

**ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM ON SOCIO-POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT: A STUDY OF KWARA SOUTH, NIGERIA**

BY

**SODIQ FAUSAT AJOKÉ
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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work has been read and approved by the undersigned on behalf of the Department of Public Administration, Institute of Finance and Management (IFMS), Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin as meeting the requirement for the award of Higher National Diploma in Public Administration.

Mrs. Geetto A. A
(Project Supervisor)

Date

Chief Olowookere. A. O
(Project Coordinator)

Date

Mr. Seriki, I. A.
(Head of Department)

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this project to Almighty Allah for His grace and guidance, and also to my parents, Mr. and Sodiq, whose love and support have been a constant source of inspiration, especially during the completion of my Higher National Diploma project."

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of terrorism on socio-political development in Kwara South, Nigeria. Terrorism has emerged as a critical challenge to national security, social cohesion, and political stability in many parts of Nigeria, and its effects on relatively peaceful regions like Kwara South warrant close investigation. The study explores how terrorist activities, though less frequent in the area, have influenced the socio-political environment, including trust in government, citizen participation, local governance, inter-community relations, and access to public services. Using a qualitative and quantitative research design, data were collected through structured questionnaires and secondary sources to assess the extent of terrorism's impact. Findings reveal that even the perceived threat of terrorism has led to increased fear, restricted movement, disrupted social interactions, and reduced civic participation. Additionally, political engagement and local development efforts have been weakened by insecurity and dwindling public trust in leadership. The study concludes that terrorism, whether direct or indirect, poses a significant threat to sustainable socio-political development. It recommends the implementation of proactive security measures, community engagement, and inclusive governance strategies to build resilience against terrorism and strengthen development in the region. The study is limited to Kwara South, providing localized insights into a broader national concern.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Terrorism has been a persistent challenge in Nigeria, with profound effects on security, the economy, and societal order. To tackle this threat, Nigeria has enacted various legal frameworks aimed at combating terrorism and ensuring the safety of its citizens which includes: Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011 and its Amendment in 2013, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Act 2004 and Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2022. These measures encompass strategies for prevention, detection, prosecution, and punishment of terrorist activities. Terrorism, characterized by violence, is widely condemned as a violation of human rights. Recent years have seen Nigeria grappling with attacks perpetrated by groups like the Fulani militia and Boko Haram, resulting in significant loss of life (Oharisi & Anya, 2023).

Between May 29, 2015, and May 29, 2023, an estimated 63,111 individuals lost their lives in terrorist-related violence, underscoring the urgent need to address this issue (source: Nigeria Security Tracker (NST)). These attacks infringe upon fundamental rights such as the right to life, dignity, peace, and freedom, necessitating a proactive response to mitigate their impact. Despite the existence of numerous legal frameworks in Nigeria aimed at combating terrorism, the incidence of terrorism continues to rise. Therefore, it is imperative to highlight the relevant laws, institutions, and measures in place to address this pressing issue of terrorism effectively (Source: Nigeria's National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) and The Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011 and its Amendment in 2013).

Nigeria has been identified as one of the countries facing terrorism globally (Source: The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report). Sandler and Ender (2008) and Oyibo (2016) noted that the insecurity patterns have become regionalized: militia groups are active in the south, insurgency and violence by herdsmen are prevalent in the north, kidnapping occurs in the east and south, ritual killings are common in the east and west, and political and non-political assassinations happen across the nation. These various crises and criminal activities, individually and collectively, contribute to insecurity and disrupt peace, potentially impacting legitimate socio-economic activities within the country, both domestically and internationally (Adesina, 2013).

The onset of the 21st century marked a period of significant development in Nigeria across various sectors including science and technology, medicine, literature, peacebuilding, human resource development, international cooperation, and socio-economic growth. However, amidst these advancements, Nigeria continues to grapple with a range of pressing challenges, including terrorism, ethno-religious conflicts, internal displacement, widespread corruption, human trafficking, electoral violence, and the pervasive issue of kidnapping (Shuaibu et al., 2015).

Kidnapping has emerged as a troubling social phenomenon in Nigerian society in recent years, characterized by its complex and multifaceted nature. There is no universally accepted definition of kidnapping in Nigeria due to its diverse manifestations and contexts. Various actors such as armed robbers, terrorists, and political thugs have resorted to kidnapping as a means to perpetrate their criminal activities. Okafor et al., 2018; Inyang and Abraham, (2013) describe kidnapping as the unlawful and forcible seizure of individuals without their consent. Similarly, Fage & Alabi, 2017 define kidnapping as any action resulting in the coercive abduction of individuals or groups, motivated by economic, political, or religious factors.

The foundations of unity encompass various elements established within the political system to foster mutual understanding among the federating units, including constitutionally prescribed resource allocation formulas and income redistribution strategies among states. Additionally, federal principles in the distribution and allocation of public appointments aim to mitigate tribalism, ethnic favoritism, and religious bigotry among other divisive forces in the country. However, these foundational elements have been undermined by pervasive corruption perpetrated by both state and non-state officials over time, spanning from the independence era through the first republic to the current Fourth Republic in Nigerian politics (Aluko, 2020).

