

Analysis of the Socio-Economic Causes of Conflict and Violence in North East-Nigeria

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the empirical analysis of Socio-Economic Causes of Conflict and Violence in North East Nigeria. The study adopted primary methods of data collection by using structured questionnaires. The study area was the entire North Eastern States of Nigeria which are Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States and LGAs in the States. The Population of the study is stratified into States and LGAs and the total number of States of the study area is Six (6) while total number of Local Government Areas of the study area is one hundred and twelve (112). The questionnaires were administered to 400 respondents (sample size) drawn from the selected Local Government Areas in the North East Nigeria. But out the 400 questionnaires administered only 360 were properly filled and returned by the respondents. The study adopted descriptive analysis using table, charts, graphs and the simple percentage. Also logit model was used to analyze the research information gotten from the respondents, the descriptive and empirical findings of the study established that socio-economic factors like inequality gap, unemployment rate, poverty level and other issues like religion bigotry and western education are major causes of conflict and violence in the North Eastern States of Nigeria. Therefore, the study recommend that Government should engage in deliberate programmes that will encourage investment in the North Eastern States, to increase the level of job creation and employment opportunities and also engage in deliberate policy on poverty alleviation programmes in the region to reduce the effect of the insurgency in the next few years.

Keywords:
Socio-Economic,
Violence, Conflict,
North-East, Nigeria

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Background to the Study

In the midst of this drive of becoming one of the top 20 economies in the world by the year 2020 with a large, strong, diversified, sustainable and competitive economy the Nigerian economy has been engulfed with violence and conflict especially in the North East Nigeria before now the North occupies about 70% of the land mass of the country; it also has the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the country (World Bank, 2011). Similarly, it has the lowest rate of child enrolment in schools, highest number of unemployed young people in the country, highest levels of poverty as compared to the other parts of the country. Consequently, the region is faced with challenges of insecurity of lives and property and has remained a major issue today. These problems include inter-ethnic and interreligious conflict, insurgency and terrorism such as the Boko-Haram among others.

According to Temple, (2013), the indices that measure human development are by far poorer in the 19 northern states of Nigeria compared with the rest of the country ranging from the girl-child education to the Almajiri system, from women empowerment to the economic viability of states, from an immediate marshal plan that attempt at addressing the areas in conflict to how to create cooperation between states and groups. He further concluded that as a result of the above, the region was faced with the worst security challenges since independence.

Similarly, other security challenges facing the region include armed robbery and kidnapping, apart from insurgency and terrorism that have spread across the region like a wild fire across the polity, which seriously needs to be given adequate attention by the Government at all levels as pointed out by Salawu (2010). Kidnapping is still young in the northern part of the country, however it is fast developing and penetrating almost every area in the region. Today, people are getting kidnapped almost on a daily basis across the region, through so many criminal and terrorist activities (Innocent, 2012).

The situation has become so bad that needs not only the attention of joint national government but also the international community; just the same way attention is being given to the Ukraine versus Russian conflicts, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon versus Hezbollah conflict, Israeli versus Palestinian conflicts, Libya, Egypt, Yemen etc. It is against this backdrop that today, the streets and most areas in different parts of the North and North-east in particular are no longer safe for honest and hardworking for the fear of being killed due to insurgency or terrorist act. Consequently, no part of the North including the Federal Capital of Nigeria Abuja is free from this insecurity.

While every northerner and governments at all levels are concerned about insurgency and terrorist activities like Boko-Haram, ethnic, religious, tribal and community leaders are also seeking for solutions to end terrorism. Boko Haram reinvented violence and began what can best be described as the bombardment of Northern Nigeria with such frequency and intensity that are quite unprecedented in history of violence in Nigeria. Those who escape death by day, sleep with one eye open by night. Boko Haram has created widespread tension across Northern Nigeria and between various ethnic communities, interrupted commercial

activities, frightens investors and generated concerns among Nigerians. (Chukwurah, Eme and Ogbeje, 2015). This unprecedented state of terrorism by the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria has ruined the peace of the northern atmosphere and high rate of insecurity pervading northern region in particular and the nation/Nigeria in general is alarming and is a cause for serious concern to well-meaning Nigerians.

