

Armed Banditry and the Collapse of Education in Northwest Nigeria

by

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Abstract

Advancement in learning and the development of education in any organised society could only be achieved in an environment of tranquility. The prevalent armed banditry afflicting the Northwest Nigeria recently is antithetical to the development of education in that region. This paper investigated the role of armed banditry in instigating the collapse of education in Nigeria's Northwest. The descriptive survey research design was adopted and the instrument of questionnaire was used to elicit data from respondents. A population of 3,458,854 was derived from the prone areas in the three purposively selected states of Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara, while a sample size of 250 was derived using Gonzalez (2008) sample size formula. 250 copies of the questionnaire were administered with a response rate of 97.6%. The study observed that before the incursion of armed banditry into the Northwest, teaching-learning environment has been conducive while learning activities have been thriving. Also, students' enrolment at schools has been unwavering and the academic performances of students have also been encouraging thus making the education sector to flourish. Two hypotheses were formulated and the data collected were analysed using Multiple Regression and ANOVA. Findings revealed that there was a positive significant relationship between armed banditry and border porosity, arms proliferation cum incursion of illegal migrants from other nations, and the presence of ungoverned spaces ($R = .491^a$; $R^2 = .241$); and that the incidences and consequences of banditry hindered education ($F = 20.771, p < .05$; $F = 23.480, p < .05$; $F = 14.503, p < .05$; $F = 25.391, p < .05$; $F = 16.181, p < .05$; $F = 14.483, p < .05$) in Nigeria's Northwest. The study concluded that state fragility and the ineffectiveness of security agencies in curbing banditry accentuated the phenomenon in Nigeria's Northwest. It recommends that government should strengthen the security personnel by equipping them with sophisticated weapons, communication gadget and logistics to enable them to confront the bandits head-on; create an enabling environment for the youth to be gainfully employed; monitor our borderlands effectively to discourage arms proliferation; and devise a techno-based method of surveillance to monitor the ungoverned spaces.

Keywords: *Armed banditry, Collapse, Education, Kidnapping of students, Northwest Nigeria*

Introduction

It is acknowledged worldwide that learning and educational development require a conducive environment to thrive. Nations that have excellence in educational development, science and technology have always provided conducive environment for the students to learn and the staff to impart appropriate knowledge on their students (Anyaoga, 2016). Prior to the emergence of armed banditry, learning and educational development in Nigeria's Northwest had been going on undisrupted, while students have been attending schools regularly. Available records indicate that students' enrolment at schools have been soaring up over the years (Annual School Census, 2017-2020), while students' academic performances (WAEC Result Statistics, 2016-2017) have been encouraging (National Bureau of Statistics, 2016-2017).

The incursion of armed banditry into the various bandits' prone communities in some of the local government areas of the selected states and the monumental proportions of its deadly attacks had created violence that has displaced over 200,000 people and killed over 8000 since 2011 (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2016). It has also changed the tempo of learning and attendance in schools as well as students' academic performances, while students have often been kidnapped thereby disrupting the academic activities.

As a result of the upsurge of inundating flood of armed banditry that characterise the Northwest, several communities, especially schools have on several occasions been attacked by bandits and students kidnapped with ransom often paid to secure their release. At times, some of the victims of bandits' attacks were sexually assaulted, gang raped, and brutalised leading to injuries and sometimes death. There were occasions when some of the abducted students were shot or tortured to death possibly due to the frustration in obtaining the levied ransom. For instance, some of the students kidnapped from Greenfield University, Kaduna were shot dead (Muishanu, 2021) probably because of the lackadaisical attitude of their parents in promptly paying the ransom demanded by the bandits to secure the release of their children and wards.

This development has disgustingly impacted on educational development in Nigeria's Northwest by reducing students' attendance at schools while in some cases, parents have equally been constrained by such circumstance to withdraw their children from schools. The governments were also forced to close schools (Igwe, 2021; Isenyo, 2021; Maishanu, 2020). The foregoing above becomes more pathetic against the backdrop that the Zone, except Kaduna state, currently has the highest number of out-of-school children in Nigeria (United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF), 2019). This armed banditry, with its concomitant

kidnapping crisis, has become worrisome to the leadership and the Nigerian public due to the danger it portends for learning and educational development in the affected areas.

