

Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency on The Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract: One of the most intractable elements in the governance of Nigeria as a country is the current Boko Haram insurgency which has continually posed a serious threat to the corporate existence and unity of the country. Contemporaneously, it has seemingly defiled all political solutions to the extent that the spate of terrorist attacks on the innocent Nigerian citizens, are on the increase. Consequent upon government efforts to tame the dreaded ailment in the polity, the fragility of Nigerian state embedded in this monster has fascinated and heightened iniquitous terrorist uprising and dimension. The paper aims at investigating the activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria with particular attention on its effects on the socio-economic development of the country. The paper ventured into panoramic view of Boko Haram insurgency and its manifestations in Nigeria. A critical examination of the origin, forms and dimensions becomes sacrosanct. This session is therefore devoted to the discussion of Boko Haram insurgency and socio-economic development with Nigeria in perspective.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Development, Insurgency, Nigeria, Socio-Economic.

Introduction

Globally, insecurity phenomenon has, indeed, posed the greatest threat to the present world order and has been encapsulated in the nine-letter word: “Boko Haram”. Boko Haram may have existed in diverse ways in the decades; even centuries that had gone by without much threat to international security and global order, but the world of the twenty-first century appear to be witnessing a major scourge borne out of the phenomenon of Boko Haram. As noted by Nkwede (2013), the issue of security has remained topical and indeed constituted a serious course for concern not only to the private but also to public individuals in Nigeria. The security question has, in recent times, emerged as a key concept in Nigeria’s struggle for good governance, sustainable democracy and development.

Apparently, the increasing spread of nefarious activities of Boko Haram sect in Nigeria and the destruction of lives and property is a growing concern that could not be wished away with a wave of hand (Alao. Atere, Alao, 2015 and Ogege, 2013). The effects of Boko Haram insurgency on the socio-economic development in Nigeria and its implications on corporate existence of the country as well as its image internationally constitute the prime motivator of this paper.

It is against this backdrop that the paper attempts to operationalize the concept “Boko Haram”, its historicity, manifestations of Boko Haram insurgency, and its effects on socio-economic development in Nigeria. In doing this, the paper is divided into five sections. Apart from the general introduction, section two dealt with delineation of concept, origin of Boko Haram, Theoretical foundation and methodology. Section three focused on the manifestations of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria. Its effects on socio-economic development are captured on section four, while section five rapped it up with conclusion and recommendations.

Delineation of Concepts

Boko Haram

There is neither an academic nor an international legal consensus regarding the definition of the concept “Boko Haram”. Similarly, the international community has been slow to formulate a universally agreed upon, legally binding definition of this concept. The complexity and nebula nature of this concept arose from the fact that the term “Boko Haram” is politically and emotionally charged. For this reason, it has become an academic “Eden” for many scholars due to the difficulty of pinning down its etymological perception. Given the multiplicity of views that characterize the concept, it again becomes onerously tasking for one to synthesize the divergent views to come up with a working definition of the concept. However, an attempt would be made to pin down its conventional meaning in this study.

Definitionally, the words “Boko and Haram” came from Hausa/Arabic Languages. It means animist, western or non-Islamic education. Haram on the other hand is an Arabic term meaning “forbidden or sacred”. In Islam the word is used to refer to anything that is prohibited by the Islamic faith. Its antonym is halal (Okoro, 2012). Religiously, Boko Haram can be applied to certain acts or items such as food stuff, food ingredients, pork, and alcohol etcetera. Ideologically, Boko Haram opposes not just western education, but all the attributes of Western Culture and modern science. In other words, it regards Western or non Islamic education as sinful. Put differently, any group that is opposed to western culture and influence, depicted most poignantly by democracy and Christian religion, will find a ready soul-mate in Boko Haram zealots.

Whichever way one looks at Boko Haram, it is understood as an attempt to provoke fear, and intimidation in the main target audience, which may be a government, a whole society or a group within a society. Ultimately, the goal of Boko Haram in Nigeria is to impose an extreme interpretation of Islam and abolish western education and this is the *raison d’être* for couching its atrocities under the guise of anti-western education. It should be noted that all other aspects of western culture-democracy, Christianity and so forth, are inseparable in any significant way from its education component. The cardinal objective of Boko Haram sect in Nigeria is to engage in bombing Churches, Mosques, Police stations, Schools, Universities, Government properties, Motor parks, Markets as well as private establishments, killing, kidnapping and large number of their captives (Peterside, 2014).

Essentially, Boko Haram is an Islamist movement which strongly opposes man-made laws and westernization. It is a Jihadist militant organizations based in the North-East of Nigeria and North Cameroon. As an indigenous group, it turned itself into Jihadist group and proposes that interactions with the western world is forbidden, and according to Nwankwo (2014) supports opposition to the government of Nigeria.

Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development refers to the process of social and economic development in a society. It is measured with indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy and levels of employment. Changes in less-tangible factors are also considered, such as personal dignity, freedom of association, personal safety and freedom from fear of physical harm, and the extent of participation in civil society.

In a more amenable manner, socio-economic development is a process that seeks to identify both the social and the economic needs within a community and seek to create strategies that would address those needs in ways that are practical and in the best interests of the community over the long run. The general idea is to find ways to improve the standard of living within the areas while also making sure the local economy is healthy and capable of sustaining the population present in the area. Thus, it is usually referred to as the general improvement in living standards.

The enterprise and economic development Glossary sees socio-economic development as a process that brings about changes in locations where people live, work, and share things in common while factoring in economic, social and cultural impacts as well as economic, social, cultural and political wants and needs. Locations here are seen as a place of community as well as a geography occupied by a socio-economic group (Spero and Hart, 1999).

From this stand point, it can safely be argued that socio-economic development is synonymous with sustainable development which is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of needs, in particular, the essential needs of the poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs (Brundtland commission, 1987).

For the purpose of this study, socio-economic development is better explained as any programme that creates sustainable access to the economy for its beneficiaries. Initiatives in this regard must directly meet the needs of the beneficiaries like feeding, education, medical assistance, housing, Job opportunities, and elimination of poverty and equitable distribution of wealth in a society.

The Historicity and Growth of Boko Haram in Nigeria

The origin of Boko Haram is shrouded in uncertainty. Boko Haram to a large extent is not the first Islamic fundamentalist sect in Nigeria to adopt violence as a weapon of operation (Alao, Atere, and Alao, 2015). This stems from the fact that in the 1970s and 1980s, one Mohammed Marwa that was widely acknowledged as dangerous to peace and stability of the nation formed the sect that was known as Maitatsine. Marwa engineered many riots in the country which led to the deaths of many people and as a corollary of this; some scholars view Boko Haram as an extension of the Maitatsine riots (Johnson, 2011).

Far from the above, some scholars trace the origin of the sect to 1995 with Lawan Abubakar as its founder. For them, it was when Abubakar left for further studies in Saudi Arabia that the sect then known as Sahaba that Muhammed Yusuf who is also regarded as the leader, took over the affairs of the sect (Ogege, 2013). To some, Boko Haram is traced to Shehu Sanni, a civil right activist in Northern Nigeria. Apart from the above, numerous expositions on the origin and founder of Boko Haram abound (Davyibo 2009, Bumah and Abimbola 2009, Langmang 2011, Ogodo 2011, Uzodike and Maiangwa 2012).

A popular opinion about the origin of the current Boko Haram in Nigeria is that it have been founded in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, North-Eastern Nigeria by Ustaz Mallam Muhammed Yusuf. The group later moved to Kanamma in Yobe State in 2004 where it set up a camp called "Afghanistan." From this camp, it launched attacks on civil society, security agencies and other attributes of western education (Owalade, 2014, Ekanem, Dada, & Ejue, 2012). Obviously, from the aforementioned origins of Boko Haram, one thing that is crystal clear is the fact that the group was founded by the late Mallam Muhammed Yusuf with the official name intact.

Unarguably, it was under the leadership of the slain Mallam Muhammed Yusuf that Boko Haram became radicalized and gained national and international recognition and collaboration especially with Al-Qacda in Islamic Maghreb (Abimbola and Adesole, 2012). It should be gainsaid that since 2009, Boko Haram has constituted a serious security challenge in the Northern part of Nigeria and has continued to assume a staggering dimension till date.

Theoretical Foundation

The study is anchored on cognitive dissonance theory. Cognitive dissonance theory was developed by Festinger (1951). It is one of the most important psychological theories that shed light on terrorist behaviour. The major assumption of this theory according to Cunningham (2003) is that men prefer a situation of stability in respect of values, behaviour and their environmental conditions. When people experience a difference between what they perceive and what they desire (Cognitive dissonance), they seek to reduce this dissonance by reducing this gap through actions, filtering information or altering perceptions.

The baseline argument here is that cognitive dissonance is experienced whenever there is a discrepancy between preferred value and actual value states. Alao, Atere and Alao (2015) maintained that such a situation has the tendency to produce hatred, anxiety, fear and the desire to hurt or eliminate the source. The discrepancy could manifest within economic, social, cultural, political and religious spheres as these issues form the micro level of analysis that could be regarded as the structural background conditions operating at individual level.

