

GENDER AND AGE DIFFERENCES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AMONG VICTIMS OF BANDITRY IN BIRNIN GWARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study examined gender and age differences in psychological well-being among victims of banditry in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area, Kaduna State. A survey design was adopted, with multi-stage and convenience sampling used to select one hundred and forty-three (143) participants. The Ryff Psychological Well-being Scale was used to collect data, and two hypotheses were tested. Findings showed no statistically significant gender differences on any of the six dimensions of psychological well-being: autonomy, $t(141) = .747$, $p > .05$; environmental mastery, $t(141) = .282$, $p > .05$; personal growth, $t(141) = -.196$, $p > .05$; positive relations with others, $t(141) = 1.557$, $p > .05$; purpose in life, $t(141) = -.029$, $p > .05$; and self-acceptance, $t(141) = -.457$, $p > .05$. Similarly, age did not significantly predict differences in any of the six dimensions: autonomy, $F(2, 142) = 1.692$, $p > .05$; environmental mastery, $F(2, 142) = 0.427$, $p > .05$; personal growth, $F(2, 142) = 0.299$, $p > .05$; positive relations with others, $F(2, 142) = 0.651$, $p > .05$; purpose in life, $F(2, 142) = 0.212$, $p > .05$; and self-acceptance, $F(2, 142) = 0.292$, $p > .05$. These results suggest that exposure to banditry affects victims' psychological well-being fairly uniformly, regardless of their gender or age. In other words, the trauma associated with banditry does not appear to discriminate along demographic lines — male and female victims, as well as victims of different ages, appear to experience similar levels of psychological strain. Based on this, the study recommends that mental health and psychosocial support programmes for banditry victims in Birnin Gwari and similar communities be designed as broad, inclusive interventions rather than being tailored narrowly to specific gender or age groups. Government agencies, NGOs, and mental health practitioners should prioritise accessible counselling and rehabilitation services for all victims. Future research should also explore other factors, such as duration of exposure, degree of loss suffered, and displacement experiences, which may offer a clearer picture of what actually drives variation in psychological well-being among victims of banditry.

Keywords: Age, Gender, Banditry Activities and Psychological Well-being, Difference

Introduction

Insecurity in Nigeria is a recurring phenomenon that threatens the well-being of its citizens. The multipronged occurrence constitutes a bane to development and leads to the proliferation of crime. As a multifaceted quandary, insecurity assumes varying dimensions in different geopolitical zones. The South West is plagued by a surge in cybercrime, armed robbery, kidnapping, domestic crime, extrajudicial killings, herder-farmer conflicts, ritual killings, and banditry (Ibrahim & Mukhtar, 2019). The South East is a haven for ritual killings, commercial crime, secessionist agitation, kidnapping, herder-farmer clashes, attacks by unknown gunmen, and banditry. The South remains threatened by militancy, kidnapping, and environmental agitation. The North East has been subject to a humanitarian crisis lasting over a decade and caused by the Boko Haram insurgency and the Islamic State in West Africa Province. Meanwhile, the North West is enmeshed in illegal mining, ethno religious killings, and banditry (Ibrahim & Mukhtar, 2019). It is, therefore, an axiom that insecurity in Nigeria has assumed a disproportionate geopolitical stance and that it has claimed thousands of lives and extensive damage and loss of property.

In Nigeria, kidnapping is one of the most psychologically damaging crimes of all in the society today and has caused a lot of psychological problems on the population. Victims typically take many years to heal from the psychological wounds inflicted upon them and some never completely recover. Kidnapping can cause deep emotional and mental scars that leave victims to battle through issues of trust, independence, love, sex, respect, and a litany of others. The reality is that

kidnappings occur in all communities and at all levels, and each case needs to have as much attention as any other. By only hearing reports of affluent or middle-class kidnappings, the public may tend to forget that in poorer neighbourhoods and low-income areas, adults and children are abducted on a regular basis (Shekwolo et al., 2020).

In contemporary Nigerian Society, especially part of Kaduna to be precise, the issue of banditry has taken an alarming dimension thereby creating anxiety among the populace. People are no longer sure of their safety and the security of the places they stay as churches, markets, homes and streets have become the luxury apartment for these callous human beings. There is increasing tension now in the society about this menace as people move about their lawful businesses with perpetual fear because nobody knows who is going to be the next target or victim. And this has hampered greatly the socio-economic activities in the society (Ibrahim & Mukhtar, 2019).

