



Socio-Economic Effects of Armed Robbery in Kaduna Metropolis

Yakubu Jafaru

Department of Sociology
University of Abuja

Sule Magaji

Department of Economics
University of Abuja

Ibrahim Musa

Department of Economics
University of Abuja

Date of Submission: 15-03-2024

Date of Acceptance: 30-03-2024

Abstract

This research study investigates the effects of armed robbery in the Kaduna metropolis. The research seeks to answer the following questions: what are effects of armed robbery to the society? What are the effects of armed robbery to the robbers? And what are the socio-psychological effects of robbery to the robbers and their families? And what is the effect of armed robbery to the economy of Kaduna metropolis? The objectives of the study is to examine the major implications of armed robbery in Kaduna metropolis. The study area is Kaduna metropolis, Kaduna north and Kaduna south local government. Cross-sectional survey research design was adopted to cover the areas of research. Simple random sampling technique was employed in selecting the respondents. The instrument used by the researcher was structured questionnaires. Simple percentage was used in analyzing the data obtained from the questionnaires. Findings reveal that the major effect of armed robbery on the criminal actor is that he destroys his name, and the integrity of his family; it also reveals that armed robbery inflicts on its victim. Socio-psychological effect as well as financial loss; it also reveals that activity of armed robbery negatively affects the economic activities of Kaduna metropolis. The study recommends that security personnel should be equipped with weapons; job opportunities should be created for youths; policymakers should design better strategies for curtailing armed robbery; and religious institutions should preach against armed robbery menace.

Keywords: Socio-Economic, Armed Robbery and Cross-sectional survey

I. Introduction

The prevalence of armed robbery in Nigeria is becoming an epidemic despite the growing level of poverty (Shaba, Obansa, Magaji & Yelwa, 2018). The act of armed robbery some time is being blamed on the economic recession of the country and the widening gap between the upper class and the lower class (the have and they have not). Today in this country of ours, no place is exonerated from the activities of the robbers. They attack places of worship, school, financial institution, highways to mention but few. Their mode of operation varies from place to place. They use different kinds of sophisticated weapons such as knife, cutlasses, dynamite, bows and arrows and machine guns to facilitate their activities. Most of the time, they employ the help of herbalists (Bablawo's Bokaye) to assist in protecting them spiritually. There are situations in which the robbers operate wearing security uniforms such as police and army uniforms.

Armed robbery is now common in many parts of the country, although some claimed that it is more prevalent in the south-south and south-east than other parts of the country. However, in northern Nigeria, it occurs more frequently in the rural areas than in the urban countries, especially in the areas with popular local markets in which cash transactions are very common and where the unemployed (Usman 2012; Magaji & Adamu, 2011). Like many other crimes in Nigeria, armed robbery has not been given the desired attention by successive governments (Nwokedi, 2011).

At the end of the Nigerian civil war on January 15, 1970, armed robbery was the major phenomenon of that period because of the mass banding of



fighting zones which resulted in various types of weapons finding their way into the eastern states of Nigeria such as former defunct Bendel state. But unfortunately, now, the cases of armed robbery were reported from all parts of Nigeria. It was further observed that though armed robbery has existed for centuries in Nigeria, but the civil war accelerated its incidence (Nkpa, 1976).

This article utilized primary source of data to analyze the problem of armed robbery in the Kaduna Metropolis with the sole aim of understanding the effects of the problem and recommend some viable solutions in eradicating this menace in Kaduna metropolis.

Research Questions

The research questions considered in this study are:

1. What is the effect of armed robbery to the society?
2. What is the effect of armed robbery to the robbers?
3. What are the socio-psychological effects of robbery on other victims and their families?
4. What are the effect of armed robbery to the economy of Kaduna metropolis?

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to examine the major effects of armed robbery in Kaduna metropolis as obtained in the research questions above. Scope of the Study

This research study was carried out in Kaduna metropolis which is the combination of 2 local governments of the state (Kaduna north and Kaduna south local government respectively). They are the most populous local government areas of Kaduna state followed by Zaria and Sabon-Gari. The following terms were used in this article and were operationally defined as follows:

Armed robbery: The act of stealing the property of other person or group of people using weapons such as (Gun, rifle, knife, arrow) **Armed robber:** A person who steals the property of another by violence, means, or by killing or causing physical injury to the owners of the property.