Apparently, Boko Haram insurgency could therefore be linked to perceived discrepancy between the preferred way of life (to maintain the sanctity of orthodox Islam) and the actual state of their existence (secular state) that influence the dissonance (Alao, Atere and Alao, 2015). Importantly, it should be noted that the voice of few elements that initially reacted to the perceived dissonance is what the issue at stake requires in order to gain popular support and to a large extent, the personal dissonance grows to become group level grievances and discontentment. In all ramifications, it transcends from a micro to macro level phenomenon. This agrees with what Gurr (1970) referred to as relative deprivation. Essentially, the primary aim of Boko Haram is to destabilize Nigeria and make it ungovernable as this could lead to a situation of break-up of the country or imposition of Islamic ways of life.

The relevance of cognitive dissonance theory to the present study is that it reflects significantly, the philosophy behind the existentiality of Boko Haram sect and to a large extent explains government inability to tame the challenges posed by the Haramists.

Methodology

Trend and content analytical method was employed in the study. The reason for the adoption of this method is basically because the study is a qualitative research that relied heavily on documentary evidence in data collection. Investigation was also carried out to assess the various activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria as well as the challenges posed by the movement with the governance issue. For this reason, the content analytical approach and secondary sources of data became imperative.

Episodic Manifestations of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria

The Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria is one of the major governance problems threatening the socio-economic development. From disturbing political killing to dare devil banditry, the result is the same helplessness. There is now a bizarre situation where the high and low are gripped by fear (Nkwede, 2013). Rather than ameliorating the dreaded menace, Boko Haram has graduated from attacking innocent citizens at night to bombing, abducting and kidnapping at will including the law enforcement agents at gun points in broad day light. The current posture in Nigeria has indeed, become a serious threat to the socio-economic development and stability of the country.

Table 1, 2, 3, and 4 below shows some cases of bombing, kidnapping and abduction between 2009 and 2015 in Nigeria.

Table 1: Selected cases of deaths caused by the Boko Haram insurgence since 2009 – 2010

S/N	Date	Nature and Place of Attack	Number of Casualties
1	26 th July, 2009	First clash with the security agencies in Bauchi state after an all night attack on Dutse-Township police station	42 people killed including 39 sect members, 2 policemen and 1 soldier
2	27 th July, 2009	First attack in Yobe state during an invasion in Potiskum Divisional Police Headquarters	4 killed including 3 policemen and 1 fire service officer
3	29 th July, 2009	Confrontation with security men at Mamudo village, along Potiskum/Damaturu Road, Yobe state	33 members of the sect killed
4	29 th July, 2009	An all-night battle with combined security operatives at Railway Terminus, Maiduguri	Unreported scores killed and operational base of the sect destroyed
5	13 th March, 2010	Attack in Northern part of Jos, Plateau state	300 people killed
6	8 th September, 2010	Attack at Bauchi central prison	No record of death but prisoners were freed
7	24 th Dec., 2010	Bomb explosion in Barkin Ladi, Jos, Plateau state	30 people killed
8	31 st Dec., 2010	Explosions at Mogadishu mammy market, Abuja	About 10 people killed

Source: Compiled by the researchers.

Table 2: Selected cases of Boko Haram attacks from January 2011 to June 2012

S/N	Date	Nature and Place Attack	Number of Casualties
1	28 th Jan., 2011	Attack on the ANPP governorship candidate's convoy at Lawan Bukar ward, Maiduguri	7 people killed including the governorship candidate
2	2 nd Mar., 2011	Attack on DPO Mustapha Sandamu's residence at Rigasa area of Kaduna	2 policemen killed
3	30 th Mar., 2011	Bomb explosion in Damaturu	A policeman was injured

