

The Socioeconomic Impacts of Boko Haram Activities on the Host Community of Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the socioeconomic impacts of Boko Haram activities on the host community of Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State, Nigeria. Data for this study were gathered from primary and secondary sources. The data sought was on the level of socioeconomic activities before and after the emergence of Boko Haram, among others. However, in order to achieve the aim, 142, 40 and 327 of staff, tourists and host community members were respectively identified and successfully administered questionnaire copies. The responses obtained from the questionnaire were further analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical tools. For the community, farming and rearing (86.4%) is the most important occupation in the community followed by trading, civil servant and others. In terms of buying and selling in the community, 90.3% of the respondents stressed that patronage level was very high before the emergence of Boko Haram but crumbled after the emergence of Boko Haram as alleged by 97.1% of the respondents. 65% of the respondents were of the opinion that since the emergence of Boko Haram, many of their youths have been relieved of their duties (jobs) in the game reserve and other places as a result of low patronage in the area while, 35% of the respondents believed that employment level in the community is still high even with the emergence of Boko Haram. The hypothesis was tested using bivariate regression analysis. $F = 26.525$, $p < 0.05$ indicated that Boko Haram activities have significant influence on the local livelihood of adjoining community. It is recommended that the government should step up with their poverty alleviation programs especially in the northeastern part (Alkaleri L.G.A to be précised) of the nation because poverty and unemployment level are still relatively high in the area which can result to security uproar.

Keywords: Socioeconomics, host community, Boko Haram, Yankari Game Reserve, Bauchi State.

1 Introduction

Terrorism is a universal phenomenon that has extensive impact on the socioeconomic activities of any nation. Adesoji et al. (2018) revealed that since about the year 2009, Boko Haram, a terrorist organization, has wreaked havoc on communities in Northeast Nigeria and beyond. Terrorism and violent extremism undermine good governance and poses a significant threat to the social stability and economic development of developing countries (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 2018). In Nigeria, Boko Haram has destabilized government activities largely in northeastern part of Nigeria. Chukwurah et al. (2015) and Nnamdi et al. (2015) noted that in the northeastern part of Nigeria, lives have been lost and properties damaged due to various activities of Boko Haram. The persistent insecurity risk posed by the Boko Haram sect has greatly affected the growth of tourism in the Yankari Game Reserve as a result of gross insecurity. No business is able to flourish in a fearful, unsecured and tensed atmosphere (Dozier, 2014). Deemua and Ogujiofor (2013) further stressed that any tourist destination with record of terrorist attacks have reduced number of visitors due to the fear of being attacked.

Tourism which is the backbone of many nations' economy cannot thrive in an environment of insecurity. Since 2009, Boko Haram insurgency has become a serious social problem facing Nigeria and this has had considerable impact on the numbers of tourist arrivals to many tourism sites in the northeast. The operation

(such as bombing and suicide attacks among others) of the group has also resulted in the damage of private and public properties that are worth billions of naira as well as loss of lives. The situation has made it impracticable for the people in the area to embark on their lawful businesses. The region has become frightful to foreign investors and many have been driven out of the country. The businesses found around the Yankari Game Reserve that help to provide support to the demands of tourist have been greatly affected as a result of the intermittent activities of Boko Haram in the northeast. Many of the businesses have wound up and the owners have relocated to other states with improved security (Bintube, 2015; Fada, 2013; Tribe, 2010 and Krol, et al., 2000).