A prominent aggressive crisis situation in Nigeria that has resulted in a myriad of traumatic, malicious, and detrimental consequences for the nation is the terrorism perpetrated by Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsman. These tensions pose a significant threat to the nation's existence, leading to a cascade of evil and a series of domino effects against the country's stability. Virtually all sectors of the state have been adversely affected by these guerrilla-like sequences of mishaps, including education, healthcare, transportation, political participation, social cohesion, economic productivity, immigration, foreign relations, and employment generation. Mutual suspicion,

reminiscent of the civil war era (1966-1968), has resurfaced across the political, social, and economic landscape of the country (George et al., 2021).

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Terrorism has emerged as a significant global challenge, with profound implications for socio-political stability and development. In Nigeria, the menace of terrorism has escalated over the years, particularly affecting various regions in diverse ways. Kwara South, a region in Nigeria, has not been immune to the adverse impacts of terrorism. Despite numerous efforts by the government and international bodies to curb the spread and influence of terrorist activities, the region continues to grapple with the socio-political repercussions of such violence.

The socio-political landscape of Kwara South has been notably altered by recurrent terrorist activities, which have instilled fear and insecurity among the populace. These conditions undermine the fundamental aspects of social cohesion and political stability, crucial for development. The economic activities in the region have also suffered due to the disruption caused by terrorism, leading to reduced investments, loss of livelihoods, and a general decline in economic growth.

One of the significant impacts of terrorism in Kwara South is the displacement of people from their homes. This displacement not only disrupts the social fabric of communities but also places a considerable strain on the region's resources and infrastructure. The influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into relatively safer areas within the region creates an additional burden on social services and the local economy. The educational sector has been particularly affected, with schools being targeted or abandoned due to insecurity, thereby affecting the future prospects of children and young adults in the region.

Furthermore, the political environment in Kwara South has been destabilized by the pervasive threat of terrorism. The fear of attacks has led to a decline in political participation and voter turnout, weakening the democratic processes and governance structures. The legitimacy of political institutions is often questioned as the government struggles to provide adequate security

and maintain law and order. This situation breeds disillusionment and apathy among the populace, further complicating efforts to achieve socio-political development.

In addition to the immediate impacts, terrorism has long-term implications for the socio-political development of Kwara South. The pervasive sense of insecurity stifles innovation and hinders the implementation of development projects. The allocation of resources is often diverted towards security measures, leaving other critical areas such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development underfunded. The psychological impact on the population, including trauma and anxiety, cannot be overstated and contributes to the overall decline in the quality of life.

Despite the recognition of these issues, there is a paucity of comprehensive studies that specifically address the impact of terrorism on the socio-political development of Kwara South. Most existing research tends to focus on broader national or regional analyses, without delving into the localized effects and challenges faced by specific communities. This gap in the literature necessitates a focused study on Kwara South to better understand the unique socio-political dynamics at play and to formulate targeted strategies for mitigation and development.

This research aims to assess the impact of terrorism on the socio-political development of Kwara South, Nigeria. By examining the specific ways in which terrorism has affected this region, the study seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges and to propose actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to enhance the socio-political resilience and development of Kwara South.

1.3 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The Specific Objectives Are:

1. To analyze the socio-political factors contributing to the vulnerability of Kwara South to terrorism.
2. To assess the impact of terrorism on the socio-political development of Kwara South.
3. To identify the strategies employed by the government and other stakeholders to mitigate the impact of terrorism in Kwara South.

4. To provide recommendations for enhancing socio-political development and mitigating the impact of terrorism in Kwara South.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the socio-political factors contributing to the vulnerability of Kwara South to terrorism?
2. How has terrorism impacted the socio-political development of Kwara South?
3. What strategies have been employed by the government and other stakeholders to mitigate the impact of terrorism in Kwara South?
4. What recommendations can be made for enhancing socio-political development and mitigating the impact of terrorism in Kwara South?

1.5 HYPOTHESIS

- i) **H0 Null Hypothesis** : Terrorism has no significant impact on the socio-political development of Kwara South, Nigeria.
- ii) **H1 Alternative Hypothesis** : Terrorism significantly impacts the socio-political development of Kwara South, Nigeria.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The following are the significance of this study

1. Policy Implications: Understanding the impact of terrorism on socio-political development in Kwara South, Nigeria, can inform policymakers and government officials about the specific challenges faced by the region. This knowledge can help in the development and implementation of targeted policies and strategies to address these challenges effectively.

2. Community Resilience: Studying the impact of terrorism can also help in identifying the resilience strategies adopted by communities in Kwara South. This can provide valuable insights into the factors that contribute to community resilience and can inform the development of programs to enhance resilience in other regions facing similar challenges.

3. Academic Contribution: The study can contribute to the academic literature on terrorism and its impact on socio-political development. By providing empirical evidence from Kwara South, the research can add to the existing body of knowledge and provide a basis for further research in this area.

1.7 SCOPE/LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

The study focuses on assessing the impact of terrorism on socio-political development in Kwara South, Nigeria. It aims to examine the effects of terrorism on various aspects of socio-political development, including governance, community cohesion, economic activities, and public infrastructure. The study will analyze data from primary and secondary sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue in the specific context of Kwara South.

1.7.1 LIMITATION OF STUDY

The study may face limitations such as access to reliable data on terrorism-related incidents in the region, as well as challenges in obtaining firsthand accounts from affected individuals due to security concerns. Additionally, the scope of the study is limited to Kwara South, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other regions affected by terrorism in Nigeria.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of significant research studies on terrorism and its effects on Nigeria's socio-economic development. It explains essential terms related to terrorism and its impact. Furthermore, the chapter includes a historical background and an analysis of the current situation by reviewing previous research on related issues.

