

Socio-Economic Implication of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Negative consequences of Boko Haram insurgences on the Nigerian economy can never be over emphasize, couple with the issue of kidnapping, killing, and bombing. This paper examines the socio- economic implication of Boko Haram sect on the economy visa-vie the loss of life and property caused by the sect. in view the of the above the paper recommended the federal government should extend hand of solidarity and collaboration to the international community in tackling the crises and also government should use all the available resources both human and material to uncover the perpetrators of this evil act and deal with the forces and supporters behind the terrorist threat.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Insurgency, North-East, Poverty, Socio-Economic.

INTRODUCTION:

After a long term of military regime and the returned to democratic government in 1999, There is hope and aspiration among the citizenry that the dividend of state government would extend to each and crannies of the country. But, their hope is smashed by the recent security challenges in the country, hardly is anyone safe due to communal and electoral violence, in addition to kidnapping, armed gang and militant group. The activities of the book haram popularly known as jama'atAhlal -Sunnah Lil Da'awahwa al-jihad has been of immense concern to Nigerian government and the world wide communities at large. From the available statistics Boko Haram has killed more than 150000 citizens and displaced more than two million people despite the security measures in back by the federal government to checkmate the perpetuation of crimes committed by the sect against humanity (Sani 2017). The youth in the north-east part of the country form anti-terrorist movement called "Civilian JTF" as the result of the government failure to safeguard the life and property of its citizenry. In spite of posting more security personel to the region by the federal government, killing, bombing and kidnapping continuous unabated.

The socio- economic activities has been destabilized as a result of increase in crime and destruction of life and property which deterred investment from foreign countries. The situation has made it impossible for people in the noth- east region to carry out their legitimate businesse, schools have been closed due to gravity of the

insurgency (Human Right Watch report, 2016;5). The objective of the study is to unravel the effect of Boko Haram on the socio- economic activities of the north- east region of Nigeria.

The Boko Haram sect emanated as a small Islamic sect led by one Muhammed Yusuf an Islamic preacher. His preaching activities led to the fast spread of his doctrine particularly in the Northern part of Nigeria. That of course was the major reason why many people are viewing their activities as being part of Islam. Though, the sect has been propagating that they want to form an independent state of their own to be solely run on the teaching of Islam, their actions have completely negated the principles of Islam in all its ramifications. The erroneous belief that Boko Haram is targeting only Christians cannot be substantiated because Muslims have also been the target of the sect. Many Islamic clerics have been killed by the sect, Muslims have been attacked and killed in mosques while carrying out their prayers.

The sect does not recognize the Nigerian Government as a legitimate government whose constitution is not based on Islamic principles, and that explains the reason why they attempted to create their own caliphate through the use of force, but that attempt could not see the light of the day.

Despite the state of emergency that was imposed by the federal government in Adamawa, Yola and Borno state, the operation of Boko Haram has deepened. There are a lot of literature written by scholars on method of Boko Haram. Eme and Ibietan (2012) they conducted a study on the ideology and origin of the sec, their findings reveal that jama-atuAhlil Sunna Lidda'awatiwal- jihad better known as Boko Haram is an Islamic terrorist group that has a based in the north-east of Nigeria. The aim of the sect is to bring shariaand end the nonspiritual system of the government. Lister(2012) did not agreed that the belief of the Boko Haram was to Islamized Nigeria, He believed that it's a group of youth who are dissatisfied and are been paid by corrupt politicians of northern extract to cause havoc in the country because of their personal interest. Whereas people in the southern part of the country believes that its because the president is from their area that is why the sect intensified their activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- a. To analyze the actions of Boko Haram and the consequences of such actions on the socio-economic effects on the region and Nigeria.
- b. To ascertain whether poverty has played a role in the emergence of the sect.
- c. To determine the socio- economic effects of the insurgency in Nigeria.

SCOPE AND THE LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Due to the constraints of time and resources, the study which focuses on the socio-economic implications of Boko Haram will be restricted to Borno State of Nigeria only.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is significant in the sense that it will provide the government, academia, research institutes, and other relevant agencies vital information about the activities of the sect. It will also assist government and the military in strategizing ways of combating terrorism.

METHODOLOGY

This work used secondary data collected from Internally Displaced Peoples Camp, Committee reports, reviews from journals, newspapers, and magazines.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA.

The Boko Haram activities have affected the socio-economic activities in the north- east region of Nigeria apart from the human cost. The psychological cost, social and business activities in the region have been affected negatively., Because of the persistent by the sect it has reduce the rate at which crops are grown in that region especially in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno state, it has destroyed many infrastructures and limit market interaction between individual. According to Okereocha (2012), human capital and investors are hindering economic development in the region. SHhiklam (2012) said that the main market in Maiduguri (popularly known as Monday market) have affected as shop owners have deserted the market, closed their shops and run away as a result of the crisis, Ovaga (n.d) believes that under this situation, the economy of Nigeria is affected

seriously following the exit of foreign national. The business activities between Nigeria and its neighboring countries like Chad, Cameroon and Niger is seriously affected in terms of fish and beans business. The north-east region is lacking behind in terms of education, infrastructure and other developmental indices Ogochukwu (2013). According to Obaremi (2014) the economic activities in the north-east is already suffering due to massive departure of people. The business of transporting cattle's, goat and sheep's from the region to the south and neighboring countries including telecom business have been affected due to the fact that most telecom mass have been vandalized by the sect. Ovaga (n.d) believes that some parents have protested against posting their children for national youth service corps (NYSC) to the region. The implication of the insurgency has affected the level of investment and thereby lowering the level of economic growth; it has also the level of unemployment and subsequently increases the level of crime in the region and the country at large. As a result of the crises people are forced to migrate to other part of the country in seek of safety and livelihood. The crises have increased government spending in the area of providing shelter and health facilities for those trapped in crises and relocated to internally displaced camp (IDP).

CONCLUSION

There are many barriers to socio-economic development of any nation which Nigeria is one of them, one of such barrier is the issue of crises like the Boko Haram activities in Nigeria, the Boko Haram sect have inflicted serious havoc on thousands of people where life and property were lost and many have been displaced due to the crises, it's important that Nigerian and its friends should end these crises in order to stop the loss of life and properties been encountered by the citizens. The method employed in this research is quantitative method where journals, magazines and newspapers were used, The Boko Haram insurgency has serious implication on the socio-economic development in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Nigerian government needs to use all the available resources both human and material to uncover the perpetrators of this evil act and deal with the forces and supporters behind the terrorist threat.
2. The Nigerian government apart from military confrontation, should also engage the sect in dialogue as to what are their grievances.
3. Reports indicate that the Boko Haram uses more sophisticated and modern equipment than the Nigerian military, the federal government needs to equip its personnel with modern and sophisticated weapons more than those used by the sect.
4. The federal government should create an avenue to reduce the level of unemployment in the country.
5. The federal government should extend hands of solidarity and collaboration with the international community in tackling the crises.

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