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Influence of demographic factors on perceptions of terrorism and counterterrorism strategies in northeast Nigeria

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Abstract
This study investigated the influence of demographic factors on perceptions of terrorism and counterterrorism strategies in Northeast Nigeria, focusing on age and educational status as key variables. This study decomposed demographic factors on perception into age difference public perception and educational status difference public perception as an influence of terrorism in Northeast Nigeria. Data were collected from respondents across the region and analyzed to determine the relationship between these demographic factors and perceptions of terrorism. Findings revealed no significant relationship between age and public perception of terrorism, indicating that age does not substantially influence how individuals perceive terrorism and counterterrorism strategies. However, educational status demonstrated a significant impact, confirming that higher levels of education positively shape public understanding and attitudes toward terrorism and counterterrorism strategies. Based on these findings, the study recommended that the Federal Government, Northern Development Commission, Governors, and Local Government Chairmen should prioritize strengthening education-based counterterrorism efforts. This includes implementing curricula that incorporate peace education and fostering resilience in communities with lower literacy levels. Additionally, the study advocates for age-inclusive counterterrorism strategies that actively engage youths in peacebuilding initiatives while leveraging the experience of older generations as mediators and community ambassadors. These approaches aim to address public perception gaps and enhance the effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts in Northeast Nigeria.

Keywords: Age difference perception, Counterterrorism Strategies, Educational Status Perception, Lone Wolf Terrorism

Introduction

Undoubtedly, terrorism and insurgency are global household word as there is no nation that is completely an exception from its devastating effect. War, terrorism and other forms of transnational political violence are in many ways more threatening today than ever before as casualties have been on increase. It is however difficult to evolve a single definition for the term “terrorism” (Gupta, 2020). The difficulty emanates from the lack of consensus or unified perspective among nations or scholars as to what could be regarded as terrorist act. Hence, terrorism has been described variously as both a tactic and strategy; a crime and a holy duty; a justified reaction to oppression and inexcusable abomination since it is a function of whose point of view is being represented (Lawanson, 2024).

Indeed, the worldwide manifestation of terrorism and insurgency has been evident not only in Africa, but also in Nigeria. With particular reference to Nigeria, the phenomenon has found expression in the emergence of Boko Haram (BH), Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP), and lately the Lukarawas insurgency

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which summarily predates the year 2001. And since its advent, the sectarian insurgency has wrecked immense havoc in the country, especially the usage of explosive and fire arms with gruesome and fatal consequence. Boko Haram and it likes insurgency have brought stampede and set back to Nigeria socially, economically, and politically, especially in north-eastern Nigeria - particularly Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States (Adamu & Gana, 2019).

The alarming level of terrorists' attacks in North-Eastern Nigeria and in different parts of the Country has left unpalatable consequences for the nation's socio-economic and political development (Ewetan, 2013). To address the threats to national security and combat the increasing waves of crimes, the Federal Government of Nigeria comntinualy recorded spike in Defence budget even as the National Assembly passed the anti-terrorism act (Ewatan, 2013). In 2018, presidential was given for the purchase of more equipment for the military, worth $1 billion. This was revealed Wednesday 15th April by the Minister of Defence, Mansur Dan Ali, while speaking with journalists at the end of a security meeting chaired by the president (Tukur, 2018)

Amidst the deteriorating security situation in the country, Nigeria is also confronted with daunting social, economic and political developmental challenges. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty, high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate social and physical infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Ewatan, 2013). There is a general consensus in the contemporary literature that security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development in all ramifications (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2007).

The perception of the public toward terrorism has been seen to have affected Nigeria political, economic and social insecurity of which encompasses all developmental goals and issues being the root of the issue and the solution. Addressing issues of terrorism is crucial in order to execute successful developmental projects. As a goal, it is believed that every country should aspire to reach a point of security by protecting its citizens from structural violence, crime and social insecurity. Indeed, without the safety of citizens, all plans for development, whether economic, political or social, will definitely fail. Terrorism is a phenomenon that is bedeviling Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States, and affects their policies and development. Any nation striving towards development must reduce the frequency of crime to the barest minimum (Ewetan, 2013).