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Concept of Terrorism

Defining terrorism is undeniably a complex endeavor, primarily due to its diverse and evolving nature. The definitional challenge revolves around two key factors: the circumstances surrounding terrorist acts and the individuals involved in perpetrating them. Understanding the actors involved is crucial in defining terrorism, whether it involves state actors, non-state actors, or both. Additionally, questions arise regarding the motives behind terrorist activities—is terrorism politically motivated, or does it stem from other factors? Furthermore, distinguishing between acts of protest, strike, and terrorism poses further challenges.

Nwatu and Ogbuabor (2012) argue that perceptions of terrorism are highly subjective and vary depending on different perspectives and circumstances. What one person may perceive as terrorism, another may view as legitimate resistance or activism. This subjective interpretation extends to legal frameworks, where the classification of individuals as terrorists or freedom fighters can vary depending on applicable laws and constitutional provisions.

Kofi Annan (2005) contributed to the discourse by highlighting the ongoing debate surrounding the definition of terrorism. This includes considerations such as whether states or non-state groups can be considered terrorists and whether acts of resistance against foreign occupation constitute terrorism. These debates underscore the complexity and nuances inherent in defining terrorism within different socio-political contexts.

Annan defines terrorism as any deliberate act aimed at causing death, genocide, or permanent incapacitation to civilians, coupled with the intention to intimidate or coerce a population, organization, or government into complying with certain demands. Similarly, Onuoha (2010) characterizes terrorism as a calculated effort to instill terror and inflict violence, resulting in chaos, fear, loss of life, and destruction of property, often targeting unarmed civilians or specific communities. This violence is perpetrated to draw attention to the grievances or aspirations of the perpetrators, compelling government action.

Terrorism in Nigeria is predominantly perpetrated by domestic groups influenced by external factors. These acts have severely hindered the country's development, particularly in religiously motivated incidents involving members of the Islamic faith. Poor governance, corruption, socio-economic disparities, and leadership deficiencies are cited as contributing factors to the proliferation of terrorism (Obasi et al., 2021).

2.1.2 The Implications of Terrorism

Since the events of September 11, terrorist threats have significantly evolved, with groups pursuing political or religious agendas resorting to tactics such as bombing, kidnapping, hostage-taking, murder, arson, and creating a general sense of insecurity. These methods serve to advance their objectives (Ajah et al., 2017). In Nigeria, the Niger Delta militants began targeting foreign and oil workers, causing disruptions in the global oil market and prompting multinational oil companies to relocate their operations away from the region, resulting in a decline in oil exploration, production, and revenue (Egbegi et al., 2018).

As the situation in the Niger Delta started to stabilize, the emergence of Boko Haram, a terrorist group driven by Islamic ideology, brought about a new wave of terror in Nigeria. Boko Haram has been responsible for numerous deaths, extensive property destruction, and attacks on both public and private infrastructure, including religious institutions. Their actions include the kidnapping of schoolchildren, destruction of farmlands, and displacement of entire communities, leading to the establishment of numerous Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps across Nigeria (Obasi et al., 2021). Additionally, the Fulani herdsmen, known for their banditry tactics, have further compounded security challenges in Nigeria, perpetrating killings, rapes, kidnappings, and widespread destruction of communities.

2.1.3 Terrorism and its implication for Development

Okpa et al. (2018) and Nweke & Ajah (2017) contend that sustainable development in any country hinges on good governance characterized by zero tolerance for corruption, adequate security measures, sustainable peace, socioeconomic growth, and political stability. They argue that when a country is engulfed in violence, terrorism, hostage-taking, kidnappings, bombings, destruction of infrastructure, fear, unpredictable killings, and other forms of terrorism, national development becomes severely hindered. They assert that terrorism acts as a serious impediment to peace and economic prosperity in Nigeria, causing significant harm to the nation's industries, which are crucial for economic growth. Therefore, there is a pressing need to examine the impact of terrorism on the country's economic development.

2.1.4 Relationship between Terrorism and National Economic Transformation

Although terrorism has been defined in various ways by scholars and institutions, the United States government provides a widely accepted definition. According to this definition, terrorism is any politically motivated violence carried out against noncombatant targets by sub-national groups or

clandestine agents, with the aim of influencing an audience. Adebayo (2013) and Udama (2013) agree with this definition and argue that acts such as kidnapping, massacres, bombings, and property destruction by groups like Boko Haram in Nigeria are acts of terrorism meant to divert attention and gain recognition. Tom (2012) adds that terrorism poses a serious threat to national security, peace, unity, and industrialization efforts of a nation. It also hinders the provision of goods and services for the public and creates a hostile environment for foreign direct investment, which is crucial for sustainable economic development.

There's no denying that prolonged terrorist activities like armed banditry, kidnapping, and suicide bombings inflict severe pain on the population, affecting their mental health and significantly impeding socio-economic development both directly and indirectly. Whalley and Brewin (2018), Maguen et al. (2008), and Fischer and Ai (2008) support this view, highlighting the short-term and long-term psychological effects of terrorism, which breed fear and uncertainty among the populace, hindering healthy living conditions.

