationship between food production in Benue State. Study submitted that food insecurity in Nigeria was beyond herdsmen/farmers' violence. This study was done with Benue State data hence there is the need for this study to explore Niger State data to measure impact of banditry on food security, education security, economic security social security far beyond the constructs used in the Benue's study,

Okoli and Okpaleke (2014) investigated the phenomenon of banditry in relation to contemporary crisis of public safety in Nigeria. The study employed exegesis of relevant secondary sources; the study asserted that banditry creates an atmosphere of mental siege arising from public feeling of insecurity. And this further compound social risks. The study established that banditry constitutes a serious threat to Nigeria's public safety and, by extension, national security. The study submitted that national productivity will keep nose diving should the unabated occurrence of banditry and kidnapping remain unchecked in the nation. A country wide study with scope limited to effect of banditry on social life activities hence the need for this

present study to be state specific and to extend measurable variables on effects such prevalence of informal security networks, economic loss as effects of kidnapping and banditry on human security in Niger State.

Musa et al. (2018) engaged mixed method research design to examine the tourism potential of Gurara Waterfalls in Niger State. The study employed questionnaires, interviews, site analysis checklist and observation for primary sources of data collection, alongside Niger state ministry of lands and housing, internet, Google earth technology and Niger state culture and tourism corporation as secondary data collection. Findings from the study SWOT analysis revealed that insurgency and banditry can greatly slowed down the social economic and tourism potential of Gurara waterfall which will negatively impact on the livelihood of the host community. Study was on social potential of waterfall while this study extends to other constructs beyond social security to include government measures, community measures, to show the impact of banditry on human security in Niger State

Ngwama (2014) critically examined the new wave of crime and relative impact on the Nigerian labour market. The finding of the study revealed that the incessant wave of kidnapping aggravate massive unemployment and creating unfriendly environment for economic development. Study established that bandits' activities, crime and criminalities negatively affect the productivity of diligent workers as it raises fear concerning the working place likewise his leisure place while even places of spiritual activities are not exempted from attacks and kidnapping as curtailed by the rampaging kidnappers and bandits. This study is a country wide work with scope limited to effects of banditry on social life activities hence the need for the present study to be state specific and to extend measurable variables on effects of banditry on human security in Niger State

Theoretical Framework

The Queer Ladder Theory

The queer ladder theory (QLT) was influenced by an American sociologist, Daniel Bell (1919-2011), who coined the idea of 'queer ladder' in an effort to explain the instrumental essence of organized crime as a desperate means of economic empowerment and social climbing. This theoretical perspective has since fertilized into a popular theoretical framework widely used in contemporary crime studies. The basic assumptions of QLT can be highlighted thus that organized crime is an instrumental behavior; it is a means to an end and an instrument of social climbing and/or socio-economic advancement. It is a means to accumulate wealth and build power (Okoli & Orinya, 2013).

Often ascribed to this theory is the notion that organized crime thrives in contexts where the government's capacity to dictate, sanction and deter crime is poor; where public corruption is endemic; and where prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities are slim. Under these circumstances, the incentive to indulge in crime is high, while deterrence from criminal living is low. In other words, the benefits of committing a crime surpass the costs and/or risks. This creates ample pretext and motivation for criminal impunity and franchise. Applied to the analysis of this paper, QLT would enable one to come to terms with the prevalence of organized crime and sundry acts of criminality in Nigeria.

The phenomenon of banditry in Nigeria has been driven by criminal quest for economic accumulation in an environment that more or less condones and conduces crimes. This has been worsened by the prevailing socioeconomic malaise and concomitant livelihood crisis in the country. The apparent lethargy of relevant government agencies to ensure efficient punishment of crime in Nigeria has all the more complicated and

accentuated the problem. Necessary fallout of this is prevalence of criminal impunity. The idea of ‘ladder’ in QLT denotes untoward pattern of social mobility. In effect, those who take to organized crime, such as banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling do so as a desperate means of social climbing (mobility). The adoption of the theory for the purpose of this discourse is informed by its analytical utility in providing insights into the socio-political foundations of organized crime, prominent among which is kidnapping, in developing nations.

Methodology

This study focuses on Niger State, in the North Central geopolitical region of Nigeria whose population is 5,556,200 (Niger State Ministry of Information, 2021). The population of this study is large finite, hence this study employs Taro Yamani sampling technique. The study purposively choose banditry hotbeds in six LGAs of Kontagora and Mariga LGAs which fall under Niger North senatorial district, Gbako and Lapai LGAs areas falls under Niger South senatorial district while Rafi and Shiroro LGAs are situated in Niger East senatorial district. The study target respondents are bandit victims and families (identified by Police reports and Ward head), clerics, farmers, herders, youth leaders, Traditional leaders, law enforcement agents, transporters, public servant particularly teachers and school administrators, farmers, vigilante groups, within these locations.

