

Trans-Border Arms' Trafficking and the Incidence of Armed Banditry in Katsina State, 2010-2021: Implications for Internal Security

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Abstract

This paper interrogates the relationship between trans-border arms' trafficking and the rising profile of armed banditry in Katsina State and by extension its implications on internal security of the State covering the period between 2010 and 2021. Theoretically, it is anchored on Social Disorganization Theory (SDT) of crime while methodologically; the paper utilizes both primary and secondary methods of data collection. Primary method on one hand, involves generating data via Structured Questionnaire (SQ) administered to target respondents selected through multi-stage sampling procedure. 400 respondents formed the sample size determined through Yamani (1967) statistical formula for sample size determination. While the secondary method on the other hand entails that data were generated from books, journals and web-based materials among others. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze data generated from the field survey. The research hypotheses were tested using non-parametric statistics (chi-square) at 5% (0.05) level of significance. The study found no significant relationship between trans-border arms' trafficking and the rising rate of armed banditry in Katsina State. It however found the activities of arms traffickers and armed bandits as constituting a threat to internal security of the State in particular and the Northern region in general. The paper therefore concludes that the security situation of Katsina State may further deteriorate if nothing is urgently done to arrest the situation. Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the paper recommends among others that the government should ensure that all the country's borders are properly manned by highly professional, motivated and incorruptible security agents and at the same time ensuring collaboration with other stakeholders, especially members of border communities in the fight against trans-border arms trafficking.

Keywords: *Armed banditry, Arms trafficking, Internal security, Trans-border*

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Background to the Study

Trans-border arms' trafficking has become one of the most challenging security and developmental issues in Africa in recent years particularly in Nigeria. The unbridled and widespread availability and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) is a security challenge facing countries in the Africa continent. The problems posed by arms trafficking are both complex and multidimensional in character as they are entangled with other broad security and societal issues bothering on criminality and affinity with terrorism. These therefore have serious implications not only for human rights but for also humanitarian activities.

In Nigeria, the government faces a lot of security challenges along its borders with other countries, especially given the connivance between security agents as well as members of border communities and criminal elements who are helped to illegally import SALWs into the country. Aside this, Nigeria shares 2,000 miles of border with some of her neighbouring countries like Niger, Chad, and Cameroon hosting almost 1,500 illegal or unmonitored crossing routes (Adejo, 2005). None of the security agencies currently possesses the training, resources or personnel to perform their duties effectively due to lengthy and porous nature of Nigerian borders (Alli, 2012). Thus, criminal elements take advantage of the porosity of these borders to perpetuate cross-border crimes such as arms smuggling and transnational attacks resulting in the death of civilians (Nzeako & Abdulsalam, 2021).

The inflows of people to Nigeria and porosity of the country's borders tend to largely make it difficult for the security operatives to control the movement of people and goods (Victor, Emmanuel & Efanodor-Obeten, 2021). As a consequence, SALWs are trafficked easily into Nigeria (Ojudu, 2007). The increasing activities of smugglers across the border areas coupled with arms trafficking constitute a challenge to security in Nigeria in particular and the West African sub-region in general (Mobolaji & Alabi, 2017). It has been argued by different scholars such as Rosenje and Adeniyi (2020) that arms trafficking and its proliferation has a share of blame in the increasing wave of armed banditry in northern Nigeria in particular and the country at large.

It is against this backdrop that this paper interrogates the nexus between trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry, and by extension its implications for internal security in Katsina State of Nigeria's North-West Region between 2010 and 2021. The paper is divided into ten sections. Section one is the introduction, followed by section two which centers on statement of the research problem while section three focuses on the research questions. In section four, the research objectives are highlighted while section five focuses on the research hypotheses. Section six centers on review of relevant literature; section seven examines the framework of analysis of this paper. Section eight examines the research methodology while section nine focuses on results and discussion of findings. Section ten concludes the paper and makes some useful recommendations.