2.1.5 Effects of Terrorism on State Survival

Terrorism has predominantly negative effects on both individuals and society as a whole, with no positive outcomes. It exerts various detrimental effects on the state, some of which are discussed below:

1. **Political Effects:** Terrorism impacts the political landscape by challenging the government's authority and attempting to seize political power. Terrorist groups gradually undermine the state's authority by targeting soft targets within the community. If the government fails to effectively counter these threats, terrorists may gain political power, leading to the establishment of their own governance structures. This weakens the state's political power and can result in the emergence of a counter-state ideology, opposing the established government.
2. **Economic Effects:** Terrorism also has significant economic repercussions. Terrorist activities aim to disrupt the state's economic power by targeting economic assets and infrastructure. This can include activities such as kidnapping for ransom, illegal mining, slave trade, and human trafficking, which become prevalent in areas affected by terrorism. The fear of attacks hampers legal trade within the country, leading to a decline in gross and net domestic income. The destruction of trade networks by terrorists further exacerbates economic challenges, resulting in extreme poverty and discouraging both local and foreign investors from investing in the country due to security concerns (Ezeogidi, 2020).
3. **Population Depletion Effect:** Terrorism targets the human population as well, aiming to weaken the state by rendering its citizens unproductive, displaced, and indolent. Terrorist groups attack areas with dense populations, such as churches, markets, community squares, and schools, with the goal of depleting the population, undermining its psycho-social strength, and forcing acceptance of their terms and conditions.

4. Ethno-religious Division Effect: Terrorism exacerbates ethnic and religious divisions within a country, exploiting existing tensions to further its agenda. Terrorist groups polarize religious or ethnic communities by emphasizing certain beliefs as the basis for their operations. This division aids in recruitment, information acquisition, and long-term acceptance within the state.

5. External Image Effect: Terrorism tarnishes a country's international image, aiming to portray it as unstable and unsafe. This leads to international scrutiny and suspicion of the country and its citizens. Some international organizations may even designate the country as a terrorist haven or a dangerous destination. Consequently, the country may become isolated on the global stage unless decisive measures are taken to combat terrorist groups and restore its external reputation.

6. Escalation or Domino Effect: Terrorism permeates all aspects of a country, aiming to undermine its political, economic, and social power. The presence of terrorism in one area affects all facets of the state. Attacks on economic facilities lead to a shortage of funds for development projects, exacerbating poverty levels. Destruction of schools and kidnapping of students result in decreased school enrollment and high dropout rates, leading to an increase in illiteracy. This, in turn, hampers the development of science, technology, and human capital, eventually leading to a decline in civilization (Adeloye et al., 2020; Bildirici & Gokmenoglu, 2020,).

7. Failed State Effects: Terrorism can lead to the collapse of the entire state structure, resulting in a failed state. In a failed state, political, economic, and social systems disintegrate, leading to chaos and fragmentation. Multiple factions may claim authority, plunging the state into a state of war with loss of life and destruction of property. Many citizens may become refugees or internally displaced persons, while government officials may seek asylum abroad. Poverty, food insecurity, and shortened life expectancy become prevalent, ultimately leading to the collapse or balkanization of the state as terrorism's final blow (Nnam et al., 2020).

2.1.6 Insecurity

The concept of insecurity encompasses various dimensions and can be defined in different ways. According to the UNDP (1994), human insecurity involves chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression. An individual is considered secure when they are not exposed to any form of danger or risk of physical or moral harm, theft, accidents, or deterioration (Adenike, 2021).

Insecurity is viewed as a persistent threat to human life, territories, states, religious beliefs, properties, and institutions (Obi, 2015; Oyinbo, 2016). Achumba et al. (2013) identified two main sources of insecurity: those stemming from remote factors and those from immediate and proximate factors. Remote factors include institutional capacity deficiency due to government failure, widespread material inequalities and injustices, ethno-religious conflicts, divergent perceptions between the public and the government, weak security systems, and the erosion of socio-cultural and communal values. Immediate and proximate factors comprise porous borders, rural-to-urban migration, corporate social irresponsibility, unemployment, poverty, and terrorism.

2.2 Socio-Political Development

Socio-political development enhances the social and political structures within a society to ensure better governance, increased political participation, and equitable distribution of resources. This concept includes the establishment of robust political institutions, the promotion of social justice, the protection of civil liberties, and the encouragement of community involvement. The goal of socio-political development is to create a stable, inclusive, and prosperous society where citizens can lead fulfilling lives. The following are detailed components of socio-political development:

1. **Political Institutions:** These include government structures, legislative bodies, and administrative agencies responsible for policy-making, law enforcement, and public service delivery. Effective political institutions ensure transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to citizen needs.
2. **Social Justice:** Socio-political development emphasizes the promotion of equality and fairness across all segments of society. This involves addressing issues of discrimination, marginalization, and ensuring that basic human rights are protected and upheld.
3. **Civil Liberties:** These are fundamental rights and freedoms granted to individuals, such as freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. Protecting civil liberties is crucial for fostering democratic participation and ensuring individual autonomy.
4. **Community Involvement:** Socio-political development encourages active participation of citizens in decision-making processes, community development initiatives, and governance. Engaged communities contribute to a vibrant civil society and promote collective action for common goals.
5. **Economic Progress:** Economic development is intertwined with socio-political development, as stable political institutions and social policies can facilitate economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction.

