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## EFFECT OF BANDITRY AND KIDNAPPINGS ON THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA

### ABSTRACT

*This paper examines the influence of banditry and kidnappings on infrastructural development in Adamawa State. The study employs a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study includes residents of affected communities (315), government officials (21), and security personnel such as the Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Security and Civil Defense (42), and community leaders (21). The total target population for the study is 399, derived from Taro Yamane's (1967) formula, ensuring statistical reliability and validity. The study utilized convenience sampling techniques to select respondents from the target population and used quantitative data. Regression analysis was carried out to examine the statistical significance between the variables. The regression analysis reveals that a unit increase in banditry and kidnapping significantly diminishes infrastructure development by -0.168 ( $p < 0.000$ ), indicating a strong negative relationship between insecurity and infrastructure development. Additionally, the frequency of banditry has a statistically significant positive effect (0.827,  $p = 0.001$ ), showing that more frequent banditry exacerbates the negative impact on infrastructure. The socio-economic well-being of communities was found to have a negligible and statistically insignificant effect on infrastructure development (-0.002,  $p = 0.974$ ). Conversely, the study highlights that an increase in policies and strategies significantly improves infrastructure by 0.374 ( $p < 0.000$ ), suggesting that effective policy interventions can mitigate the adverse effects of insecurity and foster infrastructural development in the state. The study concludes that banditry and kidnappings are major barriers to infrastructure development, but targeted policies and strategies are essential for mitigating these challenges and promoting growth and development in Adamawa State.*

**Keywords:** Banditry, Development, Infrastructure, Insecurity, Kidnappings, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

### INTRODUCTION

The universal phenomenon of insecurity is as early as human history, perpetrated with certain scenarios and differences. Banditry and Kidnapping is a global threat that affects countries and their citizens directly or indirectly (Campbell, 2020). Kidnapping is continuously evolving; spreading geographically and numerically on the international stage. These crimes have significantly disrupted socio-economic activities and derailed efforts to provide essential infrastructure. Infrastructure development, including roads, schools, energy systems, etc., is crucial for improving the quality of life and fostering economic growth.

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However, the increasing prevalence of insecurity in Adamawa State has rendered many such initiatives unachievable (Yusuf, Ibrahim & Garba, 2022). In Adamawa State, banditry and kidnappings have their roots in socio-economic and political challenges dating back to the pre-colonial and colonial eras. During the pre-colonial period, banditry was primarily linked to inter-ethnic conflicts and the need to protect territories. In the colonial era, the imposition of indirect rule and economic exploitation created socio-economic disparities that contributed to the rise of banditry in rural areas (Falola, 1998). Kidnapping in Nigeria gained prominence in the Niger Delta region during the early 2000s, with militants targeting oil workers and expatriates to demand ransoms and draw attention to environmental and socio-economic grievances (Okonkwo, 2019).

The issues of insecurity in Adamawa State have faced persistent challenges linked to insurgency over the last decade. However, the emergence of organized banditry and kidnappings, exacerbated by the Boko Haram insurgency, has destabilized the region. According to Ibrahim and Abubakar (2022), the infiltration of criminal elements into rural and urban areas has led to widespread fear, the displacement of populations, and the destruction of livelihoods. These challenges have created an environment where the implementation of infrastructure projects is not only difficult but also dangerous. Banditry and kidnappings are presently carried out across demographic and geographic boundaries of State's and is no longer a peculiar feature of either urban or rural setting (Human Right Watch, 2014). The insurgency are the major sources of banditry and kidnapping in various districts which attracted outcry from local, national and the international communities and also a threat to National Security (Owagbemi & Olaseinde, 2021).

Banditry and kidnappings in Adamawa State, can be traced to a combination of socio-economic and political factors that have gradually evolved over the years. Contractors and engineers working on development projects in Adamawa State face constant threats of abduction, while materials and equipment are frequently looted or destroyed by bandits. Such disruptions increase project costs and extend completion timelines, with many projects abandoned altogether (Mohammed et al., 2023). For instance, the construction of a major road connecting rural communities to the state capital was halted in 2021 due to repeated attacks on workers and equipment (Okoro & Ibrahim, 2022). The impact of banditry and kidnappings on infrastructural development cannot be overstated. Infrastructure projects in Adamawa State have faced setbacks due to the frequent targeting of contractors, engineers, and workers by kidnappers, who demand ransoms or engage in violent attacks (Bello, Yusuf & Nnadi, 2021). However, to enhancing security measures, fostering community engagement, and addressing socio-economic drivers of banditry and kidnappings, such as poverty and unemployment, are critical steps. According to Garba and Bello (2024), collaboration between state agencies, private investors, and local communities is essential to creating an environment conducive to sustainable

infrastructure development in Adamawa State. This study examines the effect of these security challenges on the provision of infrastructural development in Adamawa State.

