An Assessment of the Impact of Structures and Interinstitutional Collaboration on the Delivery of Security Services in the Bandits-bedeviled Zamfara and Sokoto States

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Abstract: **Insecurity in northwestern Nigeria especially in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto States have become a dilemma to reckon with. Banditry is one of the disturbing atrocities desecrating the human face of the affected states viz-a-viz it's depleting effect on socioeconomic development in the entire Northwest. The study seeks to assess the impact of Structures and Inter-institutional Collaboration on the Delivery of Security Services in the Banditry-bedeviled Zamfara and Sokoto States. The study used survey method. The population of the study is comprised of Non state actors, Security Agencies (Army, Police and NSCDC), Zamfara (affected communities) and Sokoto (Affected Communities) totaling 3019 out of whcih a sample size of 906 was drawn. Questionnire was administered on respondents. Data was analyzed using simple percentage. Hypothesis was tested using simple regression. The study however dicovered that the quality of services delivery by the Security agencies during the pre and banditery era is not significantly impacted by the structures and institutional collaboration in Zamfara and Sokoto States. The study concluded that the impact of structures and inter-institutional collaboration has not enhanced effective security service delivery as far as the fight against banditry in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto is concerned, that therefore, is indicative of the fact that there is a serious lack of synergy between and among the sister agencies steering the fight against banditry. It was recommended that government at the state and national levels should as a matter of proficiency ensure undiluted synergy between and among security structures and institutions.**

Keywords: **Security, structures, institutions, collaboration, service delivery, Zamfara, Sokoto.**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Security challenges are global phenomena that need to be tackled to create an enabling environment for socio-economic development. Insecurity does not only pose threats to the lives and properties of citizens, but arrest the overall development of a nation (Ekene, 2015; Haruna, 2013). Thus, there is a strong link between security and development (Haruna, 2013; Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013; Chandler, 2007 as cited in Ewetan and Urhie, 2014). Although peace and stability have been the core objective of most nations in the world over the years, security challenges have continued to remain a major setback to achieving meaningful socio-economic development in most African countries including Nigeria.

Today, Nigeria has become a ground for the display of killer-talents embroiled with an array of problematic turn of events. The country's afflictions are most evident in the torrential rash of armed violence and criminality in various parts of the country. Nothing explains this aslant situation better than the apocalyptically volatile security ambience in the

wider northern Nigeria. The northeastern Nigeria is still patently under the Boko Haram scourge, amidst the precarious counter-insurgency endeavors of the government (Okoli 2017; Zenn 2018). The north-central area has been afflicted by herdsmen militancy, which has plunged the region into dire humanitarian crisis. The northwestern region especially Zamfara and Some parts of Sokoto States have recently been enmeshed in the rapid upsurge of rural banditry and kidnapping along its international frontiers as well as the forested interior. It is verily scornful and mind-paralyzing to contemplate over issue that characterizes livelihood in Zamfara and some parts of sokoto states since after the conduct of the 2011 general elections (Okoli and Ogayi 2018).

In the fight against any form of brutal criminality typical of banditry and kidnapping, the government either at the state or national level put together means and methods with which the menace(s) will be curbed, mitigated or managed. This involves the embodiment of structures whether formal or otherwise and inter-institutional collaboration in order to consolidate community/non-community efforts and enhance intelligence accumulation for the attainment of effective security service delivery (Agatu, 2018). The upsurge of insecurity in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto States has compelled members of the affected communities and the government both at the state and national levels to resort back to the drawing board and review the "baby-sitting" strategy with which the problem is approached as it has failed to yield the desired result (Shinkafi, 2019).

However, Kiruwa (2017) over five thousand lives have been lost to the crises since it started in early 2011 and despite interventions of the government and its agencies in an attempt to end the conflict, the desired outcome is yet to be achieved. Enormous tide of exodus had recently hit the affected states hard due to the fear of these armed bandits, and that has afforded criminals the advantage to rustle more cattle and other ruminant animals. From 2011 to date not fewer than 15,000 cattle were rustled by these suspected armed bandits leaving the owners to survive in a state of uncertainty (Daniya 2017). In terms of destruction of lives and properties, not fewer than 36 communities along Dansadau, Zurmi, Shinkafi, Tsafe, Bakura and Maradun towns were burnt to the ground with their residents forcefully asked to migrate to safer places (Tukur, 2017).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite efforts by both the Federal and State Governments to curtail this ugly situation through structures and institutional collaboration, the killings and brutality continue to take new dimension as the bandits kept on using new strategies to perpetrate their heinous acts. Such new strategies include the kidnapping of 279 Jangebe School Girls in February 2021, among several others. It was difficult for the security agencies to fight along the forest as the bandits understand the terrain more than the security agencies. Former Zamfara State Commissioner of Police Akila Usman Gwary once told NTA News that, security agencies in Zamfara state especially police, army and NSCDC are finding it difficult to fight the armed bandits along Dansadau-Birnin Gwari forest because, there is no access road to reach out to these villages whenever there is report of attack and communication by even the security agencies operating along the forest was virtually impossible (NTA, 2014). Based on the foregoing, the following questions will guide the study:

i. To what extent have structures and inter-institutional collaboration enhanced the effective delivery of security services in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto?

1.3 Objective of the study

i. To determine whether structures and inter-institutional collaboration have enhanced the delivery of security services in the states under study.

