

Socioeconomic Activities and Insecurity Situations in Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State

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Abstract

The main objective of this research paper is to examine the socioeconomic activities and insecurity situations in Isah local Government of Sokoto State. Three objectives, research questions and three hypotheses were formulated. The correlational research design was adopted to discover the extent of relationship that exists between the variables. The total number of 354 was purposively selected for the study. Result shows that Farming activities is more related to Security Challenge and a better predictor of Working in the other places in the state than their Business activities. Based on the result researchers recommended that the government should try to discharge its responsibility for public safety at all levels, runs by the local, state and federal governments. This will enable the people to go out and engage in farming, business and government work without a doubt that the terrorists have violated their rights.

Key Words: Coping, Challenges and Insecurity

Introduction

Insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered sustainable development in Nigeria in particular and Africa at large. Nigeria which is perceived as the giant of Africa has witnessed an unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Fulani Herdsmen: Boko Haram Insurgencies, Armed Robber Attacks, kidnapping, political/religious crisis, murder, destruction of oil facilities by Niger Delta militants, Child Abduction, Trafficking etc. Other crimes committed include: destruction of vehicles; burning of Mosques, Churches, Police stations, Schools, Hospitals, clinics, shops, army barracks and residential houses; abduction of expatriates. These challenges have made security a pivotal issue that has culminated in the allocation of country's meager resources to the protection of lives and properties.

In security has been a concern in Sokoto State, Nigeria, with issues such as banditry, insurgency, and communal conflicts affecting the region. Efforts have been made by the government and security

agencies to address these challenges and restore peace. However, coping with the insecurity challenges in Sokoto State requires a multi-faceted approach. This might involve strengthening law enforcement, improving intelligence gathering, promoting community engagement and investing in socio-economic development. Collaborative efforts between government, security agencies, local communities and NGO's can create a safer environment and address the root causes of insecurity. Isa is a local government area in Sokoto State, Nigeria. Its headquarters were in the town of Isa. It has an area of 868 km² and a population of 281,367 at 2006 census. Isa also, is affected with issue of insecurity. Residents of Sububu, Kuka tara, Tsabre, Modaci, Lugu, Bargaja, Dan Zanke, Gazau, Turba, Gawa kuke, Kaibaba, Gatawa, Rijiyar Malam Ladan, Gidan nagora, Daborawa, Madattai and other surrounding communities in Isa local government area of Sokoto State protest incessant killings and rising insecurity in the state. The protesters blocked the ever busy Isa Gundumi highway putting business activities on hold. They want government and security agencies to secure communities from armed bandits attack and kidnapping especially as farming season commences.

Conceptual Framework

The concept of national security remains ambiguous, having evolved from simpler definitions which emphasized freedom from military threat and from political coercion. Among the many definitions proposed to date were the following, which show how the concept has evolved to encompass non-military concerns. A nation has security when it does not have to sacrifice its legitimate interests to avoid war, and is able, if challenged, to maintain them by war (Walter Lippmann, 1943). The distinctive meaning of national security means freedom from foreign dictation (Harold Lasswell, 1950). National security objectively means the absence of threats to acquired values and subjectively, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked (Arnold Wolfers, 1960). National security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution, and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders (Harold Brown, U.S. Secretary of Defense, 1977-1981).

National security is best described as a capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or

autonomy, prosperity, and wellbeing (Charles, 1990). National security is an appropriate and aggressive blend of political resilience and maturity, human resources, economic structure and capacity, technological competence, industrial base and availability of natural resources and finally the military might. (National Defence College of India, 1996). National security is the measurable state of the capability of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threats to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time, by balancing all instruments of state policy through governance and is extendable to global security by variables external to it (Prabhakaran, 2008). National and international security may be understood as showered freedom from fear and want, and the freedom to live in dignity. It implies social and ecological health rather than the absence of risk and is a common right (Ammerdown, 2016).

Insecurity in Nigeria includes bombing, suicide bomb attacks, sporadic shooting of unarmed and innocent citizens, burning of police stations, churches, kidnapping of school girls and women. Kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and political crises, murder, destruction of oil facilities by un-patriotic Nigerians. Insecurity and terrorism has been major challenges to the Nigerian government in recent times. The activities of the Islamic sect (Boko Haram) and Banditry activities had led to loss of lives and properties in the country especially in the Northern part of Nigeria. The events surrounding September 11, 2001 and other recent events of terrorism across the globe especially the current wave of terrorism in Nigeria, had focused my minds on issues of terrorism and insecurity. It has made government to divert resources meant for development purposes to security votes. Expenditure made by government on security matters had significantly and positively impacted on economic development implying that expenditure on security matters has helped to ameliorate the negative effect of terrorism and insecurity despite the fact there is a crowding-in effect of security expenditure on economic development.