Terrorism is the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear for bringing about political change. All terrorist acts involve the use of violence. These acts are committed to non- state armed actors. Terrorists attempt not only to sow panic but also to undermine confidence in the government and political leadership of their target area. Terrorism is therefore designed to have psychological effects that reach far beyond its impact on the

immediate victims or object of an attack. Terrorism is one of the major challenges facing education, most especially for females and people of tender age as they perceive terrorism more dangerous. Negative influence of terrorism is perceived more obvious in people of low educational and economic status than their higher educational and economic counterparts. In most cases, communities, under serious terrorists attack are devoid of school activities; sometimes the schools are either burnt or shut down (Okoli, 2014).

In the world today, terrorism is now one of the major challenges facing education, most especially, girl-child education. Boko Haram (which means western education is forbidden), to them according to the sharia law, women or girls are not entitled to education, which goes contrary to Universal Basic Education Policy. The 1984 Universal declaration of Human Rights states that every person has a right to education. In 1990 also, the world conference on education for all (EFA) which was held in Jomtien, Thailand declared among others that every person shall be able to benefit from educational opportunities designed to meet their basic learning needs. However, in as much as the two declarations do not have exclusions of exemption, the girl child, especially in the third world countries are to be their least beneficiary (Abayomi, 2008).

Statement of the Problem

Series of bombing by BH sect have been carried out as well as taking hostage of innocent citizens, even as the United Nations building in Abuja was not spared in the bombing spree. It is inevitable that public perception on the influence of terrorism has been felt seriously on our politics, economic and on the minds of the populates and this is more felt in unsophisticated mono-cultural low-income economies than they would be felt in highly advanced diversified industrial economies.

Education system in Nigeria, especially in the north-eastern part has been under disruption since 2001 by the set of terrorists named Boko Haram. This group of terrorists has become a threat to many homes and especially on school girls, and has eaten deep into our education. The hostility seems to have gone beyond religious and political coloration. Several attempts have been made by the government to curb this menace but it keeps persisting. Failure of tiers of government to engage mobile technology and radio programs to disseminate counterterrorism information to populations with lower literacy levels. The paucity of developed apps or platforms that educate and engage communities in discussions about terrorism and security. This gross absence could be seen in the emergence of terrorism lone wolve from Northeast Nigeria

Hypotheses

H_{01}: Age difference of public perception has influence on terrorism in Northeast, Nigeria.

H_{02}: Educational status difference of public perception has influence on terrorism in Northeast, Nigeria.

Literature Review

History of Terrorism in Nigeria

Nigeria, the giant of African continent has been a relatively peaceful, multicultural, dynamic and progressive nation that is blessed with human and natural resources, which paved ways for many opportunities for its citizens and foreigners to live in harmony from the colonial era, to the inception of Nigeria independence on October 1, 1960 to year 2000 where the country started experiencing the strange and global trend of terrorism, insurgency which led to the gruesome killings of innocent Nigerians, carried out by an insurgent group called Boko Haram (Fatima & Oloweselu, 2015).

Abiye, (2011) noted that domestic terrorism arose in Nigeria because of emergent militant groups took advantage of governments' inefficient action and inactions in dealing with the fundamental elements of nationhood such as internal security, resource control, injustice, corruption, ethnicity, sycophancy, favoritism, over lordship and marginalization. These factors have made terrorism to be ethnicized in Nigeria. Currently the nations is witnessing high spate of insecurity especially in the northern Nigeria by a group of terrorists known as Boko Haram.

The Jama'atu Ahlus-Summah Lid-da wai Jihad popularly known as Boko Haram is a strong pseudo-Islamist terrorist group which has its base in existence since 2001 but did not become popular until 2009 when they participated actively in the sectarian violence which occurred in the northern Nigeria. The name Boko Haram is an Hausa statement, which upon translated into English mean "western education is sinful". This group is opposed to everything that is of western origin, more especially western education; its ideologies and system. Fatima and Olowoselu (2015) noted further that since 2009, Boko Haram has disrupted educational system in the north-eastern Nigeria with huge negative effect on girl education. The group dislike girls attending schools and also committed criminal offences ranging from kidnapping of school girls, killing of teachers, religious leaders both in Christianity and Islamic faith; they have unleashed fear in the minds of every Nigerians lining in the region. There is massive destruction of school activities in the north-eastern Nigeria. In recent past, they used local girls to carry out mindless bombing of major central market, shopping mall, cinema halls and bus stations. They are also involved in murdering of traditional rulers and prominent citizens of north-eastern Nigeria. Abduction of school girls, the elderly and female teachers were also common in their recent styles of operations.

