Volume 22 Issue 5
Originally issued as B1



Global Journal of Management and Business Research: B
Economics and Commerce
Volume 22 Issue 1 Version 1.0 Year 2022
Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal
Publisher: Global Journals
Online ISSN: 2249-4588 & Print ISSN: 0975-5853

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GJMBR-B Classification: *DDC Code: 050, LCC Code: HF1625*



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Effect of Boko Haram Insurgency in the North East on the Socioeconomic Activities of Nigeria

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Abstract- The study examined the effect of Boko Haram insurgency in the North East on the socioeconomic activities of Nigeria. Ex-post facto research design as the observations was used in the research to establish the relationship between the variables. The study made use of secondary data covering a period of twenty years; were 10 years were from 1994-2003 before the insurgency and 10 years were from 2004-2013 during the insurgency. The data from this study were obtained from World Bank on agricultural value added percentage of GDP from 1994 to 2013 a period of twenty (20) years to determine the extent of agricultural contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria. It is necessary to use this data that had been generated to show the time series effect. ARIMA statistical method of analysis was adopted with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to test the hypothesis. It was found out that the sects' activities in the North East had significantly affected the socioeconomic activities. The general conclusion was that Boko Haram insurgency in the North East had effect on socioeconomic activities of Nigeria. This study recommended that the federal government should embrace negotiation with the group since they ready to dialogue with the federal government but this can only be actual if the rebel group within the government cycle, which are ever ready to sabotage the strategy, are fished out, dislodged and prosecuted accordingly.

I. Introduction

The advent of terrorist group called Boko Haram insurgency has introduced a guerrilla dimension, hitherto unknown, into the criminal space in the North East of Nigeria. Succession of bombings has been carried out by the sect, as well as captivating hostage of innocent Nigerians. The poor and even the rich countries, terrorism may wield a heavy toll on the nations' economy. It is predictable that terrorism activities would affect socioeconomic in more unsophisticated mono-cultural low-income economies than they would be felt in highly advanced, diversified industrial economies (Adebayo, 2014). The rise activities of this sect in the country, if not properly checked, may result in greater investor apathy for the country and resulting in low socioeconomic flow and would make institutional investors look for other stable economies to invest their money.

The North-east is the epicenter of the insurgency but terrorism activities effect reverberates through the entire country. For example terrorism activities, call it Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, Bandits as reported, are linked to terror groups in the North-East to gangs of terrorists in the North-West and the North-Central regions. As far as their modus operandi is concerned, being it terrorists, cattle rustlings and insurgents are the same (Amalu, 2015). The primary activities of these groups are indiscriminate mass murder, creation of fear and instability, theft, the destabilization of established society and general rapine. Since the beginning of insurgency, over 36,000 deaths are recorded, 300000 persons had being displaced, and food in security has further deteriorated as farmers have fled their farms in fear of being attacked especially in the northern region of the country (Gilbert, 2014).

The insurgency is one of the factors that propel some of the crops farmers produced get perish since they are not consumed on time or marketed at the right time. As consequent from insurgency activities, poor transportation has emanated, high transport cost, displacement of properties and high risk to lives. The crops produced get spoiled and wasted. Some of these crops need to be marketed on time but due to imposed curfew and several restriction of movement; they perished and become unmarketable (Mustapha, 2015). Boko Haram hazard activities are not only felt in Nigeria but in some other Africa countries as well. For example Cameroon that shares border with Nigeria in the North East part is heavily affected. Traders from this country can no longer come to Maiduguri (Nigeria) to buy or sell their products. The Niger Republic is one of the economies affected by the activities, as she shares border with Nigeria and both countries practice goods exchange with one another. This challenges form the basis for which the researcher examines the effect of Boko Haram insurgency in the North East on the socioeconomic activities of Nigeria.

II. Research Objective

The broad objective of this study was to examine the effect of Boko Haram insurgency in the North East on the socioeconomic activities of Nigeria. The specific objective was to:

Examine the effect of Boko Haram insurgency in the North East on the Agricultural Sector Business Environment in Nigeria.

