



# **B**ANDITRY, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF KADUNA STATE. 2014- 2021

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## **Introduction**

**T**he relationship between democracy and human security in Nigeria ever since the return to democratic rule in 1999 has been fairly disconcerting. Topical problems along with aggressiveness, fanaticism, civil unrest and different form of militancy have made the state of affairs to a large extent greater hard. In extra recent times, the animosity resulting from horrific governance led to the emergence of recent form of lack of confidence challenges as acceded via Dambazau (2016) that, insecurity stress in Nigeria became mountainous with the introduction of seasoned-autonomy schedule, boko haram insurgency, kidnaping and never-ending militant activities inside the Niger Delta location. Discussing the sophisticated nature of the two military businesses, he described the methodological and ideological strategies of the businesses from non- secular and resourced based contexts. As religious fundamentalist, boko haram appoint guerrilla method similar to suicide terror marketing campaign, attack on police and army camps and the usage of civilian populace as human defend. within the contrary, the Niger Delta militants use kidnaping, oil bunkering, and pipeline vandalisation to sabotage the monetary sports of the country. on this context, country wide security in Nigeria requires a holistic technique, with little attention at the realist attitude of overemphasis on country wide sovereignty, towards a greater proactive human protection method.

Debate from contemporary democratic theorists along with Dryzek (2005), over exaggerated on the function of democracy, arguing that



democracy sell citizens participation in decision making, advocating strongly on the liberal democratic practices which guarantees protection of human security, rights, rule of regulation and constitutionalism. it's miles at this factor that this thesis critiqued this approach through failing to provide explanation as to why insecurity persists in Nigeria, specifically Kaduna state, notwithstanding the claim that democracy promotes peace and stability. rather, this examine argues that democracy in Nigeria is the architect of all evils connected to lack of confidence in Kaduna state and Nigeria.

Furthermore, the meaning of democracy has been well fashioned via the controversy at the function of democracy on a rustic's country wide protection with the aid of Atelhe (2014), Gwarzo (1998), and Lincoln (2008) contesting that, justification for the survival of democracy includes safety of country protection and ensuring law and order. It additionally encompasses well articulated policy framework to acquire the center value of a kingdom's country wide interest by selling and enhancing democratic standards that would ensure protection for the state and the humans. Gwarzo delivered that countrywide security is freedom from hunger, a country's potential to guard and protect itself, promote its cherished values and pastimes, and enhance the nicely-being of its citizens without always resorting to navy may.

As a country shrouded in catastrophic lack of confidence, Nigeria's safety technique calls for total re-questioning. The requirement is necessary to develop the centrality of the changeless particular capabilities of Nigeria's security approach from state -concentrated to character-targeted. Re-inspecting security inside the context of Nwolise's presentation, sun shades extra light that, the accumulation of weapons, only navy employees, financial electricity and satisfactory defence policy by means of a country, might not always provide safety for the country. In different words, it might be the most insecure country inside the world because of horrific governance and poor protection belief and practices (Nwolise, 2006).

For this reason, Nigeria's security belief and method will be with ease implemented within the doctrines of realist paradigm of sticking an excessive amount of electricity on the nation. The close to absence of public participation in securitization method is progressively becoming complicated. This study therefore wondered how elites (coverage makers) placed themselves to take the front seat even as on the manner of policy formula regarding protection in Nigeria.

### **Statement Of The Problem**

Previous studies on democracy and human protection in Nigeria have recognized numerous factors responsible for the persistent lack of confidence scenario in the united states. on this take a look at, it's far argued that, although these research endure the imprint of all of the different factors toward expertise the insecurity situation inside the us of a, the literature could be very thin at the significance of inner security as a pillar for democratic consolidation, in addition to the answer to security demanding situations in Nigeria. Hence, our conceptualisation of protection in this have a look at is bordered on human security. safety isn't always confined to national sovereignty, however it has to take human impact. consequently, the which means and translation of security in Nigeria has encompasses the meaning of human security. several elements have been located as difficult to country wide protection in Kaduna state, Nigeria. those elements will be summarised as follows; kidnapping, inequalities springing up from the differential get entry to to



profitable political, financial and social resources, unemployment, election malpractice and bitter inter birthday celebration contention, among others. in step with Nuhu (2013), between 1967 to 1970 by myself almost (2) million lives had been lost because of the Nigerian civil conflict, which changed into predominantly primarily based on regional, ethnic and religious cleavages. He suggests that from 1998 to 2003, Nigeria battled with greater than 124 riots and ethno-spiritual violence consisting of; Zaki Biam, Odi and Tiv/Jukun/Kuteb crises, Aguleri/Umuleri, and Ife/Modakek, and greater these days, the O'odua human beings's Congress, the Egbesu Boys, the Bakassi Boys, the movement for the survival of Ogoni humans and Boko Haram insurgency and armed banditry, amongst others. in opposition to this backdrop, the usa calls for a brand new method toward addressing these challenges.