Presently, the rate of banditry in Nigeria, in spite of the effort of police and other security agencies has been quite worrisome and poses a great challenge to the psychological well-being of the country. It has stalled business activities in some areas as well created fear in the minds of Nigerians. On the other hand, the perpetrators, who are mostly youths, are lost to such criminal activities instead of being gainfully employed as productive citizens for Nigeria's development.

Statement of the Problem

Banditry has been a reoccurring theme in the fight against insecurity in Psychological well-being, causing tremendous anxiety among government officials, people, and security personnel. This is because it does not only harms individuals, but it also has the potential to damage communities, discourage investment, deter

foreign help, and deplete state coffers. In a developing economy, these costs are unsustainable. Banditry has posed a serious challenge to Psychological well-being in Nigeria and mostly to northern part of the nation and Kaduna in particular. Its impact on the nation had an enormous negative impact on the socio-economic and political lives of average Nigerians. In spite of the fact that this menace is assuming an alarming rate in Northern part of Nigeria with Psychological well-being States as reference points, the menace is also a source of worry in other neighbouring states. Apart from the loss of lives, this criminal activity has negative implications on the economy of the affected states and Nigeria in general. Psychological well-beings have been on the news for the wrong reasons because of this.

Kaduna State is experiencing rapid population growth and human security is a challenge as a result of influx of banditry due to porous national border. It is observed that bandits had carried out village raid, banditry and cattle rustling on many communities in Kaduna State which some communities recorded high severities. Also, the banditry rate of people on Kaduna-Abuja high way is compared to none in Nigeria. In spite of government efforts, the security situation is deteriorating.

They are storm of researches done previously in this area of study. All the literature analysed the evaluate banditry in Nigeria but none of them lay emphasis on with reference to Birnin Gwari LGA and their psychological well-being. Therefore, this has formed the basis for this study. The incidence of banditry in Nigeria particularly Kaduna State has developed new tendencies from the traditional to the modern. It is the understanding of these new propensities and their relative importance that should be the point of focus. These different tendencies operate differently from one locality to the other in terms of degree and impact, although to a large extent all have contributed to the state of violence and lawlessness in the affected communities.

Studies of Gadzama et al. (2018) appraises of rural banditry in Kamuku Forest in Birnin Gwari Local Government of Kaduna State. Similarly, Dutse and Oluwaselu (2020) conducted study on the effects of Armed Banditry on Human Security in Kaduna State. This study obtained empirical evidence on effects of armed banditry on human security in Kaduna State. All these phenomenal still occurred in the State which prompted the researcher to conduct this study in other to proffer viable solutions to these challenges. Based on the above, this study intends to examine the effect of banditry on psychological well-being in Kaduna State by focusing on Psychological well-being.

Research Objectives

The major purpose of this study is to examine the influence of banditry on psychological well-being among Birnin Gwari LGA. Other specific objectives include;

- i. To identify the gender difference in psychological well-being among the participants.
- ii. To determine the age difference in psychological well-being among the participants.

Statement of the Hypotheses

Based on the objectives presented by the study, the following research hypotheses were stated

- i. There will be significant difference between male and female in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State.
- ii. There will be significant age difference in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State.

Methods

Design

The research design used by the researcher is survey research design. A survey research is the type of study in which the researcher studies a group of people or items by collecting and analysing data from only few considered to be the representative of the entire group. Justification for using the survey method is because it is more appropriate for the choosing topic and considering the wide population under study, the researcher believes it will be accurate.

Study Area/ Location

Birnin Gwari is a local government area in Kaduna state (northwest geo-political zone) of Nigeria with its headquarter in Birnin Gwari. The LGA has a landmass of 6,185 km and a population of 252,263 estimated by the 2006 census, but with a projected population of 335,076 in 2015. Birnin Gwari LGA is located along Kaduna Lagos express way at about 125 km from Kaduna. Birning Gwari is located at latitude 12 20, N and longitude 9 10.E (Fadma Report, 2018). It lies in the western part of Kaduna state and shares boundaries in Zabnfara state to the east and North east of Giwa LGA and to the west Niger state (Gadzama et al., 2018). The LGA has sixteen district namely Brinin Gwari center, Gayam, Bugai, Kutemeshi, Tabanni, Dogon daa, Kaakangi, Randagi, Kzege, Maganda, Sauluwa, Saminaka, Gwaska, Bagoma and Kuyello. The area is largely agrarian and most resident is either farmers or livestock keepers. Crops grown in the area includes, miaze, rice, wheat, groundnut and guinea corn. The predominant language is house though there is the presence of resident from other part of the country.