Boko Haram has displaced over one million people in north-eastern Nigeria (NEMA, 2015). It also becomes a threat to the entire country. Their activities have crippled the socio-economic activities between Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger Republic and Republic of Chad and many other developed countries. Many Nigerian

citizens residing in Adamawa State, Borno State and Yobe were currently internally displaced (NCRM, 2015). The Boko Haram insurgency in the north-eastern region of Nigeria has slowed down the nations' abilities of achieving the Millennium Development Goals project (MDGs), Education for All (EFA) and as well as Nigeria vision 2020 programmes. The senseless insurgent attacks have negative impact on socio-cultural values of the people of north-eastern region and well-being of other foreign nationals (Olowoselu, 2014). Presently, economic activities are low in the region, as foreign expatriate are relocating to other regions in Nigeria due to the increasing security crisis with the mindless bombings perpetrated by the insurgent, most schools have been closed in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states (Fatima & Olowoselu, 2015).

In contemporary times, the world has witnessed a resurgence of terrorism. The activities of terrorists have tended to threaten global peace and induce fear in the minds of the people. It is no longer news to the global community that Nigeria is currently under the scourge of terrorism. Since the start of the current democratic governance, the reality in many parts of the globe remains a poignant reminder since most of the factors that have triggered their upheaval resonate in Nigeria on a daily basis. That Nigeria is under the siege of terrorist is an acceptable fact. Be that as it may, it is pertinent at this point to state that there is plethora of poignant and longstanding issues that has paved way for terrorist activities in Nigeria. Until these issues are dealt with, the type of terrorism Nigerians are already exposed to (where the terrorists are prepared to die as well) will continue to be experienced. The contemporary Nigeria has become a theatre of genocide, bloodshed and insecurity over the past five years due to the carnage activities or terrorists groups. Terrorists of various groups and camps unleash havoc on the Nigerian populace, however, the most noticeable and deadly are the Boko Haram sect and Niger Delta Militants.

Therefore, it is no longer news that the recent events in Nigeria have indicated an emerging security trend in the form of terrorism and terrorist group attacks. The distortion and deliberate manipulation of data about these acts of terrorism in contemporary Nigeria call for intellectual efforts to objectively discuss, analyze and create a database on this orgy (Adora, 2010). In Nigeria, the upsurge of terrorism engineered by Boko Haram poses grave security challenges to the nation, and summons on the part of the law and security agencies a synergy of strategies to combat the situation. The terrorist acts of the Boko-Haram since 2009 have created a state of palpable fear in Nigeria and beyond, while the helpless posture of governments is worrisome. Nigeria currently faces security and developmental dilemma with the crucible of terrorism largely enveloped in the foreign policy perspective with neighbours (Akpomera, & Omoyibo, 2013).

Nigeria is not a stranger to Islamic radicalism, having experienced the activities of the extremist Maitatsine sect movement that became violent in the early 1980s. The Yan Tatsine (followers of Maitatsine) was actually a quasi-Muslim fringe group that preached Islamic doctrines that were contrary to the teachings of the

orthodox Islamic and societal leadership. Muhammadu Marwa Maitatsine, the leader of the sect, was a Muslim scholar from Marwa town in northern Cameroon who migrated to Kano in Nigeria (Danjibo,2010).

The Boko Haram Islamic extremism had been a localized sect in Borno State, in the north-eastern zone of Nigeria since 2001, when its leader, 32-year-old Mohammed Yusuf, started propagating radical views that were antagonistic and derogatory of orthodox Islamic practices, formal education and modern public institutions. The two key words of the movement translate thus: "Boko" in Hausa language, means western or foreign, while (Haram" is an Arabic derivative, meaning forbidden, which surmises its key ideology and philosophy that western education is a sin (Attoh, 2012).

The year 2009 was a watershed for Boko Haram, with violence erupting in July, leading to the destruction of the mosque headquarters of the sect leaders by Nigerian military. Yusuf was captured by the soldiers, handed over to the state police officers, but extra-judicially killed in police captivity. The consequent violent revolt by the Boko Haram sect members, now directed by the new leader, Abubakar Mohammed Shekau as at the time of filling this report led to over 3,500 people being internally displaced, 264 children orphaned, 392 women widowed, 28 policemen killed, several police stations razed, over 700 inmates forcefully released, especially the sect members from the Bauchi prisons and 109 killed in bomb explosions near the Mogadishu Barracks in Abuja (Onuoha, 2014).