1.4 Hypothesis of the study

i. That structures and inter-institutional collaboration does not enhance the delivery of security services in the states under study.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The need for the study arises from the fact that the ongoing insecurity (banditry) challenges in the states under have called for wider attention in the public discourse and generated a lot of scholarly interest and discussions in recent times. Taimu, (2017) and Mathew (2018) associated the problem of banditry to porous nature of the Nigerian land boarders. However, it's not limited to that. The study would be of immense benefit to students and researchers because it would serve as reference point in similar areas in the future thereby adding to the existing body of knowledge. The government and policy makers would equally use it as a veritable source of data for examining the impact of structures and inter-

institutional collaboration on the delivery of security services in the areas under study with the aim of identifying their effectiveness, lapses and possibly stimulate administrators to correct the situation by making the governments at all levels and the governs to realize the importance of peace.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The study covers the impact of structures and inter-institutional collaboration on security service delivery from 2015-2020. The period is chosen because of the upsurge and intensity of banditry, hostage-taking and kidnapping within the period in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto States.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Discussion of concepts: A look at Banditry

Banditry means occurrence or prevalence of armed robbery or violent crime. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person with the intent to rob rape or kill. Banditry is a crime against persons. It has been a common genre of crime, as well as cause violence in contemporary societies (Nigeria Watch, 2011).The concept of banditry has been changing over time, space and circumstances. A bandit in the 19th century Europe and Americas was a freedom fighter whose aim was partly to ensure the emancipation of the downtrodden from the upper class or colonised over the colonizer (Warto,1994). Furthermore, bandits like Chucho el Roto, Herachio Bernel and Santanon were often celebrated as heroes of Mexican independence. Therefore, Mexicans have warm regards and respect for those "social workers" termed bandits, while on the contrary, the State often considered them as nuisance and outlaws that need to be eradicated (Watts,1987). According to Rotberg (2007), "crime against persons, including murder, rape, and robbery has grown in scale and viciousness in Nigeria since 1999". This has been demonstrated by the pervasive trend of armed robbery in the country, which in effect mirrors the Africa-wide experience. In this regard, Onimode opines that:

Car snatching robbery of homes and offices, way-laying of travellers (high-way robbery) are common forms of armed robbery in African countries. Their incidence has been rising since the African crises started in the 1980s (Onimode, 2001:37).

Therefore, in some pre-industrial societies peasants see bandits differently from the State not as outlaws, hoodlums and miscreants but as avengers and "bread winners". However, a bandit in traditional African setting is entirely opposite to that of Americas and Europe, the former specialised in armed robbery and other related crimes (Curott & Fink, 2008). The most common feature of banditry in Africa has been maiming, killing and wanton destruction of properties and hence, it has a direct relationship with cattle rustling (Rufa'I, 2017). Since most herdsmen could do anything possible to prevent the rustling of their herds, then the bandit also apply force with the aid of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) to ensure effective stealing of livestock (Addo,2006). Hence, the application of force during livestock theft is what is herein considered banditry and dynamic operating pattern of crime.

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

2.2 Patterns of Rural Banditry in North West Nigeria

Four patterns of rural banditry are discussed in this study, namely village raids, highway robbery, kidnapping and cattle rustling. Village raids are the invasion and plundering of rural communities, especially at nights. These often take the form of scorch-earth attacks that leave affected communities in utter desolation in the aftermath of an incident. Village raids can be uni-episodic or coordinated. The former occurs when a single community is attacked while the latter happens when the attack occurs simultaneously on a number of adjacent communities within a locality. The principal purpose of village raids is material plundering. In effect, in most instances, household, farmlands, shops and markets are targets of looting. It is pertinent to note, however, that some of the attacks have been merely reprisals, designed to show down on communities, which have hitherto challenged or resisted the bandits' onslaught through organized vigilantism (Okoli 2017). Village raids have been a common feature of the rural banditry escapade in northwestern Nigeria. Their occurrence

has been perennial in the hinterlands of Zamfara and Kaduna States (Amnesty International 2018). Several villages in Birnin-Gwari LGA of Kaduna State continue to face security challenges similar to those in Zamfara State. Their situation is even more volatile, due to the proximity of the LGA to Zamfara State. The forests that cut across the two states (Kaduna and Zamfara states), made the residents vulnerable to repeated abductions.

In view of the lethality of such attacks, many lives and property have been lost in every incident. This is in addition to massive population displacements and allied humanitarian complications that are also engendered (Bagu and Smith 2017). Highway robbery is another critical dimension to the rural banditry phenomenon in the North East. This obtains mainly in the fashion of waylaying of commuters on the various expressways in the region. Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria highway has been particularly notorious for highway robberies. The incidence has also been alarming on the Kaduna-Birnin-Gwari-Zamfara-Funtua and Zaria-Funtua-Katsina highways. The highway robbers operate with wartime arms and commando-like brutality. In most incidents, they kill and maim people in their scores. The rampant cases of armed robbery on the Abuja-Kaduna expressway have forced some regular travelers on that route to defect to the use of rail services to commute to and from their destinations in order to safeguard themselves. Closely associated with highway robbery is the menace of kidnapping. This has been incessant in states like Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara (Rufa'I, 2017).

Kidnapping is a predatory criminality driven by quest for ransom. Victims of the crime are often those perceived by the perpetrators as possessing some Kidnap Ransom Value (KRV) based on their socio-economic background (Okoli and Agada 2014). Patterns of kidnapping in northwestern Nigeria include highway-armed abduction whereby travelers are ambushed and abducted by bandits and then taken to a hideout in the forest where their relatives or associates are contacted for ransom payment. This form of kidnapping is common on the Abuja-Kaduna highway. Another important game of kidnapping prevalent in northwestern Nigeria is mass abduction. This is an instance where a group of persons is taken hostage by bandits who are prospecting for ransom. A case in point is the abduction of twenty caregivers in Jibya Local Government Area of Katsina State on December 23, 2018. The incidence of kidnapping for ransom in northwestern Nigeria has been disturbing. Between December, 2018, and March, 2019, Zamfara State alone recorded many incidents of kidnapping involving 227 victims (Gusua, 2019). The crime is also prevalent in Kaduna and Katsina States where scores of persons have been kidnapped over the recent years. In Katsina State, kidnapping is most rampant in the rural communities surrounding the notorious Rugu forest, which has been a veritable hideout for bandits (Ladan, 2014).