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III. A Brief Caption of Boko Haram

Boko Haram sect is not the foremost Boko Haram sect is not the foremost major group or militia group Nigeria has had, or has faced before; in the 1970s and 1980s, the Maitatsine Fundamentalist sect from the North came on board; in the West, the Odua People's Congress (OPC); in the East, the Bakassi Boys and the Movement of the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), in the South/Niger Delta, the Militants and the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). *Jama'atul Alhul Sunnah Lidda' wati walJihad*, or "people committed to propagating the Prophets's teachings and Jihad", (Abolurin, 2012:261) was established in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state as an Islamic group called Boko Haram. The word 'Boko means book or Western culturein Hausa languageand Haram means sin or forbidden in Arabic language. Hence, interpretation of Boko Haram in Hausa Language is referring to as western education is a sin (Gilbert, 2014).It could be argued that Boko Haram represents the version and mission of a fundamentalist Islamic movement in Nigeriaas a fundamental Islamic sect that intends to supplant government structures that politicized, corrupted and bastardaized proper implementation of Sharia in the north; and to install Islamic regime where Sharia law will be applied (Idowu, 2013, Ebi, 2018).

Thus it was originally known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda Awati Wal-Jihad (Congregation of the people of tradition for proselytism or evangelism and Jihad), also known as BH congregation of the people of tradition for evangelism and Jihad. BH seeks to Islamise Nigeria by whatever means humanly possible at its disposal and this lays bare its adopted tactics of indoctrination, brutality, violent attacks, killing and destruction of property. BH stands for the outright rejection of Western capitalist values, as well as advocating strict adherence to the purest and undiluted form of Islamic tradition. The group remains one of several organizations in Nigeria that called for a restructuring to purge and bring an end to what is regarded as state capture by a few, which has nearly torn the country apart, especially the north, owing to political corruption by a self-serving ruling elite (Ajayi 2013:134) having power and authority over the population by means of indoctrination and violence.

Resources of a nation or country, especially in terms of production and consumption of goods and services in relation to the supply of money are referred as socio-economic development. Socio-economic development is also process of progress measured with indicators such as the gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, level of literacy and levels of employment, human rights and civil society participation, which of course are the necessary ingredients to improve the standard of living in society and ensure that the economy is healthy and capable of sustaining the population under its jurisdiction (Ebi, 2018). If the socioeconomic development set goals are achieved for the population, there will be self-sufficient, secure and economically viable through gainful employment and citizenship.

The activities of Boko Haram have fundamentally affected the socioeconomic lives of individuals in the North East. For example, commercial banks have been forced to review their operational hours to begin from 9.00am to 12.00 noon as against the normal operational period of 8.00am to 4.00pm (Mohammed, 2012:2). This development has led bank customers particularly traders, are finding it difficult to deposit their daily earnings in the banks due to the limited hours of banks operational that no longer last. As a result this, the banks total earning will be affected and even countries involved in trading at the Northern part of the country will be affected as well. Under this circumstance, the socioeconomic activities in the north would be affected not just Nigerian but even Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroon among others.

According to Mohammed, this is a part of efforts by the financial institutions to safeguard their business premises. The activities of Boko Haram sect are also threatening the presence of NYSC scheme in the North that is the stared unity of the country. For illustration, 4171 corps members were posted to serve in Adamawa state and later trained for Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Adhoc staff to conduct the 2011 for INEC but 1041 of them fled back their states before the general elections, due to insecurity in the North (Ovaga, 2018).The massacre of corps members by Boko Haram in the northern states has resulted to corps members protesting vehemently against posting them to any of the crisis – ridden states in the north until peace is restored. Some of them have even vowed to quit the scheme should they be forcefully posted to such areas only to die in the waiting hands of the sect. Corps members serving in the Northern states provide at least over 65 per cent of the required healthcare delivery and education services at the grassroots level.

IV. Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on cognitive dissonance theory. The cognitive dissonance theory was propounded by Festinger (1951). This is one of the utmost psychological theories that shed light on terrorist conduct. The assumptions of this theory are that humanity prefers a situation of stability in respect of values, behavior and their environmental conditions (Cunningham 2003). If individuals experience a difference between what they perceive and what they desire (Cognitive dissonance), they seek to reduce this dissonance by reducing this gap through actions,

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filtering information or altering perceptions. The reference point here is that cognitive dissonance is experienced whenever there is discrepancy between preferred value and actual value. The situation whereby the tendency to produce hatred, anxiety, fear and desire to hurt or eliminate the source of perceived gap through actions is the position of dissonance theory (Alao, Atere & Alao 2015). The discrepancy could manifest within economic, social, cultural, political and religious spheres as these issues form the micro level of analysis that could be regarded as the structural background conditions operating at individual level (Nkwede, Abah & Nwankwo 2015).