The government, whose responsibility it is to provide adequate security over lives and properties of its citizens as espoused in the social contract doctrine enunciated by Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, has not been able to provide such sufficiently, effectively and efficiently. Though Olufemi (2015) avers that the Nigerian government has spent 4.62 trillion on national security over the past five years, the phenomenon persists in a gargantuan dimension despite the huge financial allocation committed to tackling insecurity. Besides, the fact that both the federal and state levels made some efforts at confronting the ravaging scourge, while various communities resorted to self-help, these initiatives appear to be uncoordinated, inadequate and subsequently ineffective in taming the hydra-headed monster.

The consequence of the above scenario is the apparent collapse of education in the affected areas of the selected states. Gradually, parents began to withdraw their children from schools, leading to the downturn of students' enrolment and attendance at schools (Peterside, 2021). Students' absence from schools invariably started to have toll on students' academic performances as students' results became discouraging (WAEC Result Statistics 2016-2018, (NBS). It is pathetic to point out that because of the enormity of bandits' attacks, public schools in Sokoto and Zamfara states could not present any candidate for the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) for the May/June 2022 session (Alabi, 2022.). This situation, therefore, constitutes an educational setback for the students and governments of the affected states.

Though many scholarly works have been carried out on armed banditry in Nigeria's Northwest, organised joint research on armed banditry appears to be at the stage of nascence. Although there exist some important scholarly works on aspects of the subject matter (Olaniyan 2018; Kuna and Jibrin 2016; Okoli & Ochim 2016; Ladan 2014), none of these extant works could systematically and appropriately account for how armed banditry affects education in the selected states. This is, therefore, the gap, which the study tries to fill. Against the backdrop of the foregoing, this paper examined the role of armed banditry in the collapse of education in Nigeria's Northwest.

Statement of Problem

Learning activities and the development of education generally require a favourable environment to thrive. Nations worldwide always endeavour to guarantee such necessary conditions for both the students and the staff to excel. Education has been growing steadily without disruption in Northwest Nigeria before the upsurge in armed banditry. Students have been attending schools regularly while teaching and learning processes and other school

activities have been flourishing undisturbed. Students' enrolment at schools has been soaring up while academic performances of students have been reassuring.

The sporadic and incessant attacks of bandits, especially on schools have a profound effect on students and education in Nigeria's Northwest. As a result of these insidious attacks, large numbers of students, who are regarded as vulnerable and staff were abducted, while some got injured, others were not lucky to be alive. Survivors were forced to pay huge ransom before they were eventually released. Some of the schools attacked included Federal College of Mechanisation, Afaka, in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna state, which was attacked on 11th March 2021 where 39 students were kidnapped, while 27 were released on May 5th, 2021, after the payment of 500-million-naira ransoms (Olufemi, 2021).

Other schools, where students were kidnapped in Kaduna state included Bethel Baptist High School, Kaduna, which was attacked on July 5, 2021, while 140 students were abducted (France-Presse, 2021). In Katsina state, for instance, 300 students at Government Science Secondary School, Kankara were abducted on 11th December 2020 while 10 students and teachers of Islamiyya School, Sakkai, Faskasi Local Government Area were kidnapped on 18th August 2021 (Oluigbo, 2021). The Zamfara situation has been more pathetic because of the peculiar dynamics of the discovery and illegal mining of gold in the state, which made banditry more prevalent and menacing (Bilesanmi, 2021; Abolade, 2021). This untoward development constrained governments of the affected states to close schools for some period (Igwe, 2021; Isenyo, 2021; Maishanu, 2020), while boarding facilities were equally closed (Bello, 2020). This situation has become highly alarming and worrisome to the government, the public and scholars.

Though many scholars and political analysts like Rufai (2021), Ahmed (2021), Rosenje and Adeniyi (2021), and Okoli and Ugwu, 2019, among others, have analysed the phenomenon of armed banditry in Nigeria or Northwest, with the intention of finding lasting solution to it, yet the scourge persists. The problem could be posed thus: Why has armed banditry remained prevalent and persistent in the Northwest Nigeria? What effect has it impacted on education? What new measures can we explore to curb it in Northwest Nigeria?

