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Review paper

Implications of Rural Banditry on Educational Development in Nigeria: A Critical Review

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of this paper was to examine the effects that rural banditry has had on educational progress in Nigeria. Banditry is quickly reaching alarming levels in Nigeria, to the point where it constitutes a severe security danger not only to the country's educational system but also to other parts of the economy. This threat affects not just the educational system but also other parts of the economy. The extent to which bandits operate within the terrain of Nigeria has resulted in the dislocation of students enrolled in schools, a wave of kidnappings, the mutilation of people, the loss of lives, population displacements, the loss of cattle, and the disruption of socioeconomic activities in general. It has also contributed to the creation of an atmosphere that is uncertain and comatose throughout the country. Both the government of Nigeria and its people are becoming increasingly concerned about the situation. Therefore, the purpose of this paper was to investigate the repercussions of rural banditry on the educational growth of the nation. It investigated the ideas behind rural banditry, the history of rural banditry, the elements that encourage rural banditry activities, as well as the scope of rural banditry. In addition, it evaluated the amount and severity of the impact that activities related to rural banditry have had on the educational system in Nigeria, as well as the effects of rural banditry and the efforts taken by the government of Nigeria to combat rural banditry. The article proposed that the presence of scarcely governed spaces, a high level of unemployment with the attendant poverty, a weak security system, the porousness of Nigeria's borders, and the proliferation of arms, among other things, are the driving factors that are accelerating banditry in Nigeria. The report argues further that the widespread criminal activity in Nigeria poses a threat to national security, as well as to the maintenance of peace and the growth of education as well as other areas of the economy. The efforts that many stakeholders have made to combat the plague have not produced the result that was hoped for. It is recommended, among other things, that the government should adopt strategies and tactics that are more proactive in prosecuting the war against rural banditry; create meaningful employment opportunities for the youths with the goal of addressing the pervasive and chronic poverty that exists throughout the country. In addition, the government should effectively monitor and secure our borders with the countries that are neighboring us in order to stop the illegal migration of people and the proliferation of arms. At the same time, the government should engage in reorienting the individuals in order to instill in them ethical values as well as reverence for life and human rights.

Keywords: Banditry. Educational development, insecurity, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

The extensive banditry and accompanying security dangers that have engulfed Nigeria have become a matter of public concern regarding national security (Abdullahi, 2019). Civil instability, terrorist threats, banditry, and persistent abductions of Nigerians, notably the well-publicized abduction of schoolboys and schoolgirls by a bandit and terrorist gang, highlight Nigeria's ongoing security and national development issues. How to ensure national development in the face of numerous and constantly expanding security threats is one of the most fundamental difficulties facing modern states. Among the foremost of these dangers is the

problem of organized crime (Abdulkadir, 2017). Organized crimes are high-profile offenses that frequently include multinational syndication and racketeering. Examples include terrorism, banditry, money laundering, kidnapping, and abduction. Globally, signs abound that organized crime is not only becoming more ubiquitous, but also becoming more sophisticated, consolidated, and political. Consequently, they are becoming increasingly established locally and globally. Banditry refers to the incidence or frequency of armed robberies or violent crimes. It entails the use of force or the threat of force with the goal to rob, rape, or kill a person. Banditry is a person-oriented crime. It has been a prevalent type of crime and a source of violence in modern society (Ameh, 2015). It appears that the incidence of banditry in Nigeria has been high and increasing through time. Similar to the Northeast, where Boko Haram terrorists have wrought havoc for the past decade, Nigeria's Northwest is quickly becoming another significant regional theater of bloodshed. Initial disputes between herders and farmers over access to land have evolved into an intractable issue that poses a significant threat to national and regional security. Since 2014, the rate of rural banditry has been on the rise, generating a great deal of attention. While it is assumed that heightened political overtones are behind this trend, it has a significant impact on the survival of the common man and impedes national development. Banditry refers to armed violence committed primarily with the goal to steal and pillage. It is motivated by a desire to accumulate wealth. The victims are individuals and communities with material possessions, or in the vast majority of cases, ordinary people forced from their homes.