4	2ns April, 2011	Bomb explosion at Dutse-Township police station	A policemen injured
5	4 th May, 2011	Attack at Maiduguri prison on Kashim Ibrahim Way.	A prison warder was killed
6	5 th May, 2011	Attack in Maiduguri Government House	2 people killed including the Duty Officer and a 13-year-old boy with another injured
7	9 th May, 2011	Attack on the residences of 2 Islamic clerics, sheikh Goni Tijani and Mallam Abur, a t Mairi and Bulabulum warse in Bauchi state	The 2 Islamic clerics were killed
8	9 th May, 2011	Chairman of NURTW Bauchi state was attacked	1 person died – the chairman
9	13 th May, 2011	Bomb explosion at London Chinki, Maiduguri	2 people killed
10	15 th May, 2011	Bomb explosion at Lagos street, Maiduguri	5 people injured including 2 soldiers and 3 policemen. Alos, a police man was shot dead same day in the city.
11	29 th May, 2011	Bomb explosion in Bauchi military barrack	14 killed
12	29 th May, 2011	Bomb explosion at Zuba, a suburb of Kubwa in Abuja	8 people lost their legs
13	31 st May, 2011	Attack on Shehu of Boron's brother	1 person killed – the Shehu's brother
14	1st June, 2011	Attack on police station in Maiduguri	5 people killed
15	12 th June, 2011	Attack on a drinking joint in Bulumutu, Maiduguri	4 people killed
16	16 th June, 2011	Bomb explosion at police Headquarters, Abuja. Also, bomb explosion at Damboa town, Maiduguri.	2 people killed, 4 children killed
17	20 th June, 2011	Attack on Kankara police	2 people killed
18	9 th July, 2011	Clash between Boko Haram and the military in Maiduguri. Alos, bomb blast in a church at Suleja, Niger state	31 people killed. 4 died in that of Suleja with scores injured
19	11 th July, 2011	Bomb explosion at a relaxation joint in Fokados street, Kaduna	Unreported scores killed with many more injured
20	12 th July, 2011	Attack on a moving military patrol vehicle with IED in Maiduguri	5 people injured
21	15 th July, 2011	Bomb explosion in Maiduguri	5 people injured
22	23 rd July, 2011	Bomb explosion close to the palace of the Shehu of Borno	3 soldier injured
23	25 th July, 2011	Bomb explosion near the palace of a traditional ruler in Maiduguri	8 people killed
24	26 th Aug., 2011	Attack on the United Nations building in Abuja	25 people killed with about 60 more injured
25	12 th Sep., 2011	Bomb explosion in a police station in Misau, Bauchi state	7 people killed including 4 policemen
26	13 th Sep., 2011	Attack on the military after a raid in Boko Haram hideouts in Bauchi state	About 4 soldiers injured
27	17 th Sep., 2011	Attack on Mohammed Yusuf's brother-in-law two days after playing host to Obasanjo	1 person – Babakura Fugu - killed
28	3 rd Oct., 2011	Attack at Baga market in Maiduguri	3 people killed
29	4 th Nov., 2011	Attack in Damaturu, Yobe state	About 150 people killed
30	27 th Nov., 2011	Attack in Geidaam, Yobe state	7 people killed
31	18 th Dec., 2011	Bomb detonation in Shuwari, Maiduguri	3 sect members died

32	22 nd Dec., 2011	Bomb explosion and gunshots in Borno state	4 people killed and several others injured
33	24 th Dec., 2011	Bomb explosion in Jos	About 80 people killed
34	25 th Dec., 2011	Bomb explosion at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madalla, Niger state.	About 50 people killed and several others injured
35	30 th Dec., 2011	Attack in Maiduguri	7 people killed
36	5 th Jan., 2012	Attack in a church in Gomb	6 people killed
37	6 th Jan., 2012	Attack in Christ Apostolic Church, Yola, Adamawa state. Also, attack at Mubi, Adamawa	17 people killed. Also, 20 Igbo people were killed Mubi
38	20 th Jan., 2012	Multiple attacks in Kano	About 250 people killed
39	22 nd Jan., 2012	Attack at 2 churches and the headquarters of Tafawa Balewa LGA in Bauchi state	About 10 people killed
40	26 th Jan., 2012	Bomb explosion in Sabon Gari, Kano state	Many injured
41	28 th Jan., 2012	Attack in Gambiru Ngala, Borno State	1 killed
42	29 th Jan., 2012	Attack in Gambiru Ngala, Borno state	2 killed
43	30 th Jan., 2012	Attack in Maiduguri environs	6 killed including 2 Air force officers
44	4 th Feb., 2012	Attack in Damboa town, Borno state	2 killed
45	5 th Feb., 2012	Attack in Yobe	An SS man killed
46	7 th Feb., 2012	Attack at Kano market and military barrack	5 people killed
47	7 th Feb., 2012	Another attack in Kano	10 people killed
48	10 th Feb., 2012	Shoot out with soldiers in Maiduguri	4 people killed
49	10 th Feb., 2012	Attack in police station in Shagari Quarters, Kano state	No casualty recorded
50	12 th Feb., 2012	Tip-off in Maiduguri	Some members of Boko Haram killed
51	15 th Feb., 2012	Jail break in koton karji prison, Kogi state	A warder killed and 199 prisoners freed
52	15 th Feb., 2012	Attack on policemen in Minna, Niger state	2 policemen killed
53	17 th Feb., 2012	Attack I Geidam, Yobe state	2 people killed
54	17 th Feb., 2012	Attack in Maiduguri metropolis	5 people killed
55	19 th Feb., 2012	Bomb explosion near a church in Suleja on the outskirts of Abuja	5 people killed
56	11 th Mar., 2012	Suicide bomb attack in a church in Jos, Plateau state	4 people killed with 38 others injured
57	8 th April, 2012	Bomb explosion on Easter Sunday near a church in Kaduna	36 people killed with 13 others injured
58	29 th April, 2012	Bomb attack at a lecture theater used as Christian worship in the University of Kano	19 people killed including 2 professors
59	3 rd June, 2012	Suicide car bomber drove into a church in Yelwa during Sunday service	About 12 people killed
60	10 th June, 2012	Attack on a church congregation in Biu town, Borno state	Unreported number of people killed

Source: Compiled by the researchers.