Prior to the advent of Boko Haram insurgency in 2009, the North East region of Nigeria especially Maiduguri as Baba and Ibrahim (2015) pointed out was already considered as the fastest growing city in Western Sudan and Sub-Saharan Africa as far as urbanization is concerned. Social vices such as unemployment, prostitution, destitution, poverty, illiteracy, conflicts, armed robbery, diseases, over utilization of available basic amenities among others are synonymous with urbanization (Uche, 2015). The velocity in which urbanization was growing in Maiduguri with its attendant characters during the period closer to 2009 that insurgency broke out was a signal that conflict was likely to engulfed the town which is the capital of Borno.

Boko Haram have created and made life unbearable for the citizen of the Northeast. Instead of reduction in unemployment rate it grew higher than the pre-insurgency periods in the region especially in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states which are the most affected places in the region (Chukwurah, Eme and Ogbeje, 2015). Alarming rise in number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), poverty, distortion in settlement pattern especially in rural communities, growth in number of mismanaged refugee centers, over concentration of persons in urban centers as a result of migration from rural areas to escape possible attacks by Boko Haram combatants. More also is shortages of social and basic amenities in urban centers as a result of over utilization caused by influx of refugees fleeing attacks in their communities, the destruction of social and basic amenities especially schools which before the insurgency were not even adequate in the region. Rise in number of orphans and widows, unsupported, abandoned families as well as unquantifiable loss of lives and properties form the major phenomena which insurgency has succeeded in throwing the north-east region of Nigeria into socio-economic challenges. On this background the main objective of this study is to empirically examine the socio-economic causes of conflict and violence in North East Nigeria.

Literature Review

Conceptual and Empirical Review

Wallenstein, (2002) noted that conflict requires a disputed incompatibility, two parties strive to acquire at the same time an available set of scarce resources, which can be either material or immaterial. Conflict in itself is often a constructive element of a dynamic society; however it becomes very problematic when the parties to a conflict resort to violent means to advance their cause.

In Olabanji and Akpomera(2014) Socio-economic development is a product of development and can be defined as the process of social and economic transformation in a society. Socio-economic development embraces changes taking place in the social sphere mostly of an

economic nature. Thus, socio-economic development is made up of processes caused by exogenous and endogenous factors that determine the course and direction of the development. Socio-economic development process is measured with indicators, such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. The increase in the factors mentioned above means positiveness in socio-economic development

Changes in less-tangible factors are also considered as part of socio-economic development, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participation in civil society. Causes of changes in socio-economic development, new technologies, changes in laws, changes in the physical environment and ecological changes.

According to Agbiboa, (2013). The social injustice in Nigeria can be said to be among the factors emanating from the government been responsible for the present Boko Haram insurgents in Nigeria at the moment. As argued by some scholars, it is stated that the ultraviolent turn of Boko Haram must be traced back to the extrajudicial killing of its charismatic leader, Muhammed Yusuf, and the bloodletting of its members. This episode from the Nigeria security agents prompted the Boko Haram to seek vengeance.

As opined by Owoye (2011), terrorism is often caused by a combination of political, economic and institutional factors such as bad leadership, unemployment and corruption. The volume of corruption in Nigeria triggered the poverty profile of Nigeria to 69% (National Bureau of Statistics (2010)). The NBS report further reveals that 112.47 million Nigerians live below US\$1.00 per day and as a result could barely afford the minimal standards of food, clothing, health care and shelter.

Theoretical Framework

The theory of structural violence states that some violence are avoidable but becomes inevitable due to deprivation of some basic human needs of the people. Structural violence may occur as a result of lack of human agencies which may make an action of a person to result to unequal distribution of resources. Structural violence is the violence of injustice and inequity “embedded in ubiquitous social structures and normalized by stable institutions and regular experience” (Winter and Leighton 2001). By structures we mean social relations and arrangements economic, political, legal, religious, or cultural that shape how individuals and groups interact within a social system. These include broad-scale cultural and political-economic structures such as caste, patriarchy, slavery, apartheid, colonialism, and neoliberalism, as well as poverty and discrimination by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and migrant/refugee status.

However, these structures are violent because they result in avoidable deaths, illness, and injury; and they reproduce violence by marginalizing people and communities, constraining their capabilities and agency, assaulting their dignity, and sustaining inequalities. While these outcomes are “experienced individually, structural violence targets classes of people and subjects them to common forms of lived oppression. Hence, the experience of structural

violence and the pain it produces has been called 'social suffering' (Singer and Erickson 2011).