Statement of the Problem

There has been an escalation in the activities of armed bandits across different States in Nigeria in recent years, especially since the advent of President Muhammadu Buhari administration in

2015. This has resulted to the death of many innocent and defenseless Nigerians including women and children. While it is difficult to pin down a single factor as responsible for the rising incidences of armed banditry in the country; there is this school of thought that believes that armed banditry could be linked to the menace of arms trafficking facilitated by the porosity of Nigeria's borders, connivance between members of border communities and criminal elements, unprofessional and corrupt law enforcement agents among other causative factors. This paper therefore interrogates the nexus between trans-border arms trafficking and the incidence of armed banditry in Nigeria with a view to identifying its implications on internal security, and in the end come up with solutions to these threats.

Research Questions

1. What are the factors responsible for the upsurge in trans-border arms trafficking in Katsina State?
2. What is the relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and the rising spate of armed banditry in Katsina State?
3. To what extent does trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry threaten internal security of Katsina State?
4. How can the menace of trans-border arms' trafficking and armed banditry be curtailed in Katsina State?

Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the factors responsible for the upsurge in trans-border arms trafficking in Katsina State?
2. To examine the relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and the rising incidences of armed banditry in Katsina State?
3. To ascertain whether trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry threatens internal security of Katsina State?
4. And to come up with solutions to the menace of trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry in Katsina State.

Statement of Research Hypotheses

H0: There is no significant relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and the rising incidences of armed banditry in Katsina State

H1: There is significant relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and the rising incidences of armed banditry in Katsina State.

Literature Review

In this section, relevant and related literature is reviewed conceptually and empirically. Concepts to be reviewed are Transitional Organized Crime (TOC), Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), trans-border arms trafficking, armed banditry and security.

Conceptual Review

The concept of Transitional Organized Crime (TOC) is difficult to define accurately. This is because of its imprecise nature and the continual multiplicity of its form (Dickson & Chujor,

2021). This has therefore led to a multiplicity of definitions of the concept so much so that the reader finds it difficult to pin down a single definition of winning popular acclamation. A few of these definitions would be alluded to for the purpose of this paper. According to Johnson and Smith (2017), TOC is a kind of crime which is being done across national borders and it involves groups or persons working in more than one country to plan and execute illegal businesses or activities for their personal gains.

According to Bentsen (2018), TOC is defined as a form of crime that is systematically carried out on national borders, that is, it involves groups or persons from one country with a group or other persons from another country and mostly on activities that are regarded as illegal and punishable by law. The most common forms of TOC according to Mazadu (2020): conveying drugs, conveying arms, trafficking for sex (prostitution) and trafficking for labour (child labour), toxic waste disposal, material theft, poaching, bunkering and smuggling of goods and contract killings.

The kind of arms being alluded to in this paper are Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs). Citing the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention, Olamide (2018) defines 'Small arms' as arms used by one person, and which include firearms and other destructive arms or devices such as exploding bombs, incendiary bombs or gas bombs, grenades, rocket launchers, missiles, missile systems or landmines; revolvers and pistols with automatic loading; rifles and carbines; machine guns; assault rifles; and light machine guns. The Convention considers 'Light weapons' as portable arms designed to be used by several persons working together in a team, and which include heavy machine guns, portable grenade launchers, mobile or mounted portable anti-aircraft cannons; portable anti-tank cannons, non-recoil guns; portable anti-tank missile launchers or rocket launchers; portable anti-aircraft missile launchers; and mortars with a caliber of less than 100 millimeters. Trans-Border Arms Trafficking (TBAT) is a form of TOC. It is defined as the smuggling of SALWs across national boundaries. For instance, the smuggling of arms from other countries into Nigeria is termed TBAT. Trafficking of small arms and light weapons, narcotics and human beings as well as cross-border armed attacks are prevalent in the country's borders (Adeola & Oluyemi, 2012)

The causes of arms trafficking include criminal activities, revolts, subversion, sabotage, religious crisis, communal conflicts, social agitations, insurrection, terrorism, insurgency, riots, militancy, electoral violence, political violence, social unrest, ethnic tensions, cross border smuggling, porous borders, black marketeering, privatization of security, insecurity, poverty, economic crisis, mass unemployment, among others (Chuma-Okoro, 2011). Nzeako and Abdulsalam, (2021, p.174) citing Shagaya, maintained that:

The history of Nigeria may be described as one of the continuous encounters with border problems as she shares borders with five African Countries: Benin, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. Four of these are Franco-phone countries, of which they have no clearly delineated and well-defined boundary with Nigeria.