Since 2009, Boko Haram has crept into the front-burner of security, political and religious concerns in Nigeria. According to the United States department's global report on terrorism (2011), Nigeria ranked 2nd with 593 deaths in 2011 from terrorist killings on the African continent, second to only the failed state of Somalia. However, on the global level, Nigeria was placed 5th in the ranking of casualties.

Since 2011, the crescendo of terrorism has heightened with the private home of the vice-president, Namadi Sambo in Zaria, Kaduna State fire bombed and policemen killed, as well as Sokoto the seat of the Sultan, head of Nigerian Muslim faithful, rocked with several bombs, destroying police building (Akowe & Adeyemi, 2012). The erstwhile unpopular national phenomenon of suicide bombing have suddenly become dominant in the country, with several attacks on the elected political leaders and traditional rulers in the north-eastern region of Nigeria; the nation's capital, Abuja; the commercial city of Kano in North-western axis and formerly serene Plateau state in north-central region.

The international community grieved as suicide bombing rocked the United Nations Office Complex in Abuja, with fatalities on August 26th, 2011; the national headquarters of the Nigeria police force on June 16th, 2011; and St Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger state, on Christmas day killing innocent worshippers (Olalekan, 2012). These are aside from the spate of bombings of several other churches, public infrastructures

and civilian gathering in Kano, Kaduna, Okene, and other local government councils in the northern parts of the country (Akpomera, & Omoyibo, 2013).

Contemporary terrorism in Nigeria is a latent function of prolonged failure of the Nigerian state to deliver purposeful good governance. when the federal state and local governments steal all the money allocated for building schools, hospitals, industries, etc. the greater percentage of the citizenry especially the youths are denied good education, employment and good health. These youths are therefore affected socially, psychologically and economically. Frustrations, dejection and hopelessness remain a day-to-day occurrence in their lives (Adams, 2012).

Thus, the greatest security challenge facing president Goodluck Jonathan's administration is the imposing impunity of terrorist activities of the Boko Haram, an Islamic fundamentalist based in northern Nigeria. It is one record that between January 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 Nigeria has witnessed over fifty cases of bomb blasts across the country with a casualty figure of over 600 people dead, and many people injured, talk-less of millions of naira worth of property destroyed. It was also revealed that there are foreign militias from Somalia, Chad, Sudan and other Islamic countries in Borno state (Oyeniyi, 2011). Book Haram affront of government has an underlying latent functions which has made government seen weak in tackling the menace.

Book Haram has intensified its operation in the north-east of Nigeria despite the state of emergency that was declared by the federal government in the three states in the northern region where Boko Haram activities are concentrated. It is posited that Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Udda'awati wal Jihad, better known as Boko Haram is an Islamic terrorist group that has a strong operational base in the north-east of Nigeria. The ideology of the sect, according to them is to bring to an end the secular system of government and introduce sharia law in Nigeria (Eme & Ibietan, 2012). However, cook did not subscribe to the notion that the Boko Haram's aim is to Islamize Nigeria through the introduction of sharia law. According to him, the foot soldiers of the sect are disgruntled youths who have been paid by unscrupulous northern politicians to cause mayhem in the country because of their selfish ambitions (Cook, 2011). There is this assumption from the southern part of Nigeria, where the incumbent president comes from that the activities of the sect was more intensified because of the emergence of the current president who is a southerner.

The high rate of poverty, unemployment and political corruption has been blamed on the elongation of the conflict. Most of the foot soldiers of Boko Haram are youths that are frustrated because they lack employment, income and have been disdained by politicians after being used by them for their elections victory (Onuoha, 2014). The authors asserted that the youths are enlisted into Boko Haram because of the

prevalence of poverty in the north. The poverty profile of Nigeria that was released in 2011 by the National Bureau of Statistic (NBS) indicated that the northern region has more poor people than people in the south. Aside the killings, kidnapping and bombing by the sect, their activities constitute a hindrance to the socio-economic development of the north east where their operation is focused and Nigeria as a whole (Odita & Akan, 2014).

