

## **Sociological Examination of Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency on Socio-Economic Development of Damaturu Local Government, Yobe State**

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### **Abstract**

*This study is designed to sociologically examine the effects of boko haram insurgency on socio-economic development of Damaturu Local Government Area of Yobe State, the research sight to know the factors responsible and effects of insurgency on socio-economic development, as well as its impact on commercial activities and household livelihood in the area of study. The study adopt quantitative research method. Questionnaires were designed and administered to the respondents. The data obtained were analysed using statistical package for social sciences. Furthermore, the study find out that unemployment, poverty, corruption and religious extremism have fuelled to insurgency, in which it affected many sector of Yobe state economy and Damaturu in particular. It was also suggested that the accelerate peace and development by creating infrastructure for business operation and industrial growth to provide gainful employment to our youth in order to minimize the effect of insurgency in the study area.*

**Keywords:** *Socio-economic, Boko Haram, Insurgency, Damaturu.*

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### **Introduction**

Nigeria was amalgamated in 1914, it had experienced insurgence even from the history which is comprises of religious and ethnic crisis; religious conflict in Nigeria goes as far back as 1953. The Igbo massacre of 1966 in the North that followed the counter-coup of the same year had as a dual cause the Igbo officers' coup and pre-existing tensions between the Igbo's and the local Muslim. This was a major factor in the Biafran secession and the resulting civil war. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, there was a major Islamic uprising led by Maitatsine (Mohammad Marwa) and his followers, Yan Tatsine that led to several thousands of death.

Boko Haram insurgency uprising in 2009 by Mohammed Yusuf in the area of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, which led to the deaths and losses of properties. The above insurgence resulted due to some common factors that the government failed address and provide accurate measures in order to solve related issues of religion extremism, unemployment, poverty, corruption among others etc. Nigeria is under a severe internal socio-economic and security threat. In a more general level, the threat has social, economic, political, and environmental dimension. Each of these dimensions has greatly affected the state of stability and can be

traced to poverty, religious conflict, economic sabotage, unemployment, violence, and crime (Ilufeye, 2011).

The alarming level of insurgency in Yobe state has instigated the crime rate and terrorist attacks in different parts of the state leaving disgusting consequences for the state that prides itself as "the young shall grow" and later on becomes the "pride of the Sahel". Yobe state has been in the news since July 2011 for the wrong seasons of Boko Haram insurgency. The typical headlines on and about the state are coordinated and uncoordinated attacks with bombings, sporadic gun battles, raiding of police stations, targeted killings, drive by shootings, suicide bomb attacks, bomb explosions, attacks of schools and other forms of crime.

Damaturu is one of the brunt of the insurgency which has led to the loss of many lives, loss of livelihood of numerous others, burning and looting of business premises, market stalls, public schools, recreation centre's, loss of man hours due to shortened working hours by banks, commercial institution and unprecedented loss of man hours or closure of business by those who work at night due to the curfew consequent on the state of emergency, even though 48hrs curfew has negative impact on economic activities and household livelihood. This has

affected the informal sectors of the local economy such as meat sellers, tea sellers, akara sellers and vendors who eke out their living on day to day basis which virtually affected socio-economic development in Damaturu.

However, this study intends to sociologically examine the causes and effects of Boko Haram insurgency on socio-economic activities and development in Damaturu local government area of Yobe state.

### **Objective of the Study:**

The general objective of this study is to examine the effects of Boko Haram insurgency on socio-economic development of Damaturu local government area of Yobe state. The Specific Objectives are;

- i. To examine the effects of Boko Haram insurgency on socio-economic development of Damaturu local government area.
- ii. To evaluate the factors responsible for Boko Haram insurgency in Damaturu local government area.

### **Factors Responsible For Insurgency**

The activities of Boko haram insurgency in Damaturu local government area of Yobe state was attributed to number of issues which includes; lack of education, unemployment, poverty, corruption, weak security system and religious extremism.

#### **Lack of Education:**

Lack of education has contributed immensely to the insurgency in Damaturu Metropolis and the entire state. In support of this, according to Inna (2013) the north is backward in term of education especially the north east and the North West. Most of the recruited sect members lack the education to decipher what is right and wrong but assimilate whatever belief is entrenched in them by their mentors. In corroboration to this, Bharat (2013) states that lack of education makes person to absorb a host of attitudes, beliefs and disbelief, loyalties and prejudice, jealousy and hatred.