Kaduna metropolis: This only refers to Kaduna North and Kaduna South local government respectively.

Sure, here's the sentence broken down into words:

II. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Conceptual Framework

Armed violence whether organized or random is a global phenomenon. It requires at least

two people interacting in an environment with a set of predisposing conditions. It is experienced over time and across geographical space in form of cross-national, national, sub-national as well. Sure, here's the conjunct sentence broken down into words:

"in pre-colonial Borgu in Niger state Nigeria, 'Bakin Jaki' one of the notorious riders in the 19th century, had a gang made up of about 400 robbers on foot and 60 horsemen. When they attacked, they did so to loot the traders of their goods. They even captured the traders who they later sold into slavery. The weapons of attack are the spears, bows, and poisoned arrows. This affected the main source of Borgu's economy, the caravan trades, and consequently led to the fail of many of the Borgu's pre-colonial states (Akinwumi, 2001)."

Armed robbery simply refers to a process that involves forcefully deprivation of some innocent individuals of their lawful belonging by an armed individual or group of individuals without recourse to the law. This act in itself is an victims and the Nigerian criminal rights of the infringement on the fundamental human law which attacks serious sanctions. It is one of the rising features of crimes in the country today. The perpetual occurrence of it despite official proscription is mind-boggling. This calls for serious concern of the authorities and other stakeholders in peace and security management. Victims of armed robbery usually suffer certain tremendous negative social and economic consequences (Arinze, 2021; Aluko & Magaji, 2020).

Meanwhile, there is a general academic drought on the subject of armed robbery, some of the existing literatures romanticize the bandits and as a personal experienced. This temporal, spatial and personal variation implies that actual behavioral that lead to armed violence may be modifiable or preventable. Armed robbery can therefore be assumed to be a culmination of a wider phenomenon where there is symmetrical connection between poverty, unemployment and crime have however yielded complicity results. Some studies indicate a negative relationship between unemployment and crime, (when unemployment decrease, crimes increase or vice-versa). Others studies indicate positive relationship (when one increases so does the other). And other find no relationship (Lynch, 2008).

Armed robbery in the pre-colonial time fails to establish a firm anchor of the phenomenon with geopolitical, socio-economic issues that wrap together poverty, political instability, and lawlessness (Mbaru, 1998; Akinwumi, 2001; Magaji, 2000; Musa, Magaji, Abdulmalik, & Eke).



The common definition given to robbery by the American FBI is “the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear (FBI, 2005).

A robbery is considered a violent crime because it involves the use of force to obtain money or goods. Robbery is punished severely because the victim’s life is put in jeopardy. In fact, the severity of the punishment is based on the amount of force used during the crime, not the value of the items taken (Siegel, 2013).

Types of Robberies and Robbers There are different types of robberies and robbers. One approach to get the dynamic of robbery and robbers is to characterize robberies by their type. These categorizations will be summarized below thus:

Robbery in an open area: The robberies include street muggings, purse snatchings, and other attacks.

Commercial robbery: This type of robbery occurs in businesses ranging from banks to higher stores. Banks are among the most difficult places to rob because they have a high level of security.

Robbery on private premises: This involves home invasion while occupants are present.

Robbery after a short: This type of robbery comes after a chance meeting - in a bar, at a party, or after a sexual encounter.

Robbery after a longer association between victim and offender; example, an intimate friend robbing his friend and fleeing the jurisdiction.

Carjacking: This is a completed or attempted theft of a motor vehicle by force or threat of force (Willies, 2006).

Among the types of robbers identified by criminologists are the followings:

Professional robbers. These robbers have a long-time commitment to crime as a source of livelihood. They plan and organize crimes prior to committing them and seek money to support their lifestyles.

Opportunist robbers: They steal to obtain small amounts of money, when an accessible target presents itself. They are not committed to robbery but will steal from cab drivers, drunks, the elderly, and other vulnerable persons if they need some extra money to spend and they are mostly teens and gang members who do not plan their crimes.