In recent years, banditry in the northwestern states of Kaduna, Zamfara, and Katsina has reached frightening levels. Villages are terrorized with impunity by bandits. They have actually settled in the state of Katsina, establishing fortified enclaves in the interior and along the borders from whence they plan and execute their operations. In Nigeria, armed robbery, the kidnapping of schoolchildren, cattle rustling, and village raids are the most prevalent instances of rural banditry. Abduction, which is identical with abduction, is frequently followed by a ransom demand for money or other benefits. Thus, abduction is regarded a crime when a person is removed from his or her original place using persuasion, deceit, or coercion, which may involve violence. Despite the government's pretenses, banditry and kidnapping have a significant impact on national security and development. Nigeria has been a battleground for quite some time. The Biafra insurgents, radical Islamists in the North-East, kidnappings in many regions of the country, the Niger Delta crisis, and other notable security issues exist in addition to the ongoing conflict between farmers and herders. There are significant obstacles. Nevertheless, the Boko Haram Party remains Nigeria's most significant security threat. The organization offers a significant economic, social, and humanitarian threat to its neighbours, particularly Cameroon, Niger, and Chad. In Jere Local Government, Borno State, Nigeria, the group recently brutally executed forty rice farmers. The United Nations determined that the death toll was significantly higher than recorded. In addition to making life miserable for the inhabitants of the Northood, another organized group known as the armed bandits is making life more difficult for the people living in the northwest of Nigeria. In this region of the globe, life is no longer revered, and this trend will likely persist for decades. Clearly, both the government and the people are frustrated and powerless. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the complexity of the most recent growth in army banditry, the difficulty of combating banditry, and how bandits and rebels can prevent the country from being completely shut down (Adeniyi, 2015). Banditry abuse is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria. Nigeria's banditry heritage stretches back to the pre-civil war era, when the government devolved into political violence, criminality, and organized insurrection in some portions of the ancient Western Region. During the civilian reign, local bandits allegedly robbed domestic animals. Bandits have recently been a source of concern in Nigeria's Northwest area, particularly in the states of Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina, Niger, Kaduna, and Kebbi. These bandits' operations vary from kidnapping to murder, robbery, rape, livestock rustling, and other crimes. Their method of operation includes maiming and killing their victims when they least expect it. They usually mobilized through the forests into the neighborhood on fast motorcycles, especially at night, and shot at will. Sometimes in the afternoon, when they are certain there will be no police or military presence, they unleash horror on the neighborhoods. Hundreds of people have been killed as a result of this expanding threat. Several children have been orphaned, and women have become widows overnight, while food insecurity and humanitarian disasters will make life even more difficult for many Nigerians. The reality is terrifying. "1,100 individuals were slain in six northwestern Nigerian nations in 2018, more than 2,200 were killed in 2019, and 1,600 were killed between January and June 2020," according to the report. Around 247,000 people were displaced, and their effort resulted in the creation of around 41,000 refugees. Over 8000 people have been murdered in Zamfara alone in the previous decade, with 200,000 internally displaced and others fleeing to neighboring states. Sokoto's religious leader and Sultan, Muhammadu Saadu Abubakar, stated, "Now, bandits go with AK47 in the north and bemoan the region's worst." It is vital to understand that the newest Northwest war arose from a dispute for decreasing lands and water supplies between farmers and herdsmen, with the farmers largely Hausa and the herdsmen predominantly Fulani (Alao et al., 2015). Furthermore, in an area where poverty is deeply ingrained and illiteracy is quite high, many Fulani' are

preoccupied with cattle rearing. As a result, anytime this source of income is threatened, whether by nature or human interference, they are willing to go to any length to ensure their survival. Furthermore, there is the issue of small arms and light weapons proliferation in the area, as well as inequality and, as John Campbell puts it, "weakened, strained, and demoralized security services."

Concept of rural banditry

Conceptually, rural banditry comes from the word "bandit," which means an illegally armed group that terrorizes people and steals their things. It is the same as forming gangs that attack people with small, light weapons. In this way, banditry could mean a crime that is planned and carried out on purpose for personal gain. Due to how complicated bandits' actions are, Adeniyi (2018) limited his definition of banditry to stealing cattle and animals from herders or raiding their ranches to steal cattle. In the same way, banditry is reflected in crimes like cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, arson, rape, and the brazen and gruesome massacre of people in agrarian communities with sophisticated weapons by suspected herdsmen and reprisal attacks from the surviving victims, an event that has put national security at the top of the agenda (Altine and Oyelude, 2020a). Anka (2017) defines banditry as the practice of raiding and attacking victims by members of an armed group, whether or not it was planned, using weapons of offense or defense, especially in semi-organized groups, with the goal of overpowering the victim and getting loot or achieving some political goals. Most people think of these bandits as outlaws, desperate and lawless marauders who don't have a home or a place to go. Instead, they wander around the forest and mountains to avoid being found, caught, and jailed.

But when the word "banditry" is used in reference to a rural community, it means a group of rural criminals who do illegal things like raiding villages, kidnapping, and rustling cattle to get money. So, bandits are gangs that terrorize and steal from locals or travelers, taking things like merchandise, money, cattle, camels, sheep, and other valuables. With the help of local partners and, in some cases, state agents sent to work for the safety and security of the people, they work inside and along rural borders (Abdullahi, 2019). Nigeria's current problem with general insecurity is made worse by conflicts that could have been avoided and have become more common in recent years. This is getting more worrying, especially since the poorest people in Nigeria are having a harder and harder time not dying of hunger. The budget has used up resources that could have been used to modernize agriculture, build industries and infrastructure, and create jobs. These resources could have been used to fight crime and help people who have been displaced or hurt. It wouldn't be wrong to say that poverty is fuelling the current wave of general insecurity. This has made national security threats harder for the government to deal with and caused a lot of money to be spent on security (Balewa, 2020). Conflict has happened in every part of the country, though its frequency and severity have not been the same everywhere. The current situation is made worse by globalization, natural disasters, the spread of weapons and light arms, corruption, lawlessness in the executive branch, and other things.

Anka (2017) said that the activities of bandits directly affect seven states in northwestern Nigeria: Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara. He also said that the problem is quickly spreading to states in the north-central region, especially Niger State. There is more and more evidence that terrorists and bandits are working together in Nigeria's northwest. This is shown by the way they recruit people and share logistics and weapons, as well as the fact that the area is a good place to carry out attacks because of its location and the fact that both groups are very good at the political economy of "kidnap for ransom," which is used to fund criminal enterprises. Estimates say there are about 50,000 bandits, who are split into dozens of gangs with anywhere from 10 to over a thousand people. Bandits are causing a humanitarian crisis by kidnapping a lot of people and attacking civilians in weak villages in cruel ways. Five villages had to pay 20 million naira (about US$50,000) to bandits in September 2021 if they didn't want to be attacked. From January to June 2020, at least 1,126 villagers died because of these methods. At least 200 villagers were killed by bandits in Zamfara state at the beginning of January 2022. This was one of the worst crimes ever reported in the area. According to reports by Amnesty International, these attacks put food security in rural areas at risk, and the failure to bring killers to justice adds to a sense that they can get away with it.