The nexus between SALWs and national security has been well documented (Ibrahim, 2003; Adejo, 2005; Bestman, 2006; Chuma-Okoro, 2011; Nte, 2011; Aluko, 2012; Olamide, 2018). According to Olamide (2018), Nigeria has become a huge market accommodating trans-border arms merchants. The country has grown into a destination for major SALWs in the World. The proliferation of SALWs in the country is as a result of the failure of the government to retrieve arms from political thugs who were hired to perpetuate electoral frauds. The SALWs in themselves have no capacity to provoke violent conflicts, but the availability of these arms in the hands of hooligans is a violation of individuals and community freedom from fear as people become afraid of possible violent attacks in their daily activities. Thus, the widespread proliferation of small arms is contributing to alarming levels of armed crime, and militancy (Nte, 2011). While depicting the impact of proliferation of arms on human security, the United Nations in Olamide (2018, p 45) stated that criminal elements wreak.

Havoc everywhere; mobs terrorizing a neighborhood; rebels attacking civilians or peace keepers; drug lords randomly killing law enforcers or anyone else interfering with their illegal business (and) armed bandits hijacking humanitarian aid convoys. In all continents, uncontrolled small arms form a persisting problem.

Bestman (2006) feels that unchecked proliferation of small arms represents a state of complete physical, mental and social discomfort characterizing the society dangerous to live in. Consequently, the people in the society will begin to live in fear as a result of insecurity caused by the availability of SALWs in the hands of unauthorized individuals and groups (Ibrahim, 2003). Aside the incidences of armed banditry which sometimes increase as a result of illegal importation of SALWs into the country, other criminal activities such as ethnic conflicts, religious crises, kidnappings, armed robberies and insurgencies among others tend to increase in occurrence and magnitude. Thus, militias of either ethnic group, sectional or religious sects engage in guerrilla warfare to articulate their interests or to assault unarmed individuals in different communities (Adejo, 2005). The smuggling of SALWs into Nigeria through her porous borders threatens national security ranging from theft to kidnapping, terrorism, armed robbery, rising waves of ethnic militias and their attendant violent conflicts (Chuma-Okoro, 2011; Aluko, 2012; Mobolaji & Alabi, 2017; Victor, Emmanuel & Efanodor-Obeten, 2021).

Armed banditry consists of the organization of armed bands for the purpose of attacking State or social institutions or enterprises or individual persons. Participation in such bands and in the attacks committed by them is equally regarded as banditry (Collins, 2000). Shalangwa (2013) regards banditry as the practice of raiding and attacking victims by members of an armed group, whether or not premeditated, using weapons of offence or defense, especially in semi-organized groups for the purpose of overpowering the victim and obtaining loot or achieving some political goals. Such bandits are usually perceived as outlaws, desperate and lawless marauders who do not have a definite residence or destination but roam around the forest and mountains to avoid being identified, detected and arrested. According to Rosenje and Adeniyi (nd), banditry is defined as the totality of incidences of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, village raids as well as highway raids which involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons in

order to rob, rape, kidnap or kill the victims. They operate within and along rural borders with the assistance of their local collaborators including in some cases, state agents deployed to work for the safety and security of the people (Abdullahi, 2019).