Table 1: Study Targets Population

Niger State LGA	Senatorial District	Population Projection	Sampled Size
Kotangora	Niger North	213,500	60
Mairiga	Niger North	280,400	78
Lapai	Niger South	164,400	46
Gbako	Niger South	178,200	50
Rafi	Niger East	261,500	73
Shiroro	Niger East	331,100	93
Target Population Total		1,429,100	400

Source: Authors Compilation, 2021.

The mathematical demonstration of arriving at the sample size using the Taro Yamane method is:

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

Where

n = sample size

N = population under study

e = margin error (5% margin error is used in this study)

Given that the target population of the study is 1,429,100, the sample size shall be

$$n = 1,429,100 / [1 + 1,429,100 (0.05)^2]$$

$$n = 1,429,100 / [1 + 1,429,100 (0.0025)]$$

$$n = 1,429,100 / 3,574.75$$

$$n = 399.78$$

Therefore, the sample size is 399.78 respondents. For convenience, the sample size of four hundred (400) was adopted, to cut across two most impacted local government areas under each of the senatorial districts of Niger State.

Research Questions One: How Nature and character of banditry affect food security in Niger State.

Nature of Banditry

4=Strongly Agreed (SA); 3=Agreed (A); 2=Disagreed (D); 1=Strongly Disagreed (SD)								
	QUESTIONNAIRE	SA	A	D	SD	Std Dev	Mean	Total
1	Armed bandits are combinations of locals and foreigners	161 (40 %)	193 (49 %)	33 (8%)	13 (3%)	0.705 24	3.286 5	400
2	Armed bandits are mainly in remote location	114 (29 %)	199 (49 %)	31 (8%)	56 (14 %)	0.947 52	2.945 3	400
3	Unchecked activities of armed banditry on cattle rustling in Niger State allows access to arms	106 (27 %)	150 (38 %)	91 (23 %)	53 (12 %)	1.173 64	2.200 5	400
4	Collection of taxes and fines from traders by armed bandits is on the increase	145 (36 %)	202 (50 %)	35 (9%)	18 (5%)	0.741 34	3.213 5	400
5	Raiding and kidnapping of students and teachers in Niger State is big business now	142 (36 %)	208 (52 %)	30 (8%)	20 (4%)	0.742 82	3.208 3	400
6	Bandits excuse victims on religious and tribal ground during their operations in Niger State	10 (4%)	6 (2%)	124 (30 %)	260 (64 %)	0.955 04	1.833 3	400

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

The majority of the respondents totaling 354 out of 400 respondents indicated that the Armed banditry in their domain is a combination of locals assisted by foreigners from neighbouring countries while only 11% of the respondents dissented in views. This position shows that the neighbouring bandits through the porous border from the Northeast are in alliance in aggravating banditry in Niger State. 78% of the total respondents shared a common ground that banditry is prevalent in the remote areas when compared with outlawry in the metropolis. This could further corroborates respondents' views that law enforcement officers are more in the metropolis than in remote part of Niger State.

The Unchecked activities of armed banditry on cattle rustling in Niger State is believed to be a driver to craze for arms and ammunitions, this position is widely supported by 256 of the 400 respondents while only 35% of the respondents believe otherwise. Rustles Cattle from neighbouring countries taken to the southwest through Niger State are hardly traceable since Niger State also share boundary with both Kwara and Oyo States. 86% of the respondents submitted that there is an increase of taxes, fines and market levies from traders by armed bandits is on the increase. Though, this view was not shared by 14% of respondents totaling 53 respondents.

350 respondents submitted that raiding and kidnapping of students and teachers in Niger State is big business now as most schools are remotely located and therefore vulnerable to attacks. Niger State with a large landmass affords bandit shelter to disappear easily. This position was contradicted by 12% of the total respondents.

To show that bandits in Niger state are purely criminals whose activities are not ideological nor tailored along religion nor tribal line, 384 respondents submitted that bandits don not excuse their victims on religious and tribal ground during their operations in Niger State. Only 16respondents thought otherwise. The mean value of all the questions raised are more than the standard deviation values, this shows that the variable is not widely dispersed from the mean, because the standard deviation is less than the mean value.