Understanding the concept of security and insecurity

Due to the fact that the term security has been seen from several angles, it has not yet been given a universal conceptual standpoint. Some academics, such as Ayo (2018), stressed the lack of threats to a nation's political, socioeconomic, and national cohesiveness objectives when conceiving security. It is imagined to be safe and fear-free from both physical and psychological harm, aggression, persecution, or death, as well as from lack of things like food, health, and a good work (Altine, 2020b). Additionally, according to Goke (2019), a state's capacity to defend against threats to its fundamental interests and values is a key component of security as a dynamic situation. Security can also be defined as having a stable source of income, a predictable daily routine, protection from crime, and freedom from psychological harm. Safety or protection from emotional stress results from having

the assurance that one is wanted, accepted, loved, and protected in one's community or neighborhood and by those nearby. It also emphasizes the psychological and emotional aspects of feeling a part of a social group that can provide security. The concept of security was divided into four dimensions in the previous explanation. These factors can be combined to provide a comprehensive definition of security as the safeguard against all types of harm, whether they be psychological, financial, or physical. Security, it is argued, is the capacity to respond swiftly and expertly to the difficulties provided by these dangers rather than the absence of threats or security issues. It demands security from ongoing threats and defense against damaging disturbance (Bassey, 2016). Security includes all actions taken to defend the populace, as well as the assets of people, organizations, corporations, and the country, against sabotage or violent incidents. However, the word "insecurity" can signify a variety of things, including "absence of safety," "risk," "hazard," "uncertainty," "lack of protection," and "lack of safety." According to Best (2006), insecurity is the feeling of worry or anxiety brought on by a real or perceived lack of protection. It alludes to a lack of or insufficient freedom from risk. Insecurity is defined by Chumba et al. (2013) from two different angles. Insecurity is firstly the condition of being exposed to risk or the threat of danger, whereas danger is the state of being vulnerable to harm or injury. The second definition of insecurity is the condition of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a generalized negative emotion felt in expectation of some unfavorable event. According to the preceding explanation, the phenomena of security or insecurity involves both a physical event and a psychological state of mind that pose a threat to peace and the advancement of both individuals and societies. These definitions of security or insecurity suggest that the number of people impacted by insecurity in Nigeria's northwest is substantial.

Evolution rural of banditry

The concept of banditry has evolved across time, space, and conditions. In 19th-century Europe and the Americas, a bandit was a freedom fighter whose mission included the emancipation of the oppressed from the upper class or colonized from the colonizer (Christopher et al., 2013). Additionally, robbers such as Chucho el Roto, Herachico Bernel, and Santanon were frequently hailed as Mexican independence heroes (Daniel, 2006). Therefore, Mexicans hold these "social workers" in high regard and respect, although the State frequently views them as a nuisance and criminals that need to be destroyed. In some pre-industrial communities, therefore, peasants saw bandits differently from the State, not as criminals, thugs, or miscreants, but as avengers and bread winners. However, a bandit in a traditional African culture is very different than in the United States and Europe. The former was an expert in armed robbery and associated offenses (BBC, 2020). The most typical characteristics of banditry in Africa have been mutilation, murder, and wanton damage of property; therefore, there is a clear relationship between the two. Since the majority of herders would do anything to prevent the rustling of their herds, the bandit will also use force and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) to take livestock (Labelewa, 2020). Therefore, the use of force during livestock theft is referred to here as cattle rustling and armed banditry. From a historical standpoint, however, banditry in West Africa is not new. Its origins and evolution are as ancient as the sub-region itself, extending back to inter-tribal eras marked by disputes and warfare over scarce economic resources and territory expansion for political influence. During the slave trade, colonial, and post-colonial eras, various sorts of warfare occurred in the majority of Africa. Even if there have been considerable improvements in the nature and pattern of banditry and other kinds of warfare in West Africa, the socioeconomic and political causes for the phenomenon's predominance in the subregion remain substantial (Abdullahi, 2019). This may explain why the struggle for political independence and the subsequent development of the post-colonial state in West Africa were regarded as some of the significant events that established the banditry pattern in the region. In addition, it proposes that socioeconomic and political realities could be used to explain the severity, prevalence, and dynamics of banditry as observed in various regions of West Africa. In the Tillaberi and Tahoua regions of the Niger Republic, for instance, banditry such as cattle and sheep rustling as well as the murder of innocent individuals in border settlements has a direct correlation with the widespread poverty of the population caused by weak administration (Abdullahi, 2019). The growth and development of banditry in Mali has been linked to religious fanaticism by sectarian religious groups, but has been exacerbated by inadequate state institutions in terms of service delivery. According to Okeowo and Kayode (2020), weak governmental institutions, insurgency, and lawlessness have pushed more pastoralists towards religious extremism, resulting in an increase in bandit activity in northern Mali. The frequency of bandit operations has fostered the emergence of armed organizations in various regions of Mali and intensified tensions between farmers and herders (Abdullahi, 2019). However, in Mauritania, the nature and pattern of rural banditry are explained by trans-border banditry by local groups as well as issues associated with resource management and allocation of pastoralists' lands. Unlike Mali and Niger, Mauritania experienced a quick surge in banditry due to competition over resources, particularly water, pasture, and animal feeds. Similarly, theft of livestock is becoming a transnational criminal activity that affects travel and interactions between Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Local bandit groups, primarily Burkinabe, conspired with traditional leaders to steal animals and split the earnings of their illicit activity (Abdullahi, 2019). It is crucial to realize that banditry is not new in Nigeria. According to anecdotal and scientific reports, the phenomena before Nigeria's establishment as a political state. In this context, Jaafar (2018) asserts that incidents of banditry were documented in colonial Nigeria as early as the 1930s. Jaafar clarifies by putting this allegation in a type of historical context:

According to Beland (2005), the region has a long history of banditry. In 1901, somewhere between western Hausa territory and the Niger border, a 12,000-strong camel train carrying a variety of grains was attacked and 210 merchants were slaughtered. Although banditry is as old as Nigeria, it has evolved over time from its elementary phase, as evidenced by the aforementioned Jaafar quotation, to a more sophisticated and intricate crime pattern (Centre for Democracy and Development, 2015; Egwu 2016). The modern metamorphosis of banditry can be seen in the context of Nigeria's current security dialectics. Consequently, criminal gangs, frequently comprised of teenagers from farming and herding communities and/or local bandits, exploit the increasing instability, fear, and cyclical attacks to pillage villages, commit highway robberies, and steal animals for personal gain. Farming and livestock-raising communities are frequently affected by this criminality (Bassey, 2016).

Factors promoting rural banditry in Nigeria

Several things have been pointed out as causes of banditry in rural areas of Nigeria, especially in the northwest of the country. Banditry in northwestern Nigeria is caused by some social and existential factors that are true of both the region's interior and its borders. Among these problems, the lack of control over the region's hinterlands, forestlands, and borders stands out. Rural settlements are very spread out in the northwestern hinterlands. They are separated by rangelands and farmlands that are prone to violent conflicts (Ameh, 2015). They are also dotted with different kinds of forests, some of which have wetlands, rocks, and caves. In addition to being far away from each other, they are also far away from the places where local and state governments are run. The region's forests are large, rough, and dangerous. Most importantly, they aren't policed nearly enough, which makes them a good place for all kinds of jungle crime. Because of this, violent crimes like banditry have grown and spread in these wooded places. Most attacks happen in remote villages near forested areas in the north-west, where there aren't many police officers (Ameh, 2015). In the same way, banditry happens in large areas of forest reserves that are usually out of reach of Nigerian security workers. Most bandit activities happen in Northern Nigeria in state-owned reserves like the Kamuku, Kiyanbana, and Fagore forests. The forests are perfect places for criminals to hide from the police so they don't get caught. Nigerian security forces don't seem to want to go into these forest areas because they aren't very good at what they do, the locals help them out, they don't have good equipment, and they aren't very motivated (Anka, 2017). The high unemployment rate in Nigeria is another thing that makes banditry more likely. In 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says that 23.1 percent of Nigerians are out of work, with 55.4 percent of them being young people. 77.7 percent of people in the Northwest are living in poverty (NBS, 2012; Rosenje and Moliki, 2016). These numbers keep going up a lot every year because Nigerian schools keep graduating groups of young people who thought they would get better jobs and chances after they graduated (Alao et al., 2015). Most of the bandit attacks and security threats in the country have been caused by graduates in Nigeria who are worried, then angry, and then violent toward the government.

Abdulkabir (2017) said that the rising rate of unemployment has been blamed for the rise in crime in Nigeria. So, young people who have nothing to do tend to do illegal things to keep up with the times. It's enough to say that the "get rich quick syndrome" that is common in the country makes it easy for young people to be drawn to money. Because of this, they tend to do anything to get rich quickly. So, Nigeria's high unemployment rate, especially the rising unemployment rate among young people, is a big reason why many jobless young people in the country turn to violent crimes like banditry (Adeniyi, 2015). There's no point in saying that the high number of robberies in Nigeria's northwest region is made worse by the lack of security. This could have happened because the government's security force didn't have enough weapons or training (Balewa, 2020). This is on top of the fact that security staff have bad attitudes and behave badly. Many times, the people in charge of security don't have the skills or tools to deal with a security situation in a way that would stop it from happening again. Even when these are in place, some employees are easily swayed by their ethnic, religious, or community feelings and are more interested in serving their own people than the country (Chumba et al., 2013). So, instead of being national watchdogs who protect national interests and values and keep people safe from criminals, they soon become government saboteurs who support and fuel insecurity by leaking important security information or working with criminals to get weapons or get away from the law. Also, poverty and bad government have made a big difference in the rise of banditry in Nigeria. Altine (2020b) said that the fact that Nigeria's governments haven't been able to solve the problems caused by poverty has made life hard, and only the strongest survive. Adeniyi (2018) said that Nigeria has passed India as the country with the most people bbliving in extreme

poverty. An estimated 87 million Nigerians, or about half of the country's population, live on less than $1.90 a day, making Nigeria the country with the most people living in extreme poverty. Alao et al. (2015) linked terrorism, banditry, and other crimes to being poor. Even though not all crimes can be linked to poverty, it has been said that people who are struggling financially are more likely to turn to illegal ways to meet their daily needs. It was found that most people, especially young people, tend to join bandit gangs in the Northwest of Nigeria because of the good things that come from being a bandit (Goke, 2019).