The major occupation of the people in the area of study includes; commercial undertakings such as retailing, pure water business, bakeries, hospitality industry, cosmetics and confectioneries etc. Among the population, a number of people are civil servants other people engage in agricultural activities. Farming such as

fisheries, crop farming which includes, rice, beans, fish, vegetables, fruits, dairy products and animal rearing.

Instruments

The study employed structured questionnaire adapted by the researchers. The instrument used for data collection was Psychological Well-Being Scale was developed by Ryff (1995). The scale has 42 items with 6 response options ranging from 1=Strongly Disagree 2=Disagree 3=Mildly Disagree 4=Neutral Mildly 5=Agree 6=Strongly Agree. It was developed by Ryff (1995).

The psychometrics properties of the scale are based on the 6 dimensions of the scale seen as thus:

Table 1: Psychometric Properties of the Ryff Scales of Psychological Well-Being

Scales	Internal consistency of item parent scale	Test-retest reliability of item parent scale	Item scale correlation with item parent scale	Internal consistency of item parent scale	Internal consistency of item scale
Self-acceptance	.93	.85	.99	.91	.52
Positive Relations with others	.91	.83	.98	.88	.56
Autonomy	.86	.88	.97	.83	.37
Environmental Mastery	.90	.81	.98	.86	.49
Purpose in Life	.90	.82	.98	.88	.33
Personal Growth	.87	.81	.97	.85	.40

Self- Acceptance

High Scorer: Possesses a positive attitude toward the self; acknowledge and accepts multiple aspects of self, including good and bad qualities; feels positive about past life.

Low Scorer: Feels dissatisfied with self; is disappointed with what has occurred with past life; is troubled about certain personal qualities; wished to be different than what he or she is.

Positive Relations with others

Higher Scorer: Has warm, satisfying, trusting relationships with others; is concerned about the welfare of others; capable of strong empathy, affection, and intimacy; understands give and take of human relationships.

Low Scorer: Has few close, trusting relationships with others; finds it difficult to be warm, open and concerned about others; is isolated and frustrated in interpersonal relationships; not willing to make compromises to sustain important ties with others.

Autonomy

High Scorer: Is self-determining and independent; able to resist social pressures to think and act in certain ways; regulates behaviour from within; evaluates self by personal standards.

Low Scorer: Is concerned about the expectations and evaluations of others; relies on judgments of others to make important decisions; conforms to social pressures to think and act in certain ways.

Environmental Mastery

Higher Scorer: Has a sense of mastery and competence in managing the environment; controls complex array of external activities; makes effective use of

surrounding opportunities; able to choose or create contexts suitable to personal needs and values.

Low Scorer: Has difficulty managing everyday affairs; feels unable to change or improve surrounding context; is unaware of surrounding opportunities; lacks sense of control over external world.

Purpose in Life

High Scorer: Has goals in life and a sense of directedness; feels there is meaning to present and past life; holds beliefs that give life purpose; has aims and objectives for living.

Low Scorer: Lacks a sense of meaning in life; has few a goal or aims, lacks sense of direction; does not see purpose of past life; has no outlook or beliefs that give life meaning.

Personal Growth

High Scorer: Has a feeling of continued development; sees self as growing and expanding; is open to new experiences; has sense of realizing his or her potential; sees improvement in self and behaviour over time; is changing in ways that reflect more self-knowledge and effectiveness.

Low Scorer: Has a sense of personal stagnation; lacks sense of improvement or expansion over time; feels bored and uninterested with life; feels unable to develop new attitudes or behaviours.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

A combination of multi-stage, and convenient sampling methods of sampling techniques was used in the study. In each of the district in Birnin Gwari that makes

up the LGA; Brinin Gwari center, Gayam, Bugai, Kutemeshi, Tabanni, kungi, Dogon dawa, Kaakangi, Randagi, Maganda, Sauluwa, Bagoma and Kuyello. 10 households were selected from each of these towns by the use of probability sampling of multi-stage cluster techniques. Each of the ward formed a cluster from the streets, four houses were selected at random, house with four to six households, 3 questionnaires were given, while house with seven or more households were given 5 questionnaires, one hundred and fifty-six was used. A sample size of 12 were drawn from each ward bringing the total number of participants to 143.