Sokoto State the Site of the Caliphate is believed to be as one of the states in Nigeria where citizens were proud to be farmers, and the state has no doubt lived up to its slogan of "Site of the Caliphate". Isa Local Government is a town and Local Government Area of Sokoto State, Nigeria. It shares borders with Shinkafi in Zamfara State, Goronyo and Sabon Birni from west and north respectively in Sokoto and the Republic of Niger in the east. It has an area of 2,158 Km² and a population of 146,103 at 2006 Census. The postal code of the area is 842. The local government of Isa is made up of the capital towns

and villages such as Turba, birth place of the former Sokoto State Governor and 2007 Presidential candidate Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa. Historically the area was a part of the ancient kingdom of Gobir and is inhabited by members of the Fulani ethnic groups. Other villages under Isa Local Government are: Sububu, Kuka Tara, Tsabre, Modaci, Lugu, Dan Zanke, Gazau, Turba, Gawa kuke, Kaibaba, gatawa, Rijiyar malam Ladan, Gidan nagora, Madattai.

The abduction of people and excessive killing in Isa was one of the major challenges in the area. Also, 18 sitters Bus were attacks by criminals and they were burnt to ashes at Gidan Bawa town that placed the state on national and international stage negatively. Despite efforts by past and present administrations in the state as well as the Federal Government, it has remained a den of notorious criminal non-state actors, who have become entrenched. Like with all such criminal non-state actors, there activities have continued to impact negatively on the lives and livelihood of the people of the state who were largely farmers – both small and large scale. While those in the state were direct victims of the activities of these criminals, citizens of the state who reside outside it were also collateral victims as they can no longer travel home with their families for visits during festivals. In the same wise, commercial and business activities have been affected.

Theoretical Framework

A Constructivist Approach to Security and National Security Before one can aspire to understand national security exhaustively, it is essential to, first of all, understand what security is. The complexity of security as a concept means that its clarification is a requirement for anyone attempting to discuss national security. Security has been defined as a state of feeling safe and the absence of fear, anxiety, danger, poverty and oppression and that that security is the preservation of core values and the absence of threats to these values. Security was also defined by Zabadi as a state within which people or things were not exposed to the danger of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or decline. Zabadi also viewed the state as the primary provider of security towards its citizens, utilising power and force to provide security if need be. Constructivism is not a theory of international relations or security. It is more of a broader social theory which then informs how we might approach the study of security.

Statement of Problem

The predicament in which security challenges has placed in Isa Local Government of Sokoto State is unquantifiable. The local governments endowed with both human and natural resources were suffering from severe pangs of hunger to the detriment of the citizenry. This scenario has prompted many youths to engage in nefarious and precarious activities such as armed robbery, kidnapping, child abduction etc. Youths who were leaders of tomorrow were neglected. This ugly situation has resulted in migration of youths from one country to the other, from one state to the other in search of greener pastures where many have lost their lives. Therefore, it is very clear that the state of insecurity in Isa Local Government town is largely a function of government failure and lackadaisical attitude towards the poor masses. This is showcased by the inability of government to deliver public services and to provide basic needs for the masses like shelter, food and clothing, educational and farming activities. The paucity of basic needs by the people of the local government in the state has created a pool of frustrated people who were ignited easily by any event to be violent.

The argument here, is that, Nigeria has the resources to provide for the needs of her people, in the states and local governments, but corruption in public offices at all levels has made it impossible for office holders to focus on the provision of basic needs and security for the people. Federal and Sokoto State government did not provide citizens of Isa Local Government Local government with the security to continue with their businesses and farming activities which lead a serious poverty in the area. Deputy Chief Imam of Isa Central Mosque was a victim of bandit's attack on his way to Isa town; they collected ransom before he regains his freedom. These were challenges that this research investigated: Unrest, Lost of connection between rural and Urban, Business activities, unable to farm in their farms, uncertainty of their lives due to the bandits attacks, loosing of valuable items like cows, sheeps and goats, Rape/Kidnapping of young girls', loosing of incomes and lack of education e.t.c. These insecurity situations informed the researcher, choice to write on the topic coping with Challenges of Insecurity in Isa Local Government Local Government area of Sokoto State.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study were:

1. To examine the relationship between security challenge and business activities in Isa Local Government in Sokoto State, and
2. To examine the relationship between security challenge and farming activity in Isa Local Government in Sokoto State.