Most of those involve in banditry in our communities are also going to Zamfara to do mining or helping in recruitment into Boko Haram. They live big and atimes we are safer not to report them as they are bigger than the law here (Respondents, 2022).

Research Question Two: How Armed banditry influences Human Security in Niger State?

Effects of armed banditry on Human Security								
	QUESTIONNAIRE	SA	A	D	SD	Std Dev	Mean	Total
1	Armed banditry attacks discourages commuters from routes thereby closing down business activities	258 (65%)	110 (28%)	24 (6%)	8 (2%)	0.70647	3.5469	400
2	Mechanised farming companies are grounded to insecurity of armed banditry	126 (32%)	239 (60%)	12 (3%)	23 (5%)	0.74018	3.1458	400
3	Armed banditry affects food availability in Niger State	255 (64%)	125 (31%)	9 (2%)	11 (3%)	0.66768	1.4427	400
4	Armed banditry influences social lifestyles of people in Niger State	268 (66%)	114 (29%)	12 (3%)	6 (2%)	0.48508	1.3099	400
5	Tourist activities are affected by armed banditry in Niger State	171 (43%)	159 (40%)	48 (12%)	22 (5%)	0.83532	1.8177	400
6	Armed banditry attacks slow down education activities in Niger State	205 (51%)	129 (32%)	56 (14%)	10 (3%)	0.79062	3.1094	400

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

368 of the total 400 respondents agreed that armed banditry attacks discourages commuters from routes passing through Niger State particularly Night journey thereby closing down business activities on impacted corridor with only 8% of total respondents not sharing such view. The view that shows that economic security of is grossly affected could be seen in the position taken by 365 respondents who asserted that mechanised farming companies are grossly grounded to insecurity of armed banditry and this further constrict the ability of labourers to earn living.

Effects of banditry on tourism and education was grossly affected slowing down both economic and education security of residents in the State. This position was shared by 330 respondents and 334 respondents on insecurity in tourism and education respectively. While only 70 and 66 respondents disagreed that insecurity has not negatively affected the two vital industries. The mean value of all the questions raised are more than the standard deviation values, this shows that the variable is not widely dispersed from the mean, because the standard deviation is less than the mean value.

Our children's education is negatively affected by this bandits and cost of security provision for people that comes to Kanji Dam or our Games reserve has made most

companies to stay away. Our ability to earn extra income is affected. People don't do ceremony except they go to big city (Respondents, 2022).

Discussion of Findings

The findings from hypothesis one is that lack of ideology but criminality is at the core of banditry activities in Niger State. By this result we accept the alternate which states that nature and character of armed banditry has significant effect on food security in Niger State and reject the null hypothesis. It indicates that influence of economic gains and social affluence or status drives banditry in Niger State. This finding is consistent with the findings in previous works of Nahuche (2022); Mungadi et al (2020); Ladan and Matawalli (2020); Afzal (2020); Ezinwa and Ezedinachi (2019); Shalangwa (2013) whose studies did not establish ideological pattern but pure criminality in banditry, an outlawry engaged as a way to get rich quick.

The result from hypothesis two submits that armed banditry has significant effect on human security in Niger State. The rationale for this finding could be that all constructs of human security are grossly violated by the menace of banditry. Insecurity in public places, education insecurity economic insecurity enthroned as ventures into tourism, agribusinesses are folding us under fear of insecurity. By this result we therefore reject the null and accept the alternate hypothesis that armed banditry has significant effect on Human Security in Niger State. The finding is in tandem with the findings in the previous works of Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (2020); Lawal et al. (2020); WANEP (2020); Alao et al. (2019); Okoli and Okpaleke (2014); Musa et al. (2018); Ngwama (2014) whose previous work established that banditry negatively aggravate human security from public insecurity, economic insecurity, tourism and educational insecurity

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study concludes that banditry in Niger State is driven by porous border in the Northeast, proximity to artisanal mining in the Northwest and terror cells in the Northeast and that banditry as seen displayed in Niger State is purely without ideology but criminality.

The study also conclude that disconnect between government and the citizenry gives expression to bandits whose effrontery could be seen in collection of tax and levies due to the absence of government.

Based on the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made;

- a. The study recommends that tackling corruption at all tiers of government could mitigate against the get-rich-quick syndrome, as tackling corruption could lead to equitable distribution of wealth. While community leaders should be further empower to play roles in assessment of the performance of officers deployed into their jurisdiction.
- a. The study also recommends that government reinforce the country's border patrol system particularly against gun running (small arms and light weapons) and illegal immigrants whose activities aggravate banditry in the Niger State

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