The theoretical framework for this work is rooted on the model by Galtung (1969), which was based on the theory of structural violence that some violence are avoidable but becomes inevitable due to deprivation of some basic human needs in the areas of political, socioeconomic and cultural structures. Structural violence may occur as a result of lack of human agencies which may make an action of a person to result to unequal distribution of resources.

Structural violence exists when some groups, classes, genders, and nationalities are assumed to have, and in fact do have, more access to goods, resources, and opportunities than other groups, classes, genders and nationalities, these unequal advantage is built into the very social, political and economic systems that govern societies, states and the world Galtung (1969). Government's inability to meet up with its responsibilities leads to violence in societies such as that of the Boko Haram (Burton, 1997). The structural violence theory has its largest proponents from the intelligentsia, prominent amongst them are Galtung (1969); and (Burton, 1997).

One of the schools of thought which blame socioeconomic conditions for the violence act such as those of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria is premised on the human needs/ structural violence theory. It argues that human beings have some basic needs to achieve and when the failure to do this is caused by somebody, it then leads to violence activities (Rosati, Manacorda, Kovrova, Koseleci, and Lyon2010).

The structural violence model is formulated as:

$$Viol. = f(Soc., Pol., Eco., cult.) \text{ ----- (1)}$$

$$VIOL. = \alpha + \beta_1SOC + \beta_2POL + \beta_3ECO + \beta_4CULT \text{ ----- (2)}$$

Where; VIOL stands for Violence, SOC is Social needs, POL is Political needs, ECO is Economic needs and CULT is Cultural needs. Based on the objectives of the study the model will be rooted and anchored on equation 2 above.

Methodology

The empirical study embarked upon cuts across the entire North Eastern States in Nigeria which are Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States and LGAs in the States. There are 21 LGAs in Adamawa State, 20 LGAs in Bauchi State, 27 LGAs in Borno State, 11 LGAs in Gombe State, 16 LGAs in Taraba State and 17 LGAs in Yobe. Thus, the population of the study is made up stakeholders both private and public organizations, individuals and international agencies in the six North Eastern States in Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling technique is adopted to identify the samples on which the survey instruments are administered. It entails that logical processes called stages are followed through from the population of study to arrive at the eventual respondents of the survey instruments.

The Population of the study is stratified into States and LGAs and the total number of States of the study area is Six (6) while total number of Local Government Areas of the study area is one hundred and twelve (112). They are further grouped (stratified) into the different groups by nature of LGAs that is State Capital LGAs and others. From groups all the State Capital LGAs were selected and one LGA was selected from other group in each State. Therefore, two LGAs were selected from each State under study. The survey instruments were randomly administered to the respondents across all the 12 LGAs selected in the States.

Table 1: Population of the Selected LGAs

S/N	Selected LGAs	State	Population
1	Yola North	Adamawa	224,233
2	Girre	Adamawa	145,827
3	Bauchi	Bauchi	565,658
4	Alkaleri	Bauchi	376,109
5	Maiduguri	Borno	618,687
6	Jajere	Borno	239,570
7	Gombe	Gombe	303,282
8	Yamaltu Deba	Gombe	290,646
9	Jalingo	Taraba	157,577
10	Yorro	Taraba	100,918
11	Damataru	Yobe	100,886
12	Gujuba	Yobe	149,302
		Total	3,123,333

Source: 2010 Projected Population by NBS Annual Abstract Statistics, 2011.

This estimated population of the selected Local Government Areas is given as 3,123,333. The significance of large sample size that could be reflective of the population for the analysis and generalizations cannot be overstated.

A confidence interval of 95% (which is conventionally acceptable) is used in the determination of the sample size for the study.