Socioeconomically, the existence of the reserve and its attraction has over time generated incomes, provided employment opportunities and served as internal source of revenue generation to the Bauchi State government. The allurements of the site to tourists from diverse countries is of importance to the government and the people of Bauchi State. This is because, it is a source of livelihood to many households and serves as a revenue-base of the state as such, and whatsoever incident that would slow down tourist visits to the state would have immediate impacts on the economic development of the state (Fada, 2013). However, in the past seven years, the patronage level of the once highly visited game reserve in West Africa has dwindled as a result of the increase in terrorism orchestrated by the activities of Boko Haram. These activities characterized by bombing, suicide attack, kidnapping, massacres and destruction of infrastructures (Eme & Ibieta, 2012; Bintube, 2015) have put fears in the hearts of tourists and this has effects on their patronage which has adversely affected the livelihood of the host community. Bombings and armed assaults have been the most common form of terrorist attack every year for the past twenty years (GTI, 2018). The study aim is to determine the effect of Boko Haram activities on the local livelihood of the adjoining community within Yankari Game Reserve before and after the emergence of Boko Haram.

2 The Study Area

Yankari Game Reserve is Nigeria's biggest game reserve found in south-central Bauchi State in north eastern Nigeria (Fig 1).

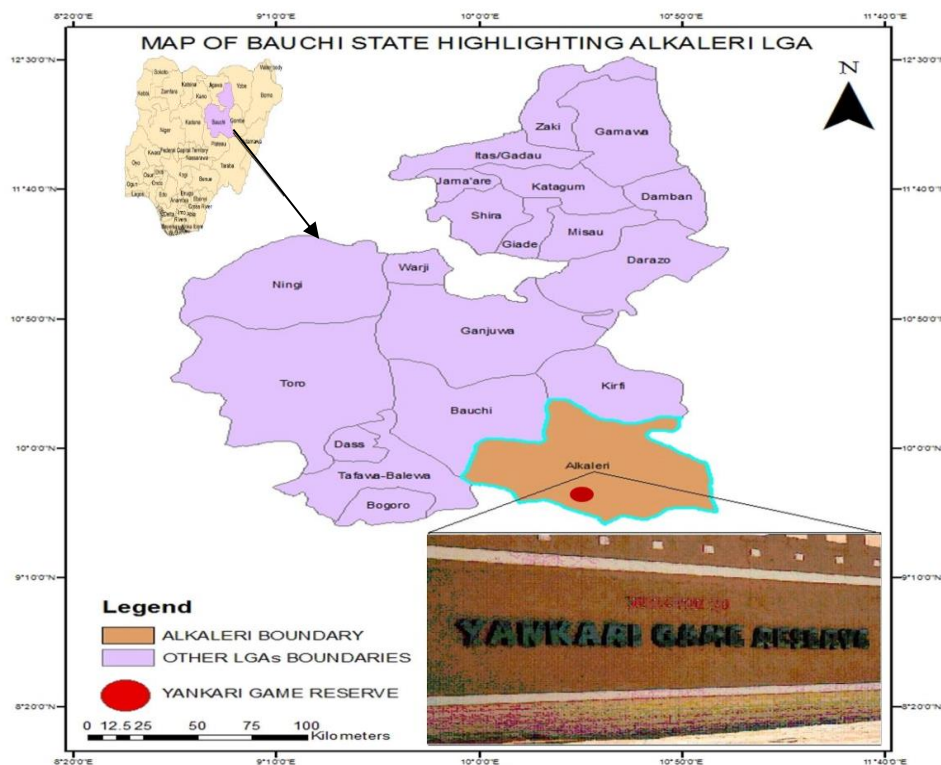


Figure 1: Map of Bauchi State showing Alkaleri L.G.A and Yankari Game Reserve (Insert)

It has an area of about 2,244km² (866 sq ml) (Umar et al., 2015). Yankari is home to several natural warm water springs and its location in the heartland of the West African savanna makes it unique for tourists and holidaymakers to view wildlife in its natural habitat. In 1956, the Reserve was chosen for game reserve and in 1962, the Yankari Game Reserve was officially launched for public sightseeing. It is in fact one of the leading eco-conservation sites in Nigeria and one of the top emergent and admired eco-tourism target tourism locations in West Africa (Umar et al., 2015). The park's main entrance is at Mainamaji village, about 29 km from Dindima. It is located within the Duguri, Pali and Gwana districts of Alkaleri LGA, Bauchi State. This LGA has a population of 208,202 people occupying a total land area of 7,457.78 square kilometres (Ogunjinmi, 2014).