### **Objectives Of The Study**

- i. To have a look at the historic context of Banditry and Democracy in Nigeria from 2016-2021
- ii. To establish the character and pattern of internal protection in Nigeria from 2016-2021
- iii. To check the reasons and nature of armed banditry in Kaduna state from 2016-2021
- iv. To determine the extent to which the incidence of armed banditry constitute hassle to individuals and authorities in Kaduna state from 2016-2021

### **Research Questions**

- i. What is the historic context of Banditry and democracy in Kaduna state Nigeria from 2016-2021?
- ii. What's the nature and sample of inner protection in Nigeria from 2016-2021?
- iii. What are the causes and nature of armed banditry in Kaduna state from 2016-2021?
- iv. How does the prevalence of armed banditry represent a hassle to individuals and government in Kaduna state from 2016-2021?

### **Significance of the Study**

This study can be of vast importance to researchers on banditry and comparable violent crimes. It was hoped that these studies could resource the numerous ranges of authorities, coverage professionals, and analysts in greedy the real reasons and effects of banditry. In addition, it will likely be of full-size price to individuals, households, corporations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and different protection and correctional companies in Nigeria inquisitive about the formulation, execution, or reformation of the criminals amongst us. Ultimately, the study could make a contribution to ultimate the distance on the lack of literature that exists on banditry, on the only hand, and different violent crimes, on the alternative hand.

### **Scope of the Study**

The researcher's essential venture could be to observe banditry as a p violent crime in Kaduna state, especially from 2010-to 2020.



### **Literature Review And Theoretical Framework**

#### **Historicizing Governance In Nigeria**

The growing desperation and quest for democracy within the international gadget are better than ever before, and the stimulus for democratic development is now institutionalized as a world cultural norm (Clark, 2012). In extra latest instances, international locations all over the international have embraced the Western concept of democracy as a dominant global ideology. With much less emphasis on ecological, cultural and socio-economic improvement, democracy engulfed substantial amount of countries from Latin the us, Pacific, Asia, and African continents. international democratic expansion cannot be unconnected with the perception that democratic concepts provide higher possibilities for “peace, human rights, geopolitical stability, and accelerated exchange and financial improvement”(Clark, 2012) . He further argues that, notwithstanding the reality that democracy promotes popular participation, safety of rights and economic growth, it introduces socio-monetary imbalance which restricted non-elites from political participation, as a consequence, affecting democratic increase.

Consistent with Knutsen (2010), exceptional motives abound on the subject of the causes, effects and that means of democracy. Derived from the eighteenth-century philosophy of democracy, he describes democratic rule as a political group with infinite desire to reach at decisions thru popular majority for the common desirable of the humans. contrary to many African groups, this definition is unsatisfactory because it lacks the conditions for contextual operationalisation of democracy in multi-cultural society like Nigeria. He delivered that democratic dividends range from corporations, people and the society at big. He further defines democracy because the “institutional arrangement for arriving at political decisions in which individuals gather the electricity to determine via a aggressive struggle for the people’s vote”. in opposition to this backdrop, democracy may be regarded as a great idea grounded within liberal democratic ideas that remodel needs and different inputs into truth. Democracy in Africa is an increasing number of being regarded as a fixed of institutions encompassing a multiparty gadget, periodic elections, legislative assemblies, constitutional governments, and peaceful changes of strength and a rule of regulation defensive the civil rights of the citizens.

#### **Human Security**

Information human safety calls for thorough investigation and understanding of the wider concept of national protection. As s contested idea, country wide security consists of various aspects of protection together with; kingdom security, environmental security, human protection, social safety, financial safety, political safety, among others. for this reason, this examine will first speak the broader context of country wide protection for better know-how of human protection. Expressions inside the twentieth Century try to outline the contested concept of country wide security show tremendously hard and difficult because of the ambiguous and contested nature of the idea of national security. the safety of any nation goes beyond mere accumulation of navy electricity, as a substitute, nation safety need to be capable to maintain up the survival of the united states through the employment of interrelated factors inclusive of economic, social, cultural, military, political and public engagement in decision making system.