The most patent dimension of rural banditry in northwestern Nigeria is cattle rustling. This is a form of organized cattle theft driven by allied accumulative or profiteering tendencies. Of this, Bagu and Smith (2017) aptly opine that "in North West Nigeria, criminal gangs are reportedly engaging in organized rural banditry to profit off livestock theft and trade… ". Cattle rustling is intractable in northwest Nigeria because it fits organically into the peculiar political economy of the region wherein mobile pastoralism is an abiding practice (CDD, 2015). This political economy is situated within the rural agrarian sector that is hardly regulated. However, mobile pastoralism in the area has been associated with systemic contradictions, one of which is the emergence of a tribe of criminal nomads who indulge in all forms of opportunistic rural criminality (Okoli and Lenshie 2018). This explains, to a reasonable extent, the prevalence and apparent intractability of cattle rustling in parts of northwestern Nigeria.

2.3 Concept of Security

Human quest for security is recurrent. Over the ages, emerging forms of human, social and political organization have stimulated a necessity for the protection and safety of the individual, family, community and the nation. As threats continue to transform and multiply, insecurity emerged as the most dominant fear of human beings. The fear of insecurity which manifests at the individual or group level can also be projected to institutions and corporate entities, countries and regional blocs. The need for human security therefore pervades the entire fabrics of human nature and existence, and is at the cornerstone of human development (Tanimu, 2017). The concept of 'security' is rarely addressed directly in relevant literature. However, the need for conceptual understanding as a presupposition to the identification of the conditions required to attain a state of security requires the question: how can security needs and sources of security be examined if the meaning of what constitutes security is not understood? Recognizing the difficulty of expecting a total absence of threat, Baldwin, (2001) defines security as 'a low probability of damage to acquired values'. This understanding places emphasis on the preservation of acquired values, and offers a definition of security in its most general sense that can be defined in terms of two specifications: Security for whom? And security for which values?' Thus security points to some degree of protection of values previously acquired'.

2.3.1 Importance of Security

Hsieh and Wang (2018) asserted that we live in a not so ideal world. A dangerous world, where crimes; such as robbery and murder occur on a daily basis. A crime that threatens not only our properties and lives, but even our identity. This scenario arises as a result of the unsecured nature of human world; security is thus essential to man in order for him to be able to provide and protect his life, properties and environment. In fact peace and security of life and property is a necessary pre-condition for development as a conducive atmosphere is necessary for the state's economy to thrive. According to Callen et al (2018) no society can have any meaningful development without adequate security. It encompasses several factors ranging across different needs of a people viz shelter, food, health and good living conditions. The fundamental rational of a State is about providing for the need of the citizenry. In fact the legitimacy and authority of the State derive from its ability to guarantee security of life and property of the citizens.

2.4 Security structures and institutions (formal and informal) in Nigeria

Today, the security sector is made up of the services, namely, the Armed Forces (comprising the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force), the Police, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, Department of State Services, the Prisons Service, Nigerian Customs Service and the Nigerian Immigration Service. Outside the formal security departments there also exists several private security personnel and institutions including the community based security outfits such as "Kato da Gora", 'Yan sa Kai", "Yan Banga", Vigilante Group of Nigeria and ad-hoc security units (Ladan, 2014). While some of these security outfits performs specifically assigned roles, their roles a times overlaps and breeds conflicts and confusion. This is as a result of multiplicity of security apparatus and uncoordinated structural and functional arrangements. While the establishment of some of these security outfits is seen as a necessity; others are just mere duplication of duties and responsibilities of an already existing security organization and therefore a clog in the wheel of progress. In fact some are nothing more than an elitist security outfit good only for the rich (Rufa'I, 2015).

2.5 Role and Responsibility of Law Enforcement Agencies

According to Shinkafi (2019) given the diversity in the formation, structure and management of the several security outfits that exist in the country; the function of these agencies are diverse as many as they are in the system. Practically, the role and responsibility of a Policeman is different from that of a Military personnel just as the latter's responsibility is not synonymous with that of a custom, immigration or prison officer. However, the fact remains that they all belong to the security unit of a state and therefore provide basically a security cover for life and properties in their different ways. It is thus apposite to say that they all have commons role and responsibilities towards the state and its citizen. These roles and responsibilities a thus discussed seriatim. Universally, all security operates are empowered statutorily to perform the following roles and responsibilities in the course of performing their statutory duties.

a. Maintenance of Law and order

The perfect maintenance of law and order is the bedrock on which the development of the state is built for everlasting growth of both human and capital resources. The law enforcement agents should always strive to fulfill the aspirations of the people by serving them effectively. They are the visual symbols of authority; therefore, the priority of the law enforcement officers should be maintenance of law and order with a humane approach to the people whom they serve. It is trite that maintenance of law and order is pre-requisite for peace and security in any nation; thus the maintenance of law and order function of the security units is sacrosanct and second to none. In Nigeria for example, section 4 of the Police Act, outlines the general duties of the Police as follows: "The police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property, and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged and shall perform such military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of them, by or under the authority of this or any other Act." That these duties of ensuring order, safety and security are important to the making of a good society is not in doubt. However, maintenance of Law and Order cannot be done by the law enforcement agents alone, it must be a partnership between the law enforcement agents, who provide professional assistance and authority, and citizens, who take an active interest in the safety of their community.

b. Detect and report suspected crimes

When people are responsible for their own defense, we can limit police intrusion on our private lives. But when the police are responsible for our defense, people will require that they be able to detect crimes before those crimes happen, by any means possible. Providing reliable security in an insecure world demands a team of intelligent and experienced security

architects.   The primary objective of law enforcement agents is to detect, prevent and prosecute crimes. The capacity to detect crime before commission is the hallmark of State security and the security of life and property. To effectively carry out this task the law enforcement unit should be able to gather physical evidence and conduct interviews, be available 24-hours a day and often able to react to emergency situations quickly, take protective custody of suspected criminals and assist in raising community awareness through prevention and advocacy programs, and other community services.

c. Law Enforcement.