Dimensions of rural banditry in Nigeria

According to Anka (2017), armed banditry has four dimensions, which will be used in this study. These crimes include livestock rustling, highway robberies, kidnapping, and village raids. Village raids are incursions into rural areas that result in significant human casualties. Households, stores, and markets are typically the targets of village raids. While occasionally it is perceived as retaliation against a rival village (Ayo, 2018). Highway robbery, a common occurrence in the State, is the second aspect of armed banditry. This was done by stopping drivers with passengers on the several routes in the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria axis (Okeowo and Kayode, 2020). A crime that is carried out for ransom is kidnapping. According to each person's socioeconomic standing, the perpetrators of the crime frequently view their victims as having money that will be used as ransom. Travelers are kidnapped and held hostage by bandits on the highway in Kaduna State, where they are then transported to a hideout in the jungle where their family or acquaintances are contacted for a ransom payment (Labelewa, 2020). Cattle rustling is the final aspect of banditry in the Northwest of Nigeria. This is an organized kind of livestock theft motivated by shared accumulative or profit-seeking tendencies. In other words, they are organized criminal gangs that rob livestock in order to make money.

Level of rural banditry activities in Nigerian educational system

Nigeria has the largest educational system in Africa. It included preschool education, elementary education, junior secondary school education, senior secondary school education, and higher education. Insecurity is a major issue in Nigerian primary school education. Since 2013, when public senior secondary schools were relocated from Gujba and Gulani to Damaturu, the state capital, primary and junior secondary schools have almost vanished in two local government areas in Yobe state (Ameh, 2005). Secondary school education is one of the most frequently challenged levels of education in Nigerian educational institutions. Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls from Chibok Government Secondary School in Borno State in April 2014. Some of the girls attempted to flee, but none were rescued, and 219 remained unaccounted for at the time of writing. In November 2014, a raid on Zanna Mobarti Primary School in Damasak, also in Borno state, resulted in the kidnapping of over 300 young kids. So far, none of the children have been restored to their parents (BBC, 2020). 59 boys were killed in a Boko Haram attack on the Federal Government College BuniYadi in Yobe State in February 2014. According to Daniel (2006), hundreds of Nigerian students are missing, with many believed to have been abducted, when gunmen assaulted a secondary school in northwestern Katsina State. According to government sources, a big gang of individuals armed with AK-47s stormed the all-boys Government science secondary school in Kankara on Friday night, firing local security. A "bandit" is suspected of carrying out the attack. Aminu Masari, the governor of Katsina State, said they were searching adjacent forests for 333 pupils and calling parents "to verify the true number that has been taken." Nigeria's higher education institutions are not immune to insecurity. It has been demonstrated that many Nigerian higher institutions are finding it increasingly difficult to attain their objectives due to insecurity issues (Anka, 2017). Many attacks have been launched against various higher education institutions in Nigeria, resulting in the closure and disruption of the institutions' academic programs. Gunmen assaulted a teacher training college in Kano, Nigeria, killing at least 15 people, according to officials (BBC, 2020). The explosion was recorded at Kano State School of Hygiene. Boko Haram fighters assaulted a party of geologists and technologists from the University of Maiduguri on July 25 in the Magumeri district of Borno state.

The group was on a "national assignment," looking for oil in Lake Chad. They had gathered soil samples and were returning to town when the militants attacked. According to sources, some 12 soldiers who were accompanying the professors were murdered. Some members of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) team were slain in the ambush, as were some academics, and four others were kidnapped. The army claimed to have rescued several members of the oil prospecting party, but then recanted and apologized for misleading the public. According to Best (2006), the insecurity challenge has taken on formidable proportions, subjecting the country's political and economic management, as well as the entire nation, to ruin and loss of their loved ones, investments, and lack of safety in most sections of the country. Since 2009, the amount of violent crimes such as kidnappings, ritual killings, carjackings, suicide bombings, religious killings, politically motivated murdering and violence, ethnic confrontations, armed banditry, and others has steadily increased.

The effects of rural banditry on Nigerian educational system

The effects of insecurity in the administration of Nigerian educational institutions include loss of manpower in educational institutions, poor quality of education, increased in educational spending, destructions of infrastructural facilities, brain-drain, closure of educational institutions, educational wastages, discouragement of educational pursue by children and encourage foreign education and internal displacement of Learners.

Loss of manpower in educational institutions

The administration of educational institutions is contingent on the availability of qualified teachers. As a result of the problem of insecurity in the country, a large number of professional educators have been killed, hurting the administration of educational institutions in Nigeria. This statute has lowered the number of teachers needed for effective school administration, particularly in the north of the country. Insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the country's northern region, is responsible for the deaths of Nigerian teachers. Numerous professional educators, school administrators, and students have been assassinated as a result of the country's insecurity. According to a 2019 cable quoting the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Boko Haram has killed 2,300 teachers in Nigeria's north-eastern region since the war began in 2009. The implication of this is that the quality of education would decline because the educational sector will confront a shortage of qualified teachers.