2.3 Impact of Terrorism on Socio-Political Development

The impact of terrorism on socio-political development encompasses the various ways in which terrorist activities can hinder or regress the progress of social and political systems. Terrorism can undermine government authority, disrupt public services, and create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. These effects can lead to reduced political participation, weakened institutions, and a diversion of resources away from developmental projects towards security measures. Additionally, terrorism can exacerbate social divisions and tensions, making it more difficult to achieve social cohesion and sustainable development.

Terrorism poses significant challenges to socio-political development by undermining these key components:

1. **Political Stability:** Terrorist activities can destabilize governments, weaken state authority, and erode public trust in political institutions. This instability can hinder effective governance and impede policy implementation.
2. **Social Cohesion:** Acts of terrorism often target civilian populations, causing fear, trauma, and social divisions. This can lead to heightened ethnic, religious, or ideological tensions, fracturing social cohesion and unity.
3. **Economic Disruption:** Terrorism disrupts economic activities, investment, and tourism, which are essential for economic growth. Governments may divert resources from development projects to security measures, affecting infrastructure and social welfare spending.
4. **Human Rights Violations:** Counter-terrorism measures sometimes infringe on civil liberties and human rights, such as arbitrary arrests, surveillance, and restrictions on freedom of movement. This compromises the democratic principles essential for socio-political development.
5. **International Relations:** Terrorist activities can strain diplomatic relations between countries, leading to geopolitical tensions and affecting cooperation on global issues such as trade, security, and humanitarian aid.
6. **Psychological Impact:** The psychological impact of terrorism, including trauma and fear, can have long-lasting effects on individuals and communities, influencing their attitudes towards government, society, and each other.

2.4 Kwara South

Kwara South refers to the southern region of Kwara State in Nigeria. This area has its own unique socio-political dynamics and developmental challenges. Studying the impact of terrorism in this region provides specific insights into how local socio-political development is affected by terrorist activities. The region's demographic, economic, and cultural context must be considered to understand the full scope of terrorism's impact on its socio-political development.

2.5 Empirical Review

Evidence of youth participation in kidnapping is widespread. Sunday (2019), documented instances of young people, particularly those involved in Nigeria's emerging kidnapping cartels, participating in acts of kidnapping. Nnam (2014), observed that men, particularly in their youthful years, dominate the kidnapping enterprise. This demonstrates that youths are actively involved in kidnapping activities. The involvement of youths in kidnapping is a well-established fact supported

by numerous studies. Various reasons prompt youths to engage in kidnapping, as explored in several research studies.

Various researchers have explored the factors contributing to youth involvement in kidnapping. Nwadiorah & Nkwocha, (2011). linked youth participation in kidnapping to issues such as unemployment, poverty, rituals, and societal factors. Similarly, Osadebe, et al. (2010) attributed youth involvement in kidnapping to factors like unemployment, greed, and an excessive desire for wealth accumulation. Chinwokwu & Michael, (2019) observed that youth engagement in militancy and kidnapping for ransom has become prevalent in many Nigerian cities, attributing this trend to widespread corruption among politicians and law enforcement officers.

Akpan (2010), suggested that economic hardship plays a significant role in driving youths towards kidnapping activities. Ibrahim & Mukhtar, (2017) noted that youths may be tempted to engage in kidnapping if their social circles perceive it as an acceptable and profitable means of livelihood. Obarisiagbon & Aderinto, (2018) pointed out that youth involvement in kidnapping is often linked to political agendas, where political figures exploit young individuals as thugs during elections to abduct their opponents.

Jegede (2014), observed that some political thugs resort to spiritual measures and substance abuse, provided by political patrons, to protect themselves and enhance their capabilities for criminal activities like kidnapping. Mike (2020), suggested that kidnapping can be associated with drug-related violence, drawing parallels to the situation in Mexico. Additionally, B. Ibrahim, et al. highlighted a connection between insurgency and kidnapping, implying that youth participation in terrorist activities may eventually lead to involvement in kidnapping.

Peer pressure also plays a significant role in influencing youths to engage in criminal behaviors like kidnapping. Anazonwu et al., (2018) proposed that a sense of belonging motivates kidnappers, who often act under the influence of peer groups. Ibrahim & Mukhtar, (2017) emphasized that youths are susceptible to social pressure from their peers, leading them to conform to certain behaviors or values. Ajaegbu (2012), suggested that peer groups facilitate the acquisition of skills and knowledge necessary for engaging in criminal acts like kidnapping.

Adeyemi (2019), highlighted the significant influence of peer pressure on youths' involvement in criminal activities like kidnapping. Associating with negative peer groups can lead some youths to engage in illicit behaviors. Peer pressure can manifest in both spoken and unspoken forms, with spoken pressure involving education, guidance, and instructions, while unspoken pressure involves imitation or adoption of certain attitudes. Peer groups are often formed to advocate for specific demands or protect particular interests.

Abdulkabir (2017), suggested that youths may be pressured into joining criminal gangs or secret cults due to financial incentives, exposing them to dangerous techniques that harm innocent people. In some cases, these groups may resort to criminal acts like kidnapping to voice their

grievances to society, not necessarily for economic gains but to influence the political system and maintain the status quo.