## **Statement of the Problem**

The prevalence of banditry and kidnappings in Adamawa State has become a significant hindrance to socio-economic progress and development. These acts of insecurity have led to widespread fear, displacement of communities, and destruction of property, thereby affecting the ability of government and private actors to provide critical infrastructure. The threat of banditry and kidnappings has created an atmosphere of insecurity that discourages public and private investments in infrastructure. Construction projects are often delayed or abandoned due to attacks on workers and equipment, while government resources intended for development are diverted to address security challenges. The study of Adeyemi (2020) opined that banditry and kidnappings discourage foreign and local investments, as stakeholders perceive the region as unsafe. This situation diverts government resources from development projects to security interventions, further delaying progress.

In many parts of Adamawa state districts, the problem is particularly severe. Banditry and kidnappings have forced many communities into displacement, eroding the social cohesion necessary for grassroots development. According to Yusuf and Ahmed (2021), communities affected by banditry often suffer a dual loss: the destruction of existing infrastructure and the inability to access new facilities due to ongoing insecurity. Despite various government efforts, including military operations and peace-building initiatives, the challenge persists. Okeke and Chukwuemeka (2020) argue that without addressing the root causes of banditry, such as poverty, unemployment, and weak governance, infrastructural development will continue to face setbacks in regions plagued by insecurity. Thus, the study aims to examine the effect of banditry and kidnappings on infrastructural development in Adamawa State, exploring the challenges, consequences, and potential solutions to this pressing issues.

## **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective is to examine the effect of banditry and kidnappings on the provision of infrastructural development in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are;

- i. Examine the extent to which banditry and kidnappings affect infrastructural development in Adamawa State
- ii. Investigate the socio-economic impact of banditry and kidnappings on communities and stakeholders involved in infrastructural development.
- iii. Identify the types of infrastructural projects most affected by banditry and kidnappings in the state.

- iv. Recommend strategies for reducing the effects of banditry and kidnappings on infrastructural development.

### **Research Questions:**

- i. To what extent do banditry and kidnappings affect infrastructural development in Adamawa State?
- ii. How do banditry and kidnappings impact the socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders?
- iii. What types of infrastructural projects are most affected by banditry and kidnappings in the state?
- iv. What strategies effects banditry and kidnappings on infrastructural development?

### **Hypotheses of the study;**

- H<sub>01</sub>: Banditry and kidnappings have no significant effect on infrastructural development in Adamawa State.
- H<sub>02</sub>: Frequency of banditry has no significant relationship on infrastructural development in Adamawa State.
- H<sub>03</sub>: Socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders is not significantly impacted by banditry and kidnappings.
- H<sub>04</sub>: Strategies has no significance effects on infrastructural development in Adamawa State.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Banditry**

Banditry refers to organized acts of violence, often carried out by armed groups for financial gain and it was derived from the term bandit meaning an unlawful armed group terrorizing people and confiscating their properties. It is synonymous with the establishment of gang groups who use small and light weapons to carry out attacks against people. In this regard, banditry could mean a set-up criminal activity deliberately designed and carried out for personal gains (Uche & Iwuamadi, 2018). Banditry is typically characterized by organized acts of violence, including armed robbery, cattle rustling, and village raids, primarily aimed at financial gain. According to Bello and Suleiman (2022), banditry is often associated with socio-economic marginalization, political instability, and weak institutional frameworks, particularly in rural or remote areas. Historically, banditry has been viewed as both a form of rebellion against oppressive systems and a survival strategy for marginalized groups.