Boko Haram insurgency could thus link to perceived discrepancy between the preferred way of life (to maintain the sanctity of orthodox Islam) and the actual state of their existence (secular state) that influence the dissonance (Alao, Atere & Alao, 2015). Prominently, it should be noted that the voice of few elements that initially reacted to the perceived dissonance is what the issue at stake requires in order to gain popular support and to a large extent, the personal dissonance grows to become group level grievances and discontentment. As a consequence, it transcends from a micro to macro level spectacle. This is supported by Gurr (1970) who referred to as relative deprivation. Fundamentally, the crucial target of Boko Haram is to destabilize Nigeria and make it ungovernable as this could lead to a situation of break-up of the country or imposition of Islamic ways of life. The relevance of cognitive dissonance theory to this study is that, it reflects meaningful philosophy behind the existentiality of Boko Haram sect and to a large extent explains government inability to tame the challenges posed by the sect.

V. Empirical Studies

Adebisi, Oyedeji and Azeez (2020) investigated Boko Haram insurgency activities in Nigeria: defining, addressing and understanding its impacts on the telecommunication industry. The study adopted a descriptive exploration research design to evaluate boko haram insurgency as one of the domestic terror group in Nigeria. The activities of the terrorist group have paralyzed the social- economic activities and damages on the telecom hardware within the north east Nigeria. The study reveals that there no significant difference on the series of attacks carried out by boko haram insurgents and vandalization of telecom basic infrastructure of operators in the north east of Nigeria. However, domestic terrorism and the economic growth of the affected region in Nigeria tend towards the same direction with the first hypothesis. The study concluded that the affected region is not likely to resist or have contrary opinions to heavy presence of Nigeria securities.

Njoku and Nwachukwu (2015) investigated the effects of Boko Haram's insecurity on Nigeria's economy. The study generated data with aid of online questionnaire, using Analysis of Variance. The result exposed that ideology and funding were the significant basic factors that boosted the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria. The Boko Haram disaster poses a significant threat to Nigeria's economy and that the military is the best option and solution in tackling the Boko Haram menace in Nigeria. The study recommended that government should declare war on terrorism and seek support from international communities who had in the time past faced this kind on challenged and were capable to tackle it. Nigerian Military ought to be empowered further with arms to wrestle this insurgency. The government is advised to beef up security in the country to curb the threat of insecurity.

Ugwu and Eme (2019) examined the socio-economic cost of insecurity on the populace in general and the nation's economy in particular. This is because insecurity and its various multifaceted manifestations like bombings, kidnapping/hostage taking, destruction of life and property, creation of fear among others has become a hydra headed monster which security agents in Nigeria appear incapable of addressing. The study revealed that the insecurity challenge is detrimental to general wellbeing of the people with its resultant effects in the area low quality of life, population displacement and even death, the destruction of business, properties and equipment's, relocation and closing down of businesses. The study suggested that the Nigerian government and her security agencies should be pro-active in their responses, improve their intelligence gathering techniques and create more employment opportunities for the unemployed and equip and motivate her security forces better. The grievance theory will serve as our framework of analysis while documentary methods of analysis and content analysis will be used to generate and analyze data.

Adebisi, Azeez and Oyedeji (2016) examined the effect of Boko Haram's insurgency on the agricultural sector of the Nigerian business environment. A time series analysis research method was adopted with descriptive statistics t-test were used to analyze the secondary data before and during the insurgency. The result of the findings showed that agricultural valued added to the GDP was high before Boko Haram disruption and has reduced during the period of insurgency. Based on the findings, the study recommends that Government should take legal and justifiable action to ensure that the ills caused by Boko Haram to the agricultural sector are arrested and farmers encouraged with better incentives to go back to farm.

Nneka (2015) examined the threats of Boko Haram insurgency on human security in Nigeria. The study adopted conceptual clarification. the findings

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reveal that insurgency has claimed a lot of lives and property; compounded the food and nutrition insecurity situation in the country; aided the spread of infectious diseases; denied millions of children and youths access to education; increased the number of internally displaced persons with dire need of shelter and has caused people to live in constant fear and anxiety. It was concludes that Boko Haram Insurgency has negative impact on human security. Hence the study recommended that counter-insurgency will be effective only when issues of poverty, corruption and bad governance are effectively addressed.