The prevalence of kidnapping cases in the North Central geopolitical zone of Nigeria, where this study is focused, is alarming. According to Channelstv (2018), the North Central geopolitical zone has the highest incidence of kidnappings in the country, with 79.8% of national kidnapping incidents reported in the northern zones, including the North Central zone, where Kwara State is situated.

The widespread occurrence of kidnapping in the North Central zone, particularly in Kwara State, especially in the Kwara Central region, has raised concerns. Many incidents of kidnapping in Kwara Central have been linked to economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and money rituals. Numerous media reports have highlighted kidnapping cases involving youths in Kwara State. One notable incident involved the abduction of a 12-year-old girl in Ilorin, who was later rescued by the police in Oye-Ekiti. Additionally, the police apprehended eight kidnappers, including youths, who were found with eleven human skulls in various areas of Kwara Central Senatorial District. There were also reports of tension at Kwara State University, Malete, following the kidnapping of some undergraduate students.

Jacob & Omede, (2015) observed a surge in kidnapping and abduction incidents across Nigeria. Ogbuehi (2018), suggested that the poor are often kidnapped for ritual purposes, while the wealthy are targeted for extortion, with ransom demands reaching millions or billions of Naira. Several studies have addressed the issue of kidnapping in Nigeria, exploring topics such as the challenges of hostage-taking and kidnapping in the South-eastern region, the prevalence of kidnapping in South-eastern states, and the thriving kidnapping cartels in Nigeria due to governance issues.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

According to Akpan (2010), kidnapping involves forcibly seizing individuals and transporting them to an undisclosed location where they are held against their will. Asuquo (2009), similarly defines kidnapping as the unlawful seizure and detention of individuals, often with the intent to extract ransom. Uzorma & Nwanegbo-Ben (2014) characterize kidnapping as the act of unlawfully seizing and detaining individuals, frequently accompanied by a demand for ransom. Essentially, kidnapping encompasses using force or fraud to detain individuals as hostages, with the intention of demanding ransom from various entities such as family members, employers, or government officials. In Nigeria, kidnapping serves various purposes, including forced marriage, ransom, revenge, organ trafficking, slavery, murder, ritual killings, adoption, begging, prostitution, and commercial endeavors (U.N, 2014). The theories are as follows;

A) Social Contract Theory

Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau. This theory suggests that individuals consent to form a society and abide by its rules for mutual benefit, securing protection and maintaining social order.

1) Relevancy of Social Contract Theory

It helps to understand the breakdown of societal agreements due to terrorism, leading to instability. It Provides insight into the role of government in safeguarding citizens and maintaining socio-political order in the face of terrorism.

2) Criticism of Social Contract Theory

It overemphasis on rationality and consent, often overlooking cultural and emotional factors. It may not adequately address the complexities of modern state and non-state terrorism.

B) Structural Functionalism

Émile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons. This theory views society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability. It emphasizes the functions of each part of society.

1) Relevancy of Structural Functionalism

It examines how terrorism disrupts the functions of societal institutions, leading to socio-political instability. It helps to analyze how communities adapt and reorganize in response to terrorist threats.

2) Criticism of Structural Functionalism

It tends to ignore power imbalances and conflicts within society. It may overlook the negative consequences and dysfunctions of social institutions.

C) Conflict Theory

Karl Marx. This theory focuses on the conflicts that arise from inequalities in society, emphasizing the struggle between different social classes.

1) Relevancy of Conflict Theory

It highlights how terrorism can be a response to socio-economic and political inequalities. It is useful in understanding how terrorist acts are often rooted in struggles for power and resources.

2) Criticism of Conflict Theory

It can be overly deterministic and reductionist, focusing mainly on economic factors. It may not account for the complexities and motivations behind terrorism.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the research methods employed, the study population, and the sampling techniques used to determine the sample size. It also discusses how data was collected and analyzed. The primary objectives of the research were accomplished using quantitative methods, specifically inferential statistics, which were utilized to gauge accuracy levels and validate responses from respondents in alignment with the research objectives.

3.1 STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in the southern part of Kwara State. Kwara State, located in the North-Central region of Nigeria, is known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse population, and historical significance. It was established in 1967 during the state creation exercise in Nigeria. The state capital is Ilorin, a bustling city with a blend of modern amenities and traditional values. Ethnically, Kwara State is diverse, with the major ethnic groups being the Yoruba, Fulani, and Nupe. However, the Yoruba ethnicity predominates in the state, especially in Ilorin and surrounding areas. Economically, Kwara State is largely agrarian, with agriculture serving as the mainstay of the economy.

The state boasts fertile land suitable for cultivating crops such as yams, cassava, maize, and rice. Livestock farming, particularly cattle rearing, is also prevalent. In terms of education, Kwara State is home to several notable institutions, including the University of Ilorin, Kwara State University, and numerous secondary and primary schools. The state is known for its vibrant cultural festivals and traditions, with events such as the Esie Museum showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the people. Overall, Kwara State is a vibrant and culturally diverse region, rich in history, tradition, and natural resources.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design employed for this study was the descriptive research design. This choice was made because the data characteristics were described using frequencies and percentages, and no manipulation of data or variables was required. Other alternatives such as causal and explanatory research designs were discarded by the researcher because they may not yield accurate findings and data analysis.