The pervasive banditry in Adamawa State has become a subject of security and public concern due to the multi-faceted layers of the animosity involved and its recurrent nature and its consequences on the environment calls for effective mechanism to mitigate the threats it poses to the peace and livelihood of the society (Ibrahim & Mutawalli, 2020). Banditry remains a major security challenge that has created instability,

debilitated governance and exposed the environment to numerous threats thereby hindering socio-economic development (Ibrahim & Mutawalli, 2020). There are several factors have been adduced as the driving forces of banditry in Adamawa State. According to Kilishi *et al.* (2014) canvassed that the rising wave of crime in Nigeria has been blamed on the increasing level of unemployment. Thus, the idle youths tend to engage in illegal activities in order to meet up with contemporary trends. Hence, they tend to do whatever it takes to get rich quick. Therefore, the Nigeria's high rate of unemployment among youth's unemployment is what majorly prompts the jobless youths in the country to resort to violent crime like banditry (Epron, 2019).

### **Kidnappings**

The concept of kidnapping derived from two English root words, namely 'kid' (meaning infant) and 'nab' (meaning to seize, arrest or take into custody). The practice dates back to 17<sup>th</sup> century Britain, whence infants (kids) of rich families would be 'nab' (taken into custody) for ransom (Tzanelli, 2009). However, it includes snatching and seizing of a person in order to collect a ransom in return or settle some scores of disagreements among people (Seun & Kehinde, 2021). According to Okoli (2014) related the concept of kidnapping derived from abduction, hostage taking, captivity and ransom which is keeping someone in false imprisonment in order to elicit ransom either in cash or in kind. Kidnapping, defined as the unlawful seizure or abduction of an individual, often for ransom or coercion, remains a significant security and social concern globally. Its manifestations and underlying causes vary across regions, influenced by socio-economic, political, and cultural contexts.

In socio-economic perspective, kidnapping is often perpetrated as a means of financial extortion. In many regions, particularly in state's, it serves as a lucrative venture for criminal syndicates and insurgent groups. Oseni and Aluko (2023) note that, kidnapping has become a systemic challenge linked to poverty, unemployment, and weak law enforcement. The financial aspect extends beyond ransom to broader societal implications, such as economic instability and reduced foreign investment in affected areas.

Politically, kidnapping is used as a tool for coercion and negotiation, especially in conflict zones. Johansson *et al.* (2023) highlight that insurgent groups frequently use kidnappings to gain leverage over governments or rival factions. This aligns with findings from Delgado and Martinez (2024), who argue that kidnappings can destabilize governments, undermine public trust, and perpetuate cycles of violence in politically volatile regions.

Therefore, kidnapping manifests different perspectives across the regions. In developed nations, it is often associated with custody disputes or opportunistic crimes. In contrast, developing nations experience

systemic and organized forms of kidnapping, driven by socio-economic inequalities and weak governance. Taylor and Smith (2024) argue that media representations of kidnapping in Western contexts, such as child abductions, often distort public perceptions, overshadowing the prevalence of family-related or economically motivated cases. In reviewing kidnappings, it is essential to adopt a holistic approach that considers socio-economic, cultural, and geopolitical factors. Community engagement, strengthened law enforcement, and international cooperation are critical in addressing this crime. Ukwuaba *et al.* (2024) advocate for community-based vigilance as a practical solution, particularly in rural areas prone to abductions. Therefore, conceptualization of kidnappings reveals its complexity as a crime influenced by diverse factors. Addressing its root causes requires a multidimensional strategy involving policy reforms, technological advancements, and societal awareness. Continued research is vital to understanding its evolving nature and mitigating its impact on individuals and societies.

## Infrastructural Development

Infrastructural development refers to the creation, improvement, and maintenance of physical and organizational facilities that support economic activities, social well-being, and sustainable development. It encompasses a wide range of systems, including transportation networks, energy supply chains, water and sanitation systems, and communication technologies. Kumar and Sharma (2023) highlight, countries with robust infrastructural systems tend to attract more foreign investment, leading to job creation and increased economic output. Globally, infrastructure development varies significantly across regions. Developed nations invest heavily in maintaining and upgrading infrastructure, while developing countries often focus on building new systems to address basic needs. For instance, China's Belt and Road Initiative has aimed to enhance global connectivity through extensive infrastructural projects, demonstrating how infrastructure can also serve as a tool for geopolitical influence (Zhang & Li, 2023).