Furthermore, aside the human cost in the Boko Haram insurgency, the atrocities of the sect have socio-economic implication, especially in the north east where Boko Haram has dominance. The economic, social and psychological costs of the insurgency cannot be quantified. Commercial activities in the north east have been reduced because of the unprecedented attacks by the sect. Banks, markets and shops do not open regularly due to the fear of the coordinated attacks from Boko Haram. Human capital and investors drain is hampering economic development in the north east, due to the attacks on bank, markets, parks and government departments (Okereocha, 2012). The attacks on these commercial areas have led to the migration of people to other parts of the country. Akinlade posits that:

> "The Maiduguri Monday market said to be the biggest market in the city is reported to have been seriously affected as hundred of shop owners, especially southerners are said to have closed their businesses and left the troubled city. About half of the 10,000 shops and stalls in the market were said to have been abandoned by traders who have fled the city" (Akinlade, 2012).

Apart from the migration of people who have businesses in the north east to other parts of Nigeria, foreign nationals of Chad, Cameroon and Niger are being repatriated to their home countries for what the government of Nigeria said; they constitute the membership of Boko Haram. Evidence has shown that not all the repatriated nationals of the above countries are members of Boko Haram. Definitely, those who have businesses in cities like Maiduguri, Damaturu and Yola will form part of those that are sent homes which will actually affect the economic activities in these cities. Under this situation, the economy of the north east will seriously be affected if foreign citizens who contribute large quota to the development of the north east vis-à-vis their economic activities are sent back to their countries of origin (Ovaga, 2013).

The never-ending attacks by Boko Haram in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states have a severe impact on the economic lives of people living in these areas. A case in point is that the working duration of most commercial banks in the affected areas hit by Boko Haram bombings has been reduced from eight hours to three hours (Mohammed, 2012). In Maiduguri, Borno State where the sect originated, the frequent bombings and clashes between Boko Haram and the security agents have weighed down seriously on the commercial and business activities in the city as many businesses have reportedly crumbled while many people have fled the state (Abbas, 2013).

There is already a dichotomy in the development of the northern and southern Nigeria. The poverty profile released by the National Bureau of Statistics illustrates that there is the prevalence of poverty in the north as compared to the south. It is in this data that the business day newspaper predicted that if the insecurity situation continues, development in the northern part will remain static and the gap between the north and south will broaden further (BDN, 2012). "The region needs peace and stability more than any region in the country, particularly because the region clearly is lagging behind in term of infrastructure, education and other development indices" (Ogochukwu, 2013). Prominent Nigerians who have bemoaned the economic impact of Boko Haram insurgency in north east Nigeria include the former president Good-luck Jonathan and northern governor's forum.

Economic affairs in the north is already depleting due to a massive departure of people and financial institutions from the northern region. And if the government delays in implementing comprehensive plans to tackle insecurity from its roots, then not only will the northern region be economically desolated, but the country as a whole risks losing billions of dollars in foreign direct investment. The business activities of telecommunication operators have not been left out from the attacks of Boko Haram. For instance, some telecom masts belonging to some major mobile telephone operators were destroyed by Boko Haram, and the banning of telephone services by the military affected the income generation of some of the mobile phone operators (Obaremi, 2014).

Just as the economic implications of Boko Haram atrocities cannot be quantified, the social costs are enormous. The church, school, market, clinic and mosque are potential targets of Boko Haram. For example, in April 2014, a federal government girls' college was attacked in Chibok, Borno State which subsequently led to the abduction of over 250 female students. Attacks on these social places have prevented people from going to the places. Some students have stopped going to school, while others have been transferred to the southern part of the country to continue their education. Christians are afraid to go and worship in the church on Sundays due to the fear of being attacked by the sect.

Same for the Muslim faithful who abandon their worship centers because of Boko Haram attacks. The markets have become deserted. The National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) that was created by the government after the end of Nigerian civil war to foster unity among Nigeria is under threat due to Boko Haram attacks. The NYSC directorate posted 4,171 corps members to Adamawa state, 1041 of the corp members had to abandon their national duty due to the precarious security situation (Ovaga, 2013). Some parents from the southern part of the country have protested vehemently against the posting of their children to the north east. Aside the socio-economic implications, the human cost is more worrisome. More than

10,000 people have been killed many people maimed, and women have been kidnapped and raped. These have left the family of the dead, the injured, the raped and the kidnapped in agony.