Yankari is located within the Sudan savannah vegetation zone. The zone has abundant and diverse flora and fauna, historic site and infrastructural facilities. Apart from poaching and indiscriminate killing of wildlife, the game population of Nigeria's forest has been considerably reduced because the thick forest which used to provide shade and refuge for them have been drastically reduced as a result of deforestation (Agbogidi, 2002). Yankari Game Reserve is one of the few places where Eco tourists are guaranteed to seeing diverse and varied wildlife species at most times of the year, therefore Yankari is the premier nature tourism destination in Nigeria and play critical role in the development and promotion of tourism and ecotourism in particular in Nigeria.

3 Materials and Methods

Data for this study were gathered from primary and secondary sources. The sets of primary data were sourced through the administration of structured questionnaire from the respondents as well as interview. The data sought was on the level of socioeconomic activities before and after the emergence of Boko Haram, if Boko Haram activities have paralyzed social activities (like aesthetic and animal viewing), among others.

3.1 Population for the Study

The population of the study area was made up of the tourists, staff and host community of Yankari Game Reserve. The total population of the staff was 142 and that of the tourist was about 40 tourists per day (information obtained from Yankari Game Reserve) making a total number of 182 persons. Mainamaji Community is located at the gate of Yankari Game Reserve and is in the Kungimbar Ward of Duguri District, Alkaleri Local Government Area Bauchi State. This community is chosen because it is the closest of all the communities to the game reserve and it has an estimated population of 1800, mostly Kanawa and Fulani (Usman et al., 2016). The population of this study is a finite one; (1800). The Yamen's formula was employed to determine the sample size. This is mathematically represented as;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where;

n = Sample size

N = Population of the study

e = Tolerable error (5% i.e. 0.05)

With the use of the above formula therefore, the sample size of the host community is three hundred and twenty-seven (327). During questionnaire survey, the confidentiality of the respondents was guaranteed. The questionnaire administration was carried out within five days (from 5th – 10th May 2017) as staff come to work on routine. As such, repeated visits were made to the area to cover a good number of the staff and tourists.

- First, this study got the opinions of 142 staff of the reserve from different departments (accommodation staff/housekeeping, cuisine staff, game viewing/rangers, laundries/dry cleaners and recreational service staff). As a result of their small number, the questionnaire was administered to all the staff.

- Second, convenience sampling was employed to sample the tourists of the Game Reserve. Convenience sampling is a type of nonprobability sampling which involves the sample being drawn from that part of the population which is close to hand. That is, readily available and convenient.
- Third, systematic sampling technique was employed during the administration of questionnaire with an interval of 5 households or buildings.

In all, five hundred and nine (509) copies of questionnaires were administered. One hundred and forty-two copies to the staff, 40 copies to the tourists while the remaining three hundred and twenty-seven copies were administered to the host community (Mainamaji community) of the Game Reserve in Bauchi State, Nigeria. It is noteworthy that out of the three hundred and twenty-seven questionnaires administered to the host community, eighteen were wrongly filled or not returned leaving only three hundred and nine questionnaires for analysis. Furthermore, the questionnaires were administered to adults and not children (18 years and above). The questionnaire contains questions such as awareness of Boko Haram, the patronage level before and after the emergence of Boko Haram, the economic activities of the host community, among others.

3.2 Data Calibration for Application of Parametric Statistical Tools

In the present study, data transformation into dummies of 1 and 0 was carried out on some items to make them data appropriate for parametric test (Stockburger, 2012). Thus, positive responses were assigned the value 1, and negative 0. Also, items measured on Likert Scale with responses ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree were recoded into dummies of 1 for Agree and 0 for disagree. Thus, responses of strongly agree and agree were taken as 1, and others as 0 (strongly disagree and disagree).