#### **Unemployment:**

Sanusi (2013) noted that unemployment rate increased from 3.6% in 1999 to 29.15 in 2010. Youth unemployment and underemployment by 1980 graduate unemployment in both public and private sectors of the economy had started becoming an issue and with the problems of graduates unemployment, in tertiary

institutions were thrown on to the major street of Damaturu; secondary school leavers who could not proceed to higher institutions, thereby making them idle, hungry and frustrated. And feeding for themselves which result to individual in the activities of antisocial behavior which as a result brought effects on the economy.

#### **Poverty:**

According to Adagba et al. (2012) poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths is a major cause of insurgency and violent crimes-youth's. Unemployment have contributed to the rising cases of insurgence in Damaturu local government area of Yobe state. The place for development administration in fighting poverty is centered on the premise that when people are poor, they cannot afford the basic conditions of life and cannot therefore participate in national and community development as experienced in Damaturu local government area. Poverty leads to frustration, ignorance, inferiority complex, aggression and violence, when the majority is poor; it inevitably may lead to uprising or non-chalant attitude to the development of the society.

Sanusi (2013) said that the only sure panacea to ending the Boko Haram – induced insurgency is for the federal government to fix the economy of Yobe state. According to him, the boots and booklets approach being adopted by the federal government in tackling the Boko Haram is not the best and possible solution to the problems; rather it is complicating the issue.

#### **Corruption:**

Corruption is one of the factors that cause terrorism/insurgency in Damaturu local government area. Corruption is a situation whereby every average Nigerian is corrupt from public office holders to the man walking in the street. Corruption in any firm retard the rate of development in a society like Damaturu, Yobe State capital where majority of people are not employed and 70% of people lives below the poverty line, lack of education among others. Corruption is not only eating the economic fabric of the society, but also the eats the moral foundation of order. Corruption can therefore lead to inefficiency, injustice, inequality, intolerance which in turn will lead to conflict or insurgency.

#### **Weak Security System:**

This is a major contributory factor to the level of insurgence in Damaturu local government

areas and this can be attributed to a number of factors which include inadequate funding of the police and other security agencies, lack of modern equipment both in weaponry and training, poor welfare of security personnel and inadequate personnel (Achuwba et al, 2013). According to Otomsakin (2008) the police – population ratio on Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the standard set by the United Nation 1:600. The implication of this is that Nigeria is grossly under policed and this partly explains the inability of the Nigeria police force to effectively control crime and criminality in the state.

#### **Religious Extremism.**

The current state of insurgency and deplorable state of affairs is not unconnected with the attempt to impose the opinion of a small group on a larger society, a situation which clearly abridges the freedom to freely hold and express one's opinion which is fundamental and inalienable in any given society. Yobe state as a society, was and still remain a cosmopolitan, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic as well as multi-religious society in fact it is heterogeneous in nature. Due to the religious extremism, Damaturu local government area have experienced insurgent before which caused by islamist group known as "Taliban", initially it was started around 2002 in some part of the state but in Damaturu local government occurred in 2007. In all these crises destruction and vicious as they were, did not generate into killing of innocent souls, targeting of schools, place of worship in a sustained and protracted manners as we sadly witness today by the activities of Boko Haram in Damaturu local government area and other parts of the state. The targeting of innocent and unarmed civilians regardless of their ethnicity, race, or religious beliefs is alien not only to the norms and culture, but to the fundamental doctrine of Islam (Kashim, 2012).

#### **Socio-Economic Effect of Insurgency**

The impact of the heinous activities of Boko Haram terrorism/insurgency on the social, economic and political structure of Damaturu local government area of Yobe state is overwhelming and devastating.

#### **Economic effects:**

In Damaturu local government area of Yobe State, the frequent bombings and clashes between Boko Haram and the security agents have weighed down seriously on commercial

and business activities in the city as many businesses have crumbled while many people have fled the state. The Damaturu supermarket which initially known as "Bayan Tasha" in the city and it has been seriously affected as hundreds of shop owners; About 50 percent of the Igbo business men and women in the town who engage in both small and medium scale business are reported to have fled to Abuja and the south east due to growing insurgency posed by the activities of Boko Haram. The impact on hospitality is so much that investors are looking elsewhere, especially at neighboring place like Kano since business does not thrive in an environment characterized by insurgency and violence (Guardian newspaper 18 August, 2011)

Many businesses in the town have been negatively affected by the activities of insurgency. Some shops have been taking over by the military personnel who have made it their base, forcing the businesses owners to either relocate or abandon it totally. Small businesses that use to thrive in the night like tea selling, restaurant etc. are no longer operating as a result of the security situation. Banks can no longer travel to local government council to pay salaries due to frequent attacks along the way. Bank and their customers are also operating under difficult situation and have reduced their business hours to guard against being affected by the members of the sect. for instance, bank that used to operate between 7:30am had to reduce their operations to between 9: am and 1:00pm only (Mohammed, 2014).