Armed banditry refers to the incidences of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or market raids. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill (Okoli & Okpaleke 2014). Economic or political interests motivate banditry. The former refers to banditries motivated by the imperative of material accumulation while the latter has to do with those driven by the quest to rob, to assault or to liquidate a person or a group of persons based on political or ideological dispositions (Okoli & Ugwu, 2019)

The pervasiveness of armed banditry and its associated threats to security, which have enveloped in the Northwest region of Nigeria, particularly, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto and Niger States, have become a worrisome national security issue of public concern (Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016). Some of the factors responsible for the increasing incidences of armed banditry in recent years include the fragility of Nigerian State (Yusufu & Ilevbare, 2021), weak State institutions, especially the security agencies ((Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016), availability of grossly ungoverned spaces (Gaye, 2018), porosity of Nigeria's borders with its neighboring African countries, arms proliferation, weak leadership, corruption, unemployment (Suleiman, 2017; Mustapha, 2019) and mass poverty (Adeolu, 2018) among others. On their part, Abubakar and Akuva (2020) blamed the rising incidences of armed banditry on the failure of the Nigerian State to adhere to the terms and conditions of the social contract as contained in Chapter 11 Section 1 (14) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).. Nigeria is thus likened to Hobbesian state of nature, in which the life of man is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short (Appadorai, 1974, p.22) The increasing attacks orchestrated by armed bandits on farming and pastoral communities across different areas of the States in Nigeria's North-West Region have led to the destruction of lives and property, displacement of people from their communities; and a growing numbers of widows; widowers and orphans, who now reside in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps where basic social amenities are either inadequate or limited in supply (Okoli & Ochim, 2016; Mustapha, 2019).

Adeola and Oluyemi (2012, p.3) defines security as “the situation that exists as a result of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influences and actions”. In other words, it means the existence of conditions within which people in a society can go about their normal daily activities without any threat to their lives or properties. It embraces all measures designed to protect and safeguard the citizenry and the resources of individuals, groups, business and the nation against sabotage or violent occurrences (Dambazau, 2007). Security demand safety from chronic threats and protection from harmful disruption (Igbuzor, 2011)

Empirical Review

Aluko (2012) interrogated the socio-economic status of trans-border communities and then identified some of the factors that had led to arms smuggling business in the communities along Nigeria/Benin borders. The data used in this study was obtained mainly from primary source through the use of questionnaires, interviews and Focused Group Discussion (FGD) and the study area were nine communities along Nigeria/Benin border. The communities include Ketu, Kanga, Ilara, Ilikimoun, Alagbe, Idofa, Oke Agbe and Ijoun. The sample size of 500 was drawn from selected communities in the area using simple random sampling technique. The target respondents include communities' leaders, the women groups, the youths and opinion leaders as well as security agencies at the border and these included the police, the customs and the immigration officials. The method of data analysis used basically were: simple percentage and the frequency table for the test of hypothesis, the chi-square (χ^2) technique was used to test the level of significance of the relationship existing between every two variables in the hypotheses. Findings revealed that several factors were believed to have contributed to the trends of arms smuggling in the sub-region. These include the history of armed conflict in the sub-region, the political landscape, the large numbers of weapons available, traditional use of weapons, long and vulnerable borders and coastlines, the nomadic groups and the existence in some countries of large armed militias outside the control of states. The paper therefore recommended the adoption of interventionist approach, which entails the establishment of specific projects designed to take the communities out of the socio-economic plight should be embraced.

Theoretical Framework

Trans-border arms' trafficking is a form of Transitional Organized Crime (TOC). Therefore, this paper is anchored on Social Disorganization Theory (SDT) of crime as its framework of analysis. The theory was developed by the Chicago school in 1970 (Dickson & Chujor, 2021) SDT holds that an individual's physical and social environment determine the kind of behavioural choices that he/she makes (Allwell, 2019). To this theory, there is a linkage between crime rates and neighbourhood environmental characteristics. Citing Gaines and Miller (2010), Seidu (2013) states that crime in whatever form or manifestation is a function of unfavourable conditions in the societies. Such unfavourable conditions in the society that engender criminal behaviour include: high-rates of unemployment, high-rate of poverty, debilitating economic conditions, single parenting, and bad governance among others. According to this theory, whenever the basic needs of the citizens are not adequately satisfied, contentment is lacking, and the society has yearning for wealth, and taste among others, crime will likely burgeon (Ibaba, 2013)

Assumptions of SDT

The following are the basic assumptions of this theory:

- i. Societal anomalies such as poverty, unemployment and the desire to make wealth engender crime
- ii. Organized crime is common where there are artificial borders
- iii. Environment and bad leadership engender crime.
- iv. Any forcefully unplanned attempt to put an end to one crime or an anomaly means its transformation into another form.