Ebi (2018) investigated the impact of Boko Haram Muslim terrorist group on the socioeconomic well-being and livelihood of the population in the north-east of Nigeria. To research the social, economic, religious and political impact of attacks leading to the disruption of people in the north-east who fled their homes for the safety of southern refugee camps, the study relies on three research questions and adopted an in-depth qualitative methodology. The findings indicated that the Boko Haram attacks had a negative effect on the livelihood of citizens and displaced persons in refugee camps, as well as on the social cohesion and development of the north-eastern Nigerian state. Conflict resolution and intervention strategies should be implemented to curb the violence. Societal transformation is recommended for infrastructural development and job creation to solve poverty and gainfully cater for educated, unemployed youths, now recruited into the ranks of the Boko Haram Muslim sect.

VI. Research Methodology

The study used ex-post facto research design as the observations used in the research were established before the research. The study made use of secondary data covering a period of twenty years; were 10 years were from 1994-2003 before the insurgency and 10 years were from 2004-2013 during the insurgency. The data from this study were obtained from World Bank on agricultural value added percentage of GDP from 1994 to 2013 a period of twenty (20) years to determine the extent of agricultural contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria. It is necessary to use this data that had been generated to show the time series effect. ARIMA statistical method of analysis was adopted with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to test the hypothesis. The table 1 presented data from World Bank for twenty (20) years, (1994-2013). This data is presented as shown below.

VII. Data Presentation and Analysis

Table 1: Agricultural Output (tones) on yearly basis in Nigeria

10 years before the insurgency	Agricultural Output to Nigeria GDP	10 years during the insurgency	Agricultural output to Nigeria GDP
1994	38.8108824	2004	34.21028658
1995	32.06099353	2005	32.75542177
1996	31.13372236	2006	31.9987955
1997	34.03135991	2007	32.71417898
1998	39.0478495	2008	32.85021918
1999	35.30644453	2009	37.05016484
2000	26.0339777	2010	23.89370408
2001	33.7537884	2011	22.28919858
2002	48.56594018	2012	22.05428761
2003	42.70726998	2013	20.99639753

Source: World Bank, (2016)

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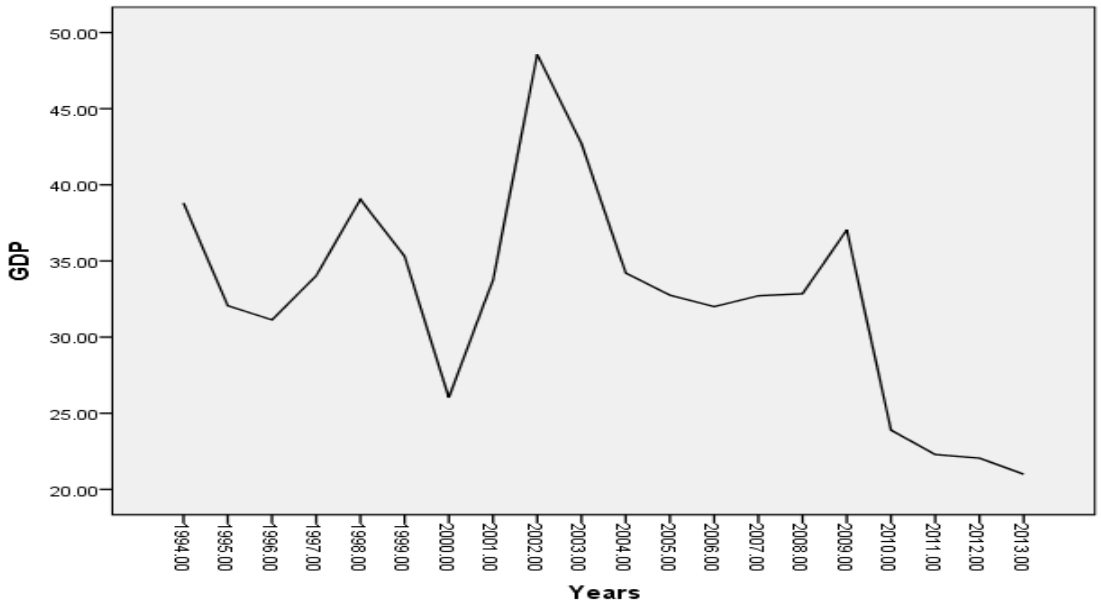
Table 2: Graphical Presentation of Analysis