According to the Yobe state former commissioner of information Bar. Bala Haladu, it will take the state 5 years to recover from the current predicament it has found itself. Haladu, interviewing on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>,2013 said that security situation as we have now in Yobe state, it will affect the economic fortunes, especially where people go out to do the business under the atmosphere of fear. So there is no doubt that the crises have taken it's on our economy. It will take us a very long time, not less than 5 year to recover and get to the position we had before the crises stated.

Banning of commercial motor cycles known as Okada or Achaba has also undermined business activities in Damaturu as a result of security challenges. A million commercial motor cyclists shunting the street of Damaturu will be

jobless and at least one thousand dependents will face serious hardships and so with other business and they affect economic activities in the state. The misery in the end will be unimaginable; as the insurgency in Damaturu town has created negative effect on economic development.

**Social Effects:**

The social effects of Insurgency in Damaturu local government area have made some non-Muslim who have not be privilege to mingle with Muslim in their life to belief that all Muslim are fundamentalist while some of them were mischievous with their opinion with little exclusion about few Muslims from Yoruba part of Nigeria. It should also note that the activities of insurgency affected state to be avoiding affected state to the extent that some Nigerian Graduate who are serving the nation under the scheme of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) are seriously rejected being posted to others part of northern Nigeria (Mohammed, 2014).

Damaturu, Yobe state capital, virtually all sectors of social infrastructure were effected, ranging from education, health, road construction and others. Many people lost their lives. Educationally a lot of teachers and students lost their lives. Bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu Yobe state, exploded and injured a police officer on 30<sup>th</sup> march 2011 And about 150 people killed by Boko Haram on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2011, also 7 students and 2 teachers were killed in GSS Damaturu on 17 June, 2013. And many children were killed near viewing center in Damaturu on June 17 2014, while some schools were burn down which includes; Central primary school, Bindigari primary school, Pompomari primary school, Bukar Ali primary and junior secondary school among others.

At least, 5,000 school children according to the estimate by the teachers of affected schools have been forced to stay at home because of the

incident. Several masts belonging to Telecommunication Company MTN, GLO and AIRTEL have been destroyed in some parts of Damaturu by gunmen which made communication and social interaction difficult or almost impossible (Punch 5 April, 2013).

As a result of the attack, all the construction equipment and heavy duty machines along Yobe state university road have been evacuated to their camp, (R.R.C Camp) along Damaturu – Gujba Road and this has affected the social lives of both university staff and students. Furthermore, other major street of Damaturu town comprises old people and children engaging in begging because they are being affected by the insurgency.

**Methodology**

The study adopted quantitative research method. Cluster sampling technique was used to select the respondent from the target population. Damaturu Local Government Area has eleven wards. Four wards were randomly selected each to form a cluster and 25 questionnaires waere administered to each cluster (Cluster A) Damaturu central ward, Gwange ward, Nayinawa ward (Cluster B) Bundigari/Pawari ward, Kalallawa ward, Sasawa ward, (Cluster C) Gambir ward, Maisandari ward, Murfa-Kallam ward (Cluster D) Kuka-Reta ward, Damakosu ward, 25 respondent were selected from each cluster thus, the total of respondent drawn were 100, and same number of questionnaires was administered.

Statistical package for social science (SPSS) was used to analyzed the data while tables as used to present the findings.

**Findings and Discussions**

Finding in this study are discussed in this section as it relates to the socioeconomic effects of Boko Haram insurgency in Damaturu Local Government, Yobe State

Table 1: Factors Responsible For Insurgency.

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	15	25%
Unemployment	19	31%
Religious Extremism	07	11%
Lack of Education	5	8%
Corruption	12	20%
Weak Security System	3	5%
Total	61	100

Source; Fieldwork survey, 2015

From the above table; indicates that Unemployment is the powerful tools that impulse insurgency which represent (31%), then Poverty followed with (25%), Corruption represent (20%), Religious Extremism

represent (11%), lack of education has (8%) and finally Weak Security System represent the lower percentage in the table with (5%) respectively. The following chart will indicate:

Table 2: The Effects of Insurgency on Commercial Activities and Household Livelihood.

