



## AN ASSESSMENT OF BOKO HARAM GUERRILLA STYLE OF HIT AND RUN ATTACK AND ITS EFFECTS ON CONTEMPORARY SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EAST NIGERIA

### ABSTRACT

*The paper assesses Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run attack and its effects on contemporary socio economic development of North-East Nigeria. The rise of Boko Haram has introduced an unfamiliar element of guerrilla warfare into the criminal dynamics of North East Nigeria. This group has perpetrated numerous bombings and kidnappings of innocent civilians. The objectives of the study are to examine the causes Boko Haram guerrilla style of hit and run insurgency North-East, to assess the impact of Boko Haram guerrilla style of hit and run insurgency on socio-economic activities in North-East, and to suggest alternative measures to remediate the impact of Boko Haram guerrilla style of hit and run in North-East, Nigeria. The study adopts Marxist conflict theory and related literature are reviewed. The study used primary data and quantitative survey is adopted. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square analysis is used to analysed the data collected through questionnaire. The study discovered that Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run attack in North-East Nigeria, destroyed health care service, there is lack of willingness and access to education in some communities in North-East, Nigeria, Boko-Haram guerrilla attack in North East destroy basic utilities such as electricity supply, water and sanitation service in North-East, Nigeria and Boko-Haram guerrilla attack destabilise transportation service such as public transportation facilities and road infrastructure. The study recommends government and non-governmental organisations should intervene and rehabilitate the destroyed and dilapidated health facilities in North-East, Nigeria, there should be massive reorientation and encouragements for youth to go back to school. Government and private individuals should provide scholarship grant to youths in North-East, Nigeria, government should reconnect national grid destroyed by Boko-Haram in other to boost economic activities in North-East, Nigeria. And adequate security should be provided on the road in other to minimise Boko-Haram hijack of travellers plying roads in North-East, Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** Boko-Haram, Guerrilla Style, Socio-Economic Development and North-East

### 1.0 Introduction

The emergence of Boko Haram has introduced a novel aspect of guerrilla warfare into the criminal landscape of North East Nigeria. This group has been responsible for numerous bombings and kidnappings targeting innocent civilians.

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Terrorism imposes a significant burden on a nation's economy, affecting both wealthy and poor countries, with more severe impacts on less developed, mono-cultural low-income economies compared to advanced, diversified industrial economies (Adebayo, 2014). If Boko Haram's activities are not effectively curbed, it could lead to increased investor hesitation, reduced economic activity, and drive institutional investors to more stable economies.

Although the North East is the epicentre of Boko Haram's insurgency, the effects of terrorism are felt nationwide. For example, terrorist activities associated with Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, and bandits in the North-East are linked to similar groups in the North-West and North-Central regions. These groups engage in widespread violence, induce fear and instability, commit theft, destabilize communities, and cause extensive destruction (Amalu, 2015). Since the onset of the insurgency, there have been over 36,000 recorded deaths, 300,000 displaced persons, and increased food insecurity as farmers flee their lands out of fear, particularly in the northern regions (Gilbert, 2014).

The insurgency has also caused crop spoilage, as produce is neither consumed nor marketed in a timely manner due to inadequate transportation, high transport costs, displacement, and significant risks to lives. Curfews and movement restrictions further exacerbate these issues, leading to perishable crops becoming unmarketable (Mustapha, 2015). The impact of Boko Haram's activities extends to other African countries as well. For instance, Cameroon, which borders Nigeria to the northeast, has been significantly affected, with traders unable to travel to Maiduguri for commerce. Similarly, the Niger Republic, which shares a border with Nigeria and engages in trade, has also felt the impact. These challenges highlight the necessity of examining the socioeconomic effects of Boko Haram's insurgency in North East Nigeria.

### **1.1 Statement of the problem**

Insurgency has been a significant concern in Nigeria, particularly in the North-East region, which has been a hotspot for Boko Haram's militant activities since 2009. Utilizing guerrilla tactics characterized by hit-and-run attacks, Boko Haram has inflicted considerable damage on the socio-economic fabric of the region. These tactics include ambushes, suicide bombings, and swift assaults on villages, government establishments, and public gatherings. Despite various counterinsurgency efforts by the Nigerian government and international allies, Boko Haram's tactics have persisted, posing an ongoing threat to peace and development in the region.