Table 3: Selected cases of Boko Haram attacks from October 2012 – October 2013.

S/N	Date	Nature and Place Attack	Number of Casualties
1	1 st Oct., 2012	Attacks at Adamawa state University, Federal Poly, and the school of Health Technology and also University of Maiduguri in Borno state	About 43 students killed
2	1 st Oct., 2012	Attack in Minna, Niger state	2 policemen killed
3	7 th Oct., 2012	Confrontation between the military and the sect members in Damaturu, Yobe state	About 32 people killed including 30 members of the sect and 2 civilians
4	8 th Oct., 2012	Reprisal attack for the death	10 people killed
5	14 th Oct., 2012	Attack at Dongo Dawa village in Gwari L.G.A of Kaduna state	24 people killed
6	28 th Oct., 2012	Attack in Kaduna	8 people killed and 100 injured
7	28 th Oct., 2012	Suicide bomber struck at St. Rita's Catholic church in Angwar yero, Kaduna state	8 people killed
8	29 th Oct., 2012	Attack at a drinking bar in Gindin Akwati Barkin Ladi, Plateau state	6 people killed
9	21 st Nov., 2012	Attack in Maiduguri by the sect	10 people killed
10	22 nd Nov., 2012	Attack on ladies believed to be on mini-skirts in Maiduguri	20 women killed
11	24 th Nov., 2012	Bomb explosion in St. Andrew's Anglican church at the Armed forces command and staff college Jaji, Kaduna state	15 people killed
12	26 th Nov., 2012	Attack on SARS headquarters in Abuja	2 officers killed and 30 detainees freed
13	1 st Jan., 2013	Shootout in Maiduguri	4 people killed including 13 sect members and a soldier
14	2 nd Jan., 2013	Attack on a police station at song town of Adamawa state	4 people killed including 2 policemen and 2 civilians
15	4 th Jan., 2013	Attack on a military check-point in Marte town of Adamawa state	7 people killed including 5 sect members, a soldier and a policeman
16	19 th Jan., 2013	Attack on a contingent of Mali-bound Nigerian troops, in central Kogi, Kogi state	2 soldiers killed and 5 others injured
17	19 th Jan., 2013	Attack on Emir of Kano's convoy	5 people killed mostly the Emir's security guards
18	21 st Jan., 2013	Attack of a market in Damboa town	18 people killed mostly local hunters
19	23 rd Jan., 2013	Attack at Gwange area of Maiduguri	5 people beheaded
20	27 th Jan., 2013	Attack of Gajiganna village near Maiduguri	8 civilians killed
21	1 st Feb., 2013	Clash with the military in two forests outside Maiduguri	17 sect members killed
22	8 th Feb., 2013	Attack on 2 polio clinics in Kano	10 polio immunization workers killed and 3 others injured
23	10 th Feb., 2013	Attack in potiskum, Yobe state	3 North Korean doctors killed
24	15 th Feb., 2013	Bomb attack against military patrol vehicle in Maiduguri	2 suicide bombers dies and 1 soldier injured
25	16 th Feb., 2013	Attack on a construction company in Bauchi state	1 security employee killed and 7 foreign nationals abducted
26	19 th Feb., 2013	French family taken hostage in Cameroon near the Nigerian border	No casualty reported but the family members were abducted
27	20 th Feb., 2013	Attack of a military patrol vehicle in Maiduguri	3 people killed including a suicide bomber and 2 civilians

28	18 th Mar., 2013	Bomb explosion in a luxurious bus park in Kano	More than 70 people killed and several others
29	16 th April, 2013	Clash between the JTF and the sect members in Baga, Borno state	Over 200 people killed mostly civilians
30	18/6/2013	Bomb blast at Maiduguri, Borno State	22 people mostly civilians were killed
31	6/7/2013	Attack on government boarding school in Mamudo village Borno state	Sporadic shooting and throwing of explosives. At least 43 people were killed, mostly, students
32	29/7/2013	Coordinated bomb blasts in Sabon Gari, Kano state	At least, 6 people died and 6 others injured
33	4/8/2013	Military base and police post in Bama, Borno state	12 soldiers and 7 police officers were killed
34	11/8/2013	Ngom village near Konduga, Borno state	Shoot-out, 12 people were killed
35	11/8/2013	Mosque in Konduga, Borno state	Coordinated attacks including shooting and throwing of bomb, 44 worshippers killed and 26 others injured

Source: Onuoha and Ugwueze (2014) "United States Security Strategy and the Management of Boko Haram Crisis in Nigeria". Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 2 (3): 22 – 43.