Participants

The participants in this study were total of one hundred and forty-three (143) participants for this study comprises of male and female from the ages 15 and above residing in living in Birnin Gwari Area of Kaduna State. The population of the study is 252,363. In drawing participants for the study, the researcher bared in mind the following attributes, such as consideration, gender, educational and occupational experience marital status, area of abode (rural/urban environment). The purposeful sampling technique was used to select the desired number of participants.

Procedure

Permission was sought from the local government Chairman by the researchers before the administration of the questionnaires. Letter of introduction and permission was submitted to the Birnin Gwari local government Chairman in Kaduna State. Also, verbal consent of prospective participants was sought after brief explanation of the research. Those who consented were given the questionnaire with assurance of anonymity and confidentiality of responses. The 143 instrument was administered to the participants by the researcher with help of research assistants,

who also assisted in explaining the instructions to the participants. The instruments were retrieved immediately after completion by the respondents.

Methods Data Analysis

The analysis and corresponding interpretation of the data collated in the study using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26 for the data analysis. Descriptive statistics used for analyzing the data were Frequency, percentages, means and standard deviations while the inferential statistics used to test the hypotheses were Independent Sample t-test and One-Way Analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Ethical Considerations

Ethical issues considered in this study include the rights of the respondents in Birnin Gwari LGA, scientific honesty on the part of the researcher. The respondents decided for themselves whether or not to take part in the study based on information provided about the purpose of the study. The participants were assured that all information would be treated anonymously and confidentially. No person would be identified in the report. Participants who wish to obtain a copy of the research report may inform the researcher who provided one.

Demographic Variables

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Participants

Demographic Variables		Frequency	Percentage	
Gender	Male	53	37.1	
	Female	90	62.9	
	Total	143	100%	
Age	16-21 years	49	34.3	Table 1
	22-28 years	54	37.8	
	29 years above	40	28.0	
	Total	143	100%	
Marital status	Single	96	67.1	
	Married	40	28.0	
	Divorced	7	4.9	
	Total	143	100%	
Religious Affiliation	Christianity	73	51.0	
	Islam	70	49.0	
Family type	Total	143	100%	
	Monogamous	117	81.8	
	Polygamous	26	18.2	
	Total	143	100%	
Academic Qualification	Primary	5	3.5	
	Secondary	45	31.5	
	Tertiary	93	65.0	
	Total	143	100%	
Number of Children	1-2 children	35	24.5	
	3-4 children	37	25.9	
	5-6 children	6	4.2	
	7 children above	6	4.2	
	None	56	41.3	
	Total	143	100%	

presents the demographic characteristics of 143 participants (males = 53 and females = 90) with age ranging from 16-60 years, mean age of 24.94 and standard deviation of 6.631; age was further grouped as 16-21 years (N= 49; 34.3%), 22-28 years (N= 54; 37.8%) and 29 years and above (N= 40; 28%). Marital status: Single (N= 96; 67.1%), Married (N= 40; 28%) and divorced (N= 7; 4.9%). Religious affiliation: Christianity (N= 73; 51%) and Islam (N= 70; 49%). Family type: monogamous (N= 117; 81.8%) and polygamous (N= 26; 18.2%). Academic qualification: primary (N= 5; 3.5%), secondary (N= 45;

31.5%) and tertiary (N= 93; 65%). Number of Children: 1-2 children (N= 35; 24.5%), 3-4 children (N= 25.9%), 5-6 children (N= 6; 4.2%), 7 children above (N= 6; 4.5%) and none (N= 56; 41.3%).

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There will be significant difference between male and female in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was tested using Independent Sample t-test in table 2.

Table 2: Difference between Male and Female on Psychological Wellbeing (PWB) among Victims of Banditry in Kaduna State.

Psychological wellbeing	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Df	t	Sig.
Autonomy	Male	53	26.23	6.941	141	.747	.456
	Female	90	25.48	4.997			
Environmental mastery	Male	53	27.04	5.349	141	.282	.778
	Female	90	26.79	4.937			
Personal growth	Male	53	23.77	5.507	141	-.196	.845
	Female	90	23.94	4.746			
Positive relations	Male	53	19.74	7.036	141	1.557	.122
	Female	90	17.99	6.129			
Purpose in life	Male	53	22.72	6.252	141	-.029	.977
	Female	90	22.74	4.838			
Self-Acceptance	Male	53	26.43	4.901	141	-.457	.648
	Female	90	26.84	5.348			