As such given the formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

- Where: n = actual sample size
- N = the total population of the study
- e = Level of significance

Substituting the values of the total population and the significant level into the formula, the actual sample size for the study becomes:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3,123.333}{1 + 3,123.333 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3,123.333}{1 + 3,123.333 (0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{3,123.333}{1 + 7,808}$$

$$n = \frac{3,123.333}{7,809}$$

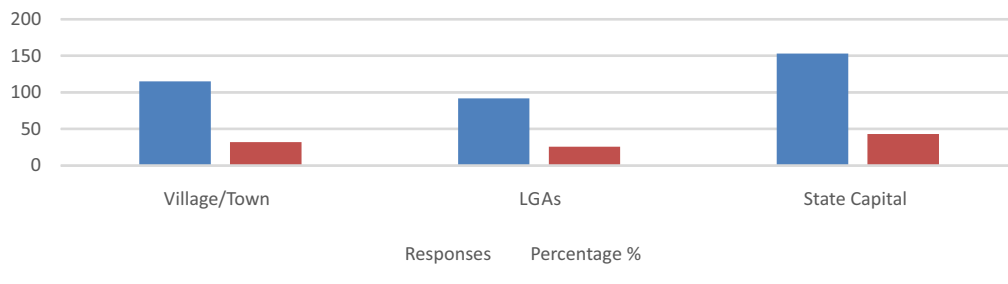
$$n = 399.9$$

$$n = 400$$

The questionnaires were administered to 400 respondents drawn from a total of 12 Local Government Areas in the North East Nigeria. Also, these respondents were spread equally across the LGAs since the respondents are also equally spread among the LGAs. But out the 400 questionnaires administered only 360 were properly filled and returned by the respondents therefore, the analysis of this study is based on the information from 360 respondents. The study adopted disruptive analysis by using table, charts, graphs and the simple percentage. Logit model were used to analyze the research information and data that were gotten from the questionnaires.

Data Presentation and Analysis
Presentation of Bio Data of Respondents

Figure 1: The locations of respondents in the North East Region

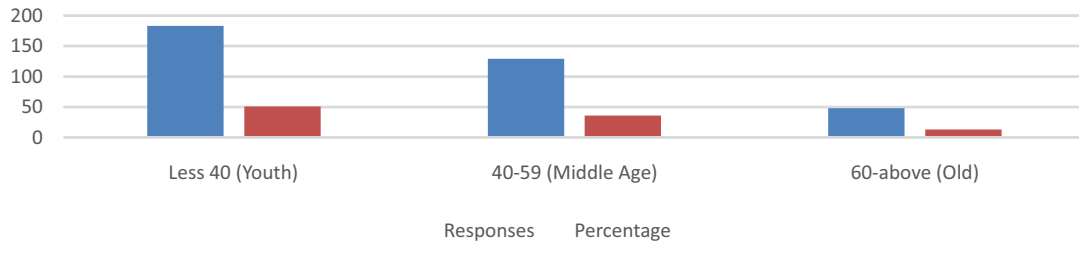


Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 1 shows the locations of respondents in North East Region. Figure 1 also shows that 32 percent of the total respondents are residing in the village and rural areas in the North Eastern States, 26 percent of the total respondents are residing in the Local Government Capital in the North Eastern States while 43 percent of the total respondents are residing in the State Capital in the North Eastern States. This revealed that larger number of the population in the

North Eastern States are residing in the State Capital except Bauchi State which has over 50 percent of the population residing in villages and rural areas of the State.

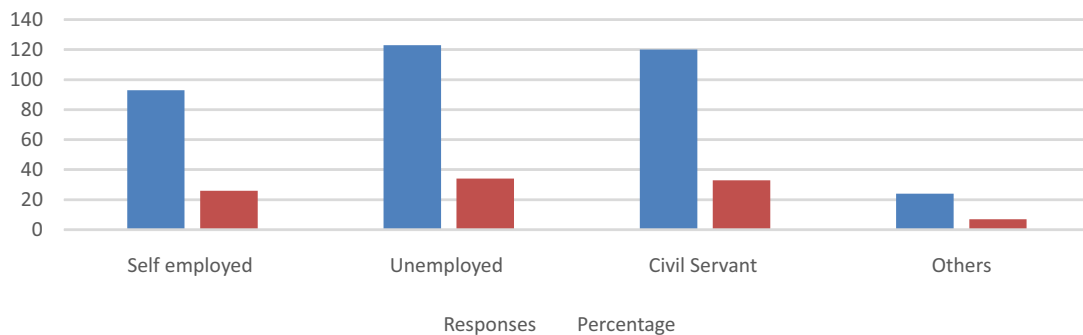
Figure 2: The grand total of the age of respondents in the North East Region



Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 2 show the age of respondents in the States and the grand total in North East Region. Figure 2 shows that 51 percent of the total respondents are below 40 years, 36 percent of the total respondents are between ages 40 and 59 while 13 percent of the total respondents are 60 years and above in the North Eastern State Nigeria. This implies that there is a large percent of youths in the North Easter Region of Nigeria and this may be the reason for high rate of violence and insurgency in the region because studies has shown that anti-social vices are carried out by the by youth and the middle age people in the region.

