

ASSESSMENT OF THE MENACE OF BOKO HARAM IN NIGERIA: THE EMPIRICAL STUDY OF ITS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS AND THE REMEDIES

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper was to strategically assess the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria. Ex-Post Facto research design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in Nigeria. The population of the study comprised all social and political scientists. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select (20) twenty respondents from three local government areas selected from the (6) six Geopolitical Zones across the country and these constituted the sample size of (360) three hundred and sixty respondents used for the study. The Main Instrument used in this study was a questionnaire titled "MENACE OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY QUESTIONNAIRE (MBHIQ)". The validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in test, measurement, and evaluation from University of Uyo to ensure its validity. Cronbach Alpha Technique was used to determine the level of reliability of the instrument. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.77, and this was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics and percentage analysis for answering the research question and simple regression for testing the hypothesis. The test for significance was done at 0.05 alpha levels. It was established in the study that Boko Haram insurgency has wreaked much havoc on social and economic activities, culminating in retardation of growth and development in the country. Boko Haram insurgency has negative impact on the human security of Nigerian citizens. It is therefore evident that the Boko Haram insurgency has claimed lots of lives, aggravated food and nutrition insecurity, further damaged the health and education sectors, and has caused general fear and anxiety. The paper concluded that Boko Haram insurgency is therefore a threat to human security in Nigeria. So, therefore, an urgent solution is needed. Alternatively, one of the recommendations made, along with others, is that the government should strengthen its collaboration with the global community in combating the Boko Haram insurgency.

KEYWORDS: Boko Haram, Economic implications, Remedies & Nigeria.

Introduction

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and among its most diverse, with over 400 ethno-linguistic groups. The country is affected by several conflicts based on overlapping ethnic, religious, political and regional divisions, including over resources in the Niger Delta, Christian-Muslim divides in the middle of the country, and most recently, the rise of Islamist groups in the north, most importantly, Boko Haram (IDMC, 2013). Boko Haram's members consider themselves arbiters of who is a true Muslim. Like other Salafis, Boko Haram rejects other approaches to Islam. Muhammad Yusuf regarded his mission as one of purification. He said: "We call on the Muslim community to correct its creed, its behaviors, and its morals, and to give children a correct Islamic education, then to undertake jihad in the way of Allah." Yusuf's Islamic education seems to have been informal, but he displayed familiarity with mainstream Salafi thought and its jihadi offshoots. The rise of Islamic terrorism is not simply a result of poverty and inequality, but of how these issues have been shaped by religious and political factors. Since 2009, Nigeria has been in the grip of a violent Islamic insurgency by the extremist sect widely known as Boko Haram.

Boko Haram ('Western education is a sin') was founded around 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State and the largest city in Northeast Nigeria. In May 2013, the president declared a state of emergency in the states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa (Reinert et al., 2014). These states are referred to as "conflict affected" compared to the non-conflict states. But the entire populations of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states are considered directly impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency (ACAPS 2015). Shifting recruitment tactics have also changed the composition of Boko Haram's membership. Under Shekau's leadership, the initial motives of religious radicalism have been diluted by an increasing use of monetary inducements, family pressures (especially for wives of members), fear of reprisals, conscription, and kidnapping (Sani & Erhardt, 2014). A lot of their recent activities have been carried out under the cloak of bandits, though their activities are quite the same: robberies, kidnappings, and murder in large numbers via bombings and shootings.

Statement of Problem

Unexpectedly, there has arisen in recent times a disorder of a serious religious dimension in the country. The dangerous trend in insecurity came with the emergence of Boko Haram, the Muslim fundamentalist sect, bombing and attacking within reach. Since 2009, the militant group identified as Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, commonly referred to as Boko Haram, has claimed responsibility for attacks on civilians, security personnel, and infrastructure, including schools, health facilities, security establishments, etc. The conflict has been characterised as a challenge to Nigeria's statehood, with periods of widespread loss of territory and continuous undermining of the military. It is on this ground that this study seeks to examine the unspeakable phenomenon and, in the same vein, investigate the dependable remedies.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this paper was to assess the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Find out the extent of the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria.
2. Examine the various menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria.
3. Determine the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What is the extent of the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria?
2. What is the various menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria?
3. What is the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

HO₁: There is no significant effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria.