Table 4: Selected cases of Boko Haram attacks from November 2013 – 2015

S/N	Date	Nature and Place	Number of Casualties
1	28/11/2013	Attacks on residents of Sabon Gari village in Damboa District, Borno state	More than 17 people were killed
2	30/11/2013	Coordinated attacks at Baga in Ningi villages	Scores of people were killed including 7 fishermen
3	2/12/2013	Around 200 Boko Haram gunmen dressed in military uniform launched coordinated attacks on an air force base in Maiduguri	Scores of people killed
4	20/2/2014	Coordinated attacks at Bama	More than 115 people killed
5	22/2/2014	Coordinated attacks at Izge village	More than 100 people were killed
6	25/2/2014	Attacks on Federal Government Boarding School at Buni/Yadi	About 59 people mostly students were killed
7	15/3/2014	Boro Haram clash with the military at 21 Armoured Brigade, Nigerian Army, Borno	More than 350 people were killed
8	5/4/2014	Attacks on Buni/Gari village mosque	More than 17 people were killed
9	9/4/2014	Multiple attacks on Dikwa, Kala Balge, Gambugla and Gwoza villages in Borno	More than 210 people killed
10	14/04/2014	Bomb blast at Nyanya motor-park, Abuja	More than 100 people killed over 200 others badly injured
11	15/04/2014	Attack at a Government Senior Secondary School, Chibok, Borno state	Over 275 girls were said to have been abducted
12	26/04/2014	Attack in military unit at Blabili, Dandao, Borno state	More than 44 people killed
13	01/05/2014	Bomb explosion in a Taxi Park at Nyanya, Abuja	More than 25 people killed and above 71 others injured
14	02/05/2014	Attack on commuters along Maiduguri-Beneshiek-Damaturu Road.	About 10 people killed
15	05/05/2014	Book Haram attack in Gamboru village, a border town with Cameroon	About 300 hundred people killed and 11 girls abducted
16	19/05/2014	Bomb explosion in Sabon Gari Kano	Over 10 people killed and several others injured
17	20/05/2014	Bomb blasts at Jos Terminus market, Plateau state	About 150 people killed

18	21/05/2014	Attack on Alagarno, a village in Borno state close to Chibok	About 17 people killed
19	24/05/2014	Bomb explosion in Jos football viewing center	Unspecified number of people killed
20	28/05/2014	Attack by gunmen at Gurmushi, Borno state	More than forty people killed
21	2/06/2014	Bomb blast at a bar and a brothel in military base, Mubi, Adamawa state	More than 60 people killed
22	3/06/2014	Boko Haram attacks at Attagara, Agapalawa and Agamjara, Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno state	More than 100 people were killed
23	15/06/2014	Attack at Borno market	More than 15 people were reportedly killed
24	17/06/2014	Bomb blast at football viewing center at Damaturu, Yobe state	About 21 killed and others seriously injured
25	23/06/2014	Suicide bomb attack at Kano School of Hygiene Technology, Kano state	About 8 people killed and many others injured
26	25/06/2014	Bomb attack at a shopping mall in Abuja	About 24 people killed and many others badly injured
27	29/06/2014	Gunmen attack at some church in Chibok community, Borno state	Actual number of deaths yet to be unraveled
28	14/07/2014	Attack in Borno	About 26 people were killed
29	23/07/2014	Boko Haram attack in Kaduna	About 39 people were killed
30	24/07/2014	Suicide bomb attack on Buhari's convoy in Kaduna	More than 82 people were reportedly killed
31	31/07/2014	Boko Haram attacks in Yobe mosque and another female suicide bomb attacks in Kano	About 18 people were reportedly killed
32	02/01/2015	Attack on WAZA Town	11 people killed and six others injured
33	03/01/2015	Boko Haram insurgents Attack on Baga Massacre, Town, Borno State	2,000 people killed, the entire town razed,
34	24/01/2015	Boko Haram burnt down Kambu village near Maiduguri, Borno State	15 people killed and several others injured
35	25/01/2015	Boko Haram rebels launched a large offensive attack on Nigeria forces in Maiduguri, Borno State	8 civilians, 53 militants and unknown number of soldiers killed
36	28/01/2015	Attack on a town in Adamawa State	40 people killed
37	02/02/2015	A female suicide bomber attacks minutes after the president of Nigeria leaves an election rally in city of Gombe State	1 person killed and 18 people injured
38	15/02/2015	A suicide bomber attacks a city of Damaturu	16 killed and 30 people wounded
39	20/02/2015	Boko Haram attack on Chibok town, Borno State	34 killed 21 injured
40	22/02/2015	A suicide bomber attacks a market in Potiskum, Yobe State	5 killed and dozens wounded
41	07/03/2015	Bomb blast at Maiduguri, Borno State	54 died and 143 injured
42	28/0/2015	Boko Haram attack on Dukku town in Gombe State	15 voters including House of Assembly candidate killed
43	01/04/2015	Attack on Mubi town, Adamawa State	Many buried alive, houses razed, thousands displaced
44	22/06/2015	Maiduguri Mosque Bombing, in Borno State	30 killed and several others injured
45	02/07/2015	Mosque Massacre in Kukawa Borno State	48 killed and unknown number wounded
46	05/07/2015	Bomb attack in a church Potiskum area of Yobe State	5 killed