 Several other laws in the country especially Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) and the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) grant the police wide powers: to take measures to prevent crime; to   investigate crime; to interrogate suspects; to prosecute suspects; to search properties and persons in order to prevent crimes, detect or investigate crimes, detect and apprehend offenders, and collect evidence for prosecution; to grant bail to suspects pending investigation or arraignment in court; to serve summons; to regulate processions and assemblies; and to disperse 'illegal' or 'unlawful' procession and assembly. The exercise of these powers is tailored towards the enforcement of law and order in the society. These powers are typically used only in cases where the law has been violated and a suspect must be identified and apprehended. Most obvious instances include robbery, murder, or burglary.

d. Community Services.

Services may include rendering first aid, providing tourist information, guiding the disoriented, or acting as educators (on topics such as preventing drug use). Cole and Smith, (2017) cited one study which showed 80% of all calls for police assistance did not involve crimes, but this may not be the case in all parts of the country. Because police agencies are traditionally available year-round, 24 hours a day, citizens call upon police departments not only in times of trouble, but also when just inconvenienced. As a result, law officers' services may include roadside auto assistance, providing referrals to other agencies, finding lost pets or property, or checking locks on vacationers' homes. The enumerated roles of the security personnel require the provision of an enabling working environment, logistics, training, motivation and equipment for success. However, the challenges to the success of the exercise are daunting.

2.6 Challenges to Efficient Security Service Delivery

Security of life and property represents perhaps the most important and fundamental duty of any Government. "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government." Zenn (2018) contended that as a foundation on which the success of all initiatives of Government in ensuring good governance is anchored, security has presented the greatest challenge of governance to most Governments throughout the world and across the ages. The following are some of the challenges faced in the drive towards an efficient service delivery by security operatives in Nigeria.

a. Corruption

Studies have identified the presence of widespread corruption as the leading cause of poor performance on the part of security personnel particularly the police. It is accepted that corruption is a national malaise, but it is more manifest among the security and law enforcement personnel. The police, customs, immigrations and civil defense operatives to mention a few are corruption personified. It was reported by a commentator that recently he was stopped and booked by the FRSC for non-use of seat belt while driving, the same FRSC official in his presence allowed unserviceable vehicles to go once they 'dropped something' for the official on the road (NW, 2015).

b. Leadership problem.

Role-modeling, shadowing, mentoring, creative problem-solving and inspirational leadership are key components for the efficient and effective overseeing and creating a solid foundation for a law enforcement agency poised to serve the community. Characteristics virtues such as patience, vision, diplomacy and discipline are all valuable in leading a law enforcement institution undergoing change.

c. Obsolete equipment

Physical infrastructure and equipment is often a primary obstacle to successful policing in transitional societies. Many years of lack of investment in equipment or an inappropriate investment in security infrastructure leaves law enforcement agencies with uninhabitable accommodation, obsolete/archaic equipment and enormous backlog of assignments. Outdated communication gadget, unserviceable the absence of an institutional framework and standardized method of

data collection for crime information management have seriously affected the ability of the police and other law enforcement agencies to produce reliable official statistics on crime.21

d. Inadequate manpower; quality and quantity

Lack of physical, financial resources, adequate manpower and skills for policing of crime is hampering the creation of a safe and secure environment for citizens who are desperate for peace. Poor/inadequate funding – Poor budgetary allocation. Poor welfare/conditions of service – acute barracks and office accommodation. Poor training facilities, dilapidated hostels and lack of teaching aids. Inadequate logistics – vehicles, communication equipment, arms, boats, Helicopters, scientific crime prevention facilities, e.g. CCTV Cameras, fingerprint equipment, Forensic laboratory. Lack of motivation (death benefits, Insurance, etc). Poor perception of the police by the public as unresponsive to their demands for security, etc. according to Onovo, (2018) 'there is no denying that police in this country are poorly equipped and do not have modern technological support to perform effectively. In police stations and other offices, police are still dependent on manual record keeping and it takes a lot of time to trace out criminal records of suspects in this age of advanced information and communications technology. Computers are hardly found in police stations and important offices of the police administration and, in most cases, police officials are computer illiterate' Furthermore as crime grows, the overburdened justice system becomes even more inefficient, fuelling further increases in criminal actions and public concern with security especially in the urban areas. The situation challenges the nation's ability to respond adequately to these threats and put pressure on the need for reform.

e. Lack of Political Will

Reforming the security sector is a complex undertaking. It requires the political leadership in to manifest the required political will in favor of reform. This political will must also be complimented by a rigorous reorientation of security personnel towards a new democratic milieu. Unfortunately, this political will is lacking as the leadership is bedeviled with nepotism and sycophancy both in policy design and implementation.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

The structural functionalist theory espouses the idea that all societal structures must work hand in hand in ensuring the survival of the society. It is the model of intellectual analysis. This approach is found particularly useful in the comparison of political systems. One of the chief proponents, Gabriel Almond (1950), believed that every political system performs certain functions (Alexander and Adam, 2010). Other proponents of the structural functionalism theory include Robert K. Merton, Talcott Parson, (Gerber, 2010). Structural functionalism has a lengthy history in both the social sciences (Merton, 1968) and the biological sciences (Woodger, 1948). Functionalism's history goes back to Aristotle's study of the ultimate causes in nature or of actions in relation to their ends. Developed in 17th century France, Baron de Montesquieu's doctrine of separation of powers is also based on the notion of functions that are best undertaken separate from each other as a means of ensuring stability and security. Functionalism became important when Darwin's evolutionary theories began to influence thinking about human behavior Darwin conceived of the idea of survival in functional terms. Each function was important to the survival of the whole system. Systems that could not adapt their functions ceased to exists. Other students of human behavior borrowed these ideas, applying them to social affairs.