Conceptual Review

Concept of Boko Haram

Boko Haram is known as an Islamic cult that believes that northern politics has been apprehended by false and corrupt Muslims. Boko Haram's origins lie with a group of radical Islamist youth who worshipped at the Alhaji Muhammadu Ndimi Mosque in Maiduguri a decade ago. Boko Haram is not in the same global jihadist bracket as Algeria's al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb or Somalia's al-Shabab. Its aim is to wage a war against the Federal Republic of Nigeria generally, in order to create a "pure" Islamic state ruled by sharia law across the region. Since 2009, it has been driven by a desire for vengeance against politicians, police, and Islamic authorities for their role in the brutal suppression of the group that year. But the group has proved itself to be very adaptable, evolving its tactics swiftly and changing its targets at the behest of a charismatic leader. The group leapt onto the world's agenda in August 2011, when it bombed the United Nations compound in Abuja, killing twenty-three people. Some observers say Boko Haram has reached out to find allies in other global jihadist movements in the Sahel. The speed at which the group developed the capability to produce large and effective improvised explosive devices and enlist suicide bombers to deliver them suggests outside help. But thus far, there remains no evidence to say the group's intentions are to confront and attack Western interests inside or outside Nigeria.

What remains contagious is that the group will continue to attack soft civilian targets, widen its war against the influence of corrupt authorities, and include itself in the ongoing conflict in Plateau state. Boko Haram, along with many other groups in northern Nigeria, believes that Plateau governor Jonah Jang is responsible for a

campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against Hausa and Fulani people. There have been many outbreaks of violence perpetrated by people on both sides. Recently, there has been a spate of suicide attacks on churches, for which Boko Haram is suspected. The group had gained press attention in Nigeria and interest from the U.S. Embassy because of the catchy name locals had given it: the Nigerian Taliban. It also attracted the attention of the Nigerian media because many of the group's members were the sons of wealthy and influential people in Nigeria's northern establishment.

Prevalence of the Menace of Boko Haram

Boko Haram's attacks consist of suicide bombings as well as conventional armed assaults on both civilian and military targets. The kidnapping and killing of civilians is one of the many devastations caused by Boko Haram. The Boko Harams' threat has recently expanded to include local police stations and military bases, which is uninteresting. Following the Chibok kidnapping in 2014, the majority of Boko Haram's suicide bombers were girls; many were teenagers, and the youngest was seven. Boko Haram jihadists rely on stealth, blending into local communities or hiding in the vast countryside. On the eve of the 2007 presidential elections, Sheikh Ja'afar Mahmoud Adam, a prominent and popular cleric and regular preacher at the Ndimi mosque in Maiduguri, was assassinated as he was praying at the mosque he administered in Kano. The killing was a mystery for some time, but it is now acknowledged that it was carried out on the orders of its founder, Mohammed Yusuf. Sheikh Ja'afar had begun to criticize the group for its hard-line ideology, predicting a clash with the state. The killing is now seen by some as a key point in the development of Boko Haram because there was no longer the possibility of turning Yusuf and his followers back to the mainstream of the northern Islamic establishment. According to Wilson (2018) and Robyn (2018), critics accuse the Nigerian military of not properly equipping its soldiers to fight Boko Haram.