Objectives

The main objective of this research is to investigate the impact of armed banditry on the collapse of education in Northwest Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- (i) evaluate the contributions of border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria,
- (ii) assess the incidences and consequences of armed banditry on education in Northwest Nigeria

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide this study.

- Ho₁** Border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty have no significant composite contribution to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria.
- Ho₂** The incidences and consequences of armed banditry have not significantly hindered education in Northwest Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Review

Armed Banditry

Armed banditry is a concept which has been considered from somewhat ideological perspective. In terms of its usage, it has been changing in line with time, environment and the circumstance. Ahmed (2021) averred that in Europe and America of the 19th century, a bandit was perceived as a freedom fighter, whose intention was to liberate the downtrodden from the rapacious claws of the elite. In contemporary era, however, armed banditry is regarded as the act of unlawful armed group, which attacks people using force or the threat of force to terrorise, steal and dispossess people of their belongings (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2021).

In concurrence to this perception, Okoli and Okpaleke (2014, cited in Ahmed, 2021) conceive banditry as the occurrence or prevalence of armed violence or violent crimes, which involves the use of force or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person with the intent to rob, rape or kill. In a more comprehensive manner, Uche and Iwuamadi (2018) conceived banditry in criminal escapades like cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, arson, rape and gruesome massacre of people in agrarian communities with sophisticated weapons, a development that has been brought to the front burner of national security discourse. For the sake of this study, the latter perception of the phenomenon is adopted.

Education

Education has been defined in various ways by many different scholars. It is perceived as a process of transmitting societal knowledge, such as mental, occupational skills, moral values and cultural norms from one generation to the other. It has also been regarded as a process through which individuals are formally guided by trained teachers to develop their innate abilities and capacities for their own benefit and that of the society at large (Macionnis cited in Azikiwe, 2008; Okeke, 2003). In essence, education is designed to develop the individuals so that they can live effectively and efficiently in their various endeavours and environments and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the society.

In the light of this perception, education plays a critical role in changing the behavioural patterns of the people towards a desired direction (Orikpe, 2013). Invariably, education is a mechanism of instituting individual intellectual advancement, moral uprightness, and survival skills in the ever changing and complex situations of life.

Theoretical Framework

The failed state theory is adopted as analytical framework to explain this study. The origin of this theory could be traced to 1990s, when African nations began to show symptoms of weakness, exhibiting the traits of failure and collapse. When the symptoms became more exacerbated, it grew into the phenomenal status of 'failed state'. Diverse theories of failed state were propagated by various scholars like Helman and Ratner (1992-1993); Mazrui, (1995); Widner, (1995); and Gros (1996). While Mazrui discusses the failed state and political collapse in terms of engendering conflict resolution in Africa, Widner unfolds a robust exposition of the failed state, sketching the patterns of performance among countries and inquiring into the origin of deteriorating institutional performance. Gros who avers that failed state is not a phenomenon limited to Africa but can be found in other parts of the world investigates a global taxonomy of the phenomenon.

Other scholars who contributed to the theory with a view to illuminating our understanding are Osaghae (2010), Reno (2002), Zartmain (1995) and Reymaekers (2005). They argued that states in Africa constitute a generic species and has continued to be the lowest substratum in order of ranking when it comes to matter of performance.

Globally, scholars posit that a state is a sovereign government that possesses monopoly over the legitimate use of physical force within its territorial boundaries. This power is, however, arrogated by the government to the security agencies ranging from the military to the police force, the Directorate of State Security and the National Intelligence Agency. The theory espouses that whenever the effectiveness of public policies and governmental regulations among which internal security consists, are not felt, then the state has failed. In other words, when the state fails to provide security over its citizens and their properties, and allows warlords, armed gangs and paramilitary groups to hold sway, the existence of such state becomes doubtful (Okoro, 2018).