Infrastructural development plays a crucial role in bridging socio-economic disparities. Access to clean water, electricity, healthcare, and education improves living standards and fosters social equity. A study by Adeyemi *et al.* (2022) emphasizes the transformative impact of rural electrification projects in sub-Saharan Africa, where electrified communities have reported better educational outcomes and enhanced economic opportunities. Despite its benefits, infrastructural development faces significant challenges. Funding constraints, policy inconsistencies, and corruption are common obstacles, particularly in developing countries. A report by the World Bank (2023) reveals that infrastructure financing gaps remain a critical barrier to

progress in many regions. Additionally, rapid urbanization often leads to unplanned growth, straining existing infrastructure and undermining its efficiency.

### **Implications of Banditry and Kidnapping on the Provision of Infrastructural Development**

Banditry and kidnapping, as pervasive forms of insecurity, significantly hinder the provision of infrastructural development. These criminal activities not only disrupt societal stability but also impose severe socio-economic, political, and psychological challenges that undermine the construction, maintenance, and utilization of infrastructure.

- i. **Economic Implications:** The prevalence of banditry and kidnapping diverts government resources from developmental projects to security measures. Funds that could have been allocated to constructing roads, schools, and hospitals are instead used to strengthen law enforcement and military operations.
- ii. **Disruption of Construction Activities:** Insecurity in affected regions often leads to the suspension or abandonment of infrastructure projects. Construction sites become targets for attacks, with contractors and workers at risk of abduction or violence.
- iii. **Decline in Workforce and Expertise:** Banditry and kidnapping create an unsafe environment for professionals, leading to a brain drain. Engineers, architects, and skilled laborers often relocate to safer areas, leaving affected regions without the expertise needed to implement infrastructural projects. This exodus not only hampers development but also escalates project costs due to the limited availability of local expertise (Akinyemi, 2023).
- iv. **Political and Governance Challenges:** Banditry and kidnapping erode public trust in government institutions, as citizens perceive the inability to provide security as a governance failure. This mistrust hinders cooperation in infrastructure projects, as communities are reluctant to engage with government-driven initiatives. Moreover, corruption and mismanagement in security spending exacerbate infrastructure delays and inefficiencies (Okonkwo & Ahmed, 2023).

### **Recommend Strategies for Reducing the Effects of Banditry and Kidnappings on Infrastructural Development**

The effects of banditry and kidnappings on infrastructural development in Adamawa state are profound, often leading to delayed or halted projects, thus impeding progress. To address this, it is essential for the government to implement policies that focus on enhancing security, fostering socio-economic development, and promoting community involvement. One effective strategy is to strengthen the security infrastructure by providing better funding and equipment for law enforcement agencies. The Nigerian Police and military should

be better equipped with modern surveillance technologies, and law enforcement officers should receive enhanced training to improve their operational capacity (Adebayo *et al.*, 2022).

Furthermore, fostering community involvement through collaborative security efforts is essential for reducing insecurity. Engaging local leaders, including traditional rulers and religious leaders, in security planning can enhance the trust between security agencies and the communities they serve. This could involve establishing local security networks, such as community policing, to foster vigilance and quick response to criminal activities (Okoro, 2021). Community members must feel invested in their security, and their collaboration with law enforcement will play a significant role in reducing the impact of criminal activities on infrastructure projects.

Promoting infrastructural resilience through adaptive policies is crucial. Government agencies should establish emergency funds dedicated to the rehabilitation of infrastructural projects in areas heavily affected by banditry and kidnappings. Public-private partnerships should be encouraged to increase the capacity for infrastructure development, even in conflict zones. The government could also incentivize private companies to invest in security solutions, ensuring that vital infrastructure projects continue uninterrupted (Uba & Alhaji, 2022). Therefore, tackling the effects of banditry and kidnappings on infrastructural development requires a comprehensive approach. By improving security, creating economic opportunities, engaging local communities, and ensuring infrastructural resilience, the government can significantly mitigate the negative impact of these crimes on development.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study adopted the Rational Choice Theory (RCT) which originated during the late 18th century which is drawn heavily on classical Criminology with the work of Cesare Beccaria (1738 – 1794). RCT is based on the fundamental tenets of classical criminology, which hold that individuals freely choose their behavior and are motivated by the avoidance of pain and the pursuit of pleasure. Individuals evaluate their choice of actions in accordance with each option's ability to produce advantage, pleasure and happiness. The theory suggests that no crime can be committed without the desire and chance to complete the act (Wilcox, Land and Hunt, 2003).