Application of SDT to the Study

This theory is suitable for explaining trans-border arms' trafficking and the incidence of armed banditry in Katsina State as illustrated below.

Assumption Number 1: Societal anomalies

Nigeria is rich in both human and material resources, but majority of her citizens are wallowing in abject poverty. Tertiary institutions in the country keep graduating students on a regular basis with no jobs prepared for them upon graduation. Iyatse (2021) citing the National Bureau of Statistics disclosed that in Q4 2020, unemployment in the country was 33.3 percent while underemployment was 22.8 percent. In the absence of what to do to keep body and soul together, these idle youths become cheap recruits as political thugs, armed bandits, kidnappers; human traffickers and arms traffickers among others. This is why the incidences of all manners of crimes are common in Nigeria. The security agents that are supposed to protect the country's borders against influx of arms traffickers and other criminal elements are most often than not under-motivated and as such corrupt. These security agents connive with the traffickers and allow them to come into the country after getting their own share of the "business". Thus, even if the borders are controlled; without necessary adjustments and correction of societal anomalies, ways would be opened to internalized crimes such as kidnapping, armed robbery, village/market raids and cattle rustling among others (Dickson & Chujor, 2021)

Assumption Number 2: Forceful Restrictions

In order to diversify the economy from crude oil to agriculture, the Buhari administration forcefully banned the importation of food stuff, especially rice into Nigeria without first of all boosting agriculture to such an extent that the country would be food secured. Despite the ban, there are foreign bags of rice everywhere in the country; where are these foreign bags of rice brought or bought from? This consequently increased the rates of smuggling of rice into the country. Aside banning the importation of rice into Nigeria, the Buhari administration also closed all the country's land borders to checkmate trafficking in both persons and arms as well as smuggling without eradicating poverty and/or providing ample job opportunities to the teeming youths of the country.

Assumption Number 3: Bad Leadership

In his classic book entitled "The Trouble with Nigeria", Achebe (1983) said:

The trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership. There is nothing basically wrong with the Nigerian character. There is nothing wrong with the Nigerian land or climate or water or air or anything else. The Nigerian problem is the unwillingness or inability of its leaders to rise to the responsibility, to the challenge of personal example which is the hallmark of true leadership (22).

The above statement was made by Chinua Achebe in 1983 and this view point is shared by scholars such as Egwemi (2008) and Habeeb (2021) among others. We are now in 2022; the same problem he talked about then is still the biggest problem facing the country today! The

problem with Nigeria is basically that of bad leadership. Since 1960 when Nigeria attained her political independence, the country has never had good leadership, except of course with the exemption of Murtala Mohammed and a few others. With the resurgence of democratic rule in 1999, many Nigerians and even political commentators thought an end had come to bad leadership; little did they know that the worst was yet to come. Most Nigerians thought that the coming into power of President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015 would help cleanse the country of corruption, bad leadership and lawlessness. This has not been the case as things have worsened for the country since then. Today, there is hunger everywhere so much so that even the rich also cry. Also, the rate of both internalized crimes such as kidnapping, prostitution and armed robbery among others and transitional organized crime such as arms trafficking, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundry among others have all increased.

Research Methodology

This study was conducted in Katsina State of North-Western Nigeria. Three Local Government Areas (LGAs) were selected from among the LGAs that share boundaries with Niger Republic using purposive sampling technique. These LGAs are Baure, Jibia and Mai'Adua. Convenience sampling technique was used to administer questionnaire to target respondents. Research hypotheses were tested using non-parametric statistics (chi-square) at 5% level of significance.

