

THE EFFECTS OF BANDITRY ACTIVITES ON FOOD SECURITY IN SOKOTO STATE, NORTH WESTERN, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Banditry is one of the critical forms of insecurity that has affected the northwest geopolitical zone for the past ten years. Banditry has affected all surfaces of human life, among which is food security in the States affected, including Sokoto State. The main objectives of this study are to examine the effects of Banditry on food security and highlight the recent efforts of the Government in tackling Banditry to improve food security, among others. The methodology adopted to generate data for the study is primary sources of data and the use of focus group discussion involving two groups of seven persons each from the LGAs that are affected by Banditry, which is sampled for the study, namely Isa, Sabon-Birni, Goronyo, Rabah, and Illela. The banditry activities have negatively affected food security in Sokoto State. These negative impacts include killing and kidnapping of farmers, chasing farmers out of their farmlands, seizing farmlands, theft of cattle, burning and raiding grain silos, and blocking local trade routes. The Federal and State Governments are making efforts towards tackling Banditry and improving food security, among others. These efforts are still ongoing and have not achieved the desired objectives. The data was analyzed, and hypotheses were tested using Smart PLS SEM 3.3.8. The study found that the presence of banditry activities results in food insecurity in Sokoto State, North Western Nigeria. Therefore, it is important that the results of this research will provide Govt/Management and other related agencies with a recommendation that will be a decisive measure to be adopted to tackle Banditry for food security. Lawmakers can also use it as a guide for policy-making.

Keywords: Banditry Activities; Food security; Sokoto State; Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Banditry is one of the critical forms of insecurity that has affected the northwest geopolitical zone for the past ten years. Banditry has affected all surfaces of human life, among which is food security in the States affected, including Sokoto State. The main objectives of this study are to examine the effects of Banditry on food security and highlight the recent efforts of the Government in tackling Banditry to improve food security, among others. The methodology adopted to generate data for the study is primary sources of data and the use of focus group discussion involving two groups of seven persons each from the LGAs that are affected by Banditry, which is sampled for the study, namely Isa, Sabon-Birni, Goronyo, Rabah, and Illela. The banditry activities have negatively affected food security in Sokoto State. These negative impacts include killing and kidnapping of farmers, chasing farmers out of their farmlands, seizing farmlands, theft of cattle, burning and raiding grain silos, and blocking local trade routes. The Federal and State Governments are making efforts towards tackling Banditry and improving food security, among others. These efforts are still ongoing and have not achieved the desired objectives. Therefore, it is important that the results of this research will provide Govt/Management and other related agencies with a recommendation that will be a decisive measure to be adopted to tackle Banditry for improved food. Lawmakers can also use it as a guide for policy-making.

Food Security remains an essential condition for human and societal development. This emphasizes the need for food security as a prerequisite for the Nigerian people's and the nation's survival. As a result, food security is the most basic individual and societal necessity (Temitope, 2019). The physiological requirements of food, drink, warmth, and rest, as well as the safety needs of security and safety, are ranked first in Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. In recent years, however, the catastrophic activities of bandits and kidnappers have turned contemporary Nigeria into a theater of genocide, slaughter, and instability. These gangs and camps wreak havoc on Nigerians, causing national security and public worry (Dami,2021). As a result of Banditry, kidnapping, and ethnoreligious violence spreading from and across Local Governments in Sokoto, North Western states (Isa Sabon birnin, Goronyo, Rabah, Illela and others), citizens barely sleep with two eyes closed. Due to an increase in everyday kidnappings of motorists, including security officers, the Abuja-Kaduna route has been dubbed "the road to death" in recent years. The recent deaths of a