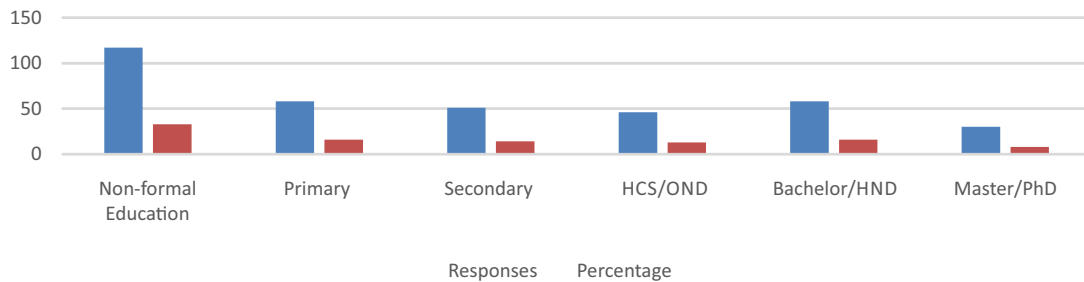
Figure 3: The grand total of the occupations of respondents in the North East Region



Source: Field Survey, 2017

Figure 4.3 show the occupations of respondents in North East Region. The Figure revealed that 26 percent of the total respondents are self-employed, 34 percent of the total respondents are unemployed, 33 percent of the total respondents are civil servants and 7 percent of the total respondents are other occupations. This revealed that over 30 percent are self-employed and unemployed in the North East Region. The level of unemployment may be the reason for the violence and conflict in the North East Region. “The idle mind is the devil workshop” as the adage goes.

Figure 4: The grand total of the qualification of respondents in the North East Region



Source: FIELD Survey, 2017

Figure 4 show the qualifications of respondents in North East Region. The Figure shows that, 33 percent of the total respondents in the North Eastern State Nigeria have no formal education, 16 percent have only primary school education, 14 percent have secondary school education, 13 percent have HCS and ONDs, 16 percent have First Degree and Higher National Diploma and 8 percent have Master Degree and PhDs. This implies that quiet number of the population in the North Eastern State of Nigeria are not educated and is a major challenge of human capital development in the region.

Figure 5: The grand total of the religion of respondents in the North East Region

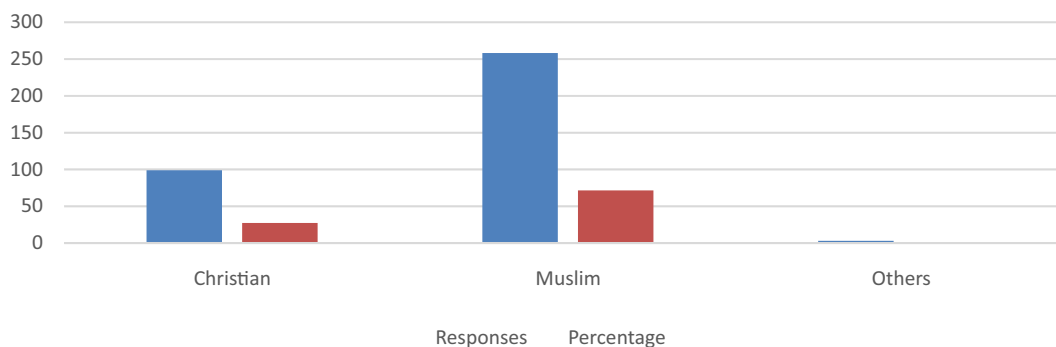


Figure 5 shows the religion of respondents in North East Region. Figure 5 shows that 27.5 percent of the respondents in the North Eastern Region are Christians, 71.7 percent of the respondents in the North Eastern Region are Muslims while 0.8 percent of the respondents in the North Eastern Region are other religion. This revealed the easy recruitment of members by the Boko Haram to their fold.