Effect	Frequency	Percentage
Very High	24	39%
High	27	44%
Low	8	13%
Very Low	2	4%
Undecided	0	0%
Total	61	100

Source; Fieldwork survey, 2015

From the above table indicates that, the effect of insurgency on commercial activities and household livelihood is High which represents

(44%), Very High represent (39%), and Low which represent (13%) and Undecided has (0%) respectively. Chart to indicate

Table 3: The Social Effects of Insurgency.

Effect	Frequency	Percentage
Very High	29	47%
High	17	28%
Low	8	13%
Very Low	6	10%
Undecided	1	2%
Total	61	100

Source; Fieldwork survey, 2015

From the above table, shows that, the social effect of insurgency is Very High which represent (47%), it also has High which

represent (28%), Low it has (13%), Very Low is represent (10%) while Undecided has (2%) respective.

**Table 4: The Economic Effects of Insurgency.**

Effect	Frequency	Percentage
Very High	31	51%
High	20	33%
Low	6	10%
Very Low	4	6%
Undecided	0	0%
Total	61	100

*Source; Fieldwork survey, 2015*

From above table indicate that, the economic effect of insurgency is Very High with (51%), High represent (33%), Low which has (10%), then Very Low represent (6%) while Undecided represent (0%) respectively.

#### **Discussion of the Major Findings.**

The study findings, revealed that the problems of poverty and unemployment are among the major factors responsible for the insurgency in Damaturu and have negatively affected the socio-economic development of Damaturu Local Government, Yobe State.

The findings further revealed that the state failed to serve its constitutional duties by providing maximum security to its citizenry and improving the living standard of the majority by providing adequate social infrastructure and the leaders engaged themselves in achieving the self-interest at the expense of the masses. Similarly, it can be said that insurgency has serious socio-economic consequences on the people because socio-economic development is the primary goal of every well-meaning government and it is essentially dependent on the level of economic activities in a state. The level of economic activities is in turn enhanced by peaceful co-existence by people. In the absence of security socio-economic development cannot be sustained as it destroys economic, human and social capital.

Boko Haram insurgency in Damaturu has almost crippled all economic activities. The insurgency crises has destroyed existing infrastructure and preventing a peaceful environment for development of further

progress and a safe environment for economic activities by individuals to give them economic empowerment that will enable households not only to cater for their present generations rather than create wealth, but also to provide for future generation.

#### **Conclusion**

It will be recalled that this study examined the effects of insurgency on socio-economic development of Damaturu local government area of Yobe State. This research base on the findings from the field come to the conclusion, that dishonesty and corruption among the political leaders in handling the public fund, unemployment are among the major factor responsible for insurgency in Damaturu local government area, which in return negatively affected the livelihood of most household. Socio-economic activities inclusive. Furthermore, the findings revealed that the state failed to serve its constitutional duties by providing maximum security to its citizenry and improving the living standard of the majority by providing adequate social – infrastructure and the leaders engaged themselves in achieving their self – interest at the expenses of masses.

Finally, the problem of insurgency has affected negatively on socio-economic development of Yobe State in general and Damaturu in particular which crippled all business activities in the Town.

#### **Recommendation**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations became important.

- Government of Yobe State should initiate good pro-poor policies that will help in reducing the high rate of poverty and unemployment in the state because poverty is a serious factor in the insurgency.
- Political leaders should be honest and transparent while handling public resources.
- The government should be involved in greater awareness campaign through national orientation agency and other social media for public enlightenment on effects of insurgency and important of peace and development.\
- Religious and community leaders must evolve new ways of engaging the youth in order to divert the attention from violence.
- The government should accelerate peace and development by creating infrastructure for business operation and industrial growth to provide gainful employment to our teaming youth. In addition to creating an avenue for intelligence sharing and inter-agency cooperation through diplomatic channels/pacts.
- It is also recommended that federal and Yobe State Government should ensure that human and organizational victims most especially churches, schools, markets, and houses which were destroyed during the insurgency in the state should be compensated monetarily and by way of resuscitating and reconstructing their properties. Survivors of the deceased victims should be compensated appropriately.

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