Cornish and Clarke, (1986), in their version of Rational Choice Theory, contend that “crimes are comprehensively the results of individual offenders’ rational choices dependent on analyses of projected costs and benefits”. The theory holds that offenders are “rational” in the choices they make. For instance, they choose crime that offers prompt satisfaction, that requires little effort to finish and that exposes them to the meager danger of detection and arrest (Robert, Francis and Richard, 2007).



The applicability of RCT to this study counts on the kidnapper's perception of the crime as one of the most lucrative industries in Nigeria and it is persisting because the kidnappers weigh the potential benefits (need for cash, spiritual sacrifice, revenge, or lust) and relative consequences (risk analysis) associated with indulging in kidnapping and then make a rational decision on the basis of this evaluation. Equally important, the kidnappers take the advantages of the authorities of being either weak or too lenient with kidnappers. Therefore, the reasoning kidnapper weighs the chances of being arrested, the severity of the punishment and the benefits to be gained by kidnapping their victims. This means that if kidnappers perceived that the costs of kidnapping to be too high, engaging in kidnapping to be too risky, or the desired gain to be too small, they will prefer not engage in kidnapping (Siegel and McCormick, 2006).

## METHODOLOGY

The study employs a descriptive survey research design to examine the impact of banditry and kidnappings on the provision of infrastructural development in Adamawa State. This study was carried out in Adamawa State. The population of the study include; residents of affected communities (315), government officials (21), security personnel such as Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense (42) and Community leaders (21). The total target population for the study is three hundred and ninety-nine (399) obtained from Taro Yamane (1967) formula, ensuring statistical reliability and validity. The study utilized convenience sampling techniques to draw respondents from the target population. The research used quantitative data. Therefore, data obtained from the quantitative study which are basically numerical was analyzed using descriptive statistics that is; percentages, frequencies and standard deviation. Regression analysis were carried out to examine the statistical Significance analysis that exist between the variable. The coefficients of regression equation are as follows:  $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1x_1 + \beta_2x_2 + \beta_3x_3 + \beta_4x_4 + \varepsilon_i$

$Y$  = Provision of Infrastructural Development

$\alpha_0$  = intercept term

$\beta_1x_1$  = Coefficient of Banditry and kidnappings

$\beta_2x_2$  = Coefficient of Frequency of banditry

$\beta_3x_3$  = Coefficient of Socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders

$\beta_4x_4$  = Coefficient of Policies and Strategies

$\beta_1 - \beta_3$  = parameter estimate

$\varepsilon_i$  = Error Term.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Regression Analysis

The study conducted regression analysis to show the relationship between banditry and kidnappings as independent variables and provision of infrastructural development as dependent variable.

**Table 1: Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.936 <sup>a</sup>	.877	.875	.288

a. Predictors: (Constant), Policies and strategies, Banditry and kidnappings, Socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders, Frequency of banditry

The model summary with coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) value of 0.877, showing that 87.7% of the variation infrastructural development was explained by the variables included in the model, while the remaining 12.3% is attributed to factors outside the model. The adjusted  $R^2$  reflects a more accurate measure of the  $R^2$  value that varies in accordance with the changes in independent variables. This finding suggests that 87.7% of the changes in infrastructural development can be attributed to the independent variables considered in the analysis.

**Table 2: ANOVA<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	207.596	4	51.899	626.681	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	29.234	353	.083		
	Total	236.830	357			

a. Dependent Variable: Infrastructural development

b. Predictors: (Constant), Policies and strategies, Banditry and kidnappings, Socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders, Frequency of banditry

The results in Table 2 (ANOVA) represents the level of significance at 0.05, indicates that F calculated is 626.681 at (p-value = 0.000<sup>b</sup>) in explaining the linear relationship between banditry and kidnapping on provision of infrastructural development in Adamawa State. This indicates that the overall model was significant and therefore is a good fit.