former APC governorship candidate in Zamfara state and five Greenfield University students, as well as the Killing of a large number of persons in Sokoto state's Goronyo, Isa, and Sabon Birni local government areas, are just a few examples. Unarmed civilians, particularly women, are still being attacked, raped, and killed by these criminals around the country. Realizing the Serious threat posed to farming communities in the northern parts of the country by banditry groups, the Nigerian Government initiated the formation of a special unit of Agro Rangers Corps to forestall attacks on farmlands and boost farmer's confidence to work on their farms without fear of attacks, thereby guaranteeing the Federal Government avowed food security plans (NSCDC, 2020). However, this could not work as Banditry activities are still on the increase daily, thereby scaring farmers from visiting their farms, which has a serious effect on food security. This study will therefore help in understanding the effects of the Banditry group on food security in Nigeria with particular reference to local Governments in Sokoto Northwestern states (Isa, Sabon-birnin, Goronyo, Rabah, Illela and others with a view to offering necessary solutions on how to find an end to these social problems.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Security from both bandits, kidnappers and herdsmen is a big threat to Nigeria's agricultural economy. The kidnapping and banditry activities in northern Nigeria have had a significant influence on agricultural activity and the farming sector. Rural activities are not only impossible to carry out in an insecure environment, but domestic agricultural production is inhibited, farming communities are relocated, and access to regional markets is restricted (Eigege & Cooke, 2016). In addition, bandits, kidnappers and herdsmen have become a huge menace to rural communities as a result of their frequent attacks, which have resulted in several deaths. Farmers in these farming regions have found it difficult to go to their farms to cultivate or harvest due to the terrible banditry attacks perpetrated by the Herdsmen. Aside from the physical assault on the farmers, the damage caused by the herdsmen's livestock (cows, cattle, etc.) aggravates the pain of the defenseless farmers. The economic consequence is seen in the unabated rise in food commodity prices, shortage of specific food products, and acute food insecurity since places where food is planted/produced are no longer producing. This is because most farmers in the agriculturally famous communities in the middle belt, northwest, and northeast have abandoned their farms and moved to other regions in search of safety, leaving their farms fallow and unharvested crops, posing a threat to the farming system. It is therefore very pertinent to investigate the effects of the three most critical phenomena (banditry, kidnapping and herdsmen activities) on food security. In the light of the foregoing, the study will answer the following questions:

- i. What are the effects of banditry kidnapping and herdsmen activities on food security in Northern Nigeria?
- ii. What are the agricultural production and food security in Northern Nigeria?
- iii. To what extent the recent efforts of the Government to tackle Banditry activities to improve food security will be successful?
- iv. What are the measures to be put in place to tackle banditry, kidnapping and herdsmen activities to improve food security in Northern Nigeria?

The research seeks to achieve the following objectives:

LITERATURE REVIEW

Although banditry, kidnapping and herdsmen activities is a not recent phenomenon, however, several studies have been conducted on the impacts of banditry activities on security challenges (Dami, 2021; Beetseh et al., 2021; Haruna, 2020; Ladan & Mutawalli, 2020). However, these studies fail to provide a clear scope and empirical data to support their arguments. Moreover, they are all qualitative in nature. And none of the studies focus on the detailed analysis of the effects of banditry, kidnapping and herdsmen activities on food security in Northern Nigeria.

Despite the inconclusive result in the literature between the two variables, banditry activities and food security, still, the relationship is more negatively significant. Based on the evidence in the literature, this study considered banditry activities as an imperative variable in determining the level of food security in Northern Nigeria in the country at large. Therefore; the following hypotheses are:

H1: There should be a Negative relationship between Banditry and food security in Northern Nigeria



Underpinning theory

The Routine Activity Theory is among the social-structural theories which a recent attempt to explain crime. Cohen and Felson are two of the theory's most prominent proponents (1979). The hypothesis tries to explain why criminals are so predatory. Its three major hypotheses are that crime will occur where there is a motivated potential offender, suitable or attractive targets, and a lack of qualified guards. The hypothesis has been widely implemented and is now one of criminology's most quoted theories. Routine activity theory, unlike criminological theories of criminality, analyses crime as an event, intimately ties crime to its environment, and highlights its ecological process, diverting academic attention away from simple offenders. Applying this theory to Banditry in Northern Nigeria, the presence of a motivated potential offender in under-policed agricultural and herding communities is likely to be a target for Banditry. The Humanitarian (2018) backs up this claim by claiming that the ecology of such societies creates not only incentives but also temptations for criminal behavior. As a result, predatory bandits in these areas are likely to have a field day, participating in all sorts of criminal adventures such as lootings, robberies, maiming, rapping, kidnappings, and outright killings without fear of retaliation.