Since August 2011, Boko Haram has planted bombs almost weekly in public or in churches in Nigeria's northeast. The group has also broadened its targets to include setting fire to schools. In March 2012, some twelve public schools in Maiduguri were burned down during the night, and as many as 10,000 pupils were forced out of school. Nossiter (2009) reported that by July 30, more than 700 people had been killed; police stations, prisons, government offices, schools, and churches had been destroyed. However, on January 8, 2012, the president said that Boko Haram had infiltrated both the army and the police, as well as the executive, parliamentary and legislative branches of government. Boko Haram's spokesman also claimed responsibility for the killing outside his home in Maiduguri of the politician Abba Anas Ibn Umar Garbai, the younger brother of the Shehu of Borno, who was the second most prominent Muslim in the country after the Sultan of Sokoto. He added: "We are doing what we are doing to fight injustice. If they stop their satanic ways of doing things and the injustices, we will stop what we are doing (Olalekan, 2012).

Implications of Boko Haram

Boko Haram's violent activity, which has intensified in recent times, has largely undermined human security. According to Gilbert (2014), since the insurgency

began, there have been over 12,000 deaths and 8,000 maimed. Food insecurity has further worsened as farmers have fled their farms in fear of being attacked, especially in the northern region, which is the country's main food-growing region. The health sector has also received its own share as the numbers of injured people are increasing with little or no facilities to cater for them, as well as health workers abandoning their posts in fear of being killed. Awortu (2015) noted that there are inadequate shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and yet the number of IDPs is increasing drastically. It is agreed that the north-east is the epicentre of the insurgency, but its effects reverberate through the entire country.

If the group escalates its attacks on northern Christians and appropriates the conflict in the Plateau, the results could have very serious implications for the unity of the country. The killings and abductions of school children and college students by the sect have forced the closure of schools indefinitely and the withdrawal of children and wards by parents from schools still operating, thereby denying them access to education. Olojo (2013) points out that brutal radicalism, enrolment, and support for Boko Haram have been significantly driven by economic deprivation. The effects of the insurgency are devastating and far-reaching. Despite the massive loss of lives and properties, it has worsened the economic situation of the country as investors are no longer investing but rather divesting; it has stopped the transportation and distribution of food; it has sowed the seed of distrust, antagonism, and disunity between Christians and Muslims in Nigeria; the massive depopulation of the North and the overcrowding of the South is evident; it has damaged the infrastructures of the North that were only remnants. Though the effects are numerous, the focus of this study is to investigate the remedy to such a complex issue for the basic needs of human survival (human security).

Economic Implications of Boko Haram

The security challenge posed by Boko Haram has reached a point where indigenes and non-indigenes are leaving the northern region for fear of being killed by the insurgents while business owners close down their shops. According to Falola and Heaton (2008), the economic activities of Borno, Yobe and other northern states have been crippled as a result of the Boko Haram tentacles economically. Local investors who normally contribute to the economic development of the area have all disappeared. A reasonable investor would not want to invest their capital in a violently prone environment. Outside this, the security challenge has also led to a drastic reduction in people's patronage of agricultural produce from the north to southern communities because of the recent rumour that members of the sect are planning to send poisonous products to other parts of the country.

Traders from the southern part of the country are also afraid to travel to the north to buy goods. The killing of four traders on the 5th of May and 10 more people on June 28 in Bodija market, Ibadan, Oyo State, in 2013 when they travelled to Borno State to buy goods has stained the economy mystically. According to the NAIJ Report (2016), immediately after the killing, the Ibadan Foodstuff Traders Association placed an indefinite ban on its members' travelling to the north to purchase beans, which otherwise contributed negatively to the economy. The sect's

blossoming activities have led to the reduction of government derivation from the affected northern states as a result of restiveness in those areas, as well as reducing investment and growth in business.