The relentless attacks have led to a devastating loss of lives, displacement of millions of people, and widespread destruction of infrastructure. This has severely disrupted socio-economic activities in North-East Nigeria, stifling growth and development. Agriculture, the mainstay of the region's economy, has been particularly affected, with farmlands abandoned and food production plummeting. Additionally, the educational sector has suffered tremendously, with numerous schools destroyed or closed, denying children access to education.

The persistent insecurity has also discouraged both local and foreign investment, further crippling economic development. The psychological impact on the population, including trauma and loss of livelihoods, has compounded the socio-economic challenges. Consequently, the region remains one of the poorest and most underdeveloped in Nigeria, with high rates of poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy.

### **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The objective of the study is to an assessment of Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run and its effects on cotemporary socio economic development of North-East, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. To examine the causes Boko Haram guerrilla style of hit and run insurgency North East

- ii. To assess the impact of Boko Haram guerrilla style of hit and run insurgency on socio-economic activities in North-East.
- iii. To suggest alternative measures to remediate the impact of Boko Haram guerrilla style of hit and run in North-East, Nigeria.

### 1.3 Research Questions

To further the study's goals, the following research questions will be posed.

- i. What are the causes of Boko Haram insurgency guerrilla style of hit and run?
- ii. What is the impact of Boko Haram insurgency guerrilla style of hit and run on the socio-economic activities in North-East?
- iii. What are the mitigation measures to reduce the effects of Boko Haram's guerrilla style of hit and run on the population in North-East?

### 1.4 Hypotheses

**Ho:** There is no significant impact of Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run on the socio-economic activities of North-East, Nigeria.

## 2.0 Theoretical Discourse

This paper is grounded in Marxist Conflict Theory, a framework that connects economic conditions with crime. According to this theory, structural contradictions in capitalist societies lead to the economic deprivation of workers, thereby fueling class struggle between the working class and capitalists. The theory asserts that as economic exploitation intensifies, worker discontent grows, which in turn provokes more violent challenges to state policies. For rebellion to occur, workers must recognize and understand their exploitation (Marx, 1967; Seepersad, 2008).

The theory is employed to explain why social inequalities drive individuals to rise against authorities, as seen in North-East Nigeria. While the crisis in the region has a religious dimension, it is inextricably linked to economic realities. Persistent governance failures, economic marginalization, and corruption have resulted in widespread poverty, unemployment, hunger, and inequality. This environment leaves many unemployed individuals vulnerable to recruitment by conflict entrepreneurs. For jobless youths, engaging in insurgent activities becomes an alternative to unemployment, exacerbated by the high illiteracy rates in the North-East region. Thus, as the economic disparity between the rich and poor widens, the likelihood of rebellion increases. Although Boko Haram's motives are not entirely economic, financial incentives play a significant role in the movement, as noted by Ewi and Salifu (2017), who argue that Boko Haram recruits' fighters with monetary rewards. Some sect members have testified that they were paid to carry out attacks.

## 2.1 Conceptual Clarifications

### 2.1.1 Insurgency

Insurgency is defined as an armed revolt against established authority (Robert & Timothy, 2009). It is characterized as an illegal and unconstitutional act, reflecting an opposition to legitimate governance (Osanka, 1962). According to the United States Department of Defence (2017), insurgency involves an organized effort to overthrow an established government with the goal of seizing power and resources (Siegel, 2007). Insurgents may engage in armed conflict or nationalist movements, and distinctions are made between classical and contemporary forms of insurgency. The former often aims to expel foreign occupiers or address power vacuums, whereas the latter seeks to replace existing regimes. The term "insurgency" is often used interchangeably with concepts like terrorism, irregular warfare, and unconventional warfare due to the complex and overlapping nature of such conflicts (Moore, 2007, as cited in Amalu, 2015).