Poor quality of education

One of the goals of school administration is to make sure that all schools offer high-quality education. Nigeria's insecurity is making education less good because most schools have to close down because of violence. This means that most school plans and syllables aren't covered. Due to safety concerns, many schools in the country are always shut down. The quality of education is getting worse because these schools can't cover their plans of work and syllables. For example, because of safety concerns, all schools in Borno, Kaduna, and Kano States were shut down. Many students had to go home, and teaching and learning stopped. When class started again, the students were told to start their tests. Because of insurgent attacks, schools have to close, which means that some students have to graduate without finishing their course work, and others have to move from one form of class to another without covering the course work for the time. Okeowo and Kayode (2020) said that graduates who are made because of insecurity do not have the knowledge and skills they need to work in the workplace, so they end up being a liability. In the end, it hurts the performance of organizations and, by extension, the economy of the whole country. Since there is a lot of insecurity in the educational system, this could be one of the biggest problems the Nigerian economy is facing right now. Insecurity is like a virus that needs to be gotten rid of because it can make things worse for education and the growth of the country as a whole. If research and field work can't continue because of security problems, then education and the idea of national development will be on borrowed time," said ASUU. The union also said that it could hurt the quality of the people that universities turn out, but in the bigger picture, it could hurt the whole education system. The larger effects will be very bad" (Beland, 2005). Some schools aren't shut down by the government, but because of insecurity, they end up giving out half-baked graduates. Schools can't spend the number of months that are set for each term. Schools in dangerous places don't have enough qualified teachers. Because of this, students are not taught well (Abdulkadir, 2017).

Destructions of Infrastructural facilities

Massive devastation of Nigeria's educational infrastructure is another consequence of the country's ongoing insecurity crisis. The implementation of instructional programs by school administration is dependent on the availability of infrastructure facilities. Classrooms, administrative buildings, ICT infrastructures, and furniture have all been looted or destroyed by insurgents and Boko Haram members in the country's northern region. The destruction of over 1,000 schools and the displacement of 19,000 teachers were reported by Christopher et al. (2013). This study indicated that 28% of 260 school locations had been damaged by bullets, shells, or shrapnel; 20% had been set on fire purposefully; 32% had been looted; and 29% were in close proximity to military forces." More than 900 schools were destroyed and 1,500 others were forced to close as a result of attacks in northern Nigeria between 2009 and 2015 (HRW, 2016). Conflict and insurgency often lead to the devastation of education infrastructure, including schools and laboratories. Insurgents have destroyed a large number of secondary schools. The school's infrastructure is deteriorating (Goke, 2019).

Brain-drain

It is impossible to run a school effectively without sufficient workers to staff classrooms and carry out the myriad of other academic tasks that need to be done within the buildings. The instability in Nigeria, particularly in the country's north, is leading to a huge exodus of

professional educators from one state to another, which has left many educational institutions without enough qualified personnel to staff their classrooms. Because of the unsafe environment in Northern Nigeria, a significant number of academics and teachers have resigned from their positions. Because of the widespread exodus of educators from this area, there will be a shortage of teachers accessible to instruct pupils. As a result, the standard of the students' education will suffer as a direct result of this, as there will be insufficient qualified educators to care for them. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM) (2018), 19,000 educators have been uprooted in the area, which has a negative impact on students' opportunities to receive an education. According to Mamman, the head of the ASUU, "around 70 lecturers fled, about five of them perished, and three are being taken captive by Boko Haram." Since the beginning of the insurgency in 2012, the number of pupils who have been accepted into the school has decreased. This year's enrollment of pupils is a mystery to us, and we have no idea what will happen. Both research and education have suffered as a result of the departure of a number of professors, many of whom were acknowledged authorities in their disciplines. In most cases, an exodus of this nature will have an effect on the accreditation of certain programs and courses.

Closure of educational institutions

School administration must ensure a steady academic schedule and planned program implementation. In Nigeria, numerous state governments have closed all schools to prevent more attacks. Due to insecurity, Borno State closed all schools. In Borno, one of the worst devastated states, schools at all levels have been shuttered for at least two years in 22 of 27 local government districts, and public secondary schools in the state capital, Maiduguri, finally reopened in February 2016 after IDPs were evacuated. Over 57% of schools in Borno, the worst-hit state, are closed as the new school year begins (Chumba et al., 2013). Following last week's kidnapping of hundreds of students in Katsina State, other states in Northern Nigeria have ordered all schools to close (BB.C, 2020). School closures impair kids' education quality. Insecurity and school closure prevent covering works and syllables. Security issues close several schools. Crisis-prone secondary schools were closed for months. Since the current wave of kidnappings by criminal groups demanding ransom, numerous state authorities have ordered the closure of boarding schools, according to Daniel (2006). Best (2006) stated that governors of six states in the region – Niger, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Zamfara, and Sokoto – as well as Yobe in the North East, have closed some or all boarding schools in the most dangerous local government areas until security is restored. The closures would have consequences, says Nigeria Union of Teachers spokesperson Emmanuel Hwande. It disrupts the academic calendar and children's education. He said it would traumatize children. UNICEF opposes closing schools (Ameh, 2015).