Table 2 shows the summary results of the Independent Sample t-test on the components of psychological wellbeing among banditry victims in Kaduna State where the results revealed the mean and standard deviation scores for Autonomy: male ($M = 26.23$; $SD = 6.941$) and female ($M = 25.48$; $SD = 4.997$); Environmental mastery: male ($M = 27.04$; $SD = 5.349$) and female ($M = 26.79$; $SD = 4.937$); Personal growth: male ($M = 23.77$; $SD = 5.507$) and female ($M = 23.94$; $SD = 4.746$); Positive relations: male ($M = 19.74$; $SD = 7.036$) and female ($M = 17.99$; $SD = 6.129$); Purpose in life: male ($M = 22.72$; $SD = 6.252$) and female ($M = 22.74$; $SD = 4.838$) and Self-acceptance: male ($M = 26.43$; $SD = 4.901$) and female ($M = 26.84$; $SD = 5.348$). Furthermore, the results revealed a no statistically significant across board as Autonomy $t(141) = .747$, $P > 0.05NS$; Environmental mastery $t(141) = .282$, $P > 0.05NS$; Personal growth $t(141) = -.196$, $P > 0.05NS$; Positive relations $t(141) = 1.557$, $P > 0.05NS$; Purpose in life $t(141) = -.029$, $P > 0.05NS$ and Self-acceptance $t(141) = -.457$, $P > 0.05NS$ have no difference between male and female participants on psychological wellbeing among banditry victims in Kaduna State. In other words, this hypothesis was not confirmed significant in this study. Thus, implies that both male and female participants have no significant improvement in their psychological wellbeing which might be link to the bandit's activities.

Hypothesis 2: There will be significant age difference in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State. This hypothesis was tested using One-Way ANOVA in table 3 and 4.

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation on Psychological Wellbeing According to Age.

Psychological Wellbeing	Age	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
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Autonomy	16-21 years	49	25.00	4.774
	22-28 years	54	26.89	6.151
	29 years and above	40	25.15	6.274
	Total	143	25.76	5.781
Environmental mastery	16-21 years	49	27.33	4.828
	22-28 years	54	26.41	4.816
	29 years and above	40	26.98	5.749
	Total	143	26.88	5.076
Personal growth	16-21 years	49	23.49	4.912
	22-28 years	54	24.26	4.536
	29 years and above	40	23.85	5.816
	Total	143	23.88	5.023
Positive relations	16-21 years	49	17.80	6.423
	22-28 years	54	19.22	5.833
	29 years and above	40	18.88	7.477
	Total	143	18.64	6.511
Purpose in life	16-21 years	49	23.12	6.082
	22-28 years	54	22.63	4.787
	29 years and above	40	22.40	5.344
	Total	143	22.73	5.384
Self-Acceptance	16-21 years	49	26.51	5.679
	22-28 years	54	27.11	4.820
	29 years and above	40	26.35	5.077
	Total	143	26.69	5.173

Table 3

shows the mean and standard deviation scores of victims of banditry on psychological wellbeing based on age. The analysis revealed summary of the mean results where autonomy have a mean score of 25.76 and standard deviation of 5.781; environmental mastery have a mean score of 26.88 and standard deviation of 5.076; personal growth have a mean score of 23.88 and standard deviation of 5.023; positive relations have a mean score of 18.64 and standard deviation of 6.51; purpose in life have a mean score of 22.73 and standard deviation of 5.5384 and self-acceptance have mean score of 26.69 and standard deviation of 5.173. Thus, the results indicate that environmental mastery, self-

acceptance and autonomy have a mean score above 25.00 while other components of psychological wellbeing indicates low mean scores.

Table 4: Summary Result of One-Way ANOVA on Psychological wellbeing among Victims of Banditry in Kaduna State.