### **Internal Security**

Proponents of critical security studies together with Ken sales space and Wyn Jones presented works in which they critiqued the traditional realists technique to protection research. The ones scholars use vital security studies approach as a digression from realists method to safety studies. The advocates of critical concept's expressions had been partly anchored at the Marxian philosophy that reinterprets some of the maximum crucial factors of human society. booth (2007) and Wyn (1999) observe this perspective to the field of safety research with the express mandate of providing solutions to the hassle of war, conflicts and instability in world politics. They argue that 'safety studies may be best understood as the take a look at of the conditions that make the usage of force compulsory as well as the approaches that the use of force affects people and states that engages in such conflicts and wars'. therefore, there may be need for a shift from the conventional realists approach to protection, to the human perception of safety.

In extra recent instances, there has been splendid progress in selling peace, democratic consolidation, essential human rights, monetary improvement and social in addition to cultural equality. global family members and inter and intra kingdom relation took a brand new dimension in an try and address new protection troubles together with physical violence, conflict and conquest as the primary form of international relations. the new methodological approach to deal with worrying worldwide, continental and state security issues had been underscored with the advent of diplomacy as a shape of political negotiations that located plenty emphasis on mutual monetary transaction and a brand new assemble for cultural integration (Jacob, 2016). but the try to cognizance interest on human safety for all human beings still remains an phantasm and thoroughly disrupted through chronic violence and insecurity emanating out of competition for political supremacy, markets, jobs and scarce resources, in particular within the third global international locations. Accumulation of nuclear guns remains on the increase, at the same time as ecological and environmental threats are growing by way of the day.

### **Securitisation In Nigeria**

Since the return to democratic rule in 1990, Nigeria is faced with many security demanding situations. The usa's landscape have become a theatre of war with major threats to Nigeria's safety; ethno-religious struggle(s) and Boko Haram insurgency. due to the fact that independence Nigeria still struggles with security troubles inclusive of; extended regional political agitations, Tiv rebel of 1964 and consistent navy coups. The sources of those conflicts are based totally on ethnic and non secular sentiments. in step with Nuhu (2013), between 1967 to 1970 alone nearly two (2) million lives were misplaced due to the Nigerian civil war, which was predominantly based on local, ethnic and religious cleavages. He shows that from 1998 to 2003, Nigeria battled with greater than 124 riots and ethno-religious violence consisting of; Zaki Biam, Odi and Tiv/Jukun/Kuteb crises, Aguleri/Umuleri, and Ife/Modakek, zangon kataf spiritual violence and more lately, the O'odua people's Congress, the Egbesu Boys, the Bakassi Boys, the movement for the survival of Ogoni humans and Boko Haram insurgency, amongst others.

Badmus (2005) defined Nigeria's countrywide insecurity as one characterized with the aid of ethnicity, non-secular intolerance and regionalism. He lamented over the contradictions between the essential religions that served as gear of massive destruction. This assertion confirms Marxists



factor of view that sees religion as opium to the loads. He delivered that, political elites manipulate faith to perform their missions. notwithstanding ancient antecedents that convey the two non secular businesses inside the identical geographical vicinity, there may be still absence of spiritual tolerance inside the Nigeria's polity. This phenomenon brings polarisation alongside the strains of ethnicity, faith, nepotism and despotism, with attendant implication on democracy and human protection in Kaduna nation, Nigeria (Badmus, 2005).

The nature of safety demanding situations in Nigeria has taken a brand new measurement from local to a more modern conflict. The sophisticated nature of diverse military corporations has greater security implication, as a consequence, precipitated for mobilization of extra assets and new method to security studies as a framework for evaluation. As a part of governmental effort to lessen the extent of illegal activity, Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011 changed into brought in conjunction with, installation of laptop-based Closed Circuit tv cameras (CCTV) in a few components of the u . s . , enhancement of surveillance as well as investigation of crook related offences (Onodugu, 2015). He introduced that, despite these efforts, the level of lack of confidence within the u . s . a . continues to be excessive.