Yamani (1967) statistical formula was employed to get the exact sample size for the study as shown below:

$$n = N / 1 + N(e)^2$$

Where N represents population size

n represents minimum sample size

e represents the degree of error expected (0.05)

$$n = 772,300 / 1 + 772,300 (0.05)^2$$

n is approximately = **400**

Table 1: Projected Population Size of Sampled LGAs in Katsina State

Sampled LGAs	Population, 2016	Sample Size
Baure	273,900	142
Jibia	226,000	117
Mai' Adua	272,400	141
Total	772,300	400

Source: Field Work, 2022

Results and Discussion

The respondents were asked to express their opinions based on the statements given in the SQ as tabulated below using 5-point Likert Scale of **SA (5), A (4), U (3), D (2), (1)**. The Relative Importance Index (RII) of the respondents is computed thus: **5+4+3+2+1=15/5=3**

Decision Rule: If the **RII** is less than **3.0**, the respondents *disagreed*; if the **RII** is equal to **3.0**, the respondents are *undecided*; if the **RII** is greater than **3.0**, the respondents *agreed and as such the statement is taken as important*.

Table 2: Factors Responsible for Trans-Border Arms Trafficking in Katsina State

Factors	5	4	3	2	1	TWV	RII
Failure of political leadership	144	141	33	34	48	1499	3.75
Porosity of Nigeria's borders	138	137	26	45	54	1460	3.65
Unemployment and Poverty	132	130	41	40	57	1440	3.60
Huge financial benefits	129	127	37	53	54	1424	3.56
Insecurity	125	123	47	50	55	1413	3.53

Source: Field Work, 2022

Analysis in Table 2 reveals that failure of political leadership (RII=3.75), porosity of Nigeria's borders (RII=3.65), unemployment and poverty (RII=3.60), huge financial benefits (RII=3.56) and the issue of insecurity (RII=3.53) are the major factors responsible for the upsurge in arms trafficking in Katsina State. This finding is in tandem with the finding of similar study conducted by Aluko (2012), Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016), Adeolu (2018)

Table 3: Trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry threaten internal security of Katsina State

Options	F	%	% used for Analysis
SA	189	47.25	93.5
A	185	46.25	
U	6	1.5	1.5
D	8	2	5
SD	12	3	
Total	400	100	100

Source: Field Work, 2022

Analysis of data in Table 3 shows that 374 respondents representing 93.5% are of the opinion that trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry threaten internal security of Katsina State; 6 respondents which represents 1.5% are undecided while 7 respondents representing 5% disagreed. This finding suggests that the activities of trans-border arms traffickers and armed bandits actually threaten internal security in the study area. This finding is in tandem with the findings of similar study conducted by Ibrahim (2003) and Bestman (2006).

Table 4: Solutions to the menace of trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry in Katsina State

Solutions	5	4	3	2	1	TWV	RII	RANK
Properly securing Nigeria's borders	193	191	02	06	08	1755	4.39	1 st
Deployment of highly professional, motivated and incorruptible security agents	185	183	02	14	16	1707	4.27	2 nd
Inter-security agency collaboration	185	180	05	13	17	1703	4.26	3 rd
legalizing death penalty for arms traffickers, armed bandits and their handlers to serve as deterrent to others	176	174	04	19	27	1653	4.13	4 th

Source: Field Work, 2022

Analysis of data in Table 4 shows some of the solutions to the menace of arms trafficking and armed banditry in Katsina State. These significant solutions include: properly securing Nigeria's borders (RII=4.39), deployment of highly professional, motivated and incorruptible security agents to provide security in and around the country's ungoverned spaces (RII=4.27), inter-security agency collaboration (RII=4.26) and legalizing death penalty for arms traffickers, armed bandits and their handlers to serve as deterrent to others (RII=4.13).

Test of Research Hypotheses

The research hypotheses stated below were tested with the aid of non-parametric statistical tool known as chi-square (X^2) at 5% (0.05) level of significance.