4 Result and Discussion

4.1 Awareness of Boko Haram Activities

The result showed that all the tourists, staff and the host community of the game reserve were fully aware of the activities of Boko Haram in the northeast. This implies that tourists have full knowledge of the level of insecurity of the northeast in which the reserve is located, but still visited the game reserve. For the staff and the host community their high level of awareness is expected and as such not a surprise because they are indigenous and confronted with this serious social conflict that has affected their normal social, economic, and religious lifestyles. The result lends support to those of Mathew and Fada (2014), who also reported that a good number of staffs have strong awareness concerning the activities of Boko Haram. However, the complete awareness depicted by the tourists, staff and the community imply that the wave of Boko Haram activities such as bombing, suicide attack, massacre and destruction of infrastructures among others in the northeastern part of Nigeria is an issue of global concern.

4.2 Number of Visits in the Last Six Years

The result shows that 11 tourists representing 27.5% affirmed to have visited the game reserve in the last seven years, while 29 representing 72.5% of the tourists affirmed not to have visited the game reserve in the past six years. This means that the security challenges during these years or time period actually affected tourists' choice of visiting the Yankari Game Reserve. During this period, the patronage level to the game reserve could be said to be low as majority of the tourists affirmed not to have visited the tourist site in the last six years. In essence, the information shows that insecurity has impact on tourists' choice of destination. The pattern of result reported here agrees with the claim of Deemua & Ogujiofor (2013) that any tourist destination with record of insecurity experiences reduction in the number of visitors because of the apprehension of being harassed or attacked.

4.3 Staff Assessment of Tourist's Patronage Before and After the Emergence of Boko Haram

From the result, 80.3% alleged that the patronage was very high before the emergence of Boko Haram, 14.1% alleged that the patronage was on the average while 5.6% opined that patronage was poor, to this

category of staff, the patronage of tourists to the game reserve before the emergence of Boko Haram was very low. As regards to patronage after the emergence of Boko Haram, 12.7% of the respondents agreed that since after the emergence of Boko Haram that the patronage was high, 16.2% was positive that the patronage was on the average while 71.1% believed the patronage level or level of tourist patronage to the game reserve was very low. In all, a good proportion of the respondents (staff) affirmed that the level of tourist patronage to the reserve was high before and low after the emergence of Boko Haram activities in the northeast. This lends support to the assertion made by Bintube, (2015) and Fada (2013) that the series of attacks and bombings carried out by the lethal Boko Haram Islamic sect have affected business in the northeastern part of Nigeria.

4.4 Occupation of the Respondents (Host Community)

The result shows that 13.6% of the respondents were farmers, 29.4% were traders, 24.3% of the respondents were artisans, 24.6% were civil servants while the remaining 8.1% had other things doing (like labourer's, etc.). This implies that the major occupation of the respondents is trading.

4.5 Patronage Level in Terms of Buying and Selling in the Community

It is revealed that patronage level in terms of buying and selling was very high (90.3%) before the emergence of Boko Haram while 9.7% depicted the group that opposed that patronage was high before the emergence of Boko Haram. After the emergence of Boko Haram, 68.3% of the respondents were of the opinion that patronage level had become very low, 28.8% affirmed that patronage level was on the average while 2.9% believed that after the emergence of Boko Haram, patronage level was still very high. In a nut shell, majority of the respondents believed that since the emergence of Boko Haram, their buying and selling has received a great set back unlike in the past (before the emergence of Boko Haram) when their buying and selling was really booming. One of the respondents interviewed explained that before the emergence of Boko Haram, he could make up to five thousand naira from sales on daily basis while since the emergence of Boko Haram he hardly makes one thousand five hundred from sales on daily basis. He further explained that some days will just be like that (no sales at all). This means also that the level of patronage of the reserve during this period of grave security challenges decrease and this has implication on the socioeconomic lives of people in the area.