Research Frame Work

The research framework will be framed to examine the effect of banditry activities on food security, to be tested in some selected local Governments of Sokoto State, North Western, Nigeria.

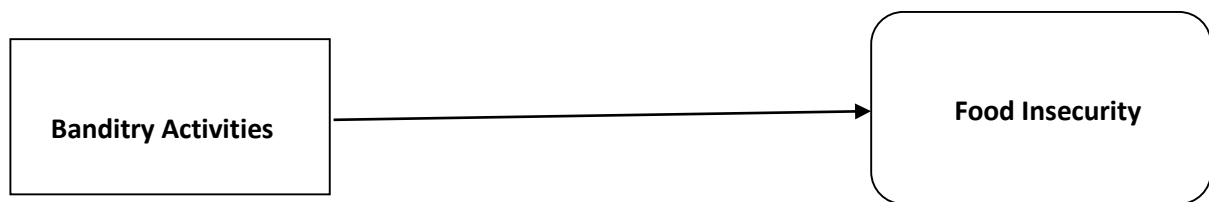


Figure 1. 1 Research Model

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: The study intends to use a cross-sectional survey design to determine the effects of Banditry, kidnapping and herdsmen activities on food security in Sokoto State North Western, Nigeria.

Sample size and Sampling Technique: The study will have a sample of 750 Farmers from the five (5) selected local Governments (Isa, Sabon Birni, Goronyo, Rabah, and Illela) in the target Sokoto States of Northern Nigeria who would be selected through simple random sampling.

Data Collection: The study will use Primary data to be obtained through the survey, Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the farmers and relevant stakeholders

Data Analysis: Quantitative data will be analyzed using Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM 3.3.8 version)

ANALYSES OF FINDINGS

This section discussed how the study analyzed the data using SmartPLS 3.3.8 (Hair, Hult, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2016). Evaluation of the Measurement model originated where the composite reliability, Average variance extracted (AVE) and instrument loadings of the study constructs were assessed as well as discriminant validity was also evaluated for all the constructs (Banditry activities and Food security). An evaluation of the structural model was undertaken by testing the path coefficient (hypothesis) among the variables under study. Similarly, evaluation of R^2 square, effect size f^2 and Q^2 of the model.

An evaluation of the Measurement Model

The study used Smart PLS SEM 3.3.8, as stated earlier, as the instrument for analysis. This instrument is used for data analyses in measurement models assessment which is filtering the model. The measurement model basically

determines the reliability of the measurement items used in the study, and it also treats the goodness of fit of the model to be able to determine the global acceptability (Ramayah, Lee, & In, 2011).

Constructs	Items	Loadings	Composite reliability	AVE
Banditry Activities	BA1	0.87	0.82	0.54
	BA2	0.86		
	BA3	0.87		
	BA4	0.88		
	BA5	0.85		
	BA6	0.87		
Food Security	FS1	0.86	0.85	0.51
	FS2	0.82		
	FS3	0.86		
	FS4	0.81		
	FS5	0.83		
	FS6	0.84		
	FS7	0.87		

Table 1 above demonstrates the results of the factor loadings, composite reliability and AVE calculations of all the constructs (BA, FS) under study. The AVE values that range from 0.51 to 0.54, with consistent composite reliability values also ranging from 0.82 to 0.85, interpret that the items employed in the study measure the constructs and as well show attainment of convergent validity.