Presentation of Socio-Economic Cause Conflict and Violence

Table 2: The wide gap between the rich and the poor as a main cause of the conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria

	ADAMAWA		BAUCHI		BORNO		GOMBE		TARABA		YOBE		AVERAGE	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	43	72	47	78	38	63	54	90	46	77	36	59	44	73
No	15	25	12	20	20	34	06	10	11	18	20	34	14	24
NIL	02	03	01	02	02	03	-	-	03	05	04	07	02	03

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 2 shows that average of 73% of respondents across North Eastern States reported that the wide gap between the rich and the poor as a main cause of the conflict and violence in the North Eastern States Nigeria while 24% reported that the wide gap between the rich and the poor is not a main cause of the conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria. This shows that the wide gap between the rich and the poor as the main cause of the conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria since the majority of the respondents attest to that.

Table 3: Youth unemployment contributed to escalation of the crisis in North Eastern States Nigeria

	ADAMAWA		BAUCHI		BORNO		GOMBE		TARABA		YOBE		AVERAGE	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	58	97	46	78	35	58	46	78	44	73	50	83	47	78
No	02	03	11	18	22	37	13	22	12	20	10	17	11	20
NIL	-	-	03	05	03	05	01	02	04	07	-	-	02	02

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 3 shows that average of 78% of respondents across North Eastern States reported that the youth unemployment contributed to escalation of the crisis in North Eastern States Nigeria while 20% reported that youth unemployment has not contributed to escalation of the crisis in North Eastern States of Nigeria. This shows that youth unemployment contributed to escalation of the crisis in North Eastern States Nigeria since majority of the respondents agreed. This implies that there is a need for youth employment generations in the North Eastern States of Nigeria to reduce the violence and insurgency in the region. Unemployment is a problem anywhere, once youth are idle, there is tendency for them to be involved in illegal activities.

Table 4: Ignorance contributed to high level of conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria

	ADAMAWA		BAUCHI		BORNO		GOMBE		TARABA		YOBE		AVERAGE	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	59	98	46	78	37	62	40	66	48	80	54	90	47	78
No	01	02	12	20	20	34	16	27	10	17	06	10	11	20
NIL	-	-	02	02	03	05	04	07	02	03	-	-	02	02

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 4 shows that average of 78% of respondents across North Eastern States reported that ignorance contributed to high level of conflict and violence in the North Eastern states while 20% reported that ignorance has not contributed to high level of conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria. This shows that ignorance has contributed to high level of conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria since the majority of the respondents said yes. This implies that there is a need for awareness and education of citizens in North Eastern States Nigeria to reduce the violence and insurgency in the region. Ignorance particularly about religion itself is very dangerous to the followership of religion which has contributed tremendously to the conflicts and violence in North East, Nigeria.

Table 5: High level of poverty in the region triggered conflict and violence in the North East Nigeria

	ADAMAWA		BAUCHI		BORNO		GOMBE		TARABA		YOBE		AVERAGE	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	49	82	45	75	39	65	46	78	44	73	56	90	47	77.2
No	10	17	12	20	18	30	12	20	13	22	06	10	12	19.8
NIL	01	02	03	05	03	05	02	03	03	05	-	-	01	03

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 5 shows that average of 77.17% of respondents across North Eastern States agreed that high level of poverty contributed to conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria while only 19.83% disagreed. This shows that poverty has contributed to high level of conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria.

Table 6: Religious bigotry and imposition of its ideals on the general populace is one cause of conflict and violence in the North East Nigeria

	ADAMAWA		BAUCHI		BORNO		GOMBE		TARABA		YOBE		AVERAGE	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	56	93	39	65	40	66	38	63	41	68	43	72	43	71
No	04	07	20	34	16	27	20	34	18	30	12	20	15	25
NIL	-	-	01	02	04	07	02	03	01	02	05	08	02	04

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 6 shows that average of 71% of respondent's religious bigotry and imposition of its ideals on the general populace is one cause of conflict and violence in the North East Nigeria while 25% reported that religious bigotry and imposition of its ideals on the general populace is one cause of conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria. This shows that religious bigotry and imposition of its ideals on the general populace is one cause of conflict and violence in the North Eastern Nigeria since the majority of the respondents attest to that. This goes to invalidate the testimony of those captured by force by the insurgents that they were asked to practice Islam even when they were Christians.