### **2.1.2 Economic Development**

Economic development refers to a transformative process in the production of goods and services, characterized by changes in resource utilization, technology, production techniques, information management, workforce capabilities, and financial arrangements (Kane, 2004). It involves the strategic creation and execution of plans aimed at improving the economic conditions of communities (Shaffer et al., 2004). Achieving this requires facilitating interactions, mobilizing stakeholders, and harmonizing diverse goals and values among key development actors (Blakely & Bradshaw, 2002). Economic development also entails asset building, which includes enhancing the skills and capacities of individuals, organizations, and institutions within a community or nation as a foundation for further progress (Deller, 2014). This process encompasses expanding resources such as food, housing, educational facilities, and medical services (Sen, 1988). Broadly, economic development involves capacity building, investments, efficiency improvements, business and labour dynamics, transportation infrastructure, education, water and waste management, safety, regulatory frameworks, and tax structures, aligning with planned investments and deliberate development efforts (Kane, 2004).

## **3.0 Material and Method**

### **3.1 The Study Area**

North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria, bordered by Borno to the northwest, Gombe to the west, and Taraba to the southwest, while its eastern border forms part of the national border with Cameroon. It takes its name from the historic emirate of Adamawa, with the emirate's old capital of Yola, serving as the capital city of North East. The state is one of the most heterogeneous in Nigeria, with over 100 indigenous ethnic groups. It was formed in 1991, when the former Gongola state was divided into Adamawa and Taraba states.

### **3.2 Research Design**

This study employed quantitative survey approach. This design is chosen to capture a comprehensive understanding of the effects of Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hits and run on the socio-economic development of North-East, Nigeria.

### **3.3 Population of the Study**

In this study, the population of interest is the residents of North East without barrier on ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. The population of the study consist of the residence in the six states such as Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Taraba, Bauchi and Gombe respectively.

### **3.4 Sample size and Sample Techniques**

To achieve a representative sample for this study, this study employed a stratified cluster sampling strategy. The stratification is based on the six states in North East geopolitical zone. Each State represents a distinct geographical area within North-East, and five local government areas (LGAs) were randomly selected from each state.

### **3.5 Sources of Data**

The study used primary data such as questionnaire as a method of data collection for the study on the effects of Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hits and run on socio-economic development of North-East, Nigeria.

### **3.6 Administration of Instrument**

The researcher through the help of research assistant administered questionnaire in Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Taraba and Gombe.

### 3.7 Data Collection

Data were collected from North-East states through the selected local governments. Data collection sites included selected local governments and rural areas, to ensure diversity in North-East, Nigeria.

### 3.8 Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics, Chi-square and frequency distributions were used to assess Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run and its effects on contemporary socio economic development of North-East, Nigeria.

### 3.9 Ethical Considerations

This study complied with ethical standards by obtaining informed consent from all participants. The confidentiality and anonymity of all respondents were upheld throughout the research process.

## 4.0 Result and Presentation

### 4.1 Description of Findings

The socio-economic characteristics of the participants were analyzed using descriptive statistics, and the results are detailed in Table 1, which are discussed in relation to the study's initial research objectives.

The distribution of respondents concerning the impact of Boko Haram's guerrilla hit-and-run attacks on the socio-economic development of North-East Nigeria provides significant insights. A notable portion of the participants, 48.44%, are in the 35-44 age range, suggesting that individuals in their mid-thirties to mid-forties, likely at the height of their careers, may be more affected by Boko Haram's attacks. The 25-34 age group, representing 23.33%, includes individuals in the early stages of their careers and family life, indicating their heightened vulnerability to insurgent attacks and their broader socio-economic implications for the region. The 45-54 age group, comprising 14.75%, includes older individuals who may have distinct economic conditions and potentially greater resilience to Boko Haram's attacks. The 18-24 age group, accounting for 9.33%, consists of students and young professionals, emphasizing their economic vulnerability to these attacks. Lastly, the 55 and above age group, representing 15.33%, includes the elderly, who require particular attention due to their unique economic circumstances and increased vulnerability to the insurgent attacks in North-East Nigeria. This detailed age-based analysis offers a nuanced perspective on the effects of Boko Haram's guerrilla tactics on the population in North-East Nigeria.