4.6 Livelihood of the Community

The result clearly reveals that the most important occupation (86.4%) of the host community was farming/rearing and farming/hunting while 13.6% were in disagreement. 76% believed that the most important occupation of the community was farming/trading and civil servants while 24% were believed otherwise. Usman *et al* (2016) had similar notion that the predominant occupation of the people of Mainamaji community is rearing and farming. This is also supported by Karau (2011) when he stated it categorically that majority of the people living in and around Yankari Game Reserve are predominantly farmers and cattle herders. He estimated that about 95% are farmers and cattle herders, while 3% of the people are salary employers and 2% are business earners.

In terms of unemployment rate in the community, 65% of the respondents were of the opinion that since the emergence of Boko Haram, many of their youths have been relieved of their duties (jobs) in the game reserve and other places as a result of low patronage in the area. While 35% of the respondents believed that employment level in the community is still high even with the emergence of Boko Haram. Tourism and terrorism are two contrasting things that change the economy of countries. Tourism helps to promote and develop the economy of the countries, whereas terrorism affects the economy negatively (Ranabhat, 2015). The influence of terrorism on tourism causes the greatest economic impacts on host communities who have depended on the tourism market for decades. On the other hand, Adesoji et al. (2018) revealed that the root causes of Boko Haram are unemployment, poverty and economic problems.

Similarly, 51.9% of the respondents opined that the social amenities/infrastructures such as roads, electricity, pipe borne water, schools, clinics, etc. in the community have dilapidated since the emergence of Boko Haram while, 48.1% of the respondents believed that their infrastructures are in good shape. On the issue of social vices (like drugs, crimes, etc.), 62.3% of the respondents argued that since the emergence of Boko Haram, the community has not recorded any incident of social vices as their culture and tradition forbids such. While 37.7% stressed that they have recorded several incidences of crimes, drug abuse, etc. in the community which can be attributed to Boko Haram insurgency.

More so, the result shows that 66.4% of the respondents alleged that the activities of Boko Haram can paralyze social activities (like aesthetic and animal viewing, night club, road side trading, hotel business, cuisines, etc.) within and outside the tourism site while 33.7% of the respondents refuted the claim. This again is true as during the periods of increased insurgency in the northeast, people were advised to avoid crowded areas such as viewing centers, worships and all that as a result of the risk of losing a large number of people to suicide attacks. On the issue of their economic activities experiencing a terrible set back as a result of Boko Haram activities, most of the respondents unanimously affirmed that their economic activities have experienced a terrible set back as a result of Boko Haram activities. Also, the work done by Kuenzi and McNeely (2015) alleged that tourism at many of the world's nature 'hotspots' contributes significantly to gross domestic product (GDP) in the host countries. Serious disruption of the tourism industry can therefore have negative impacts on local livelihoods for which it is often the only source of cash income. On similar reasoning, Dozier (2014) stated that no tourism activity and business can thrive in an unsecured and tensed atmosphere. Likewise, Deemua & Ogujiofor (2013) stressed that countries and tourist sites with security problems would have reduced number of visitors due to the fear of being attacked or killed.

4.7 Hypothesis Testing

H₀: Boko Haram activities do not have significant influence on the local livelihood of adjoining community.

The hypothesis was tested using bivariate regression analysis. The result indicated that 33.9 per cent of the changes in local livelihood of adjoining community were accountable by Boko Haram activities. It implies that Boko Haram activities are able to cause some reduction or changes in the livelihood of adjoining community. Model Summary has been given in Table 1.

Table 1: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.582	.339	.337	.43732

Predictors: (Constant), Boko Haram activities

The ANOVA result in Table 2 indicates that Boko Haram activities have significant influence on the local livelihood of adjoining community ($F = 26.525$, $p < 0.05$). This decision is also consequent the probability value of 0.000 being lower than 5% significance level. Since, the probability value is lower than 5% (0.05) significance level, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This result implies that the livelihood of adjoining community in the game reserve is affected by Boko Haram activities.