In a nutshell, most of the family members of Boko Haram victims are going through a traumatized period. Many have left their homes and over 650 thousand Nigerians have been displaced (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCH).

Rational Choice Theory of Terrorism

The rational choice theory of terrorism (Cornish and Clarke) assumes that terrorist acts usually emanate from rational, calculated, conscious decisions. These decisions represent an optimal strategy to fulfill the socio-political goals of these perpetrators. In other words, according to this theory, terrorism might not represent pathological or illogical behaviour but, could, represent the best means to fulfill personal needs in some circumstances.

This theory is often applied to predict the utility of various policies. That is, this theory can be applied to ascertain whether, for example, defensive policies – such as metal detectors and other processes that increase the costs of terrorist attacks and curb the likelihood of success or proactive measure such as attempts to stymie resources or sponsors are likely to be effective. In some sense, the rational choice theory of terrorism represents a reaction against the assumption that terrorism represents a psychopathology. That is, in the popular media, terrorists are often assumed to be "insane" or "psychopaths". Although research conducted to assess the evidence tends to indicate that terrorists seldom fulfill the criteria of psychological disorders.

Abadie (2006) conducted a study to find out the causes and the influence of terrorism on the socio-economic and political development. He found that terrorism is attributed to low educational status-in which case low educational status accounted for 57.6%. He further found that 66% level of low educational status negatively influence political development by 49%. Heymann (2002) conducted a study and found out that terrorism has much negative influence on educational development and also devoid foreign policy and transnational market. He empirically found that burning or shutting down of schools as a result of terrorists attack accounted for social, economic and political imbalance by 51% and absence of foreign exchange and transnational market accounted for economic instability by 53.5%

Methodology

This research adopted descriptive survey research approach. This design is suitable because the study attempted a survey and description of the public perception on the influence of age and educational status influence of terrorism in North-eastern Nigeria. Questionnaires were also administered by age and

educational status bracket of Nigerians who are between group design. A total number of 180 participants were drawn from three Local Government Areas of Borno State that Boko Haram is much prevalent.

Out of the 180, 162 questionnaires were valid. Out of which, 62 participants were drawn from Maiduguri local government, 50 participants were drawn from Gambaru - Ngala Local Government, Similarly, 50 participants were drawn from Bama Local Government all the participants that were drawn were within the age range of 20-60 years. Each of the participants had different levels of educational background, varying from SCCE, ND, NCE, HND, B.Sc, M.Sc and PhD.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of the public perception on influence of terrorism

Specific items	**Response options**	**Free**	**Per**
The current wave of domestic terrorism in the north has endangered the lives of women and children and crippled the socio-economic and political activities of the region.	Strongly agree/agree	140	86
	Disagree/Strongly disagree	22	14
	Total	**162**	**100%**
The high rate of poverty, unemployment and political corruption has been blamed on the elongation of terrorism in north east Nigeria.	Strongly agree/agree	152	94
	Disagree/strongly disagree	10	6
	Total	**162**	**100%**
Global terrorism as a socio-economic evil has a negative effect on the public perception in the North Eastern Nigeria.	Strongly agree/agree	150	93
	Disagree/strongly disagree	12	7
	Total	**162**	**100%**
The Boko Haram has created widespread tension across northern Nigeria and between various ethnic communities, interrupted commercial activities, frightens investors and generated concerns among Nigeria northern neighbours.	Strongly agree/agree	148	91
	Disagree/Strongly disagree	14	9
	Total	**162**	**100%**
The high level of terrorism has negatively affected Nigeria's foreign exchange and trans-national market.	Strongly agree/agree	154	95
	Disagree/strongly disagree	8	5
	Total	**162**	**100%**

Field Work (2020)

Table 1 revealed that in the first question, 140 participants (86%) chose strongly agree/agree which indicate that public perception on terrorism has influence in the North East of Nigeria, while 22 participants (14%) choose strongly disagree/disagree, which indicate that public perception on terrorism has no influence in the North East of Nigeria. In the second question, 152 participants (94%) choose strongly agree/agree which indicates that public perception on terrorism has influence in the North East, while 10 participants (6%) choose strongly disagree/disagree which indicate that public perception on terrorism has influence in the North East of Nigeria.