Thus, social Darwinism imported these same functionalist categories into social analysis. Critics of structural functionalism terminology view it as a translation of Anglo-American political norms in methodological terminology (Susser, 1992). Structural functionalism may be in decline as a methodological approach for the study of politics; however, it leaves a set of terms that are still used in political verbiage. Some of those in the functionalist camp (Merton among them) rejected the notion of this decline. Much of what was best in the political research of an entire generation was couched in its terms, (Susser, 1992).

One of the main criticisms of structural functionalism is that its categories were too undifferentiated to be of real help in actual research (Susser, 1992). Although Almond's functional classification has greater specificity than the systems approach, it is seen as not much more than a translation of familiar and known phenomena into blandly broad categories. As such it promotes a terminological rather than an essential transformation in the discipline. (Susser 1992). Regardless of all the limitations of the structural-functionalism theory, it is still applied in understanding studies related to political science, sociology and other disciplines.

2.7.1 Applicability of Structural Functionalist Theory

The theory aids the comprehension of this research because it studies the interplay between the political and economic system (Zamfara), Structures (The Nigeria Police, the Army and NSCDC) and the roles played by these structures in fostering national development. It thus revolves around the three variables of this research work, therefore giving an understanding of the functions played by the security agencies in ensuring National Development. The subject of study being researched is significant in advancing knowledge on the progress of the security agencies in providing avenues for the socio-political and economic development of Zamfara and Nigeria at large. The study seeks to contribute to the existing knowledge on the impact of structures and inter-institutional collaboration on security service delivery.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study used survey method. The population of the study is comprised of Non-state actors, Security Agencies (Army, Police and NSCDC), Zamfara (affected communities) and Sokoto (Affected Communities). Questionnaires were administered on respondents with a view to generate relevant information for the purpose of academic interpretation. Data was analyzed using simple percentage. Hypothesis was tested using simple regression.

Table 3.1: Population and Sample Table

S/NO		Population	Sample (30% of N)
1.	Non State Actors	209	63
2.	Security agencies (Army, Police & NSCDC)	1213	364
3.	Zamfara	1104	331
4.	Sokoto	493	148
	Total	**3019**	**906**

Source: *Feild Survey 2021*

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 4.1: What is your rating of the quality of security interventions in combatting banditry?

Category of Respondents	Strongly ineffective	Ineffective	Fairly ineffective	Very poor	Do not know/ Uncertain	Total
NSA	26	24	6	3	1	60
Security Agents (Army, Police & NSCDC)	116	98	57	34	25	330
Sokoto	59	36	30	8	6	139
Zamfara	89	58	15	13	5	180
Total	290	216	108	58	37	709

Source: Field Work, 2021

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents believe that the quality of security interventions in combating banditery is strongly effective. It is of interest that most of the respondents who hold this view were security agents representing 40 %. Only a few percentages of the respondents (about 5%) did not know or were uncertain about the quality of security interventions. Eight (8) respondents did not answer this question at all hence the missing systems. It is as well not surprising that 68% of the respondents who opted in favor of 'do not know/uncertain' were also from the security outlets. This may be largely due to lack of proper communication and responsibility assignment as the organizational coordination mechanisms were essentially fragile and ineffective. The responses submitted here may be as result of poor service coordination in the affected states especially before the assumption of office by the current Matawalle led administration began a serious reform of the entire public sector. This was part of the reasons behind the government resolve to reassure the people of Zamfara State of its commitment to end banditery and kidnapping in the affected communities. In addition, the respondents constituting 89 representing 30.6 % under this response category are respondents dwelling in the affected

communities of Sokoto State. This may also justify the numerical strength of this category of respondents as far as the responses to question one (1) above are concerned. Again, due to the technical nature and complexities involved in the application of security interventions in the course of combating banditery and kidnaping, the involvement of the said technicalities must be evident hence the corresponding outcome in the light of successes in operations manifesting in reduced rate of kidnapping and banditetry in the affected communiteis in Zamfara and Sokoto States. Both Sokoto and the Non State Actors respondents hold similar view as presented in table 1 above. This instance is largely addressed in the literature review as posited by Balogun,(2003) suggesting that the overall system for monitoring inputs, outputs and process of government security agencies are weak, while peer review and benchmarking is virtually absent in the public sector. This may be the reason behind the gross inefficiency in the process of service delivery in the affected States especially before the assumption of office of the current administration . This is not unconnected to the low number of security personnel deployed to combat banditery. In an event where the communication system is weak and that the public sector is said to be irresponsive of the needed changes, then the possibility for inefficiency in the process of service delivery is unavoidable. "Service Delivery in Nigeria is not as good as it should be", (Ruhl, 2009). Service delivery faces a number of challenges including weak incentives, lack of information as well as citizens` reluctance to demand for good services hence a need for a reform in the security framework. It is reasonably understandable that a system must not be left to its fate especially where it serves a crucial purpose.

Table 4.2: What are the factors that led to the introduction of the said interventions?