Research Questions

The following were the research questions that this research will answer:

1. Is there any relationship between security challenge and business activities in Isa Local Government Local Government in Sokoto State?
2. Is there any relationship between security challenge and farming activity in Isa Local Government Local Government in Sokoto State?
3. Is a security challenge a better predictor of Isa Local Government citizens working in other local governments in the State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated:

1. That there is no significant relationship between security challenge and business activities in Isa Local Government in Sokoto State.
2. That there is no significant relationship between security challenge and farming activity in Isa Local Government in Sokoto State.
3. That security challenge is a better predictor of Isa Local Government citizens working in other Local Governments in the State.

Methodology

The research is a correlational type of survey design. The correlational research design was chosen because it is the appropriate for all research work in which attempt was made to discover or clarify the extent of relationship that exists between two or more variables through the use of correlational statistics method. It was adopted in this study because it allows the researcher to measure and determine the degree of relationship between two or more variables leading to predictions, inferences or conclusion. The population for the study

includes the entire people of Isa Local Government of Sokoto State. It has an area of 2,158 Km² and a population of one hundred and forty six thousand one hundred and three (146,103) at 2006 Cencus. The postal code of the area is 842.

The researcher used purposive sampling technique to select sample of this study. These include people of Isa, Tsabre, Modaci, Gatarawa and Gidan Nagora. According to Salawu (1991), if within a population there were certain elements the researcher believes were of particular concern to his study, the only way to ensure this was to deliberately select them. Through the use of Krejcie, and Morgan table therefore a total sample size of 354 respondents from the five (5) villages of Isa Local Government. The selected respondents were arrived at. In recognition of this view, the researcher decided not to include the remaining villages. The 354 respondents comprised Isa Town, Modaci, Gatawa, Gidan Nagora and Madattai. The table below shows the breakdown of the respondents:

Table 1: Population and Sample Size

S/N	Area	Population	Sample
1	Isah Town	850	27
2	Modaci	522	45
3	Gatawa	290	25
4	Gidan Nagora	235	43
5	Madattai	108	25
	Total	2,005	354

Source: Isa Local government 2023

The instrument used in collecting relevant information for this study is Self developed instrument on Banditry and its Influence to the life style of People Isa (BILP). The instrument (questionnaire) was developed by the researcher, to measure perception of how their Current situation on Farming and business activities in the area even with the treat of banditry activities. The instrument has 30 items. The questionnaire measured the following aspects namely, Faming, lack of schooling, fear and anxiety and lack of business activities.

Results

H₀₁: That there is no significant relationship between security challenges and business activities in Isa Local Government in Sokoto State.

The hypothesis was tested by subjecting the respondents' scores of Security challenges and business activity to Pearson's correlation analysis as shown in table.

Table 1: Relationship between Security challenge and Business Activities

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	r-Cal	p-Value	Decision
Security challenges	354	164.56	18.113			H0
Business Activities	354	100.45	36.395	.025	.646	Fail to Reject

Results of table indicated that the relationship of Security challenges and business activities though positive was not significant, Pearson's $r(352) = .025$, $p = .646$. This indicates no significant relationship between Security challenges and business activities because the p-value is more than the .05 level of significance. Therefore, H01 which states that there is no significant relationship between Security challenges and business activities in Isa Local Government was accepted.

H02: That there is no significant relationship between security challenge and farming activity in Isa Local Government in Sokoto State

The hypothesis was tested by subjecting the respondents' scores of security challenge and farming activity to Pearson's correlation analysis as shown in table.

Table 2: Relationship between security challenge and farming activity

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	r-Cal	p-Value	Decision
Security Challenge	354	103.37	8.860			
Farming Activity	354	100.45	36.395	.184	.001	H0 Rejected

Results of table indicated that the relationship of students' security challenge and farming activity positive and significant, Pearson's $r(352) = .184$, $p = .001$. This indicates a significant relationship between security challenge and farming activity because the p-value is less than the .05 level of significance. Therefore, H02 which states that there is no significant relationship between security challenge and farming activity in Isa Local Government was rejected.

H03: That security challenge is a better predictor of Isa citizens working in other Local Governments in the State.