Remedies to the Menace of Boko Haram

Buratai, Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff, is obviously frustrated, tired, and exasperated. He used the words "spiritual" and "ideology." Boko Haram is a spiritual and ideological force. Its soldiers seek to create an Islamic State and impose Sharia orthodoxy on Nigeria. Boko Haram is not just a religious war; it is a spiritual violation of Nigeria. Boko Haram adherents do not believe in Western civilization. They regard it as a sin. That is an ideological war. To mobilise recruits and sustain the battle, Boko Haram leaders indoctrinate young people. They attack their minds. They get them to buy into an ideology of hate and violence. Every revolution starts in the minds of men. Buratai is certainly right when he says the war against terror cannot be won by the military alone, or that it should be a collaborative effort.

Buratai is calling for a religious solution. Terrorists are first and foremost human beings, and there is a science to their behavior, as is the case with every other human being. Is there a way in which religion can moderate that behaviour? Can our priests and alfas use the pulpit to change the behavior of people and communities? Can ritualists and shamanists call on the elements to turn Sambisa forest into a place of value rather than a forest of evil? Can the clerics use holy water, fasting, and days of prayer to turn the eyes of the Evil One away from Nigeria and bring peace and happiness? State officials themselves are saying that the war against terror requires a metaphysical approach.

Already, perhaps in response to the call by the Chief of Army Staff, a spiritual warfare against Boko Haram has begun in Borno State, where the Governor, Babagana Zulum, a Professor of Engineering, has chosen to recruit 1,000 traditional hunters to face the Boko Haram terrorists. These hunters, we are told, have supernatural powers. They can resist gunshots. They can appear and disappear at will. They can kill thousands in a minute. The hunters have been reportedly provided with dane guns and swords, and they have sworn an oath to defeat Boko Haram. In addition, Governor Zulum has engaged 30 prayer warriors for daily supplication around the Ka'aba to pray for peace in Borno state. He has thus recruited a group to report Boko Haram directly to God in Mecca, the holy land.

The Nigerian military cannot afford to have every state governor running with their own script of spiritual warfare. To save Nigeria completely from the Boko Haram insurgence, the following strategies should be implemented in addition.

- Boundary Fortification
- Proactive Security Squad
- Installations of CCTV and Reader systems
- Job Creation

- Orientation Programmes and
- Dialog

Methods

Ex-Post Facto research design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in Nigeria. The population of the study comprised all social and political scientists. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select (20) twenty respondents from three local government areas selected from the (6) six geopolitical zones across the country, and these constituted the sample size of (360) three hundred and sixty respondents used for the study. The main instrument used in this study was a questionnaire titled "MENACE OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY QUESTIONNAIRE (MBHIQ)". The validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in test, measurement, and evaluation from University of Uyo to ensure its validity. Cronbach Alpha Technique was used to determine the level of reliability of the instrument. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.77, and this was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical techniques such as descriptive statistics and percentage analysis for answering the research question and simple regression for testing the hypothesis. The test for significance was done at 0.05 alpha levels.

Results and Discussion

Research Questions 1: The research question sought to find out the extent of the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria. To answer the research question, percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 1).

Table 1: Percentage analysis of the extent of the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria

EXTENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
VERY HIGH EXTENT	173	48.06**
HIGH EXTENT	112	31.11
LOW EXTENT	63	17.5
VERY LOW EXTENT	12	3.33*
TOTAL	360	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field survey

The above table 1 presents the percentage analysis of the extent of the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage (48.06%) of the respondents affirmed that the extent of the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria is very high, while the least percentage (3.33%) of the respondents stated that the extent of the menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria is very low.

Research Questions 2: The research question sought to find out the various menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria. To answer the research question, percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 2).

Table 2: Percentage analysis of the various menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria

TYPES OF MENACE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Kidnapping of the civilians	102	28.33**
Killing of the civilians	87	24.17
Attacks on the local police stations	68	18.89
Attacks on military base	62	17.22
Illegal tax/levies collection	41	11.39*
TOTAL	360	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field survey

The above table 2 presents the percentage analysis of the extent of the various menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage (28.33%) of the respondents affirmed "kidnapping of the civilians" to be the most prevalent menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria, while the least percentage (11.39%) of the respondents stated that the most prevalent menace of Boko Haram in Nigeria is "illegal tax and levies collection".