Addict robbers: They steal to support their drug habits. They have a low commitment to robbery because of its danger but a high commitment to theft because it supplies needed funds.

Alcoholic robbers: They steal for reasons related to their excessive consumption of alcohol (Willies, 2006).

Highway robbers: They block the highways holding sophisticated weapons threatening the drivers and travelers. They are mostly found in Africa countries such as Nigeria (my addition).

Theoretical Framework

The study employed an approach of differential opportunity theory: The theory was constructed by Richard A. Cloward in 1959. It is an extension and refinement of Merton’s anomie theory of crime. Richard agrees with Merton that blocked access to legitimate opportunities for success can generate pressure towards crime commission. But Cloward pointed out that whether crime actually occurs or not depends on a second factor, which is the availability of illegitimate means of committing crimes. According to Cloward, more pressure to commit crimes, no matter how acute such pressure is, will not translate into criminal acts unless there exists also the opportunity to engage in crime (illegal means). The theory is in the position that lower-class propel commit more crime than upper class because the former have very broad access to illegal means of committing crime (Marex, 1933). Cloward has stated that within the context of his theory, the use of the term ‘means’ covers both learning strengthens and opportunity structures. This means that crime cannot take place just because an opportunity to commit it on one need to learn how to exploit such opportunities for crime.

III. Methodology

Research Design

Research design is the blueprint for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data. It aids the scientist in the collection of his limited resources by posing crucial choices (Cooper & Schindler, 2001).

The research design used in this investigation is the cross-sectional survey research design. This method, according to Nwana (1981), is a term used to describe a number of decisions which need to take the collection of data before all the data are collected. This method is used here because it enables the research to use the sample drawn to represent the various elements of the population under study.

Sampling Size / Sampling Techniques

A sample is that portion of a population selected or study, while sampling is the process or technique of selecting some elements in a population (Moti, 2008). The study consists of (500) respondents, Kaduna metropolises was divided into (20) clusters, later into streets for easy



administration of the questionnaire. From each cluster, (25) people were selected randomly to represent the total/population of that area. This brings the total population of the respondents to five hundred (500). The researcher recruited one research assistant and three field workers for the administration of the questionnaires to the respondents. They were all undergraduates and from the social sciences. They were given one day

training on questionnaires administration and collation.

Instrumentation

The major instrument for the study was a structured questionnaire.

Questions were designed to elicit respondents from the public on the effect of armed robbery on Kaduna metropolis.

IV. Data Analysis and Result

Data Analysis

The simple percentage was used to analyze all data collected.

The result of the analysis of data obtained from the questionnaire is presented below.

Table Age Distribution of Respondents

Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
Returned	500	90
Not Returned	100	10
Total	600	100

According to the table, 90% of the respondents returned their questionnaires administered to them.

The rest could not return theirs.

Thus, this analysis is based on 500 completed and returned questionnaires.

Table distribution of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	251	50.2
Female	249	49.8
Total	600	100

Table shows that male respondents constitute 50.2% of the study sample, while female respondents made up of 49.8% of the sample. This shows that we have more available access to male respondents than female at the time of administering the questionnaire.

Table Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	345	60
Married	140	28
Divorce	7	1.4
Widow/Widower	8	1.6
Total	500	100

Table shows 69% of our respondents are single whereas 28% are married. 7 or 1.4% of the respondents were widows, while 1.6% are divorced.

Table Respondents Level of Education

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	24	4.8
Secondary	241	48.2
B.Sc/HND	205	41
M.Sc. and above	8	1.6
Non-formal education	22	4.4
Total	500	100



The table shows that 4.8% of the respondents have attended primary school, while 48.2% attended secondary school. Also, those with B.Sc./HND constitute 41% of the respondents, whereas 1.6% hold an M.Sc. and above while those with non-formal education constitute 4.4% of the total population.

Table: Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-25	101	20.2
26-35	326	65.2
36-45	36	7.2
46-55	21	4.2
56 and above	16	3.2
Total	500	100

Table shows 20.2% of our respondents are within the age of 18-25 years, on the other hand those respondents within the age brackets of 26-35 constitute 65.2%, while 36-45 made up 7.2%. 4.2% are found within the age of 46-55, whereas 56 and above made up 3.2% or 16 of the respondents respectively.