47	06/07/2015	Bomb attack on the central city of Jos, Plateau State	44 people died and many others injured
48	15/07/2015	Attack on Bosso town	16 civilians killed
49	25/07/2015	Boko Haram attacks Maikadiri village in Maiduguri, Borno State	21 persons killed and many injured
50	26/07/2015	Bomb attack at Damaturu market, Yobe State	19 persons died and several others injured
51	06/08/2015	Boko Haram attack at Tadagara and Dunbulwa villages in Yobe State	9 persons shot dead and looted thatch-roofed mud houses and shops

Source: Compiled by the researchers.

Boko Haram and Its Effects on Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development to a large extent is the cardinal goal of every well meaning government, and perhaps, it is predominantly dependent on the level of economic activities in a country. This stems from the fact that the level of economic activities is promoted by peaceful co-existence by people. A situation where insecurity is increasingly and blazingly the order of the day, socio-economic development cannot be sustained as it destroys economic, human and social capital. Indeed, the activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria have retarded socio-economic development in various ramifications. These include;

- **Food Scarcity:** It is axiomatic that the scourge of the Boko Haram has lead to food scarcity in Nigeria. This is because the traders from the Northern Nigeria are finding it extremely difficult to transport their commodities to other parts of the country.
- **Sporadic Migration And Abandonment Of Profession:** Immigrants in the North-Eastern Nigeria are sporadically migrating from the North in their large numbers for their dire life. It should be noted that it is not the Southerners alone that are migrating from the North but also the Northerners on account of insecurity. Most of these migrants from the North are in their productive age of farming and trading (Alao, Atere, Alao, 2015). The danger is that they have abandoned their profession which is largely farming and has drastically reduced food production and compounded the problem of food importation.
- **Hightens Indigenes/Settlers Dichotomy:** The activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria has heightened citizenship question which encourages hostility between indigenes and settlers.
- **Discouragement of Local and Foreign Investment:** The vicious onslaughts on individuals and institutions provides highly unfavourable business environment for local and foreign investors. Foreign investors contribute in no small measure in boosting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any country and are not left in abeyance. Foreign investors create livelihood opportunities through the creation of job opportunities and the provision of large scale products and services in the host communities. The unfavourable business environment created by the violent activities of Boko Haram no longer avail Nigeria this opportunity.
- **Dehumanization of Women, Children and Men:** The activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria has equally graduated to the dehumanization of women, children and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and criminalization are employed as instruments of the insurgency. The attack and abduction of over 275 girls at Government Senior Secondary School, Chibok in Borno State, the attack on Federal Government Boarding School at Buni/Yadi, attack on ladies believed to be on mini-skirts in Maiduguri among others have rendered school children helplessness as those Chibok girls have not be released by their abductors since 15th April, 2014.
- **Deterioration of the Nation's Economy:** The overall effect of this insurgency on socio-economic development is that the economy is fast deteriorating. It has constituted the hallmark of socio-economic development. With the enormous resources at its disposal, leadership in Nigeria is confronted with the problem of focusing its expenditure priorities on security in disfavour of viable human capital development and other growth productivity promoting sectors (Ogege, 2013). Of course, it posed a serious challenge to a dynamic framework for the provision of job options.
- **Diversion of Attention and Increased Security Vote to Boko Haram by Government:** Another effect of Boko Haram to socio-economic development in Nigeria is the disproportionate attention and increased security vote by the Nigerian Government. This has led to the problem of micro economic instability,

distortion and leakages in the Nigerian economy with the attendant problem of infrastructural decay and hyper inflation. To a large extent, the implication is that more people are trapped into the vortex of interlocking vicious circle of poverty.