Table 2: ANOVA result

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	5.073	1	5.073	26.525*	.000
Residual	58.713	307	.191		
Total	63.786	308			

*Significant at 5% alpha level

The regression coefficient of the independent variable in Table 3 shows a negative regression coefficient which indicated decrease in the livelihood of adjoining community in the game reserve with the increase in

Boko Haram activities. Information on the significance of the predictor variable showed that Boko Haram activities exerted significant influence on the livelihood of adjoining community ($t = 5.150, p < 0.05$). Furthermore, the standardized regression coefficients (beta) showed that a unit increase in Boko Haram activities will bring about 28.2 per cent decrease in the livelihood of adjoining community in the game reserve. This simply suggests that Boko Haram activities have considerable effects on the livelihood of adjoining community. It is obvious as the dilapidation of social amenities/infrastructures, high unemployment rate as well as social vices in the community have been linked to the emergence of Boko Haram. This is also apparent as the patronage of local economic activities such as fast food joints and roadside cuisines and artifacts among others did witness low patronage due to the low arrival of tourists to the area as a result of fear of being killed or bombed.

Table 3: Regression Coefficient

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.529	.043		12.332*	.000
Boko Haram activities	-.271	.053	-.282	5.150*	.000

*Significant at 5% significance level

Tourism industries are sources of economic growth, development, cooperation in international market, peace and cooperation, improving the life quality, use of local resources, reinforcing the preservation of heritage and tradition (Tatjana and Biljana, 2012). The impacts of global tourism reflect the fact that it is an activity of considerable economic importance. Tourism is not only a source of income and employment, but it also serves as a major factor in the balance of payments for many countries and has therefore gained increasing attention on the part of governments, as well as regional and local authorities, business investors and others with an interest in economic development.

5 Conclusions

This study examined the socioeconomic impacts of Boko Haram activities on the host community of Yankari Game Reserve before and after the emergence of Boko Haram. However, in order to achieve this aim, 142, 40 and 327 of staff, tourists and host community were respectively identified and successfully administered questionnaire copies. The responses obtained from the questionnaire were further analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical tools. On the awareness of Boko Haram activities, the study indicated that all the tourists, staff and the host community of the game reserve were fully aware of the activities of Boko Haram in the northeast. Farming and rearing (86.4%) is the most important occupation in the community followed by trading, civil servant and others. In terms of buying and selling in the community, most of the respondents (90.3%) stressed that patronage level was very high before the emergence of Boko Haram but crumbled after the emergence of Boko Haram as alleged by 97.1% of the respondents. They lamented that it has no longer been market as usual since the emergence of Boko Haram. 65% of the respondents were of the opinion that since the emergence of Boko Haram, many of their youths have been relieved of their duties (jobs) in the game reserve and other places as a result of low patronage in the area while, 35% of the respondents believed that employment level in the community is still high even with the emergence of Boko Haram. They also (56.0% of the respondents) stressed that their economic activities have experienced a terrible set back as a result of low patronage to Yankari Game Reserve. The hypothesis was tested using bivariate regression analysis. $F = 26.525, p < 0.05$ indicated that Boko Haram activities have significant influence on the local livelihood of adjoining community. The government should step up with their poverty alleviation programs especially in the northeastern part (Alkaleri L.G.A to be précised) of the nation because poverty and unemployment level are still relatively high in the area which can result to security uproar. To enhance the business environment and attract

investors to engage in the tourism industry and provide investments in much needed areas requiring huge capital investments in the community or communities around Yankari Game Reserve, social infrastructures like school, libraries, healthcare institutions, internet cafes, etc. should be put in place as well as allowing the local people (Mainamaji Community) to benefit from such initiatives linked to tourism.

6 Study Limitations

One of the limitations of this study is the issue of language barrier as well as literacy level (ignorance) especially during the administration of questionnaires. This was due to the fact that most of the respondents (community members) cannot read nor write.

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