Table Occupational Background of the Respondents.

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Business	60	12
Public workers	45	9
Private workers	54	10.8
Students	269	53.8
Unemployed	46	9.2
Others	26	5.2
Total	500	100

As indicated in table, 12% of the respondents are in business profession. While 9% of the respondents are public workers. Those respondents who are in the private sector constitute 10.8% of the total population. Whereas 53.8% of the respondents are students. 9.2% of the respondents are unemployed, while 5.1% constitute the number of respondents that are in other types of activities.

Table the effect of armed robbery to the robbers.

Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Destroy family name and integrity	261	52.2%
Loss feature carrier	107	21.4%
Loss of life	48	9.4%
Total	500	100

Table shows that 16.8% claim that the robbery end up in jail if caught by the authorities. While 52.2% of the respondents believed that his act of robbery will tarnish his family's name and integrity. 21.4% are of the view of losing his feature career because it will be very difficult for him to secure job later in his life in any private or public organization if he is labeled as a robber. 9.4% or 48 of the respondents hold that the robber will end up losing his life either by hanging or in exchange of fire by the security personnels.

Table: the socio-psychological effects of robbery to the victims and their families

Types of Effects	Frequency	Percentage
Financial loss	284	56.8%
Fear of being kill	188	37.6
Fear being torture	28	5.6
Total	500	100



From table, we can see that 56.8% of our respondents believe that the effects of robbery to the victims and their families is financial loss because most of the time the robbers live their victims without any penny. 37.6% of the respondents fear the victim being killed by the robbers, while 5.6% fear the victims being tortured by the robbers.

Table: Respondents view on the menace of Robbery and the Economy of Kaduna Metropolis

View	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	324	64.8
No	176	35.2
Total	600	100

Table shows that 64.8% of the total respondents have the view that the menace of robbery will actually destroy the economy of the metropolis, while 35.2% have a country view on this belief.

V. Summary of Findings:

The purpose of this study was to find out the effects of armed robbery in Kaduna metropolis. Our findings reveal the following:

It was investigated based on our data that the major effect of armed robbery on the robber himself is to destroy his family name and integrity in his future. Other effects of robbery to the robber include: Jail term, loss of future career and even loss of life of the robber or family.

It was also found that the socio-psychological effects of robbery to its victims and their families is financial loss.

Our findings also show that it is believed that the activities of the robbers will jeopardize the economy of the metropolis if necessary measures are not put in place by the authorities.

VI. Conclusion

The research was based on the effects of armed robbery in Kaduna metropolis. The study shows that the major effects of the menace on the robber himself was to destroy his family name and integrity even though there is no consensus (52.2%), while other reasons that were given such as loss of career, loss of life, and jail term constitute 47.8%. It is also strongly believed that robbery causes financial loss to its victims and their families. It can also lead to fear of being killed or fear of being tortured by the robbers. The study also reveals that if necessary measures are not taken, it can jeopardize the economy of the metropolis.

VIII. Recommendations

The following recommendations become imperative in order to ensure a free criminal society.

Security personnel should be well equipped with sophisticated weapons that are superior to those of the robbers.

There should be jobs creation from public and private organizations to employ our youths. Only by creating jobs the youth will be prevented from joining all kinds of criminal groups in order to earn a living.

A stiff penalty should be placed on robbers. This will discourage people from joining robbery gangs. The policymakers should design a better strategy for curtailing robbery in the society.

Religious institutions (mosques/churches) should preach strongly in accordance with scriptures against armed robbery menace.

Premature disengagement and retrenchment of security personnel should be stopped because some of the people engaged in this act of robbery are from this group.

All hands must be on desk because the task of crime prevention and control is not that of the security agents alone.

Corruption should be seriously tackled by ensuring that culprits are not only apprehended but decisively punished irrespective of their social, economic, political, and religious affiliations.

Our educational system should be functional in order to enable our graduates to acquire practical skills so as to be self-employed and self-reliant.

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