- **Increased School Drop Out:** As a result of Boko Haram activities, the number of school drop outs have increased astronomically especially in the north east of Nigeria. This has equally led to underdevelopment of the young people and has also increased unemployment and thuggery.
- **Collapse of Tourism Industry:** Essentially, tourism is a viable sector with abundant economic, socio-cultural benefits. Indeed, for a nation to enjoy these benefits, it must be free from security threats. This is because security constitutes a sensitive aspect of tourism. Consequently, these benefits are lost as a corollary of security challenges posed by the sporadic bombing by Boko Haram despite abundant tourist centers in Nigeria.
- **Palpable Fear Among the Citizens:** Nigerian citizenry are now living in fears as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency occasioned by high degree of loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure through bombing and assassination and genocide. The list of death recorded since 2009 is interminable according to Jimmoh (2011), Igbokwe (2012), Okpaga, Chijioke and Eme (2012). Contemporaneously, the Boko Haram Mayhem had no regard for any establishment, including security, international agencies, press, private individuals, emirs, churches and mosques. It has created a scenario that nobody is safe in the country.
- **Distroys Corporate Image of Nigeria:** Similarly, the Boko Haram insurgency has destroyed the corporate image of Nigeria within committee of nations. Globally, the image of the country is highly dented as prostitution, crime, drug trafficking, fraud and high level of corruption are the issues that are negatively affecting the reputation of Nigeria and Nigerians in the world.

Conclusion

Boko Haram is a dynamic phenomenon and a persistent societal problem ravaging the country, Nigeria. Boko Haram has become one of the worst holocausts in the recent history. It is one of the greatest calamities of cataclysmic proportions in human history. Across the North-east of Nigeria, there are mass graves being discovered, some holding hundreds of shallow buried corpses. From the study, over three (3) million Nigerians were displaced, thousands abducted, over 100,000 killed within the six years of Boko Haram's program in Nigeria.

The study concludes that the nation ought to have learnt from the negative effects of Boko Haram on socio-economic development and be more proactive and stop acting as an arm chair combatant on grave issues of national concern that consistently threatens the corporate existence of Nigeria, and renders the country relatively and economically impotent. Institutional mechanism should be employed to address Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria since they are not insurmountable given an objective analysis of the causative factors.

Viable Policy Alternatives

In the face of the current problems and difficulties posed by the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria, the following recommendations were made;

- Firstly, if Nigeria as a county wishes to move forward along the right path, there is need for a serious sensitization of mind and re-orientation, especially from the political class. This is because it has so corroded the society to the level of impunity and non-chalence that everything seems to depend on the whims and caprices of the political leadership. If the political leadership can muster the political will to deal with Boko Haram sects, then, their activities will be drastically reduced if not completely ameliorated.
- Secondly, the effort of the Nigerian government to foster inter-religious dialogue should be intensified and Boko Haram sects should be persuaded to be active participants in the collaborative effort to ensure peace and unity in the country with a view to enthroning favourable environment for socio-economic activities.
- Thirdly, the state should detach itself from interference with religious matters, especially from the point of view of making any religion a state religion, overtly or covertly. Neither the Federal nor the state government should have anything to do with religion as is the case in other democratic societies. Such neutrality would discourage other fanatical religious groups like Boko Haram from disturbing the peace and unity of the country in the name of imposing any particular religion.
- Fourthly, there is need for Nigerian government and stakeholders to strive very hard to make Nigeria a better place for children by providing adequate education and security with a view to enthroning socio-

economic development. Taking good care of children would reduce their susceptibility to child labour and deception into dangerous sects like Boko Haram where they are turned into suicide bombers and die hard militants. The abduction of Chibok girls in 2014 by Boko Haram members still challenges the responsibility of government, parents, and guardians in the promotion of the welfare and security of children and youth since they are the leaders of tomorrow. No Nigerian child irrespective of nationality should be out-of-school in this knowledge-based and technologically-driven global economy.

- Fifthly, government should adopt an effective measure to ensure homeland security. This arrangement must evolve from the grass root believing that if every village or town is secured, the nation will in turn be secured. Traditional rulers and local notables in all the nooks and crannies of the nation must be effectively engaged in local policing provided they were not imposed by the government on helpless communities.
- Sixthly, there should be a very one on one vigilant citizenry that is ever inquisitive, probing, evaluating and assertive. Good leadership closely monitored by vigilant citizenry will definitely bring about the best in government.
- Seventhly, sponsors and sources of founding of Boko Haram should be trace with a view to bringing the culprit to book
- Eighthly, security agencies should be well equipped. This is because a situation where the Boko Haram set have more sophisticated equipment and better training fighting them without adequate equipment is just for the asking.
- Ninthly, poverty should be adequately addressed and there should be a synergy between national and international agencies with government of Nigeria in fighting Boko Haram.

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