Table 2: *Discriminant Validity*

CONSTRUCTS	BA	FS
BA	0.731	
FS	0.392	0.712

Table 2 above demonstrates the assessment of discriminant validity to assess the degree to which measures of constructs are related. To realize that, the square root of the AVE of each construct was taken into consideration. As revealed in Table 2 above, along the crosswise are the values of the square root of the AVE, which are higher than all those values that are off the crosswise, and that confirm suitable discriminant validity. Consequently, the loadings above are greater than the loadings and cross-loadings.

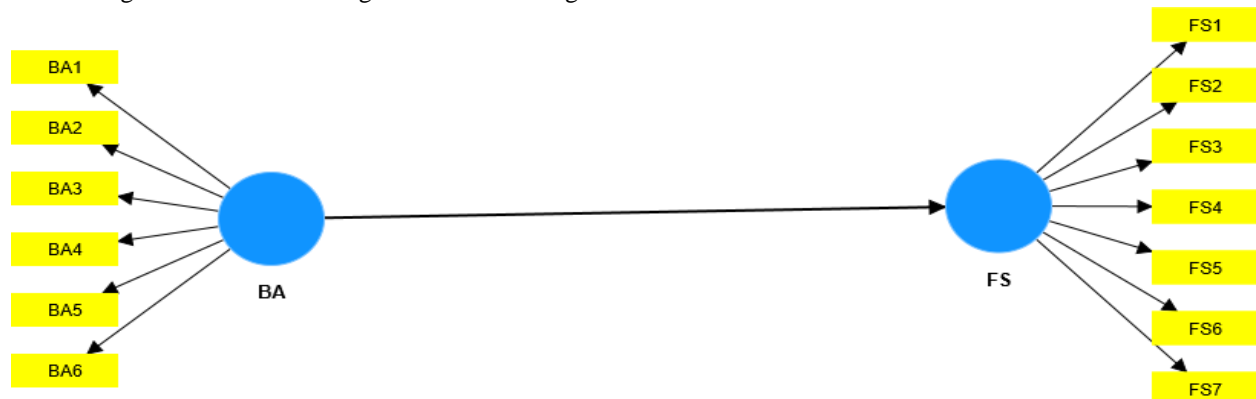


Figure 2: Measurement model (Algorithm)

Structural Model Assessment

This section discussed the hypothesis testing, R-square R2, effect size f2, and predictive relevance. The analysis was conducted using bootstrapping, and the decision on the acceptance or not rejection of the hypothesis was based on t-values at a 5% level of significance.

Table 3: Hypothesis for direct relationship (BA->FS)

Hypothesis	Beta Value	STDEV	T Statistics	P -Values	Decision
BA -> FS	0.72	0.03	20.99	0.00	Supported

***P<0.001, **P<0.01, *P<0.05

Table 3 above shows the direct relationship hypothesis look to be significant. Hence, banditry activities and food security are negatively significant.