The data reveals a gender distribution among respondents regarding the Boko Haram guerrilla hit-and-run attacks in North-East Nigeria. Males make up 58.22% of the respondents, while females account for 41.77%. These findings underscore the importance of considering gender-specific perspectives when assessing the impact of Boko Haram's attacks in the region. Recognizing potential differences in roles, responsibilities, and vulnerabilities between genders is crucial for designing targeted policy responses and interventions aimed at socio-economic development in North-East Nigeria.

The data illustrates the distribution of participants' marital status in the context of assessing the immediate socio-economic impacts of Boko Haram's guerrilla attacks in North-East Nigeria. A significant majority of 56.44% of respondents are married, suggesting that they may collectively experience similar socio-economic effects. Single participants, comprising 27.33%, might face individual economic difficulties due to the destruction of facilities and economic disruptions caused by Boko Haram. Those who are divorced (11.56%) and widowed (4.67%) represent smaller but distinct groups with their own specific circumstances in North-East Nigeria. This varied marital status composition highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of how Boko Haram's hit-and-run tactics affect different demographic groups and underscores the importance of targeted strategies for addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by these diverse segments.

The data on the educational background of participants in the study assessing the effects of Boko Haram's guerrilla hit-and-run attacks on the socio-economic development of North-East Nigeria reveals notable trends. The highest proportion of respondents, 26%, hold "Diploma/NCE" qualifications, indicating a significant number of individuals with diplomas, National Certificates of Education (NCE), or similar credentials. This is followed by those with "Secondary school" education at 19.22%, highlighting a substantial representation of individuals with secondary education. Additionally, 19.33% of respondents have "Vocational/technical" education, reflecting a considerable segment with specialized skills and technical training. The "BSc/HND/PGD" category accounts for 11.56%, representing individuals with bachelor's degrees, Higher National Diplomas (HND), or postgraduate diplomas. Lower frequencies are observed in the "No formal education" category (6.44%) and the "PhD/MPhil" category (0.89%), which include individuals without formal education and those with advanced degrees, respectively. The diverse range of educational backgrounds underscores the importance of considering varied economic perspectives and responses to the impacts of Boko Haram's attacks and the broader socio-economic implications in North-East Nigeria.

The distribution of employment status among participants in the study evaluating the effects of Boko Haram's guerrilla hit-and-run attacks reveals that a majority, 59.75%, are classified as "Unemployed." This indicates a significant proportion of individuals currently not engaged in formal employment, which may contribute to the persistence of Boko Haram's activities in North-East Nigeria. The high unemployment rate may facilitate Boko Haram's recruitment efforts due to ignorance and lack of opportunity. The "Student" category comprises 22.44%, reflecting a substantial number of individuals actively pursuing education. The "Employed" group, representing 17.50% of respondents, includes those who are part of the labor force and are concurrently affected by Boko Haram's actions in North-East Nigeria. A thorough understanding of the socio-economic impacts on these varied employment groups is essential for a comprehensive assessment of Boko Haram's effects on the region's socio-economic development.

The occupational distribution among participants in the study examining the effects of Boko Haram's guerrilla attacks on North-East Nigeria is notable. Specifically, 24% of respondents are classified as "Business/Entrepreneurs," indicating a significant presence of individuals engaged in private business or entrepreneurship. The largest occupational group is "Civil Servant," comprising 35.11% of participants, highlighting a substantial proportion employed in government or public service roles across the region. Additionally, "Farmers" represent 40.89% of the sample, underscoring a significant engagement in agricultural activities despite the challenges posed by Boko Haram's attacks. This diverse occupational distribution underscores the need to consider various socio-economic impacts when assessing the effects of Boko Haram's activities in North-East Nigeria.

