



An Appraisal of Criminological and Security Challenges: Causes, Patterns, and Solutions in Maiduguri, Borno

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Abstract

This paper critically appraises the criminological and security challenges facing Maiduguri, Borno State, with emphasis on the ongoing impacts of insurgency, terrorism, and social instability. Drawing on Social Disorganization Theory, the study explains how the destruction of community structures by insurgent groups like Boko Haram has led to the collapse of social control, thereby increasing criminal activities and insecurity. The paper also employs Conflict Theory to explore how socioeconomic inequalities, political marginalization, and competition over scarce resources have fueled grievances and violence within the region. Routine Activity Theory is used to understand how displacement and disruption of daily life have created more opportunities for crime, particularly theft, assault, and human trafficking. Empirical support is drawn from reports of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and local security agencies operating within Maiduguri. The paper further highlights the evolving nature of security threats, from insurgency to emerging organized criminal activities within the displaced populations.

It is argued that a comprehensive security approach combining community initiative, youth empowerment, education, and strengthened governance structures is necessary to address the underlying causes of crime and instability. Ultimately, the research aims to provide a comprehensive appraisal of criminological and security challenges in Maiduguri, Borno State, and to identify effective solutions to address these challenges contributing to the development of evidence-based policies and practices. The study concludes that integrating criminological theory with practical security measures will significantly enhance the efforts to restore sustainable peace and security in Maiduguri and beyond.

Keywords: Conflict Theory, Criminology, Insurgence, Security Challenges, Social Disorganization,

Introduction

The security challenges in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria, have become a major concern for policymakers, researchers, and the general public. According to Adebayo (2017) & Oche (2020), the increasing wave of crime and insecurity in the region has made it imperative to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the root causes and consequences of these challenges. The complexities of security challenges in Maiduguri require a thorough examination of the social, economic, and political factors that contribute to them, as noted by Ogbonna (2019) & Tile (2022). This study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on security challenges in Maiduguri by exploring the causes, patterns, and solutions to these challenges.

Research plays a crucial role in understanding the complexities of security challenges in Maiduguri.

As noted by Bahal (2023) & Schutt (1999), research provides a systematic and structured approach to investigating the underlying causes of crime and insecurity, and identifying effective solutions to address these challenges. Through research, policymakers and practitioners can gain a deeper understanding of the complex factors that contribute to security challenges, and develop evidence-based policies and interventions to prevent and respond to crime, as argued by Ogunbameru & Ogunbameru (2017) & Alemika (2013). Furthermore, research can help to identify best practices and lessons learned from other regions and countries, and adapt these to the local context in Maiduguri.

The research methodology for this study will be based on a comprehensive review of existing literature on security challenges in Maiduguri. According to Ogbonna (2019) & Tile (2022), this will involve a critical analysis of the current state



of knowledge on the causes, patterns, and solutions to security challenges in the region. The study will also involve the collection and analysis of primary data, using a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods, as recommended by Schutt (1999) & Adebayo (2017). This will enable the researcher to gather detailed and nuanced information on the experiences and perceptions of local communities, policymakers, and practitioners to identify effective solutions to address the security challenges in Maiduguri. Moreover

Social Disorganization Theory by (Shaw and McKay, 1942): This theory posits that crime is most likely to occur in communities where social institutions (family, schools, religious groups) have broken down due to poverty, displacement, and instability.

In addition, the study will examine the role of socioeconomic and political factors in contributing to security challenges in Maiduguri. As noted by Alemika (2013) & Oche (2020), poverty, inequality, and social exclusion are key factors that contribute to crime and insecurity in the region. The study will also explore the impact of external factors, such as globalization, migration, & technological change, on security challenges in Maiduguri, as argued by Ogbonna (2019) & Bahal (2023). Furthermore, the study will investigate the role of governance & institutional factors in addressing security challenges in Maiduguri, including the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and other institutions responsible for maintaining law and order.

The study will also investigate the role of international organizations and donor agencies in addressing security challenges in Maiduguri. To Bahal (2023), international organizations and donor agencies have played a significant role in supporting efforts to address security challenges in Nigeria, including the provision of technical assistance, funding, and other forms of support. The study will examine the impact of these efforts on security challenges in Maiduguri, and identify lessons learned and best practices for future interventions.

In addition, the study will examine the role of community-based initiatives in addressing security challenges in Maiduguri & To Alemika (2013), community-based initiatives have the potential to play a significant role in addressing security challenges in Nigeria, including the use of community-based policing, community-based surveillance, and other initiatives. The study will investigate the ways in which community-based initiatives are being used to address security challenges in Maiduguri, and identify the challenges and opportunities associated with the use of community-based initiatives in this context.