Category of Respondent	Gross inefficiency in handlig issues	Significance of touting and other ill practices	citizen dissatisfaction	A combination of A, B and C above	Uncertain	Total
NSA	13	26	13	7		61
Security Agencies (Army, Police and NSCDC)	37	98	105	59		332
Zamfara	31	41	24	33		137
Sokoto	54	49	33	32		180
Total	**135**	**214**	**175**	**131**		**710**

Source: Field Work, 2021

Regarding factors that led to the subsequent introduction of the reforms in the light of security interventions in the affected States, a comparatively significant portion of the respondents believed that touting and other ill practices constituted a place in the definition of security services in the pre-banditery era. This implies a significant rise in malpractices accommodated by lack of proper supervision as well as effective institutional mechanism capable of checking the excesses of the personnel. In this regard, security personnel collaborated with outsiders to run a syndicate of arms proliferation soft-handling culprits caught in the act that could not be either monitored or controlled. This is evident in the summary of responses as obtained from the field. Out of Seven Hundred and Ten (710) returned questionnaires, Two Hundred and Fourteen (214) representing Thirty (30) % percent of the responses suggested that significance of touting made it both difficult and impossible for the security agencies to deliver services to the satisfaction of the common man and the soceity at large. Out of the Two Hundred and Fourteen (214), a sizeable Ninety Eight (98) respondents happened to be the security agents representing Forty Six 46% percent of the respondents who chose the alternative (Significance of touting). There are Seven (7) missing systems indicating non endorsement of any alternative to the question out of the seven hundred and respondents. The responses are but confirmatory considering the fact that security agents not necessarily stood to know the strengths as well as the weaknesses of the system in which they work. During the period, records were hardly kept and compliance was scarcely in place. This made the service delivery somewhat unsuccessful. This is supported by responses to the question two (2) above where the respondents suggested that people's dissatisfaction was also evident. One Hundred and Thirty Five (135) respondents endorsed that the introduction of the security intervention was a product of necessity born out of concern to solve the problems manifesting in gross inefficiency, significant touting as well as people's dissatisfaction. These responses above concur with (Balogun, 2016)(Lev, 2017) and (Olayinka, 2019) each of which saw reason for a break down in security services in a situation where the institutional mechanisms fail.

One would have thought that more respondents would endorse the option that supports a combination of a, b and c but the gross inefficiency, significance of touting as well as people's dissatisfaction were endorsed independently. A discussion of the two tables above justifies the research question which states thus: Were the differences in processes responsible for

delivery inefficiency in pre-banditery period compared to the banditery era? There is no doubt that the securtiy interventions were geared towards reversing the unfortunate trends in the affected areas manifesting in gross service inefficiency as well as people's dissatisfaction among other considerations.

Table 4.3: In what ways do you think that changing security architecture impact on the Success of the war against banditry?

Category of Respondents	Adoption of community-based collaboration	Intelligence information sharing /	Arrest, orientation and reintegration	A combination of options cited above	None of the above	Total
NSA	11	11	21	8	10	61
Security Agents (Army, Police and NSCDS)	45	73	100	64	46	328
Zamfara	43	26	33	15	21	138
Sokoto	50	43	39	26	19	177
Total	**149**	**153**	**193**	**113**	**96**	**704**

Source: Field Work, 2021

The re-organization which was later enlarged to cover enhancement of security infrastructure, Decentralization of operations, Sensitization of the public and Development of security Personnel, was not without corresponding impact as indicated in the questionnaire, every aspect of the solicited response(s) constituted the response of all categories of respondents albeit not without a degree of variation between and among the responses. From the responses obtained from the field, it can be deduced that cahnging the security architectutre have impacted more significantly on people's satisfaction exhibited by respondents' endorsement of b and c alternatives respectively. One hundred and Ninety Three (193) respondents supported the former while One Hundred and Fifty Three (153) respondents endorsed the former and later options respectively. About Thirteen (13) respondents did not answer this question. This order, in terms of significance, satisfied the quest for unfolding how the said intervention affected both the people and the states.

The most obvious of the responses generated from this table support the predominance Arrest, orientation and reintegration as the area in which the succes of the war against banditery manifested most. This concurs with Williams, (2016), Honey and Munford (2018), that combat operations against banditery is an indsipensable factor that must be taken seriously and at the same time improving on the capabilities and attitudes of frontline security personnel of which manifest on the ability to demonstrate change in (insights, realizations as well as facts). Here, the affected communities will recon with the significant impact in the improvment of combat operation which leads to a proportionate improvement in the security services so delivered by the agencies. In this case, the inference that can be made is that the nature of services delivered by the agencies notably the responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency and how they combine to satisfy people's conscince in terms of promtness in response can be attributed to the security architecture viv-a-viz the success of the war against banditery was emphasized. Response to question three (3) also confirmed that the changed security architecture will have positive impact on the image as well as security service delivery by the agencies. According a senior officer in one of the security agencies adopting Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for all personnel to shape the security architecture in place will help significantly in aiding intelligence sharing among the officers and men on the frontline combating banditery in Zamfara and Sokoto States.

Table 4.4: In your opinion, of what influence is task force (military, paramilitary and volunteers) in optimizing outcomes?

Category of Respondents	Certainly, yes	To a significant extent	To a relative extent	Uncertain	I have no idea	Total
NSA	12	17	10		9	48
Security Agents (Army, Police and NSCDC)	57	81	86		43	267
Zamfara	29	40	24		16	109
Sokoto	38	34	42		14	128
Total	**136**	**172**	**162**		**82**	**552**

Source: Field Work, 2021

In terms of personnel composition and how it optimizes the process of security service delivery by the agencies, the above responses were obtained. Majority of the respondents endorsed that the extent to which the Task Force optimizes outcomes is relative. This, as contained in the Table above, justifies the centrality of interdependence as no specific profession or field of human endeavor can claim self-sufficiency. The use of a combination of personnel where professional, semi-professional and non-professionals work together in the fulfillment of a common dream (to successfully combat banditery and kidnappings) is almost unavoidable as no single profession is an all-round one. In spite of the non-response to this question by about One Hundred and Sixty Two (162) respondents, a significant proportion of those who answered the question, about One Hundred and Seventy Two (172) opted in favor of alternative 'B' implying a significance of the extent to which the personnel composition instruments service delivery optimization. This concurs with the answer to question Nine (9) where a senior officer of one of the security agencies endorsed also that non professionals (volunteers) should be allowed a stake in the process of optimizing outcomes in the war against banditery. Security is everybody's concern.