Proponents of failed states theory express the notion that a state is said to be a 'failed state' when it could no longer perform its duties and responsibilities as a sovereign government, that is, when its institutions such as the police and the judiciary have become weak and flawed to the extent that they could not maintain law and order, or creditably discharge their responsibilities, while its executive, legislature and bureaucracy, and the armed forces have lost their competence and professional autonomy (Anyanwu, 2005).

In concurrence with the above perception, Amaechi (2017) posits that a failed state suffers from decaying infrastructure, faltering utility supplies in all sectors, exhibits deteriorating basic human-development indicators such as high infant mortality and illiteracy rates, while equally allowing corruption to thrive. Furthermore, Call (2008) asserts that state failure focuses on three gaps that the state is not able to provide when it is in the process of failure; capacity: when state institutions lack the ability to effectively deliver basic goods and services to its population as exemplified in the astronomical rise in poverty level; security: when the state is unable to provide security to its teeming population under the threat of armed groups, which is symbolised in the ongoing large scale violence and festering insurgency; and legitimacy: when a significant portion of its political elite and society reject the rules regulating power and the accumulation and distribution of wealth as demonstrated in the increasing decline in the rule of law and accentuating corruption profile in the political and economic domains.

This foregoing perception is in tandem with the failed state index published 2015 by Fund for Peace which indicates the extent to which the Nigerian state has failed. These indicators include:

- (i) Loss of control of its territory or of monopoly on the legitimate use of violent.
- (ii) Erosion of legitimate authority to make collective decision.
- (iii) Inability to provide public services (essential social amenities and basic needs)

The implication of the above explication is that the state has been rendered ineffective and is not able to enforce its laws uniformly or provide basic goods and services to its citizens. This situation could be said to have been escalated by the existing high crime rates of monumental proportions, such as insurgency, extreme political corruption and ineffective bureaucracy, judicial ineffectiveness and cultural situations in which traditional leaders wield more power than the state over a certain area (Olivier, 2013). In essence, a failed state lacks the ability to minimise or mediate in internal conflict as it cannot formulate and implement public policies to provide and deliver effective services to its citizenry. However, because of this condition in the Nigerian state, banditry has become prevalent, and bandits have continued to kill unabated, destroy wantonly and kidnap people with impunity. This is the reason why Nigeria is said to be in a state of anarchy, lacking government, a society where people kill, maim and destroy properties with impunity and without any sanctions on perpetrators as stipulated by law (Okoro, 2018).

Empirical Review

Studies on the evolving armed banditry attacks on various communities in Nigeria and Niger Republic generally and Northwest Nigeria especially, continues to grow highlighting its causes, scope, trends, incidences and consequences. For example, armed banditry has been

a long-time challenge in this region inflicting profound effects on livelihood, peace and order (Rufai, 2021; Ahmed, 2021; Abdullahi, 2019; Jafaar, 2018 & Anka, 2017).

In Northwest Nigeria, armed banditry, especially kidnapping of students related criminality according to scholars like Rufai (2021), Okoli and Ugwu (2019), Mustapha (2019), Adegoke (2019), Suleiman (2019), and Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016) was caused by a combination of factors such as border porosity, arms proliferation cum the incursion of illegal migrants from other nations like Mali, Libya, Niger and Sudan, who form the core of bandits' recruits, the existence of ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment, poverty, the consumption of hard drugs by the bandits and the discovery and illegal mining of gold in Zamfara state (Bilesanmi, 2021), and state fragility, often referred to as institutional failure, among others. In recent times, bandits' attacks on educational institutions in Nigeria's Northwest have created an atmosphere of fear, uncertainty and despair. These scholars equally noted the deleterious effect of the phenomenon on human security, national security and the livelihoods of those affected.

Studies indicate that the situation could have possibly been brought under control if not for certain challenges facing the government. These challenges include state fragility, often referred to as institutional failure, inadequacy of well-trained security personnel, lack of adequate sophisticated weapons, communication gadget and logistics support to confront the fire power of the bandits (Ademola, 2021; Bilesanmi, 2021; Mustapha, 2019; Adegoke, 2019). Other studies reveal that though the government, its security agencies and other stakeholders like the local communities through self-help initiatives strove to combat bandits' onslaught by the use of counter force, and by going into peace deal and empowerment provisioning for the bandits (Zamfara and Katsina state governors) (Anka, 2017; Mustapha, 2019), their efforts remained ineffective, inefficient and uncoordinated hence inadequate in bring much respite to the affected communities (Rosenje& Adeniyi, 2021; Mustapha, 2019; Anka, 2017; Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016).