Research Question 3: The research question sought to find out the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria. To answer the research question, descriptive analysis was performed on the data, (see table 3).

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria

Variable	N	Mean	SD	Mean diff.
Economy		12.44	2.14	
	360			4.93**
Threat		17.37	1.67	

**Remarkable difference

From the above table the result proves that there is remarkable effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria, meaning that the economy of the nation is adversely affected by the menace of the insurgency with remarkable mean difference (4.93).

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis One

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria. In order to test the hypothesis, regression analysis was performed on the data, (see table 4).

TABLE 4: Regression Analysis of the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria

Model	R	R-Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate	R Square Change
1	0.94a	0.87	0.87	0.76	0.87

***Significant at 0.05 level; df= 358; N= 360; critical R-value = 0.113**

The table shows that the calculated R-value 0.94 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.113 at 0.5 alpha levels with 358 degree of freedom. The R-Square value of 0.87 predicts 87% of the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria. This rate of percentage is highly positive and therefore means that there is significant effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria. It was also deemed necessary to find out the influence of the variance of each class of independent variable as responded by each respondent (see table 5)

Table 5: Analysis of variance of the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1435.531	1	1435.531	2481.211	.000b
Residual	207.125	358	.579		
Total	1642.656	359			

a. Dependent Variable: National Economy

b. Predictors: (Constant), Threat

The above table 5 presents the calculated F-value as (2481.21) and the critical f-value as (.000b). Being that the critical f-value (.000b) is below the probability level of 0.05, the result therefore means that there is no significant influence exerted by the independent variables (Threat) on the dependent variable which is Economy.

Discussion of Findings

The result of the data analysis in table 4 and 5 which sought to find out the effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria was significant due to the fact that the calculated R-value 0.94 being compared with the critical R-value of 0.113 was greater with 358 degree of freedom. This rate of percentage was highly positive and therefore means that there is significant effect of Boko Haram on the national economy of Nigeria. The result is in line with Falola and Heaton (2008), who stated that the economic activities of Borno, Yobe and other northern states have been crippled as a result of Boko Haram tentacles economically. Local investors who

normally contribute to the economic development of the area have all disappeared. A reasonable investor would not want to invest their capital in a violently prone environment. Outside this, the security challenge has also led to a drastic reduction in people's patronage of agricultural produce from the north to southern communities because of the recent rumour that members of the sect are planning to send poisonous products to other parts of the country. The findings of the study caused the null hypothesis to be rejected and the alternative to be upheld.

Conclusion

It is established in this study that Boko Haram insurgency has wreaked much havoc on social and economic activities, culminating in the retardation of growth and development in the country. Boko Haram insurgency has a negative impact on the human security of Nigerian citizens. It is therefore evident that Boko Haram insurgency has claimed lots of lives, aggravated food and nutrition insecurity, further damaged the health and education sectors, and has caused general fear and anxiety. Boko Haram insurgency is therefore a threat to human security in Nigeria. Therefore, an urgent solution is needed.

Recommendations

1. Insurgency is a global phenomenon and a global solution cannot be overemphasized. The government should strengthen its collaboration with the global community in combating the Boko Haram insurgency.
2. There is need to resettle the internally displaced persons with appropriate shelter as well as compensate persons affected by the insurgency. Provide the citizens with adequate protection from internal and external aggressors and to ensure that the security forces bequeathed with such responsibilities do not fall victims of the same crime or engage in the violation of the citizens human rights.
3. There is need for serious commitment on the part of the government in equipping the security agents and fighting corruption in the security system.
4. The government should ensure that the basic needs of mans survival are met. There is need to invest in the agricultural sector in order to improve food production; build more health care centres which will be fully equipped; education should be free for all at least at primary level and more schools with quality facilities be put in place.

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