This endorsement explains the 31% of the respondents who answered the question. The gap in numerical strength between the responses is not very significant as about One hundred and Sixty Two (162) and One Hundred and Thirty Six (136) respondents opted for 'uncertain' and 'to a significant extent' respectively. The 136 representing 24% of the Five Hundred and Fifty Two (552) respondents have endorsed the 'significance' of the extent to which composition of both professional and non-professional components of the communities and security agencies in the process of service delivery. This shows that interdependence is inevitable but that supervision will intensify possibilities for service quality control. This composition implying a combination strategy is an opportunity for greater advantage within the context of resource based arrangement. Sahabi (2016) refers to this situation as one that confers 'human strength advantage' .But he also notes (2017 and 2018) that a distinction should be made between 'human strength advantage and 'human process advantage'. Here, both advantages are derivable from an effective personnel combination as endorsed by respondent as contained in the table. The quality of services of the agencies are strongly consequent upon a combination of its internal capacity and the environment within which they operates (Ali, 2017). The use of a combination of categories (professional and Nonprofessional) and of equipment amplifies a conventional practice the flourishing of which ensures a successful implementation of operations atrgeted at combating banditery and kidnapping. Just as in the case of Borno in the North-East the two categories of professional (security agencies) and Nonprofessionals (civilian JTF) were synegized for the optmization of outcomes in the war againts Boko Haram, and such strategy is paying off as noted by Adegoroye,(2006).

Table 4.5: What is your opinion as to which personnel and equipment combination should be in place in terms of relevance and impact?

Category of Respondent	Use of a combination of men and equipment	Use of army	Use of paramilitary	Use of tracking equipment	Use of other forms of equipment	Total
NSA	21	21	11	0		53
Security Agents (Army, Police and NSCDC)	95	168	51	1		315
Zamfara	54	50	22	0		126
Sokoto	79	69	23	0		171
Total	249	308	107	1		665

Source: Field Work, 2021

The internal changes as regards the security architecture in the security agencies have been viewed by a significant proportion of the respondents as external (not in line) to the overall thrive in the war against banditery and kidnapping in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto as indicated by the responses recorded in table 5 above. This view seems contradictory to what is obtainable. Here, out of Six Hundred and Sixty Five (665), Three Hundred and Eight (308) representing 46% of the respondents have chosen alternative B implying that the use of Army alone should serve as the only option if relevance and the deisered impact in the fight against banditery is to be felt. Fifty Two (52) respondents did not respond to this question at all. This is highly contestable given the coverage and/or publicity accorded the overall efforts by the affected states and the Federal Government to curb the menace.

But it is as well possible for them not to be in complete picture as the communication mechanisms in the process in the early years of banditery in Zamfara was believed to be both ineffective and fragile. But if 46% percent of the responses could suggest inconsonance, then the internal changes as to the securtiy architecture must have been kept away from Non State Actors especially where 168 equating to about 55% of the respondents under the category were from the security agencies. The responses of Two Hundred and Forty Nine (249) constituting Thirty Seven 37% tend to have hit the nail on the head as they held that the combination of men and equipment in the fight against banditery should be significantly evident. This justifies the general knowledge of the respondents so chosen. Again, the numerical value of each respondent's category might have played a role in attaining this response. As the size of samples from a category is a function of number of informants who provided responses hence the significance of Sokoto put against the Non State Actors.

Table 4.6: Do you think that the constant reshuffling of operation teams is in consonance with The current drive for improved performance of security agencies in the fight against banditry?

Category of Respondent	Yes	No	Uncertain	Total
NSA	17	26	18	61
Security Agencies (Army , Police and NSCDC)	89	139	103	331
Zamfara	52	47	39	138
Sokoto	78	68	32	178
Total	**236**	**280**	**192**	**708**

Source: Field Work, 2021

In practice, especially in the Army there is the tradition of reshufflement mostly in combat zones which is aimed at strengthening objectivity in accomplishimg the task ahead. However that was put to test in order to obtain different veiws in that regard. The respondents' endorsement of alternative B 'No' is their judgment of the difference between the two approaches, that is, reshuffled team based and nonreshuffled team approach respectively. This rating has an attitudinal profile where the respondents do not seem to witness any strong departure from what is obtained in the application of the two approaches. Two Hundred and Eighty (280) respondents representing about Forty 40% of the Seven Hundred and Eight (708) respondents who answered question Six (6) indicated that the modes of security service delivery in the light of the insignificance of reshufflling of operation teams as well as the outcome of all efforts have only changed diminutively. The organization based factors manifests in fragile mechanism of coordinating activities where the needed capacity may be either insufficient or even absent; while the individual based factors may be due to inexperience and /or deliberate non-compliance. In the actual sense, the level of success attained in the current war against banditery in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto can be quantified. The gap created by this inability of the security agencies to improve services and satisfy the conscience of the people is a manifestation of sabotage within the system. The above analyzed information is confirmed by responses to question 1 in the interview. According to the responses from senior officers that were interviewed, political control is very obvious. This is clear considering the fact that the security agencies do not have an internal succession plan. This demotivates some senior officers as the succession hardly allows them to attain an exalted status in service with no reward for outstanding performance hence discouraging them to putting in their best in the interest of service expansion and consolidation in the fight agaitns banditery.

Table 4.7: How do you see any difference between the periods (pre-and post- banditry periods) in terms of service delivery and peaceful coexistence in the states?