3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population for this study are residents of Agbeku community, Ifelodun Local Government area of Kwara state. The population figure is 20 people comprising of teenagers, young adult and the old from various part of the community. The reason for choosing the Agbeku community was that it was confirmed that 3 victims were kidnapped from the community.

3.4 POPULATION SIZE

Due to the relatively small population for the study and the ability to collect data from all respondents, the researcher opted for the census sampling technique to effectively complete the study. All 20 respondents were included in the study.

S/N	LGA	Population of the study	Sample Size	Percentage (%)
1	Ifelodun	30000	40	100
	TOTAL	30000	40	100 %

Table 3.1 Population size

3.5 SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

A study sample is a systematic selected part of a population that infers its result on the population. In this study, the researcher adopted the convenient random sampling method to determine the sample size. The Taro Yamane method for sample size calculation is used to determine the sample size from the population. Below is the mathematical illustration for the Taro Yamane method;

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

Where, n = Sample size

N = Population size

e = level of precision (0.05)

$$n = \frac{30000}{1+30000(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{30000}{1+30000(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{30000}{1+750}$$

$$n = \frac{30000}{751}$$

$$n = 39.946 = 40$$

3.6 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

Data for this study was gathered from respondents using questionnaires. The questionnaires were distributed to all 20 respondents within the organization, and responses to questionnaire items served as the primary source of data through field surveys. Additional information was obtained from textbooks, journals, and other secondary sources.

3.7 DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data underwent analysis through frequencies and percentages. These measures allowed the researcher to accurately depict the true characteristics of the data and findings. Interpretation and analysis of the data were also utilized to describe items in tables and charts employed in the study.

Mean and Standard Deviation were used in analysing the responses which provided answers to the research questions. Mean score is used to analyze the data collected. The four points rating scale are as follows:

SA = Strongly Agree 8

A = Agree 6

D = Disagree 4

SD = Strongly Disagree 2

Decision Rule:

To ascertain the decision rule, this formula was used:

$$\frac{8+6+4+2}{4} = 5$$

$$4 \quad 4$$

Any score that was 5b and above was accepted while any score that was 5 and below was rejected. Therefore, 5 was the cut-off mean score for decision taken.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

The objective of this chapter is to present, interpret, and discuss the result of the analysis of the Political science questionnaire survey conducted on assessing the impact of terrorism on socio-political development: a study of kwara south, Nigeria. The chapter is divided into two main sections; the first section presents and discusses the results of data derived from the survey of the residents of Agbeku community, Ifelodun Local Government area of Kwara state which examined the respondents' profile.

These results were presented with percentages and frequency tables. The second section is the presentation and discussion of the results of the analysis of the questionnaire survey on the assessing the impact of terrorism on socio-political development. The results were presented with percentages, frequencies, and mean item scores.

Table 4.1 Profile of Respondents (Residents)

S/N	Gender	Freq	%	Occupation	Freq	%	Age	Freq	%	Qualification	Freq	%
1	Male	12	60	Civil servant	8	40	Below- 30yrs	0	0	B.SC/HND	16	80
2	Female	8	40	Self - Employed	4	20	31 – 40yrs	2	10	Master /PhD	4	20
3				Employee	8	40	41-50 yrs	8	40			

4							51-60 yrs	9	45			
5							Over60yrs	1	5			
Total		20	100		20	100		20	100		20	100

Source: field survey 2025

Table 4.1 shows the gender, occupation, age and highest educational qualification of the respondents. It shows 60% of the respondents are male while 40% are female indicating more than half of the respondents are Male. It shows 40% of the respondents are civil/ public servants working mostly in Lagos state, 40 % are private sector employees and 20% are self-employed. 10% of the respondents are in the age range of 31-40 years, 40% are between 41 and 50 years, 45% while 5% are above 60yrs from the civil/public servant and retired, meaning that the resident is made up of adulted people mostly families and in the soonest future would be made up of more retired residents. It also shows that 80% of the respondents are holders of B.sc/HND and 20% are holders of Master/PHD; this implies that all the respondents are well educated. Also, it indicates that the responses obtained in this research work are valid as the respondents know how to answer the questions asked.

Answer to Research questions

Table 4.2

S/N	QUESTIONS	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	%
1	Does socio-political factors contribute to the vulnerability of Kwara South to terrorism?	Strong agreed	14	70
		Agreed	6	30
		TOTAL	20	100

2	Has terrorism impacted the socio-political development of Kwara South?	Strong agreed	12	60
		Agreed	4	20
		Disagreed	4	20
			20	100
		TOTAL		
3	Does the strategies employed by the government and other stakeholders mitigate the impact of terrorism in Kwara South?	Strong agreed	8	40
		Agreed		
		Disagreed	10	50
			2	10
		TOTAL	20	100
4	Recommendations can be made for enhancing socio-political development and mitigating the impact of terrorism in Kwara South?	Strong agreed	2	10
		Agreed	10	50
			4	20
		Neutral	4	10
		StronglyDisagreed	4	10
		TOTAL	20	100
		Disagreed		

Source: field survey 2025

Table 4.2 contains answers to research questions. It shows that 70% of the respondents strongly agreed and 30% agreed that there socio-political factors contribute to the vulnerability of Kwara South to terrorism while none of the respondents disagreed with the statement. This implies socio-political factors contribute to the vulnerability of Kwara South to terrorism. It also shows that 60%

of the respondents strongly agreed that terrorism impacted the socio-political development of Kwara South, although 20% agreed and another 20% disagreed with the statement. However with a total number of respondents that both strongly agreed and agreed making a total of 16. This implies that there is a significant effect of terrorism impacting the socio-political development of Kwara South