Statement of the Problem

The security challenges in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria, have become a major concern for policymakers, researchers, and the general public. According to Adebayo (2017) & Oche (2020), the increasing wave of crime and insecurity in the region has made it imperative to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the root causes and consequences of these challenges. The complexities of security challenges in Maiduguri require a thorough examination of the social, economic, and political factors that contribute to them, as noted by Ogbonna (2019) & Tile (2022). This study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on security challenges in Maiduguri by exploring the causes, patterns, and solutions to these challenges.

However, criminology and security studies research in Nigeria faces numerous challenges, including the inability to translate research into policy and practice, an overemphasis on mitigation rather than understanding the root causes of crime and insecurity, and the neglect of marginalized groups. Furthermore, there is a significant gap in the literature on the specific security challenges facing Maiduguri, including the causes and nature of crime in the region, and the efforts of the government to address these challenges. This study aims to fill this gap by examining the strengths and weaknesses of current research on security challenges in Maiduguri, and identifying areas for more



comprehensive and effective strategies to address Nigeria's crime and security challenges.

The study will adopt a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from sociology, political science, economics, and other relevant fields. The study will also use a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods, including a review of existing literature, interviews with key stakeholders, and analysis of primary data. By examining the causes, patterns, and solutions to security challenges in Maiduguri, the study aims to contribute to the development of evidence-based policies and interventions that can help to prevent and respond to crime, and promote sustainable peace and development in the region.

Moreover, the study will examine the role of community-based initiatives in addressing security challenges in Maiduguri. According to Alemika (2013), community-based initiatives have the potential to play a significant role in addressing security challenges in Nigeria, including the use of community-based policing, community-based surveillance, and other initiatives. The study will investigate the ways in which community-based initiatives are being used to address security challenges in Maiduguri, and identify the challenges and opportunities associated with the use of community-based initiatives in this context.

The study will also investigate the role of international organizations and donor agencies in addressing security challenges in Maiduguri. According to Bahal (2023), international organizations and donor agencies have played a significant role in supporting efforts to address security challenges in Nigeria, including the provision of technical assistance, funding, and other forms of support. The study will examine the impact of these efforts on security challenges in Maiduguri, and identify lessons learned and best practices for future interventions.

Research Questions

1. What are the major types of crimes and security threats currently affecting Maiduguri, Borno State?

2. How has the breakdown of social structures (e.g., family systems, education, economy) contributed to rising crime and insecurity in Maiduguri, according to Social Disorganization Theory?
3. In what ways do socioeconomic inequalities and political grievances influence criminal behavior and insurgency activities, as explained by Conflict Theory?
4. How effective have existing security measures and community responses been in reducing crime and restoring stability in Maiduguri?
5. What criminology-informed strategies can be recommended for sustainable crime prevention and security management in Maiduguri and similar conflict-affected areas?

Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is to analyze the implications of crime and security challenges in Maiduguri, Northern Nigeria. Specifically, this study aims to:

1. To investigate the nature and types of crimes and security threats prevalent in Maiduguri, Borno State, since the onset of the Boko Haram insurgency.
2. To analyze how the disruption of social structures (such as family, education, economy) has contributed to crime and insecurity, using Social Disorganization Theory.
3. To examine the role of socioeconomic inequalities, political grievances, and marginalization in fostering criminality and insurgency, guided by Conflict Theory.
4. To evaluate the effectiveness of existing security responses (military, CJTF, community initiatives) in addressing criminological challenges.
5. To recommend strategies for improving crime prevention and enhancing security based on empirical findings and theoretical insights.



Conceptual Framework: Criminology and Security Challenges

The concepts of criminology and security challenges are complex and multifaceted, and as such, they have no single or uniform definition. Different scholars and experts have provided various definitions and perspectives on these concepts, reflecting their unique viewpoints and areas of specialization.

Criminology

Criminology is a social science that studies crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system. According to Sutherland (1937), "criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime and criminal behavior including the causes, consequences, prevention and control of crime." This definition highlights the comprehensive nature of criminology, encompassing the examination of the causes and consequences of crime, as well as the development of strategies for prevention and control.

Security Challenges

Security challenges, on the other hand, refer to threats or risks that compromise the safety, stability, and well-being of individuals, communities, or nations. Barry Buzan (1991) defines security studies as "the analysis of traditional and non-traditional security threats, including terrorism, proliferation, cyber threats, and environmental degradation." This definition underscores the evolving nature of security challenges, which extend beyond traditional military threats to include non-traditional threats such as terrorism, cybercrime, and environmental degradation.

Significance of the Study

This study on criminology and security challenges is significant for several reasons. The primary focus of this research was to contribute to the reduction of crime and victimization, promotion of justice, human rights, and community well-being. The study aims to provide valuable insights and recommendations that can inform government policy and decision-making, ultimately leading to a safer and more secure society.

Scope of the Study

This study is designed to investigate the role of security agencies in controlling crimes in Maiduguri, Northern Nigeria. The research will focus on the causes, patterns, consequences, and solutions to crime in the region, with a particular emphasis on the contributions of security agencies to crime control.