Suffice to say that apart from the amnesty initiative and empowerment programme embarked upon by both Aminu Masari, the governor of Katsina state (2015-2023) and Bello Matawalle, governor of Zamfara state (2019-2023) for the armed bandits (Anka, 2017; Mustapha, 2019), one of the strategies adopted by state governments of the troubled states was to resort to closure of schools temporarily to reduce the spate of bandits' attacks and abduction of school children and secondary schools' students.

Furthermore, contracts were awarded for the construction of fence round schools so that they could be less vulnerable (Abolade, 2020). Several joint security patrols were organised to thwart away bandits' attack (Akote, 2022). These approaches no doubt increased government

spending in the affected states. However, the lack of adequate security personnel acquainted with modern anti-banditry techniques, and necessary equipment and logistics as in best practices of the developed nations, to confront the deadly AK 47, AK 49 and other lethal weapons carrying bandits (Ademola, 2021) constituted a challenge for winning the war against banditry. Hence, bandits had a field day in attacking and ransacking schools sporadically and incessantly without any constraint.

Government inability to surmount these challenges gave the bandits the effrontery to bstride and ravage the communities without any constraint, devastating the land like locusts, ruthlessly killing, maiming, raping the women, looting and dispossessing the people of their valuables apart from kidnapping the people, especially the students, for ransom (Rufai, 2021; Ahmed, 2021; Abdullahi, 2019; Jafaar, 2018; & Anka, 2017).

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive survey research design. It used both qualitative and quantitative methods. It made use of both secondary and primary sources of data, gathering data from published textbooks, journals and the internet while it equally used structured questionnaire as instrument to elicit data from respondents on the field. The essence of using the questionnaire to collect data is to use such to address all aspects of research hypotheses, serve as a check on the secondary materials and as well revalidate or refute the knowledge inherent in such source.

Study Area

The study area consists of Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara states, which are in the Northwest Nigeria. Their headquarters are in Kaduna, Katsina, and Gusau respectively. The geographical coordinates of the location of Kaduna state is within latitude 9.00° and 11.535°N and longitude 6.091°E and 8.825°E with a land mass of 45324.32370 sq./km; the geographical coordinates of the location of Katsina state is within latitude 11.125°N and 13.356°N and longitude 6.847°E and 9.053°E with a land area of 24368.32216 sq./km (Alo et al, 1998); and the geographical coordinates of the location of Zamfara state is within latitude 10.950°N and 13.190°N and longitude 4.85°E and 7.252°E with a land area of 34361.50238 sq./km (Zamfara State Government, 2021), in that order. They shared borders with Kano and Bauchi states in the east, Nassarawa, Abuja (FCT), Kogi and Kwara states in the south and Sokoto and Kebbi states in the west in Nigeria, as well as Benin and Niger Republics in the north. The areas are majorly inhabited by people of Hausa-Fulani extraction, who are preponderantly Muslims and other culturally segmented societies who are Christians. Many communities in the various Local Government Areas of the selected states are seriously affected by bandits' attacks.

Study Population

Since the population of the five affected states in the Northwest namely, Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Sokoto, and Kebbi are too large to be covered within a reasonable timeframe, the study relied on the population of the three purposively selected states of Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara in view of the prevalence of the phenomenon in these states. The population of the study area is 3,458,854. This figure was derived based on National Population Commission (2010) projections. Efforts are however, concentrated on the communities that are highly prone to bandits' attacks. Such areas include communities in Birnin Gwari, Chikum, Igabi, Lere, Kajuru, and Kaura local government areas of Kaduna state; communities in Batsari, Dandume, Danmusa, Faskari, Funtua, Jibia, Kankara, Sabuwa and Safana LGAs of Katsina state (Ladan, 2020) and Anka, Gummi, Gusau, Maradun, Maru, Shinkafi, Tsafe and Zurmi LGAs of Zamfara state. These areas were selected because they are the ones usually attacked by the bandits.