#### **Nature Of Armed Banditry In Nigeria**

A discursive exploration of the works of students including; Asiwaju, (2004), Sanusi (1993) and Onah (2010), explicitly mentioned the increasing issue on problems associated with insecurity within the Northern states of Nigeria. Correspondingly, their announcement espouses convincing information that specify the arrival of lack of confidence as it pertains to armed banditry in Nigeria as because of rebels and bandits suspected to come back from neighbouring international locations. The vacancy in phrases of Nigeria's border protection, Onah, (2010) debated that, plenty of the activities centred round Nigeria's border and its neighbouring nations is responsible for the rise of safety threats within the united states. equally, the inner stripe experienced through some neighbouring nations appear to have irritated incidents of armed banditry within the border groups of Nigeria.

In spite of the demanding nature of the activities of armed bandits inside the border communities of Nigeria, the hassle has emerge as a not unusual phenomenon to many countries in Africa. If not all, but majority of African states, revel in similar challenges in responding to pass-border criminal activities because of country wide safety lapses, uncoordinated kingdom protection agencies, unsustain inter-country collaborative efforts and felony regulatory framework. ordinary of all border control coverage framework across African states is the absolute overlook of the border groups in terms of socio-financial tendencies. In most instances, there is close to absence of fundamental social facilities such that safety personnel on the borders locate it sincerely hard to discharge their responsibilities efficiently (Sanusi, 1993).

Empirical study performed by means of Chung et al (2011) provide us with a clean picture of what obtains at border groups in Nigeria dwelling a existence complete of distress and pain. The examine further argues that, no matter the significance of border communities, they benefit less each infrastructurally and otherwise. it's far narrated that, disadvantaged function of citizens of border communities coerced majority of the young people to be radicalised into exclusive criminal



sports which includes armed banditry, human trafficking, drug abuse, smuggling and piracy among others.

Springing up from the strategic forget about of border groups in phrases of socio-monetary improvement, border communities have been was areas of horrific roads, absence of fitness centers, academic establishments and even business development. eventually, those areas have additionally supplied websites for the establishment of poorly managed woodland reserves that now offer cowl and hideouts for move-border bandits (Asiwaju, 2004:52).

Against the prevailing logical proof, it could be argued that, economic underdevelopment and shortage of current infrastructural centers along border communities, serve as a fundamental factor for an increase in cases of banditry. similarly, closeness to struggle zones, insufficient felony and institutional framework as well as proactive measures are equally crucial elements answerable for the superiority of armed banditry. Aftermath of struggle regularly caused the proliferation of small fingers and mild guns in the fingers of civilians.

#### **Impact Of Armed Banditry On Individuals And Affected Communities As Victims**

The effect of attacks via armed bandits may be visible to be demanding specifically crimes including armed banditry which takes a toll on their sufferers, both in material and different losses, in addition to in social and intellectual and non secular phrases. those could be translated into cloth losses, bodily harm or death, terrorisation, regulations on freedom of movement, and even the mental worry of victimization (Odekunle, 1986).

In step with Muggah and Batchelor (2002), armed banditry can affect the deliver of coins crops, as public and business transportation to markets isn't assured, thus, farmers are compelled to abandon commercial harvests. The occurrence of such act on a big scale result to social funding often declines with wide consequences on each foreign investor confidence and distant places development assistance.

Consequentl, armed banditry will cause the closure of nearby markets or businesses inside and round these affected groups. it could also cause the diversion of routes elsewhere, thereby loosing foremost revenue and affecting the financial system of these regions. the availability of small arms and incidents of armed banditry have also been observed to have an effect on the supply chain and shipping of essential social services by means of non-governmental and governmental organizations. additionally, subject group of workers of such improvement groups, come underneath attack by using armed bandits. in keeping with Muggar and Batchelor (2002), "to keep away from regions in which there's high stage of lack of confidence, authorities and donor organizations flip to areas where the return on their funding and overall performance justify persisted investment from "effects orientated" donors."

It's also imperative to be aware that the socio-financial effect of armed banditry can't be uniform to all groups. this is due to the shape of society, the types of social controls and sample of relationships might be responsible for the presence of armed bandits in a network. In instances along with the Niger-Delta, armed banditry is a main pressure in its overall economic system and it's far seen as an important determinant of the region's destiny development.

Agboton et al (2004) cautioned that, while violence has affected all aspects of the society, the impact at the poor is the maximum intense. The wealthier segments of society have grew to become their homes into fortresses and employ the offerings of personal safety clothing.