**Table 3: Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Model</b>		<b>Unstandardized Coefficients</b>		<b>Standardized Coefficients</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
		<b>B</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>Beta</b>		
1	(Constant)	-.412	.071		-5.799	.000
	Banditry and kidnappings	-.168	.050	-.167	-3.335	.001
	Frequency of banditry	.827	.063	.817	13.213	.000
	Socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders	-.002	.074	-.002	-.032	.974
	Policies and strategies	.374	.018	.439	21.245	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Infrastructural development

The constant regression coefficient at -0.412, indicates that, a unit increase in banditry and kidnappings, holding other variable constant would decrease provision of infrastructural by -0.168 (-0.168,  $p < 0.000$ ); hence, banditry and kidnappings significantly contribute to insecurity, demonstrating a strong negative relationship. The coefficient for frequency banditry is positive (0.827,  $p = 0.001$ ) and statistically significant, implies that effect of frequency banditry would affect infrastructure in the region. Whereas, a unit increase socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders, would increase other variables with negative coefficient -0.002 (-0.002,  $p = 0.974$ ); however, this relationship is not statistically significant since the p-value is 0.974, which is much higher than the p-value of 0.05. Finally, a unit increase in policies and strategies, holding other variables constant, would increase infrastructural development by 0.374 (0.374,  $p < 0.000$ ), indicating that policies and strategies significantly improves infrastructural development in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

## Discussion of Findings

The findings from the regression analysis highlight the significant impact of banditry, kidnapping, socio-economic well-being, and policies on infrastructural development in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The constant regression coefficient of -0.412 demonstrates that, even when other factors are held constant, a unit increase in banditry and kidnapping leads to a decline in infrastructural provision by -0.168 (-0.168,  $p < 0.000$ ). This negative coefficient underscores the destructive influence of insecurity on development efforts. Banditry and kidnapping emerge as critical contributors to the region's insecurity, aligning with the observations of Bello and Ahmed (2019), who note that insecurity disrupts resource allocation and deters investment in infrastructure. The positive coefficient for the frequency of banditry (0.827,  $p = 0.001$ ) and its statistical significance indicate that the increasing frequency of banditry exacerbates its impact on infrastructure

development. This finding echoes the work of Okonkwo and Yusuf (2020), who argue that frequent banditry incidents strain public and private resources, leading to stalled development projects and heightened vulnerability in affected areas.

In contrast, the socio-economic well-being of communities and stakeholders shows a negative coefficient of -0.002 (-0.002,  $p = 0.974$ ), suggesting an inverse relationship with infrastructural development. However, the relationship is not statistically significant, as the  $p$ -value of 0.974 exceeds the significance threshold of 0.05. This result implies that while socio-economic well-being is theoretically linked to infrastructure development, its direct influence in this context may be limited or mediated by other variables. Adebayo et al. (2021) note that socio-economic factors often interact with broader systemic issues, which may obscure their direct impact on specific outcomes like infrastructure development.

Lastly, the analysis shows that a unit increase in policies and strategies improves infrastructural development by 0.374 (0.374,  $p < 0.000$ ), with this relationship being statistically significant. This positive coefficient highlights the critical role of effective policies and strategies in mitigating the adverse effects of insecurity and promoting infrastructure growth. This aligns with the findings of Eze and Nwankwo (2018), who emphasize the importance of robust policy frameworks and strategic interventions in addressing challenges to development caused by insecurity.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

This study has examined the significant effects of banditry and kidnappings on the provision of infrastructural development in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The study concludes that banditry and kidnappings are major barriers to infrastructure development, but targeted policies and strategies are essential for mitigating these challenges and promoting growth in Adamawa State. The findings further highlight a clear negative impact of these criminal activities on infrastructure, with banditry and kidnappings contributing to insecurity that disrupts the allocation of resources and stalls the progress of developmental projects. The frequency of such criminal activities further exacerbates this issue, hindering the growth of essential infrastructure in the region. Additionally, while the socio-economic well-being of communities was found to have an influence on infrastructure, this effect was not statistically significant in this context. On the positive side, the study found that policies and strategies aimed at tackling insecurity significantly contribute to improving infrastructural development, suggesting that effective policy interventions can help mitigate the adverse effects of insecurity. Therefore, banditry and kidnappings are major challenges to infrastructure development, but strategic policies can play a key role in addressing these issues.

The study recommended that, government should enhance security efforts by increasing law enforcement presence and improving intelligence capabilities. Community-based initiatives, such as neighborhood watch programs and collaborations with traditional leaders, should be encouraged to help prevent and respond to insecurity. Additionally, the government should focus on implementing policies that combine security improvements with economic support for affected communities, addressing both immediate and long-term challenges. Public-private partnerships should be fostered to attract investment in infrastructure projects, especially in areas most impacted by insecurity. Finally, targeted investment in critical infrastructure that is resilient to security threats, alongside regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing security and development policies, will ensure the sustainability of infrastructure development in the region.

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