Category of Respondents	Remarkable	Fairly remarkable	To a lesser extent	Completely indifferent	Uncertain	Total
NSA	29	14	11	5	2	61
Security Agencies (Army, Police and NSCDC)	65	88	106	47	23	329
Zamfara	56	44	23	7	7	137
Sokoto	85	50	27	13	5	180
Total	**235**	**196**	**167**	**72**	**37**	**707**

Source: Field Work, 2021

The responses to question Seven (7) have endorsed the diffrence between the periods (pre and post-banditery periods) in terms of service delivery and peaceful coexistance in the states. The responses presented in table 7 indicate that up to Two Hundred and Thirty Five (235) respondents constituting 33% expressed that there is a remarkable difference between the periods (pre-and post- banditry periods) in terms of service delivery and peaceful coexistence in the states. This may imply the approval of encouragement and motivation through insentives, promotion and rewarding outstanding galantary. This endorsement is not a surprise noting the nature of human being where he praises and blames depending on how he is affected by a decision. However, drawing critically from the above indorsment, it is apparently clear that during the pre-banditery period, zamfara and Sokoto State were among the most peaceful State, not just in the North-West but also in the entire country. This agrees with Saminu (2017), where he maintained that during the pre-banditery period the level of peaceful coexistance between and among communities was remarkably evident. In fact, that gave Zamfara State the window to grow agricultural wise with admirable lushness of nature cutting across nuks and cranies in the state.

4.1 Hypothesis Testing

The impact of structures and interinstitutional collaboration does not affect the delivery of security services in Zamfara and Sokoto States.

Result of Regressed relationship between interinstitutional collaboration and security service delivery	
Dependent Variable = service delivery proxied by question 7	
Independent Variables	Parameter estimates (t-ratios)
Quality of service	-.013013 (.6328)
Institutional collaboration	.030802 (.1857)
Peaceful coexistence	.008967 (.7861)
Security architecture	.001314 (.9615)
Awareness of applied methods	.023105 (.3831)**
Constant term	3.870762 (23.094)***
R^2	0.00662
F	.83020**
Significant at 1% (***), 5% (**)	

Source: Computed using SPSS 16.0 using Primary Data Collected (2021)

The regression result shown above, indicates the relationship between structures and interinstitutional collaboration proxied by respondents' views to rate the quality of services of the security agencies in both pre and post banditary periods. The responses were ranked One (1) through Five (5) and regressed against a set of explanatory variables. The independent variables have been proxied using questions One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Four (4), Five (5), Six (6) and Seven (7) stated in the following thus: What is your rating of the quality of security interventions in combatting banditry? What are the factors that led to the introduction of the said interventions?, Do you think that the constant reshuffling of operation teams is in consonance with the current drive for improved performance of security agencies in the fight against banditry? In your opinion, of what influence is task force (military, paramilitary and volunteers) in optimizing outcomes? what is your opinion as to which personnel and equipment combination should be in place in terms of relevance and impact? and How do you see any difference between the periods (pre-and post-`banditry periods) in terms of service delivery and peaceful coexistence in the states?

In effect, having created a backdrop to the understanding of the major enquiries of this work in the preceding sections, it is pertinent that this section provides detailed analyses of the major relationships the study investigated. We reported the coefficients, standard error, the F test as well as the R^2 test. In each column of the dependent variables we have reported the coefficients and the standard error in such a way that the coefficient is put as the numerator while the standard error is the denominator. It is the product of the division between the two that shows whether a relationship is significant or insignificant. This is made in order to facilitate a simple and lucid presentation. We equally presented F test because it pothesis and conclude that whether or not a linear relationship actually exists between the dependent and independent variables. R^2 test on the other hand is the coefficient of determination that measures the proportion of variation that is explained by the independent variables of the regression model.

The first major relationship the study tries to establish is that there is a positive but insignificant relationship between capacity and performance. The attributes used in arriving at this conclusion is that the T with value of .1857 multiplied by hundred is 18% thus above 10 hence insignificant in the determination of the relationship between the variables. Considering the insignificance of the T, we reject the alternative hypothesis even though the relatiship between the variables under examination is positive and conclude that there is no significant relationship between the impact of structures and interinstitutional collaboration and delivery of security services in Zamfara and Sokoto States.

5. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study however dicovered that the quality of services delivery by the Security agencies during the pre and banditery era is not significantly impacted by the structures and institutional collaboration in Zamfara and Sokoto States. This was exressed by the T with value of .1857 multiplied by hundred is 18% thus above 10 hence indicating the insignificance in the determination of the relationship between the variables. Consiquent on the above, it can be established that the overall system for monitoring inputs, outputs and process of government security agencies are weak, while peer review and benchmarking is virtually absent in the public sector. By implication it cab therefore be asserted that the level synergy between and among structures and institutitons steering the front in the fight against banditry in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto. Talle, (2017) contended that in terms of advancement in security sophistication, countire like the United States of America, France, Italy and Israel prioritize interinstitutional collaboration more than any other security arrangement as it enhance synergy between and among acotrs in the security sector.

6. CONCLUSION

From what has been eestablished so far, the study concludes that failure on the part of government security agencies` to protect its citizens from incessant attacks by armed bandits could be seen as a failure on the part of government to fulfill its part of the social contract. This could lead to social unrests especially when such citizens are fed up and their efforts are no more effective in curtailing and preventing acts of armed banditry. The study also, concludes that the impact of structures and inter-institutional collaboration has not enhanced effective security service delivery as far as the fight against banditry in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto is concerned. That implies that the dilemma of armed banditry on victims, relatives of victims, travelers and residents cannot therefore be overemphasized.

7. RECOMMENDATION

In view of the above findings, the study profer the following recommendation:

The government at the state and national levels should as a matter of proficiency ensure undiluted synergy between and among security structures and institutions. Security service delivery stand out among an array of social service that the society cannot do without as it facilitate the ground for socio-economic advancement. To achieve inter-institutional collaboration, the gap between the security agencies in terms of communication, function, and intelligence sharing must be bridged as that will facilitate the entrenchment professionalism and effectiveness in security service delivery in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto. Most among the shortfalls encountered by the security agencies (Army, Police and NSCDC) in the fight against banditry in Zamfara and some parts of Sokoto has mainly been attributed to lack of collaboration between and among structures and institutions staging the fight against banditry.

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