Ginifer and Ismail (2005) additionally argued that, “the danger and real use of violence via armed groups, gangsters and robbers has led to groups presenting protection alternatives for themselves and regularly has stimulated the growth of private security services and vigilante ‘protection’ for the terrible”.

### **Poverty And Unemployment**

There had been critical troubles of poverty and unemployment that underscore the legitimacy and hegemony of democracy and security in African states that receive very little attention. In the Nigerian context, these issues have instigated many harmless residents to dedicate suicide, get concerned in lethal missions, armed theft, kidnapping, boko haram insurgency, pipeline vandalisation and oil pilfering, among others, truly to earn a dwelling. Visible on this context, this has a look at concur with El-Rufa’l (2001) who said that any authorities this is epitomized by using social vices along with corruption, deprivations, mismanagement of public fund, unemployment, misdirection of scarce sources and emptiness in ethics and moral duty, can instigate innocent citizens to get involved in all sorts of criminal sports. His narration isn't always an try and re-write history, however a confirmation of what obtains in nowadays’s present day Nigerian society. This examine consents together with his competition that over seventy percentage of (70%) of Nigerians stay beneath poverty stage. He introduced that existence expectancy at start is 51 (51) years, and over 40 percent of the Nigerian populace does now not have get admission to to energy and water. Illiteracy level is at 40 (40%) percentage, which is an interesting instance that gives clarification to the high level of radicalization of the boko haram participants. This similarly performed a critical role in proscribing the hegemony of democratic rule inside the polity with extreme implication on human safety. Consequently, democracy has did not sell the beliefs of human security as enshrined within the UN statement on human security in 2012. Borrowing from the mind of Diamond (2004), a discursive exploration in this study on the subject of the insecurity state of affairs in Nigeria reveals that the reason behind democratic and safety malfunctions in Nigeria emanates from the absence of proper management, effective management of public price range, provision of social services, roads, bridges, ports, sanitation, strength era and telecommunication. But, lack of those fundamental fundamentals of lifestyles turned into largely seen as an impediment to democracy which presents serious human protection challenges to both individuals and society at large.

### **Theoretical Framework**

There are numerous theories that explain the phenomenon of democracy and countrywide protection. These theories will be summarised as follows; structure-company idea, social agreement theory, democratic peace principle amongst others. Shape-company concept portends that kingdom marketers along with policy makers, political institutions, conventional and spiritual institutions and nation managers interact in political contestation not on the hobby of the people, but to get their pastimes included and promoted. Accordingly, they operate within the system, the usage of that as an opportunity to support their movements and preserve popularity-quo (Nuhu, 2013). Social contract idea however is one of the theoretical tactics used within the interpretation and evaluation of nature and sample of democratic gadget, commonly from the philosophical





approach of the core proponents of the theory consisting of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jean Jack Rousseau. Their assumptions are informed by means of the fact that the idea of a "legitimate legal energy is inside the idea of contract" (Patrick, 1999). They argue that an organized society desires a social agreement in a shape of contract between the residents and the government. Such social agreement gives political mandate to the country to behave on behalf of the humans.

### **Area of Study**

Kaduna state is a state in central Northern Nigeria, its capital is Kaduna. The state was created out of the old Northern region in the year 1967, which was further divided in 1987 into Kaduna and Katsina state respectively. It has an area of 46,053 km. Its inhabitants are predominantly Hausas and Gbari. And has a population of 6,006,562. The state provides a meeting point of the earliest history of Nigeria as the home of Nok culture.

### **Data Analysis And Interpretation**

The focus of this section is to analyze respondents' opinions particularly their awareness on the human security challenges in relation to Nigeria's quest for a sustainable democracy. This is to ensure that opinion and perception of participants will bring to the fore some salient facts which may not have been apparent to the researcher during the field work.

### **QUESTION 1**

#### **What is the historical context of democracy in Nigeria from 2011-2022?**

During the focus group discussion, a participant also indicated that there are concerns about the viability of Nigeria's democratic system, particularly in cases where leaders use religion and ethnicity to further divide the electorate. He further suggested that Nigeria will only have effective governance when the right people are saddled with the responsibility to govern the country. An official of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) while responding to the nature of Nigeria's democratic rule had this to say; democracy does not provide basic infrastructural facilities. He added that, what do you expect when most youths today have no jobs, no business, no light, no water, no schools, no good roads, and only the politicians are busy sharing local government money which is people's money? You expect them to just stay aside, watch and keep quiet? This according to him will lead to insecurity.