VIII. Discussion of Findings

The table 2 revealed that, the year 1994 was the first year of observation with about 40 million tons of agricultural product as shown in the study. We can observe from the study within the years before the insurgency, there were some fluctuations in agricultural output but not as much as during the years of insurgency. In 2002 and 2003 which were the last two years before we got into the era of Boko Haram sect; these years were the highest in the observation as outputs were grown close to 50 million tons of agricultural. Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria dated back in 2004, and we can see that there was a sharp fall from the year of insurgency till date. This findings is consistent with Okechukwu (2014) explained that the federal government's effort at augmenting food production at the Chad Basin has come under serious threat from the activities of Boko Haram insurgents in the area. An investigation shows that the several hectares of arable land prepared for the cultivation of rice and other grains in Borno has been abandoned because of the activities of the insurgents. It was gathered that virtually all the farmers involved in rice cultivation and other agriculture-related activities have abandoned the vast expanse of land at the Chad Basin because of the activities of the insurgents.

The study is also in line with the Nigerian poultry farmers under the auspices of the Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN) have also raised concern over the activities of Boko Haram insurgents stating that it is taking a toll on sales of poultry products in Northern Nigeria. The National President of PAN made this clear during the Second Poultry Summit held at the Lagos State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Alausa. Oduntan (2014) lamented that the activities of the violent sect had resulted in a daily drop in sales due to non-availability of some raw materials for feeds such as maize and groundnuts which were usually sourced from the affected states. He also revealed that export to neighboring countries had become impossible. Over 1.5 million people have fled their homes and at least 13,000 people mostly farmers have died in these states due to violence killing and gun shots (Mustapha, 2015). Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state had witnessed multiples of bombing explosion making the town very insecure for farmers and other businesses. Major markets in the town have become ghosts' area due to insurgency. It is on record that among the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, the North-east and North-west are the poorest zones and these are the zones where Boko Haram originated from and very active (Council on Foreign Relations 2015).

IX. Conclusion

The study in general concluded that Boko Haram insurgency in the North East had significantly affected the socioeconomic activities of Nigeria. Evidence has shown that the terrorist activities have disrupted the agricultural output, school activities, reading activities and the people living in the Northern states as most inhabitants and farmers have migrated to a better and safer place which we can draw conclusions from both the literature and the result of analysis that insurgency in the North East had effected the socioeconomic activities of Nigeria. The negative effects of such fear induced caution are obvious. Nigeria is badly in need of increased trade and investment, and the increasing reluctance of business organizations to carry out their activities is a significant blow to this laudable aim. No commercial activity can be undertaken

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when security cannot be guaranteed; the empty stands at the Kaduna Trade Fair are a worrying signal that the country is enhancing its notoriety as a very risky country to do business in. the unmanned borders in places like Banki only serve to make the country's already-porous borders even easier to penetrate and further facilitate the entry of the undesirable elements and weapons that are fueling insurgency.

X. Recommendations

Based on the findings and the conclusion from this study, the following recommendations were made that:

1. The business activities especially in the north remained closed. Most unfortunately, the people from other part of the country who are the life-wire of economic activities in the north east had relocated in large numbers to their states of origin to avoid physical attacks on their business properties and lives. This study recommended that the federal government should embrace negotiation with the group since they ready to dialogue with the federal government but this can only be actual if the rebel group within the government cycle, which are ever ready to sabotage the strategy, are fished out, dislodged and prosecuted accordingly.
2. The study also recommended that the government should learn from the negative effects of Boko Haram insurgency in the north east and its effect on socioeconomic development and react or take proactive majors to stop acting as an arm chair combatant on grave issues of the Nigerian economic concern that consistently threatens the corporate existence of Nigeria. Institutional mechanism should be employed to address Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria since they are not insurmountable given an objective analysis of the causative influences.

Suggestion for further Studies

This study is limited to secondary data collection from World Bank on agricultural output in line with Boko Harm insurgency. We therefore recommended that the effect of Boko Haram insurgency in the North East on the socioeconomic activities of Nigeria focusing on primary data and school activities should be cross examined.

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