Discouragement of educational pursuit by children

Effective student administration and enrollment is one of the responsibilities of school administration, but the level of insecurity in the nation is deterring parents and children from sending their children to school out of concern that they would be abducted or killed by insurgents. Parents and students are reluctant to send their children to school in Nigeria because of the attacks on educational facilities, particularly in Northern Nigeria. Many parents have chosen to keep their kids at home rather than risk them being murdered or abducted at schools where security is not assured. Parents in Nigeria are thinking of keeping their kids out of school due to security issues. Timothy (2021) noted that UNICEF claims the new wave of kidnappings is seriously harming Nigerian education. "The insecurity and threats to educational facilities at a time when the pandemic is rife, and some parents have withdrawn their children from school, or have not sent their children back to school, can only compound an already difficult situation," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Nigeria's country representative. While Abdullahi (2019) noted that the attacks may have an impact on student attendance once classes resume. Many parents already claim that they no longer believe schools to be safe. It's conceivable that some Muslim parents in the North West may forbid their children from returning because they are wary of what they see as a Western form of schooling. Furthermore, given the general unrest in the area, the kidnappings might lead teachers and other personnel to leave and seek jobs elsewhere. As reported by a lot of pupils who have been kept out of school (Anak, 2017). Security issues could cause days of missed school for students. It also has a harmful impact on girls. She is either given out for an early marriage or kept at home for a very long time.

Internal displacement of learners

Students are being internally displaced due to insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the Northern region. Due of insecurity, many pupils have been forced to leave their institutions. In educational institutions around the nation, security is having an impact on student administration. It is no secret that Boko Haram, whose name translates to "Western Education is prohibited," is adamantly against education. When a terrorist group strikes a community,

schools are frequently among the first targets. According to Okeowo and Kayode (2020), the effects of insecurity include an increase in the number of internally displaced people, disturbances in politics, society, and the economy, as well as sluggish economic growth. All of the aforementioned have a negative effect on those who live in areas where there is insecurity. Unfortunately, children, particularly girls, are the most at risk. Due to Boko Haram's brutal attacks on civilians, which started in 2009, there were 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North-Eastern Nigeria as of late 2017, including an estimated 700,000 school-age children. In Northern Nigeria's displacement camps or in private residences and towns where they are hosted by friends, family, and other people, according to Adeniyi (2018), many youngsters only receive rudimentary education. Children are grouped by age in huge halls or beneath trees for three to four hours of lessons per day, typically three times per week, in such camps.

Reduction private Investment in education

Because of the insurgencies that target both public and private educational institutions in the country, investment in the development of educational institutions is being hindered by the country's current state of insecurity. The federal government and some state governments have decided to postpone developing the infrastructure for educational institutions until the security concerns are overcome. Due to their activities, numerous private sectors are deterred from opening private schools and are restricting investment in education. Okeowo and Kayode (2020), claimed that the child's learning is hampered by the limited number of schools available to him/her. New schools cannot be opened by the public or private sectors. A child with a talent for technical education would not be able to enroll in such a school since the owners are wary of opening new ones in crisis-prone areas.

Inadequate funding of education

Inadequate education financing in Nigeria has recently been connected to the country's insecurity, which requires massive amounts that are supposed to be used for areas such as education and health. For the efficient execution of the numerous educational objectives and programs, the school administration required a significant financial commitment. School administration is a very expensive undertaking that necessitates a large sum of money to acquire the services of human resources as well as the materials resources required for the delivery of educational services. It is terrible that money that are intended to be allocated for educational growth are spent yearly for security.

According to research, the Nigerian government spends one trillion naira every year on security. Emmanuel Hwande, public relations officer for the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT), told this reporter on Monday that increased incidences of banditry and school closures could increase the number of out-of-school children or undermine students' academic progress.

Increase in the total number of out- of- school children

The number of out-of-school children will continue to climb as parents whose children have returned from bandits begin to believe otherwise and refuse to send them to school. The children will then begin to prowl the streets, and they will be recruited into criminal activities in the future."

Efforts made by Nigerian government in curbing rural banditry in Nigeria

The Nigerian government's response to the security issue has been delayed and reactive in general. It wasn't until 2014 that a coordinated attempt began to materialize. The Nigerian Police Force, led by Inspector-General Suleiman Abba, launched the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Associated Crime in one such attempt. The task force was to be in charge of patrolling and gathering intelligence on anti-rustling and associated crimes, as well as investigating and perhaps prosecuting reported occurrences of such crime. However, the task group has been largely dormant since its inception. By 2015, other northern governors were also expressing interest in the anti-rustling fight. Between July and October of that year, they held two meetings in which they agreed to pool their resources to fund a joint operation involving the military, police, state security services, and the Civil Defence Corps to comb the forests in the affected states that are thought to be havens for cow thieves (Best, 2006). The accord, however, resulted in more talk than action.

Despite the seeming failure of the attempts described above, the initiative was effectively implemented by the Niger State administration when it launched its own joint patrol, codenamed Operation Sharan Daji. The operation, which includes the military, police, security services, civil defense corps, and local vigilante organizations, works by engaging bandits in the forests on a proactive basis. Within a week of its inception, 118 cows and 23 sheep had been recovered from bandits (Chumba et al., 2013). The Katsina State government implemented the same method of combined patrol operation in late 2015. The most creative answer, however, came from the Kaduna State government. The steps include embedding security agents among herders to safeguard them from bandits, reinforcing state boundaries to prevent criminals from