PWB		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Si g.
Autonomy	Between Groups	112.000	2	56.000	1.692	.188
	Within Groups	4634.433	140	33.103		
	Total	4746.434	142			
Environm ental mastery	Between Groups	22.191	2	11.096	.427	.653
	Within Groups	3636.788	140	25.977		
	Total	3658.979	142			
Personal growth	Between Groups	15.264	2	7.632	.299	.742
	Within Groups	3567.715	140	25.484		
	Total	3582.979	142			
Positive relations	Between Groups	55.423	2	27.712	.651	.523
	Within Groups	5963.668	140	42.598		
	Total	6019.091	142			
Purpose in life	Between Groups	12.444	2	6.222	.212	.809
	Within Groups	4103.458	140	29.310		
	Total	4115.902	142			
Self-Acceptan ce	Between Groups	15.783	2	7.892	.292	.747
	Within Groups	3784.678	140	27.033		
	Total	3800.462	142			

Table 4 presents the results of the One-Way analysis of variance which indicates that there is no statistically significant mean difference on the psychological wellbeing of the victims of banditry in Kaduna. Based on the components of psychological wellbeing the results indicates that autonomy $F(2, 142) = 1.692$, $P > 0.05$ NS; environmental mastery $F(2, 142) = 0.427$, $P > 0.05$ NS; personal growth $F(2, 142) = 0.299$, $P > 0.05$ NS; positive relations $F(2, 142) = 0.651$, $P > 0.05$ NS; purpose in life $F(2, 142) = 0.212$, $P > 0.05$ NS and self-acceptance $F(2, 142) = 0.292$, $P > 0.05$ NS were revealed as not significant. In other words, the hypothesis was not confirmed in this study. This implies that psychological wellbeing of participants is low across age bracket and this might be linked to banditry activities in the areas.

Discussion

This study focused on influence of banditry activities on psychological well-being among Birnin Gwari Local Government Kaduna State. Two hypotheses were stated and tested using Independent Sample t-test and One-Way Analysis of variance (ANOVA). Hypothesis one stated that there will be significant difference between male and female in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State. The result was found to be statistically insignificant difference between male and female in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State. The results of this study are similar to research findings by Dutse and Oluwaselu (2020) revealed that, armed banditry has high effect male and female psychological wellbeing among in Zamfara State. Likewise, Okoli and Okpaleke (2014) who found that armed banditry has high effect female psychological wellbeing than their male counterpart in Benue State.

Hypothesis two stated that there will be significant age difference in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State. The result also revealed that there is no statistically significant age difference in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Kaduna State. In support of this, Yaro and Tobias (2019) revealed that there is no significant age difference in psychological wellbeing among victims of banditry in Nasarawa State. The opinion was in accordance with Gadzama et al. (2018) which revealed that banditry has no significant effect on age difference among victim of banditry in Kaduna. Finding further indicated that armed banditry has effect on psychological wellbeing of victims in Benue State.

Banditry has posed a serious challenge to Psychological well-being in Nigeria and mostly to northern part of the nation and Kaduna in particular. Its impact on the nation had an enormous negative impact on the socio-economic and political lives of average Nigerians. In spite of the fact that this menace is assuming an alarming rate in Northern part of Nigeria with Psychological well-being States as reference points, the menace is also a source of worry in other neighbouring states.

Conclusion

The outstanding psychological effect of armed banditry are disruption of economic activities, fall in business activities due to fear of insecurity by travelers and service providers, and the psychological trauma suffered by residents, victims and relative of victims of armed banditry. Banditry activities had affected or cause the psychological trauma to the residents of the state. Proliferation of the light arms were also on the rise, as in some of the villages or community enmeshed by the bandits in the state many residents are now getting arms for

self-defense; and that, arms in the hands of many people have already created a law-less society in Kaduna State. Beside the above, the excruciating experiences of bandit activities by the residents have left a lot of people with an incurable psychological problem.

Little effort has been put in place by individuals, community and government law enforcement agencies towards the control and prevention of armed banditry. Most efforts involved the setting up of vigilante groups and roadblocks, which were futile in view of the nature of the terrain and operation of the bandits who attack and escape into the hills/bushes for cover.

Recommendations

- i. Government should recognize vigilante groups while also resuscitating local community monitoring systems.
- ii. There is need for a more effective institutional coordination among specialized institutions in view of the multi-dimensional nature of state interest in border security.
- iii. The government should equip the security agencies with appropriate weapons that are superior to those of the armed bandits.
- iv. Government should address the issues of unemployment, poverty, neglect of the border communities and social injustice with a view to improving the socioeconomic conditions of the residents and, also reducing the tendency to turn to crime as an alternative to survival.

- v. Efforts must therefore be made to curtail the influx of refugees and ex-combatants from these neighbouring war torn countries through collaborative efforts with its neighbouring law enforcement agencies.
- vi. Effort must be made to control the flow, illegal trafficking, circulation and use of small and light weapons.
- vii. There should be Inter-governmental cooperation between Nigeria and neighbouring countries to combat armed banditry.

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