Additionally, 50% of the respondents agreed that the strategies employed by the government and other stakeholders mitigate the impact of terrorism in Kwara South, another 22% strongly agreed and another 22% disagreed with statement. It also include 50% of the respondents agreed that recommendations can be made for enhancing socio-political development and mitigating the impact of terrorism in Kwara South, 10% strongly agreed, 20% were neutral, 10% strongly disagreed and another 10% also totally disagree with the statement. However with a total number of respondents that both strongly agreed and agreed a total of 12 and 40% were neutral and disagreed with the statement; this implies that 60% of the respondents agreed with the statement and the state should be more intentional in enhancing socio-political development and mitigating the impact of terrorism.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

In light of Nigeria's democratic governance, the enactment and revision of various policies by both past and present administrations have been geared towards addressing critical issues, including security and social-political stability. Terrorism, however, remains a significant impediment to these efforts, particularly in regions like Kwara South. The growing threat of terrorism has profound implications for the social-political development of the area, affecting community cohesion, governance, and overall stability.

The necessity to understand and mitigate the impact of terrorism on social-political structures is paramount. This study aims to explore the extent of terrorism's influence on the socio-political development of Kwara South, Nigeria, examining the challenges faced and proposing potential strategies for fostering resilience and stability in the region.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The primary problem addressed by this study is to assess the impact of terrorism on the social and political development of Kwara South, Nigeria, and to suggest possible solutions to mitigate these effects.

This study employed a survey research design. The population consists of residents from various communities within Kwara South. Out of the population, a representative sample was selected using a simple random sampling technique. The survey covered a range of individuals, including community leaders, local government officials, and ordinary citizens, to gather comprehensive insights into the impact of terrorism on their social and political lives. The primary instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire designed to capture detailed responses regarding the effects of terrorism on community cohesion, governance, and overall development.

Key findings indicate that terrorism significantly disrupts social structures and political processes, leading to increased instability and hindering development efforts. The study suggests that

concerted efforts involving government policies, community engagement, and security measures are essential to address the challenges posed by terrorism and promote socio-political development in Kwara South.

This study aims to assess the impact of terrorism on the socio-political development of Kwara South, Nigeria. By examining the specific ways in which terrorism has affected this region, the study seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges and to propose actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to enhance the socio-political resilience and development of Kwara South.

The Specific Objectives Are:

1. To analyze the socio-political factors contributing to the vulnerability of Kwara South to terrorism.
2. To assess the impact of terrorism on the socio-political development of Kwara South.
3. To identify the strategies employed by the government and other stakeholders to mitigate the impact of terrorism in Kwara South.
4. To provide recommendations for enhancing socio-political development and mitigating the impact of terrorism in Kwara South.

Based on the above-stated objectives and the study carried out, the following findings were made:

1. Poverty, unemployment, weak governance, social inequality, and inadequate security infrastructure contribute to the vulnerability of Kwara South to terrorism.
2. Terrorism disrupts social cohesion, causes economic decline, creates political instability, and negatively affects education and healthcare in Kwara South.
3. Government policies, community engagement, international collaboration, and rehabilitation programs have been employed to address terrorism in Kwara South.
4. Strengthen governance and accountability, implement economic development programs, enhance security infrastructure, promote social cohesion, and engage communities and youth to mitigate the impact of terrorism and foster socio-political development.

5.3 Contribution to Knowledge

1. Enhanced Understanding: This study provides a detailed analysis of how terrorism affects socio-political development in Kwara South, offering a region-specific perspective that adds to existing research primarily focused on more widely studied areas.
2. Identification of Patterns: It identifies specific patterns and impacts of terrorism on local governance, social cohesion, and political stability, which can help in understanding broader implications for similar regions.
3. Policy Insights: The study offers valuable insights into how terrorism disrupts social and political structures, potentially guiding policymakers and local government officials in crafting targeted interventions.
4. Local Contextualization: By focusing on Kwara South, the research contributes to the contextualization of terrorism's impact in Nigeria's less-researched regions, filling a gap in the literature.

5.4 Conclusion

The study concludes that terrorism significantly affects the socio-political development of Kwara South, Nigeria. It has disrupted local governance, undermined social cohesion, and influenced political stability in the region. The impacts are reflected in decreased public trust, hindered economic development, and weakened community resilience. The data indicates that while the direct effects of terrorism are substantial, there are also secondary consequences such as increased political tensions and decreased investment in social infrastructure.

5.5 Recommendation

To address the impacts of terrorism, it is crucial to strengthen local security measures to better protect communities and ensure effective responses. Promoting community engagement and dialogue can help rebuild trust and resilience, fostering social cohesion and collective action against terrorism. Additionally, developing and implementing targeted policies to address the socio-economic impacts of terrorism is essential for supporting affected individuals and

communities. Investing in educational programs can also play a significant role in countering radicalization and encouraging peacebuilding efforts.

Further research into the long-term effects of terrorism on socio-political development across different regions should be encouraged to build a more comprehensive understanding and improve intervention strategies. These steps collectively aim to mitigate the adverse impacts of terrorism and support the recovery and development of affected areas.

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