For the sake of maturity, the study focused attention on adults of 18years and above as its target population. This category of respondents is regarded as the active members of the society who have lived experiences of the phenomenon being investigated. A margin of five per cent was, however, given to certain members of the population considered to be incapacitated either as physically or mentally challenged.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Using the age bracket 18 years and above based on 2006 census figures and its projections (NPC, 2010), a population of 3,458,854 was derived from the prone communities of the three purposively selected states that were chosen on account of prevalence of bandits' attacks. A sample size of 220 people was then derived using the Gonzalez (2008) sample size formula: $n = N / (1 + [N(e^2)])$, where n = sample size, N = total population of the area being investigated and e = percentage margin error. Adopting 5 per cent limit of tolerance level (margin error level) the study was conducted using a normal approximation with confidence level of 95 per cent. In order to make the study more robust and enhance its validity and reliability, the sample size was increased to 250, which was thereafter distributed among the prone communities of the three selected states on the basis of the proportion of their respective population. The copies of the questionnaire were randomly distributed to respondents thus: 70 respondents in Kaduna state, 80 respondents in Katsina state and 100 respondents in Zamfara state.

Reliability

Reliability of the instrument designed for this study was tested for internal constituency (using Cronbach's coefficient alpha). Test showed that border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty accentuated armed banditry in

Northwest Nigeria ($\alpha = 0.776$) and the incidences and consequences of rural banditry and kidnapping of students hindered education in Northwest Nigeria ($\alpha=747$). Since the acceptable reliability coefficient is 0.7 or higher, the various items of the instrument were considered reliable.

Result and Discussion of Findings

The results obtained from the analysis of data collected from research participants are presented thus:

Analysis of Hypotheses

Ho₁ Border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty have no significant composite contributions to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria.

Table 1: Showing Regression and ANOVA test on the contributions of border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria.

R = .491 ^a R ² = .241 R ² adj= .218 Std Error = 2.17820						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	354.819	7	50.688	10.683	.000 ^b
	Residual	1119.718	236	4.745		
	Total	1474.537	243			

Source: SPSS Processing of Field Data, 2022

Results in Table 1 show that border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty have significant composite contributions to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria. The table shows a significant positive relationship between border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty, and armed banditry in Nigeria's Northwest. From Table 1, the result of the test showed a coefficient of regression $R = .491^a$ and $R^2 = .241$. The implication of this coefficient of regression is that there was strong direct association between border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty, and armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria.

Also, the F- statistics, which is $F = 10.683$ was significant at 0.05 level. This means that border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty have significant composite contributions to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria. Therefore, the null

hypothesis, which states that there is no significant composite contribution of border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria is rejected.

Ho₂The incidences and consequences of armed banditry have not significantly hindered education in Northwest Nigeria.

Table 2: Showing ANOVA test on the incidences and consequences of armed banditry on education in Northwest Nigeria.

		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Withdrawal of students	Between Groups	139.743	10	13.974	20.771	.000
	Within Groups	156.761	233	.673		
	Total	296.504	243			
Emotional trauma	Between Groups	88.182	10	8.818	23.480	.000
	Within Groups	87.507	233	.376		
	Total	175.689	243			
Increased school expenditure	Between Groups	110.746	10	11.075	14.503	.000
	Within Groups	177.922	233	.764		
	Total	288.668	243			
Closure of schools	Between Groups	31.551	10	3.155	25.391	.000
	Within Groups	28.953	233	.124		
	Total	60.504	243			
Increased budgetary allocations	Between Groups	135.658	10	13.566	16.181	.000
	Within Groups	195.338	233	.838		
	Total	330.996	243			
Decrease in school enrolment	Between Groups	57.037	10	5.704	14.483	.000
	Within Groups	91.762	233	.394		

	Total	148.799	243			
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Source: SPSS Processing of Field Data, 2022