Table 7: Western education fast eroding Islamic values, traditions and cultures in the North Eastern States Nigeria

	ADAMAWA		BAUCHI		BORNO		GOMBE		TARABA		YOBE		AVERAGE	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Yes	38	63	39	65	35	58	28	47	38	63	32	53	35	81
No	21	35	18	30	20	34	22	37	17	28	26	43	21	17
NIL	01	02	03	05	05	07	10	17	05	08	02	03	04	02

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 7 shows that average of 81% of respondents across North Eastern States reported that western education is fast eroding Islamic values, traditions and cultures in the North Eastern States Nigeria while 17% reported that western education fast eroding Islamic values, traditions and cultures in the North Eastern States Nigeria. This shows that majority of people agreed that western education fast eroding Islamic values, traditions and cultures in the North Eastern States Nigeria. This is one of the main reasons why the insurgents are waging war on the region.

Analysis Using Multivariate Logit Model Regression

The multiple regressions is to be estimated, where the coefficients $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4,$ and β_5 to be estimated, are used to measure the contribution of independent variables to dependent variable. The multivariate Logit model is:

$$\text{Log} \left(\frac{P}{1-P} \right) = L = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{INEQ} + \beta_2 \text{YUNEMP} + \beta_3 \text{POV} + \beta_4 \text{REL} + \beta_5 \text{WEDU} + \mu \dots (3)$$

A multivariate linear Logit regression method of estimation was applied to our earlier outlined methods. The overall results are expressed below:

Table 8: Regression Results

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	Z-Statistic	Prob.
C	-1.437809	1.496397	-0.960847	0.0016
INEQ	0.191333	0.535807	0.357094	0.0010
UNEMP	0.276640	0.212994	1.298815	0.0010
POV	0.794806	0.876195	0.907111	0.0003
REL	0.417357	0.902232	0.462583	0.0001
WEDU	2.11E-06	1.02E-06	2.060979	0.0013
McFadden R-squared	0.536385			
S.D. dependent var	0.391965			
Mean dependent var	0.812081			
S.E. of regression	0.289188			
Akaike info criterion	0.657956			
Schwarz criterion	0.799081			
Restr. Deviance	143.9912			
LR statistic	59.95576			
Prob(LR statistic)	0.000000			

The regression results in table 8 shows that the five explanatory variables are statistically significant even at 5 and 10 percent respectively. These are the inequality gap, unemployment rate, poverty level, religion bigotry and western education. The result shows that the average of 73% agreed that inequality gap between the rich and the poor is the main cause of conflicts and violence in North East, Nigeria. Average of 78% strongly agreed that unemployment is the main cause of conflicts, 78% also agreed with poverty as the main cause of conflicts and violence while 71% agreed with religion as the main cause of conflicts in North East, Nigeria.

However, a significant 81% agreed that western education is the main cause of conflicts and violence in North Eastern Nigeria. The working hypothesis is all variables have a significant positive effect on conflicts and violence in North Eastern States of Nigeria. The finding agrees with World Bank Report, (2009), Gbenga & Augoye, (2011) and Owoye, (2011) who noted that conflicts and violence in Nigeria has significant relationship with poverty, unemployment and inequality gap. The McFadden R-squared value of 0.536385 implies that about 54 percent of the change in the dependent variable was explained by the explanatory variables of the model.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, from the descriptive and empirical findings of the study it was established that socio-economic factors like inequality gap, unemployment rate, poverty level and other issues like religion bigotry and western education are major causes of conflict and violence in the North Eastern States of Nigeria. Therefore, the study recommends the following policies in order to address the problem of conflict and violence in the region:

- i. Government should engage in deliberate programmes that will encourage investment in the North Eastern States to increase the level of job creation and employment opportunities especially for youths which are the main sources and tool for violence and conflict in the region.

- ii. Government should engage in deliberate policy on poverty alleviation programmes in the region to reduce the effect of the insurgency in the last few years. This can be in form of soft loans to the people for their agricultural production, adequate provision of land and adequate security to safeguard lives and properties in the region.
- iii. Government and its agencies should adopt a mechanism to reduce the level of gender inequality in the areas of job opportunities, access to healthcare services, education, leadership and decision making in the North Eastern States.
- iv. Government should engage in community development and in adequate security provision in the rural communities in the North Eastern States in Nigeria.
- v. Government should engage in proper public enlightenment that will help to reduce misunderstanding of western education and encourage respect for other people religion belief and freedom of worship.

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