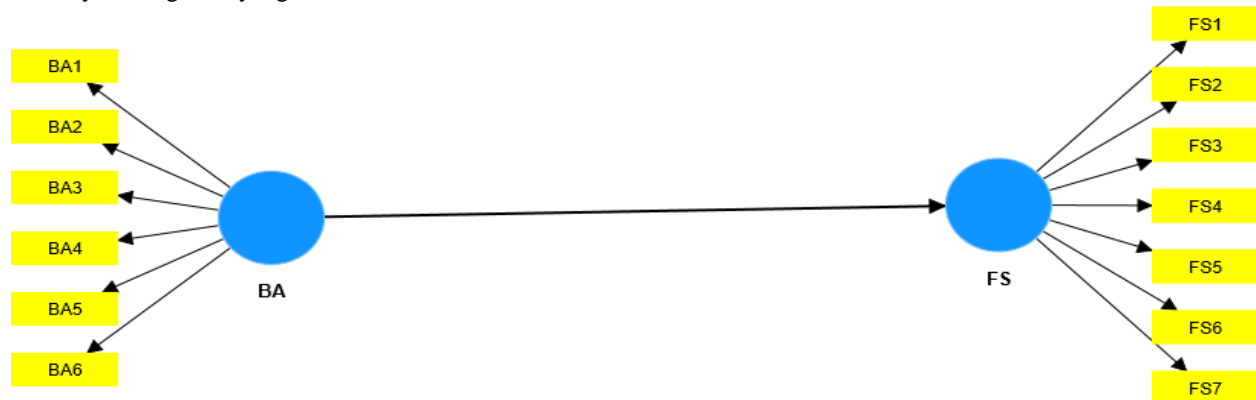


Figure 3: Structural Model relationship

Determination of R²

The structural evaluation model also involves the determination (R²) of the endogenous construct (Hair *et al.*, 2014). According to Hair *et al.* (2014), R² values of 0.75, 0.50 and 0.25 show substantial, medium and small R² values, respectively.

Table 5: Variance Explained (R²)

Constructs	(R ²)
Food security	51%

Table 5 above shows that the R² value of the construct (FS) is medium with (0.51) values, respectively.

Effect Size (f²) Assessment

Another criterion for assessing a structural model is the evaluation is effect size (f²), as recommended by Hair, Ringle, and Sarstedt (2013). Cohen (1988) describes f² values of 0.02, 0.15 and 0.35 as having small, medium, and substantial effects, respectively.

$$\text{Effect size: } f^2 = \frac{R^2 \text{ included} - R^2 \text{ Excluded}}{1 - R^2 \text{ Included}}$$

Table 6: Assessment of Effect Size: F-Square

Constructs	f-squared	Effect Size
BA-FS	0.16	Medium



Table 6 above discovered the effect size values of 0.16 are considered small, having a suitable effect size.

Assessment of Predictive Relevance

The study also evaluates the predictive volume of the whole model. It was evaluated through the blindfolding method to examine how the values are assembled around the model. It is believed that any model above "0" has predictive relevance; it has the ability to predict relationships, and if the value is "0" and below means, the model has no predictive power (Geisser, 1974; Stone, 1974).

Table 7: Predictive relevance Q2

Total	SSO	SSE	1-SSE/SSO
FS	901	662.97	0.17

Note: SSO (sum of square root observations) SSE (sum of square root predictive errors)

Table 7 shows that in column 4, Q2 discovered an outstanding relevance of 0.17 for the construct (food security). Hence, based on Chin (1998), the model of this study has small predictive relevance.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study investigates the effect of banditry activities on the relationship on food security, particularly in some selected local Governments in Sokoto State, North Western Nigeria. Statistically, the result revealed that the study hypothesis was found to be significantly supported. Hence, the level of banditry activities resulted in a shortage of food in the Sokoto State North Western region as well as the country. The study is consistent with some previous studies on the impacts of banditry activities on security challenges (Dami, 2021; Beetseh et al., 2021; Haruna, 2020; Ladan & Mutawalli, 2020). Based on the evidence in the literature, the study of banditry activities is considered imperative in determining the level of food security in Northern Nigeria and the country at large.

CONCLUSION

To ascertain the significant effect of Banditry on food security in Nigeria. To provide empirical evidence to the literature that the effect of Banditry is significantly important in predicting the effect of food security, particularly in some selected local Governments in Sokoto State, North-Western Nigeria. Hence, management in the institution can consider optimizing mechanisms in order to avoid a shortage of food in the country, particularly in Northern Nigeria, where banditry activities are rampant all the time. The study also will empirically reveal that banditry activities are causing a lot and also serve as an antecedent to food security. Again, to provide Govt/Management and other related agencies an insight as to which type of banditry activities should be given priority more in terms of security strategy in order to avoid falling short of food in the country. Lawmakers can also use it as a guide for policy-making. In conclusion, the study recommends the use of a large sample; other country educational sector administrations can also conduct a similar study using other individual practices or bundles to replicate the result of this study. Future research can use smart PLS SEM's latest version or any other second-generation analysis technique to re-validate the model.

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