crossing borders, and, most critically, implanting computer microchips in the animals to track their activities and prevent armed bandits from taking them (Abdulkadir, 2017). The Kaduna project, dubbed the "El-Rufa"i Model," takes a proactive and preventive strategy by utilizing information and communication technologies. It is, however, only a proposal, and no one knows when it will be enacted. Furthermore, in order to tackle the crisis in a different way, the Zamfara State administration and the leadership of these bandits started a peace pact and amnesty in 2016. After reviewing the effects of the cohesive measures, particularly the use of military and mobile police, the state government concluded that the operation had not produced the expected results despite the large sums of money spent. As a result, the State government decided that negotiating with the armed bandits and having them relinquish their weapons to the State government was the best choice for securing long-term peace (Ayo, 2018). The government agreed to their demands and highlighted that in order for the amnesty deal to be complete, the bandits must relinquish their weaponry and vow not to invade any community for the duration of the peace treaty. The administration also offered certain strategic methods to reintegrate bandits into their communities, such as granting soft grants to start businesses and bringing some of them closer to the government. Nonetheless, several official initiatives have reduced the frequency of bandit attacks and cattle rustling. Thousands of livestock have been retrieved and restored to their owners on various occasions. For example, as of 7 March 2016, the Katsina government's combined patrol force had rescued 12,000 livestock after a few days of operation (Beland, 2005). A number of bandits have also been apprehended and prosecuted. With the assistance of the armed forces, the security forces were also able to infiltrate several of the rustlers' hideouts.

Conclusion

The research found that rural banditry has harmed Nigeria's whole educational system. As a result of insecurity in the administration of the Nigerian educational system, the paper identified loss of manpower in educational institutions, poor quality of education, destruction of infrastructural facilities, brain-drain, closure of educational institutions, discouragement of educational pursuit by children, internal displacement of learners, reduction of private investment in education, and inadequate funding of education. The article concluded that the threat of rural banditry is becoming more concerning as a result of high unemployment, a poor security system, poverty, the porousness of Nigeria's borders, the proliferation of weaponry, and the presence of scarcely controlled spaces that serve as hideouts for the bandits. As a result, the research exposes a high prevalence of rural banditry attacks on schools, farm communities, villages, and highways, resulting in kidnapping and security difficulties. As a result, the report concluded that Nigeria Rural banditry has been quite tense and explosive in the northwest as a result of the frightening rate of insecurity, which has resulted in tremendous plundering and carnage, which has rendered the country comatose in all aspects of existence.

Recommendation

To solve the identified problems, the following recommendations are hereby proffered:

(a) The government should develop the political will to fight all forms of insecurity in the country through the application of best strategies;
(b) The Federal Government should deploy security personnel to guide all educational institutions in the country. The government should increase the level of its security through employing dedicated and intelligent security personnel;
(c) The Nigerian government should direct Nigerian Police Force to establish a department for school security. The department should be saddled with the responsibility of providing security to all educational institutions in the country;
(d) The Nigerian government should direct the Nigerian security and civil defense to establish department of forest security. This department will prevent the kidnappers from using forest for kidnapping activities and hide-out;
(e) The government should employ the engagement strategies and negotiation strategies to free the students in the hands of the kidnappers to engage the bandits and other criminal element in the country.
(f) Governments must show strength and rise up to her responsibilities to protect our schools, lives, and property. Education must not be allowed to be silenced by terrorists or kidnappers. School children and indeed educational institutions deserve to be protected from becoming soft targets for kidnappers, bandits or terrorists.
(g) Schools must not be allowed to be turned into battle grounds where people go to display their grievances, collect baits for ransom or show their kidnapping strengths. Failure to protect the schools is a failure to the present and future generation. All hands have to be on deck to help secure our schools and in extension the future of our youths and children. No student deserves to be kidnapped anywhere.
(h) Government at all levels, communities, and educational institutions have to do more to protect the schools from all forms of attacks, particularly from the menace of kidnappings. Campus security should be

taken seriously by schools in line with modern day security realities. Educational institutions should not wait until they are targeted before they put preventive measures in place to protect their campuses, hostels, students, teachers and infrastructures.

(i) More proactive steps have to be taken to secure schools from bandit or terrorist attacks and to stop the kidnapping of students. This is because if the emerging trend of kidnappings, especially students' abductions are allowed to continue, it will not only consume our education sector, but also the future of our country. Our children and teachers deserve to learn and teach under a peaceful atmosphere devoid of any form of fear or intimidation either by kidnappers, bandits or terrorists.

(j) Nigerian government should strategize to create meaningful employment for the youths trapped in the phenomenon through the creation of programmes which aim at addressing the endemic poverty in the northwest in particular and the country in general.

(k) Nigeria government should sustain the military efforts in prosecuting the war against banditry as well as equip the security forces with both types of modern equipment and necessary incentives to enable them carry out their duty without hindrances.

(L) There should be re-orientation to inculcate ethical values and reverence for life and human right in the people and also the need to co-exist irrespective of religious or ethnic inclinations.

(M) Government at all levels should put in place functional security system like community policing to supplement the operations of other security agencies as well as the need for proper orientation of the Nigerian security personnel on the need to maintain peace and order in collaboration with the local vigilante. The local vigilante understands the terrain of their communities/environment better than the newly posted police officers from other states.

(N) Government should intensify efforts to mobilize financial and human resources to fund disarmament, and de-radicalization programmes to curtail the problems of arms proliferation across the region.

(O)There should be adequate supply and installation of modern technology as well as increased surveillance while border security personnel are urgently required to check trans-border crimes, which are part of the igniting factors accentuating banditry in Nigeria.

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