A lecturer who formed part of the KII in-depth interview reveals that the local communities of Kaduna State under study, lack basic social amenities like portable drinking water, electricity, good roads, schools and hospitals. Government presence is very insignificant, except for the presence of unmotivated and ill-equipped law enforcement agents, especially in communities under siege. Power supply is erratic, while the schools are in a state of neglect, especially with the current armed banditry in the affected areas. One of the residents engaged in Focus group discussion reported to have said, 'who is talking about democracy when there is near absence of basic social amenities in our community, thus, escalating the activities of armed banditry.'

### **QUESTION 2**

#### **Is Nigeria A Democratic Country?**

From the informants engaged in KII, a religious leader from the selected local governments sums their views as follows: There is no adequate provision of electricity and free education. The free education provided in public schools is not standard. This results in the parents' decision to move



their wards/children to private schools. The electricity provided is not equally enjoyed by all communities in the local governments. This shows the failure of democracy in Nigeria. On the contrary, one out of the 10 informants, a village head is of the view that Nigeria is a democratic country that provide basic necessities of life to a moderate extent. According to him, there is provision of basic amenities especially electricity. He added that, our children can go to school on the bill of the government. As to the extent at which these dividends are enjoyed, I will say that it is to a moderate extent.

In addition, majority of respondents deduced that dividends of democracy are not equitably distributed, thus, disqualifying Nigeria as a democratic country. Similarly, four of the informants said that if you do not belong to the ruling party, or the ruling class, you cannot have access to the so-called dividend of democracy. You might not even see them with your eyes let alone enjoying them. This, they argue, provide soft landing for corrupt practices among politicians.

### **QUESTION 3**

#### **Do you think that democracy and human security are interrelated?**

Findings from the FGD indicates most of the respondent's opinion as it relates to the relationship between democracy and human security is negative. A police officer engaged in an in-depth interview argues that, it is crystal clear that the economic threats such as; unemployment, poverty, high education school fees, increase in electricity tariff, irregular payment of salary are due to the failure of democratic governance. Another participant, a woman, concur with the position above, adding that, the decline in democratic practices have severe consequences on health, importation of unsafe food, malnutrition and lack of access to basic healthcare facilities. Also, a youth leader of one of the local government under study debated that: political threats such as marginalization, discrimination, human rights violation, election violence, rising tempo of freedom fighters and unending riots and protesters and above all, academic union strike are linked to the failure of democratic governance at both local, state and federal levels.

In an interview with a member of a civil society organisation, finding reveals that, personal threats such as kidnapping, physical violence, crime, terrorism and other social vices are all linked to the problems and failure of democratic governance. He added that, environmental threats such as resource depletion, erosion, flood, indiscriminate dumping of waste, open burning and pollution can also associated with the problem and failure of democratic governance. Thus, it could be argued that democratic governance has no significant impact on human security because community threats have increased in the areas under study. Equally, democratic governance has no significant impact on human security because political threats have increased in the areas under study. Also, democratic governance has no significant impact on human security because food threats have increase in the country in the areas under study. Against this background, it can be argued that the extent to which democratic governance has reduced human security threats in Nigeria's fourth republic is very low.

### **QUESTION 4**

#### **What Do You Think Are The Causes Of Armed Banditry In Kaduna State**

Findings from FGD and in-depth interview reveal that the respondents strongly argued that there are many factors responsible for armed banditry in the state such porous border, unemployment, poor leadership style, corruption, poor security strategy, among others. The in-depth interview was inline with the finding as indicated by a village head who stated that, " our community is full



with a large population of unemployed and under-employed youths. These youths are targets that can easily be co-opted into acts of armed banditry, political thuggery and other social vices". A teacher at a secondary and victim of armed banditry also testified that, "my view largely depends on the long-standing unemployment among youths, heartlessness and the fact that they are not contented with what God has ordained them to be, that is why they join forces with the armed bandits, attack people kill and collect their properties. An opinion leader and a veteran politician, on his part does not totally agree with thus, argued that, "my observation is linked with the fact that, they are just after money that is why these youths collaborate with the armed bandits. Here, it could be deduced that unemployment is not a strong factor responsible for armed banditry. The respondent further argued that an unemployed youth may not have the means to acquire a sophisticated weapon like AK 47 not commonly found from arm vendors. This therefore suggests that these youths are either recruited, sponsored and provided with the weapons, or they act as the informants of the armed bandits considering the desire by the youths to make fast and easy money.