Results in Table 2 show the incidences and consequences of armed banditry on education in Northwest Nigeria. The table shows that armed banditry significantly hindered education in Nigeria’s Northwest in many ways. It led to withdrawal of students ($F = 20.771$; $P < .05$), caused emotional trauma ($F = 23.480$, $p < .05$), increased school expenditures ($F = 14.503$, $p < .05$), led to closure of schools ($F = 25.391$, $p < .05$), increased budgetary allocations ($F = 16.181$, $p < .05$), and decreased school enrolment ($F = 14.483$, $p < .05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis, which states that the incidences and consequences of armed banditry have not significantly hindered education in Northwest is rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis. This implies that armed banditry significantly led to withdrawal of students, emotional trauma, increased school expenditures, closure of schools, increased budgetary allocations and decreased school enrollment in Nigeria’s Northwest.

Discussion of Findings

The results in Table 1 show that border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty have significant composite contributions to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria. This study therefore, is in concurrence with the findings of the studies of scholars like Rufai (2021), Okoli and Ugwu (2019), Mustapha (2019), Adegoke (2019), Olaniyan (2018), and Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016), which collectively asserted that armed banditry was caused by a combination of factors such as border porosity (Rufai, 2021), arms proliferation (Rufai, 2021), the existence of ungoverned spaces (Okoli & Ugwu, 2019; Olaniyan, 2018), youth unemployment, poverty, discovery and illegal mining of gold in Zamfara state (Rufai, 2021; Mustapha, 2019; Adegoke, 2019), among others.

The findings also reveal that the above factors were reinforced by state fragility or institutional failure, especially the inability of the government to provide adequate security personnel, the weaknesses of the various security agents established by the government, in terms of lack of modern equipment such as sophisticated arms and ammunitions, communication gadget and logistics support to function effectively. This is equally in tandem with the findings of Bilesanmi (2021), and Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016) which averred that institutional failure, especially the weaknesses of the various security agents to function effectively contributed to the escalation of banditry in Northwest Nigeria.

The result in Table 2a reveals that the incidences of armed banditry hindered education in Nigeria’s Northwest. It reveals the incidences of armed banditry in the selected states. It indicates that as a result of banditry attacks, kidnapping has become pervasive and incessant in the Northwest Nigeria. It shows the high number of students abducted from various schools

in the region, the number of casualties emanating there from, and the ransom paid for the release of the captives (Muishanu, 2021; France-Presse, 2021; Oluigbo, 2021; Olufemi, 2021).

Table 2a: Incidences of Kidnapping of Students by Bandits in Schools in Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi States

S/N	Newspaper	Name of School	Date of Attack	No of Students/ Staff Abducted	No. of Casualties	Ransom Paid for Release of Captives
Kaduna State						
1.	The Guardian	St. Albert the Great Institute of Philosophy, Fadan Kogoma, Kafanchan	11th October, 2021	3 students kidnapped	Scores of students were injured	N50 million was demanded
2.	The Guardian online 30th May, 2021	Greenfield University, Kasarami, Chikun LGA.	20th April 2021:	22 students abducted	5killed,	14 released
3.	Voanews.com	Bethel Baptist High School, Kaduna	5 th July, 2021	140 students	N/A	About 107 released in batches after the payment of 180 million ransom
4.	The Cables	UBE Primary School, Rama, Birnin-Gwari LGA	15th March, 2021	2 students and 3 teachers	N/A	2 students were later found
Katsina State						
5.	www.bbc.co.uk	Government Science Secondary School, Kankara.	11th Dec., 2020	300 students	N/A	300 were released

6.	Premium Times	Islamiyya School, Sakkai, Faskasi LGA.	18th August 2021.	10 students and teachers	N/A	N/A
7.	Vanguard	Community Secondary School, Runka town, Safana LGA	2nd March 2021	4 students abducted	N/A	One narrowly escaped
Zamfara State						
8.	Vanguard	Government Girls Secondary School, Jangebe	26th Feb., 2020	317 students were abducted	N/A	279 students were released
9.	The Punch	Government Day Secondary School, Kaya village	1 st Sept., 2021	75 students	N/A	Five students were released after 24 hours
10.	Pmnewsnigeria.com	Government Girls Science secondary School, Abankula, Talatu Mafara LGA.	26 th Feb., 2021	300 schoolgirls	N/A	N/A

Source: Compiled by the authors. (2022).