In the third question, 150 participants (93%) choose strongly agree/agree which indicates that public perception on terrorism has influence in the North East, while 12 participants (7%) choose strongly disagree/disagree which indicate that public perception on terrorism has no influence in the North East of Nigeria. In the fourth question, 148 participants (91%) choose strongly agree/agree which indicate that public perception on terrorism has influence in the North East of Nigeria, while 14 participants (9%) choose strongly disagree/disagree which indicate that public perception on terrorism has no influence in the North East of

Nigeria. In the last question, 145 participants (95%) choose strongly agree/agree which indicate that public perception on terrorism has influence in the North East while 8 participants (5%) choose strongly disagree/disagree which indicate that public perception on terrorism has influence in the North East of Nigeria.

Gender

		Gender	Age	Religion		Edu Qual	Occupation	Marital Status	Length of stay in North-east
Valid	N	162	162	162		162	162	162	162
	Missing	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Mean		1.52	32.40	1.50		3.19	2.06	1.69	3.33
Std. Dev		.501	7.840	.502		1.159	1.257	.516	.848

Education Qualification

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Primary	7	4.3	4.3	4.3
	Secondary	46	28.4	28.4	32.7
	ND/NCE	41	25.3	25.3	58.0
	BSC/HND	53	32.7	32.7	90.7
	M.Sc	8	4.9	4.9	95.7
	PhD	7	4.3	4.3	100.0
	Total	**162**	**100.0**	**100.0**	

Length of stay in North-east Nigeria

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	2-3 years	7	4.3	4.3	4.3
	3-5 years	19	11.7	11.7	16.0
	6-10 years	50	30.9	30.9	46.9
	Above 10 years	86	53.1	53.1	100.0
	Total	162	100.0	100.0	

T-Test

Group Statistics

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Terrorism in North East Nigeria	Male	77	62.81	14.623	1.666
	Female	85	59.47	14.107	1.530

Independent Samples Test		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Terrorism in North East Nigeria	Equal variances assumed	.035	.852	1.477	160	.142	3.335	2.258	-1.125	7.795
	Equal variances not assumed			1.474	157.123	.143	3.335	2.262	-1.134	7.803

T-Test

T-Test

Group Statistics

	Age	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Terrorism in North East Nigeria	Young	95	59.38	14.539	1.492
	Old	67	63.43	13.982	1.708

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Terrorism in North East Nigeria	Equal variances assumed	.049	.825	-1.775	160	.078	-4.054	2.283	-8.563	.455
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.788	145.596	.076	-4.054	2.268	-8.536	.428

T-Test

Group Statistics	Education Qualification	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Terrorism in North East Nigeria	Low Educational status	53	53.74	9.948	1.366
	High Educational Status	109	64.61	14.923	1.429

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Terrorism in North East Nigeria	Equal variances assumed	7.690	.006	-4.809	160	.000	-10.879	2.262	-15.346	-6.411
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.501	144.661	.000	-10.879	1.977	-14.787	-6.970

Result of Findings

Hypothesis One Testing

Hypothesis three stated that, there will be a significant difference between old and young in their perception on the influence of terrorism in the North East of Nigeria. This hypothesis was tested using Independent-sample t-test

H_{01}: Age difference of public perception has influence on terrorism in Northeast, Nigeria.
H_{02}: Educational status difference of public perception has influence on terrorism in Northeast, Nigeria.

Table 2: Mean Difference of Old and Young on Influence of Terrorism in the North-east

Variables	N	M	SD	Df	t-test	Sig.
Old	67	63.43	13.982			
				160	-1.175	0.078
Young	95	59.38	14.539			

Sig. level = 0.05

Table 2 presents the mean and standard deviation scores between old and young in their perception of terrorism in the north-east of Nigeria, where old respondents indicated a mean of 65.11 and standard deviation of 15.124, while the young respondents indicated a mean of 55.46 and standard deviation of 11.244. Further analysis revealed that, old and young respondents did not statistically significantly differed in their perception on the influence of terrorism in the north-east of Nigeria t(160) = -1.775, P> .05. In other words, the hypothesis was not confirmed in this study.

Hypothesis Two Testing

Hypothesis two stated that there will be a significant difference between people of low educational status and people of high educational status in their perception on the influence of terrorism in the North East of Nigeria. This hypothesis was tested using Independent-sample

T-test in Table 3.