#### **QUESTION 5**

##### **What Is The Nature Of Armed Banditry In Kaduna State**

In considering the nature of armed banditry in the study area, the researcher focused on the bandits' mode of operation in terms of the use of weapons, whether the bandits are usually violent and if the bandits usually kill their victims. Police records indicated that the armed bandits use sophisticated weapons. This was also corroborated by the in-depth interviewees. The leader of a Vigilante group affirmed that, "they use sophisticated weapons and cutlasses. They also use guns similar to that of the security agents." A teacher and victim of armed banditry said that, "there mode of operation shows that they have been well trained from how they carried and held their guns, how they conduct their operation and even uniforms and the boots they wear. Some were even wearing military uniforms and they were not wearing masks."

A Police Officer and a student who happens to be a victim testifies that, "from the various operations carried out, arrests made, and the weapons recovered, the weapons were assorted and made up of sophisticated guns as AK47, Barreta pistols, local pistols, dane guns, bows and arrows, cutlasses and clubs. The sophisticated weapons were mostly traced to our neighbouring countries of Niger and Chad." The Police Officer suggested that the possession and use of sophisticated weapons such as being used by security agents seem to confirm that the bandits must have received some form of training in the operation of these weapons. Such weapons he according to him are used by the armed bandits to intimidate victims and also for defence during confrontation with security agents. The researcher was opportuned to see some of the recovered weapons but was not told the quantity of the weapons due to security reasons. From what the researcher witnessed, the weapons included military type machine guns, local and modern pistols, knives, bows and arrows, charms and amulets, among others. It is sad to note that, the availability of such sophisticated weapons could lead to increased militarization of the society and possible rise in violent crimes and unending spate of armed banditry.

#### **QUESTION 6**



### **To What Extent Does The Incidence Of Armed Banditry Constitute A Problem To Individuals And Government In Kaduna State**

The impact of armed banditry on residents, victims and relatives of victims and government are numerous and are both physical and psychological. Some of the impact that are being considered are, disruption of farming activities, disruption of commercial activities, psychological trauma suffered by residents, victims and relatives of victims of armed banditry face financial challenge for ransom, negative impact on the delivery of basic social amenities and the disruption of social activities. The presentation and interpretation of the generated data from the in-depth interview and FGD confirmed the above argument, as most of the information by the response from key informants, prominent indigenes of the area and identified victims of armed banditry are true life experience.

Armed banditry has varying impact on victims, relatives of victims and residents of border communities of Adamawa State. Table 4.8.1 presents the perception of respondents on the impact of armed banditry on farming and commercial activities, delivery and supply of basic amenities, social activities and the psychological effects on victims and relatives of victims among others.

#### **QUESTION 7**

##### **Respondents' perception of the impact of armed Banditry**

A Police Officer also said that, Armed banditry does have a significant negative impact on farming activities especially as it affects subsistence farmers. We can say it has an impact on commercial farmers as well who are afraid of selling their produce, getting large amounts of money, and being targeted by the bandits. When asked about reports of armed bandits raping women on their farms, he stated that, "from investigations it was armed bandits and Fulani herdsmen engaged in such menace. An opinion leader simply said that, "people cannot go to their farm for fear of kidnapping. The armed bandits need money and valuables that can easily fetch them money, thus, resort to kidnapping farmers. The Presidential Committee on the Security Challenges in the Northern part of Nigeria discovered that the never-ending incursion into Nigeria, by armed bandits from Nigeria's neighbouring countries, have serious implications on the security and democratic governance of the country. The Committee explained that the development accounts for the increasing menace of armed banditry in the states of the North-West geopolitical zone, leading to reduced farming, commercial and social activities, as well as wanton killing and kidnapping of Nigerians by the marauders (Enyiocha, 2012). This goes to suggest that while acts of armed banditry may have an impact on commercial cropping activities that attracts much money in which the armed bandits are more interested, such impact may equally be applicable to the farmers in the border communities who are mostly subsistence farmers.

#### **QUESTION 8**

##### **Roles Played By Individuals And Government In Addressing The Menace Of Armed Banditry In Kaduna State**

Attempts have been made by the government, respondents and informants against incidents of armed banditry either based on their experiences or the fear of being a victim. Such measures include the setting up of vigilante groups and control of movements among others. Other control measures include; police patrol at intervals, Control of movement, Setting Vigilante groups, use of charms, travelling with less money or valuables and Leave consistent prayers to God.