This illustration in Table 2a shows the extent of the fatal attacks of bandits on students' population, the ransom collected for the release of abducted students and the perceived sense of fear, insecurity and desolation created in the parents. This scenario no doubt inflicted untold hindrances on education.

Consequent upon the foregoing situation, parents and guardians were apprehensive about the safety of their children and wards, and were therefore, constrained to withdraw their children and wards from schools due to the incessant attacks of bandits on schools and kidnapping of students that have become prevalent (Peterside, 2021). Also, to protect the students from the rampaging bandits, the government took step to construct fence round school premises, a decision that increased school/government expenditure, while schools

were also directed to temporarily close at the peak of bandits' attacks (Igwe, 2021; Isenyo, 2021; Maishanu, 2020).

Furthermore, because of these pervasive attacks on schools, the atmosphere of anxiety and fear enveloped the region, leading to poor attendance at schools and reduction in secondary school enrolment as portrayed in Table 2b:

Table 2b: School Enrolment in Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara States (2017-2021).

S/ N	State	Enrolment 2017		Enrolment 2018		Enrolment 2019		Enrolment 2020	
		Pry	Sec	Pry	Sec	Pry	Sec	Pry	Sec
1.	Kaduna	1,662,461	519,369	1,796,725	513,816	1,932,838	517,709	2,096,352	583,269
2.	Kastina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,041,085	574,008	2,137,905	628,923
3.	Zamfara	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Annual School Census (2017-2020)

Above all, there was deterioration in academic performances of students as reflected in the students' academic performances at West African School Certificate Examinations (2017-2021) illustrated in Table 2c:

Table 2c: Students Academic Performance in Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara States (2017-2021).

S/N	Name of State	Academic Performance 2016	Academic Performance 2017	Academic Performance 2018	Academic Performance 2019	Academic Performance 2020
1.	Kaduna	54.7%	53.24%	40.73%	N/A	N/A
2.	Kastina	38.2%	53.47%	30.06%	N/A	N/A
3.	Zamfara	16.3%	29.38%	11.95%	N/A	N/A

Source: WAEC Result Statistics 2016-2018, (NBS)

A cursory examination of the WAEC result statistics for 2017 and 2018 indicates that students' performances at West African School Certificate Examination in 2018 nose-dived when compared with that of 2017 implying a setback in academic performance thus attesting to the fact that there is an apparent collapse in education in the region.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that border porosity, arms proliferation, ungoverned spaces, youth unemployment and poverty have significant

composite contributions to armed banditry in Northwest Nigeria. Therefore, all stakeholders must be vigilant about what goes on in their environment and report same to the appropriate authorities to enable them take prompt action. Also, the study confirmed that armed banditry has hindered education in Nigeria's Northwest. This is a worrisome challenge that affects the future of the children, who are regarded as the leaders of tomorrow in particular and the nation in general. This implies that there is the urgent need for all concerned parties to urgently take steps to stop the ugly drift. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were proffered:

- (i) Government should strengthen the security personnel by equipping them with sophisticated weapons, communication gadget and logistics to enable them confront the bandits head-on.
- (ii) Local vigilante, who possess relevant knowledge of the terrain of the vast ungoverned forest should be integrated into the security network to get into the nooks and crannies of the area to flush out these bandits.
- (iii) An enabling environment should be created by the government for the youth to be gainfully employed;
- (iv) The relevant agencies of government should monitor our borderlands effectively to discourage the influx of illegal migrants from neighbouring countries like Niger, who form the core of bandits' recruits and properly check arms proliferation;
- (v) Modern methods of surveillance such as the use of techno-based drones, satellite and GPS should be devised by the government and its relevant agencies like National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) to effectively monitor the ungoverned spaces and share such data among the relevant agencies of government; and
- (vi) Stringent sanctions should be meted out to the captured or arrested bandits to serve as deterrence to other bandits.

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