**Table 1: Demographic Information of the Respondents**

Age	Frequency	Percent
18-24	42	9.33
25-34	105	23.33
35-44	218	48.44
45-54	69	14.75
55 and above	16	15.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	188	41.77

Male	262	58.22
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Divorced	52	11.56
Married	254	56.44
Single	123	27.33
Widowed	21	4.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
BSc/HND/PGD	52	11.56
Diploma/NCE	117	26
MSc/MPA/MBA	11	2.44
No formal education	29	6.44
Ph.D./MPhil	4	0.89
Primary school	30	6.67
Secondary school	120	26.67
Vocational/technical	87	19.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Employed	110	24.44
Student	101	22.44
Unemployed	239	53.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Business/Entrepreneurs	108	24
Civil Servant	158	35.11
Farmers	184	40.89
Total	450	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2024*

#### 4.2 Discussion of Hypothesis

Table 2 below reveals that destruction of healthcare services (Hospitals and clinics, access to medicines and medical treatment, vaccinations and preventive care), lack of access to educational services (Schools and educational institutions, availability of quality education, access to educational resources, destruction of utilities such as water supply, electricity supply and sanitation services and destabilization of transportation services such as public transportation facilities, road infrastructure and maintenance and accessibility to transportation is significant at 5% same level ( $p < 0.05$ ) with chi square value of 60.017, 82.672, 55.535 and 44.332. This implies that destruction of healthcare services (Hospitals and clinics, access to medicines and medical treatment, vaccinations and preventive care), lack of access to educational services (Schools and educational institutions, availability of quality education, access to educational resources, destruction of utilities such as water supply, electricity supply and sanitation services and destabilization of transportation services such as public transportation facilities, road infrastructure and maintenance and accessibility to transportation have significant impact socio-economic development of North-East, Nigeria.

Based on the analysis above, the null hypothesis is not accepted and accept the alternative hypothesis which states that there is significant impact of Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run on the socio-economic activities of North-East, Nigeria.

**Table 2: Ho:** There is no significant impact of Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run on the socio-economic activities of North-East, Nigeria.

Variables	Chi-Square Value	DF	P-Value
Destruction of healthcare services (Hospitals and clinics, access to medicines and medical treatment, vaccinations and preventive care)	60.017 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000*
Lack of access to educational services (Schools And educational institutions, availability of quality education, access to educational resources)	82.672 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000*
Destruction of Utilities such as Water supply, electricity supply and sanitation services	55.535 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000*
Destabilization of Transportation Services such as Public transportation facilities, road infrastructure and maintenance and accessibility to transportation	44.332 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000*

Source: Computed result, 2024

\* = Significant at 5%

### 4.3 Findings

- i. Boko-Haram guerrilla style of hit and run attack in North-East Nigeria, destroyed health care service.
- ii. Due to activities of Boko-Haram attack, there is lack of willingness and access to education in some communities in North-East, Nigeria.
- iii. Boko-Haram guerrilla attack in North East destroy basic utilities such as electricity supply, water and sanitation service in North-East, Nigeria
- iv. Boko-Haram guerrilla attack destabilise transportation service such as public transportation facilities and road infrastructure.

### 5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Boko Haram insurgency has heightened fears among Nigerians, especially those living in the North-Eastern part of the country. The activities of the sect have led to the death of many Nigerians and property worth millions of naira destroyed. Business ventures, shops and schools have been affected as a result of Boko Haram attacks on the populace in North-East. Recent occurrences such as killing and destruction of property in North-East, Nigeria clearly show that the state of insecurity in North-East has assumed a frightening dimension. While it may be posited that insecurity is a global phenomenon, what is strange in the country is the seeming inability of the government to find lasting solution to the problem of Boko-Haram guerilla style of hit and run in North-East. The study recommends the following thus:

- i. Government and non-governmental organisations should intervene and rehabilitate the destroyed and dilapidated health facilities in North-East, Nigeria.
- ii. There should be massive reorientation and encouragements for youth to go back to school. Government and private individuals should provide scholarship grant to youths in North-East, Nigeria.



- iii. Government should reconnect national grid destroyed by Boko-Haram in other to boost economic activities in North-East, Nigeria.
- iv. Adequate security should be provided on the road in other to minimise Boko-Haram hijack of travellers plying roads in North-East, Nigeria.

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