The in-depth interview is in accord with this finding. A victim of armed banditry stated that, “we had to reduce our movements.” A victim of armed banditry stated that, “I decided to stop travelling in the early morning hours. That is the measure I took. I don’t travel in the very early mornings as I used to do before.” A trader said, “I try as much as possible to travel only when it is necessary. I travel only when I need to stock my shop, and I now only use my ATM card to travel.” The findings therefore reveals that, there seems to be no general consensus as to the measures put in place by individuals and communities. Most individuals decide to curtail their travels while some prefer vacate and relocate to safe areas where armed bandit attack is less. During the field trips to local governments under study, the researcher noticed that only few vehicles plied these roads. One could drive for as long as 20 to 30 minutes before coming across a vehicle. Vigilante groups armed with guns, bows and arrows were also sighted at various points as measures towards controlling acts of armed banditry.

#### **QUESTION 9**

##### **Preventive Measures By Government Law Enforcement Agencies Against Armed Banditry**

Traditional leaders, religious leaders, house committee members on security, ministry of defence, Police officers, leaders of the vigilante groups and officials of the National Union of Road Transport Workers were interviewed on the type of measure that were put in place by government law enforcement agencies which turned out to include among others setting up of check points, carrying out of joint patrols of the highways and villages, establishing intelligence gathering apparatus and carrying out border patrols. A Police Officer stated that, The Law enforcement agencies after a critical assessment of the situation came up with strategies aimed at controlling the problem of armed banditry in the areas under study. These measures include the setting up of road check points and joint military and police patrols. Occasionally too, we make use of the local vigilante groups in our operations.

The leaders of Vigilante groups interviewed stated that, we have told the security men times without number that the bandits are usually in the forest and mountains so they should come along with us to face the bandits but they are always afraid. They prefer to set up check points and collect money from innocent drivers.

An official of the National Union of Road Transport Workers stated that, instead of the government to purchase helicopters and modern military equipment to patrol the highways in the border communities and villages under constant threat, they prefer to waste money on the setting up of joint patrol and check points which they use to harass our members and extort money from the law-abiding drivers.

#### **Conclusion**

Displacement because of civil wars in some of Nigeria’s neighbouring international locations changed into discovered to be a purpose of armed banditry and this consents with Bobbo (1999) who referred to that “the direct root of armed incursion into Nigeria can be found within the political insurgency which erupted in Chad (and later in Niger) in the preceding decade and that these rebels every so often entered Nigeria to attack border groups to thief livestock and cash if you want to prosecute their rebellion towards their countrywide authorities.” The United nations



office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (1999) also mentioned the growing issue in components of Nigeria over lack of confidence caused by heavily armed gunmen diagnosed as remnants of rebels from years of civil wars in Chad and by using militant herdsmen said to come from Niger.

### **Recommendations**

- i. As stated earlier, citizens, sufferers and spouse and children of sufferers of armed banditry go through mental trauma due to lack of cash, material and are maimed or injured. consequently, it's miles endorsed that people journey with much less money and valuables.
- ii. Findings indicated that there's democratic failure at the a part of authorities security companies to prevent and manipulate acts of armed banditry. As a end result, it is encouraged that, government should apprehend vigilante agencies while also consolidating neighborhood network tracking systems.
- iii. The look at found out that the respondents saw joint military and police patrol, and numerous street blocks set up by government safety agencies as no longer being effective in the prevention and manage of the crime of armed banditry. therefore, it's far advocated that there may be need for a greater powerful institutional coordination amongst specialised companies each within and outside Nigeria in view of the multi-dimensional nature of country hobby in border safety.
- iv. The findings additionally found that, whilst the bandits are armed with very state-of-the-art guns including AK forty-seven, the authorities security companies are poorly equipped, below-funded and now not nicely educated to manipulate such acts as armed banditry. it's far consequently recommended that the government need to re-think on a way to better equip the safety agencies with suitable modern guns which might be advanced to those of the armed bandits.
- v. Springing up from the strategic overlook of border groups in phrases of socio-monetary improvement, the border communities additionally supplied web sites for the growth of poorly controlled wooded area reserves which furnished cowl and hideouts for the armed bandits. consequently, government need to deal with the issues of unemployment, poverty, overlook of the border groups and social injustice to be able to improving the socio-financial situations of the residents.

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