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{fe}$$

$$\alpha = 5\% (0.05)$$

$$df = (c-1)(r-1)$$

HO: There is no significant relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and the rising incidences of armed banditry in Katsina State

H1: There is significant relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and the rising incidences of armed banditry in Katsina State.

General Decision Rule

The decision rule for statistical significance states that wherever the calculated chi-square is greater than the table value, the alternate hypothesis should be accepted, while the null hypothesis should be rejected. On the other hand, whenever the table value is greater than the calculated value, the null hypothesis should be accepted, while the alternate hypothesis should be rejected (Spiegel, Schiller & Srinivasan, 2004).

Table 5: Relationship between Trans-Border arms trafficking and the rising incidences of armed banditry in Katsina State

OPTION	SA	A	U	D	SD	TOTAL
1	187	141	03	21	48	400
2	179	137	08	37	39	400
TOTAL	366	278	11	58	87	800

Source: Authors' Computation, 2022

$$df = (c-1)(r-1)$$

$$df = (5-1)(2-1)$$

$$df = (4)(1)$$

$$df = 4$$

$$\alpha = 5\% (0.05)$$

$$f_e = \frac{CT \times RT}{GT}$$

CT represents Column Total

RT represents Row Total

GT represents Grand Total

Table 6: Observed Frequency (F_o) & Expected Frequency (F_e) Table

F_o	F_e	$(F_o - F_e)$	$(F_o - F_e)^2$	$\frac{(F_o - F_e)^2}{F_e}$
187	183	04	16	0.09
141	139	02	04	0.03
03	5.5	-2.5	6.25	1.14
21	29	-08	64	2.21
48	43.5	4.5	20.25	0.47
179	183	-04	16	0.09
137	139	-02	04	0.03
08	5.5	2.5	6.25	1.14
37	29	08	64	2.21
39	43.5	-4.5	20.25	0.47
TOTAL				7.88

Source: Authors' Computation, 2022

$$X^2_{c} = 7.88$$

$$X^2_t = 9.49$$

$$df = 4$$

Decision

Since the table value ($X^2_{tab} = 9.49$) is greater than the calculated chi-square ($X^2_{cal} = 7.88$), the null hypothesis (H_0) is accepted while the alternate hypothesis (H_1) is rejected. This indicates

that there is no significant relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and the rising incidences of armed banditry in Katsina State. This finding however contradicts the findings of similar study conducted by Nte (2011) who found a significant nexus between trans-border arms trafficking and the upsurge in the activities of armed bandits.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper examined the relationship between arms trafficking and armed banditry on the one hand and the implications these have on internal security in Nigeria using Katsina State as reference point. The paper adopted a mixed methods approach which entails a synergy of qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. Analysis was descriptive in nature. Research hypotheses were tested using chi-square statistical tool at 5% level of significance. Findings revealed failure of political leadership, porosity of Nigeria's borders, unemployment/poverty, financial benefits and insecurity as factors responsible for the upsurge in arms trafficking in Katsina State.

Further findings showed no significant relationship between trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry in the State. However, the study found that the menace of trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry constitute a threat to internal security of Katsina State in particular and Nigeria in general. It is the conclusion of this paper that, internal security challenge in the country will further deteriorate if the government does not step up its fight against trans-border arms trafficking and armed banditry.

It is on the basis of these findings and the conclusion drawn, that the paper makes the following recommendations:

- a. The government should ensure that all Nigeria's borders are properly secured
- b. The government should always ensure that highly professional, motivated and incorruptible security agents are deployed in and around the country's ungoverned spaces
- c. There is the need for inter-security agency collaboration in the country. The Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Air force, Nigerian Correctional Service, Nigerian Immigration Service, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, and Vigilante Groups among others should always collaborate in the fight against arms trafficking, armed banditry and criminality in general rather than competing and flexing muscles at each other.
- d. Legalizing death penalty for arms traffickers, armed bandits and their handlers to serve as deterrent to others. Suspected arms traffickers, armed bandits and their handlers should however be given a fair hearing in the course of justice, after which those found guilty should be publicly executed.

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