Table 3: Mean Difference of People of Low and High Educational Status Perception of the Influence of Terrorism in North-East of Nigeria

Variables	N	M	SD	Df	t-test	Sig.
Low Education	53	53.74	9.948			
High Education	109	64.61	14.923	160	-4.809	0.000

Table 3 presents the mean and standard deviation scores between People of low and high educational status' perception on the influence of terrorism in the north-eastern Nigeria; where people of low education (M= 53.74, SD= 9.948) and people of high education (M= 64.61, SD= 14.923). Further analysis revealed a statistically significantly difference t(160) = -4.809, P< .05 in the perception on the influence of terrorism in the north-east Nigeria between people of low and high educational status. In other words, the hypothesis was confirmed in this study.

The first hypothesis was not confirmed as statistically significant; thus, we concluded that there is no statistically significant difference between old and young in their perception of terrorism in the North Eastern Nigeria.

Finally, the second hypothesis was confirmed as statistically significant; thus, we concluded that there is a significant difference between people of low educational status and people of high educational status in their perception on the influence of terrorism in the North Eastern Nigeria

Discussion of Findings

Age and the public perception on influence of terrorism in the North-East Nigeria.

The third hypothesis in this study did not receive confirmation as there is statistically insignificant difference between old and young in their perception on the influence of terrorism in north eastern Nigeria. The result of this study contradicts the earlier study of Okoli (2014). According to Okoli (2014), terrorism is therefore designed to have psychological effects that reach far beyond its impact on the immediate victims or object of an attack. Accordingly, Okoli (2014) posited that terrorism is one of the major challenges facing education, economic and political development most especially for people of tender age as they perceive terrorism more dangerous. However, in the earlier research, the young people had higher perception on the influence of terrorism in the North East, while in the present research; there is no statistical difference between old and young in their perception of the influence of terrorism in the North East.

The plausible explanation for this insignificant difference between old and young in their perception on the influence of terrorism in the North Eastern Nigeria may be that the act of terrorism is like death that has no respect/regard for anybody's life and may claim the lives of both old and young in almost the same way. Therefore, there may be no age difference in their perception of its influence. The plausible explanation for this insignificant difference between old and young in their perception of the influence of terrorism in the North East may also be that the act of terrorism has destroyed social and economic lives of both the old and young, and as such they may have the same level of perception.

Education and the public perception on influence of terrorism in North-East Nigeria.

The fourth hypothesis in this study was confirmed as there is statistically significant difference between people of low educational status and people of high educational status in their perception of the influence of terrorism on socioeconomic and political development of north eastern Nigeria. The finding of this research in a way supports the earlier finding of Okoli (2014). Okoli (2014) pointed out that the negative influence of terrorism is perceived and viewed more obvious in people of low educational and economic status than their higher educational and economic counterparts. In the earlier study of Okoli (2014), the people of low educational status had higher perception of the influence of terrorism on socio-economic and political development, while the present study demonstrated that, the people of higher educational status had higher perception of the influence of terrorism on socio-economic and political development. The most important thing is, there is difference in the perception.

The plausible explanation for this significant difference between people of low educational status and people of high educational status in their perception on the influence of terrorism in the North Eastern Nigeria may

be that people of high educational status, being experienced and versatile, may have the ability to predict future's influence on terrorism than their lower counterparts. Therefore, both present and future influence of terrorism may be felt in greater magnitude by the people of high educational status than people of low educational status.

Conclusion

The results of study show that there is a negative relationship between terrorism and public perception on the influence of terrorism. While Age perception did not receive confirmation educational status perception received confirmation

Recommendations

i. The Federal Government, all Northern Development Commission, Governors and LGAs Chairmen should deliberately strengthen Education-Based Counterterrorism Curriculum, peace education topics in schools to foster resilience and counter radicalization that enhance public understanding of terrorism and counterterrorism strategies, particularly in communities with lower literacy levels.

ii. The Federal Government, all Northern Development Commission, Governors and LGAs Chairmen should strategically invest in Age-inclusive Counterterrorism Strategies by promoting youth engagement in peacebuilding initiatives to reduce vulnerability to radicalization. This will entail utilising older generations as mediators or peace ambassadors, leveraging their experience and community respect..

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