This hypothesis was tested by subjecting the respondents' scores of citizen working in other local governments in the state to regression analysis to predict academic performance of the students as shown in table.

Table 3: Farming activity and Business activity Prediction to Security Challenge

Variables	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	SE	F	B	T	p-value
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Farming	.005	.000	-.003	36.446	.009	.019	.333	.739
Workers	.008	.000	-.006	36.497	.011	-.001	-.014	.989
Insecurity	.062	.004	-.005	36.481	.446	.076	1.450	.148
Business	.200	.040	.029	35.865	3.63	.191	3.622	.000

Dependent Variable: Security Challenge

A look at the squared part correlations revealed that Farming activity accounted for 0.0% of the variance in security challenge $R^2_{adj} = -.003$, $F(1, 352) = .009$, $p > .05$ and that workers accounted also for 0.0% of the variance in Security challenge $R^2_{adj} = -.006$, $F(2, 351) = .011$, $p > .05$. Likewise, it also revealed that insecurity accounted for 0.4% of the variance in security challenge $R^2_{adj} = -.005$, $F(3, 350) = .446$, $p > .05$ and finally, that business accounted for 4.0% of the variance $R^2_{adj} = .029$, $F(4, 349) = 3.63$, $p < .05$. Thus, the significant results of the procedure indicated that the predictor variables were able to account for a significant amount of variance in the dependent variable.

Although farming, demanding, insecurity and business were explanatory variables of Security Challenge, analysis of regression coefficients indicated that business, $\beta = .191$, $t = 3.622$, $p < .05$ emerged as the significant predictor when all variables were in the model. This indicated that business is a better predictor of security challenge than workers. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted. Thus, then it is concluded that farming was more related to the security challenge than their business in Isa Local Government of Sokoto State.

Discussion

Security challenges are both an issue in developing as well as in developed countries. Several efforts are made to resolve security concerns globally. However, despite the increased struggle to solve security issues, majorities of the world's population are still faced with preventable internal security challenges; this is mainly in Africa and the Middle East. For many countries, achieving development is not only dependent on economic ability, and asset management but also the state of security of affairs within and outside its horizon.

It can be argued that the essence of maintaining peace and security is for the wellbeing of people in a society.

Results indicated that the relationship of Security challenges and business activities though positive was not significant, Pearson's $r(352) = .025$, $p = .646$. This indicates no significant relationship

between Security challenges and business activities because the p-value is more than the .05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between Security challenges and business activities in Isa Local Government cannot be rejected. This in line with Kim et al suggest that low levels of human development increases the risk of conflict outbreaks and recurrence; therefore this implies that to prevent conflict more projects are to be embarked on to promote human development and this will in turn reflect on the overall security of the country. The protection of lives especially at the grassroots' level is crucial to the overall security of a nation. Also, The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) recognizes four main causes of crisis outbreak in Nigeria; the report blames this on growing economic issues, an increase in organized crime, unproductive government and policies that people have no confidence in, and lastly political differences and election mayhem (OSIWA, 2012). This report goes further, to state that without prompt interference from the international community, the already existing issues might develop into more worsening security problems not only to the country but also to other regions surrounding it. The major challenges faced by the people of Isa local government are banditry activities which destroyed their business, farming and working in their local government area. The first hypothesis shows that there was significant relationship between security challenge and farming activity. Also, farming activities is more related to Security Challenge. Lastly, results indicated that the predictor variables were able to account for a significant amount of variance in the dependent variable.

Conclusion

From the findings and discussion of results, it was concluded that the relationship of security challenges and business activities in Isa local government was positive though not significant. Conclusively then, low levels of human development increase the risk of conflict outbreaks and recurrence.

Recommendation

1. The government should try to discharge its responsibility for public safety at all levels by improving security situation and human development to avoid the risk of conflict outbreak. This will enable the people to go out and engage in farming, business

and government work without a doubt that the terrorists have violated their rights.

2. The government should identify the vigilante group and volunteers with the cooperation of security operatives to infiltrate the Isa local Government area, to identify the bandits, Kidnappers and punish them according to shari'a law.
3. Sokoto State Government should provide food and basic necessities to the people of Isa, Sububu, Kuka tara, Tsabre, Modaci, Lugu, Dan zanke, Gazau, Turba, Gawa kuke, Kaibaba, Gatarawa, Bargaja, Daborawa, Gidan Gora and Madattai to alleviate the suffering of farmers, business and local government employees in Isa Local Government area.

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