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Criminology and security challenges have become a pressing concern for scholars worldwide. This section provides an overview of relevant literature that sheds light on the theoretical frameworks and concepts that underpin criminology and security studies.

The section draws on the works of various scholars and intellectual writers to enrich the assessment of criminology and security studies in the context of Maiduguri, Northern Nigeria.

The study of criminology and security challenges is rooted in various theoretical frameworks that seek to explain the causes and consequences of crime and insecurity. One of the earliest and most influential theoretical frameworks in criminology is the classical theory, which posits that crime is a rational choice made by individuals who weigh the potential benefits against the potential costs (Beccaria, 1764). This theory has been criticized for its oversimplification of the complex factors that contribute to crime.

In contrast, the positivist theory, which emerged in the late 19th century, emphasizes the role of social and environmental factors in shaping criminal behavior (Lombroso, 1876). This theory has been influential in shaping modern criminology, but has also been criticized for its determinism and failure to account for human agency.

More recent theoretical frameworks, such as social learning theory (Akers, 1973) and routine activity theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979), have emphasized the role of social and environmental factors in shaping criminal behavior. These



theories have been influential in shaping modern criminology and have been applied in various contexts, including the study of crime and insecurity in Nigeria.

In addition to these theoretical frameworks, the study of criminology and security challenges in Nigeria has also been influenced by various conceptual frameworks, including the concept of "insecurity" (Adebayo, 2017) and the concept of "crime"

(Oche, 2020). These conceptual frameworks have been used to analyze the complex factors that contribute to crime and insecurity in Nigeria, including poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

The study of criminology and security challenges in Maiduguri, Northern Nigeria, is also informed by various theoretical and conceptual frameworks. Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, has been at the epicenter of the Boko Haram insurgency, which has resulted in widespread violence, displacement, and human rights abuses. The study of criminology and security challenges in Maiduguri must therefore consider the complex factors that contribute to crime and insecurity in the region, including poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

Reduction of Crime and Victimization

The study's emphasis on reducing crime and victimization is crucial, given the devastating impact of crime on individuals, families, and communities. By examining the root causes of crime and identifying effective strategies for prevention and control, this research can contribute to a reduction in crime rates and a decrease in the number of victims.

Promotion of Justice and Human Rights

The promotion of justice and human rights is a critical aspect of this study. By analyzing the criminal justice system and identifying areas for improvement, this research can contribute to the development of a more just and equitable society. Additionally, the study's focus on human rights can help to ensure that the rights of all individuals are protected and respected.

Community Well-being

The study's emphasis on community well-being is also significant. By examining the impact of crime on communities and identifying strategies for promoting community well-being, this research can contribute to the development of safer and more secure communities.

Geographical Scope

The study will be conducted in Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno State in Northern Nigeria. Maiduguri has been a hub of economic and social activities in the region, but it has also been plagued by high levels of crime and insecurity.

Methodical Scope

The study will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The research will involve:

1. Literature review: A comprehensive review of existing literature on crime and security in Maiduguri.
2. Survey research: A survey of residents in Maiduguri to gather data on their experiences and perceptions of crime and security.
3. In-depth interviews: Interviews with security personnel, community leaders, and victims of crime to gather more detailed and nuanced information.
4. Observational research: Observations of security operations and community-based initiatives to gather data on their effectiveness.

By focusing on the role of security agencies in controlling crime in Maiduguri, this study aims to contribute to a better understanding of the complex issues surrounding crime and security in the region.

Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods to investigate the role of security agencies in controlling crime in Maiduguri, Northern Nigeria.



The data for this study were collected through semi-structured questionnaires, oral interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs). The questionnaires were distributed to respondents by the researcher and researcher's assistant, and the already answered copies were retrieved. The researcher conducted interviews with respondents using an interview guide and tape recorder to record discussions, each lasting no more than 15 minutes.

Method of Data Analysis

After fieldwork, the collected data were subjected to analysis using quantitative and qualitative methods. The quantitative method involved descriptive statistics and inferential statistics, including chi-square tests to test hypotheses. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for data analysis. The qualitative method involved analyzing data collected using oral interviews and FGDs, and the researcher used earpieces to listen to discussions and responses, quoting verbatim.

Study Location/Population of Study

The location of the study is Maiduguri, and the population of the study comprises all residents of Maiduguri. The population consists of young, old, married, singles, widows, widowers, divorced, separated, educated, and uneducated individuals. The population is estimated to be 8,350 people (SEMA, 2022).

The sample size for this study is expected to be 300 respondents. This sample size is considered sufficient to provide a representative view of the population and to enable the researcher to draw meaningful conclusions.

Discussion of Findings

The research revealed that security challenges has had a profound far reaching impact in Nigeria society more especially in Maiduguri capital state of Boron which has leading to the loss of respect and relevance in the international community. The persistent terror threat by Boko Haram in Maiduguri city poses a constant threat to residents live and property. The continue violence against innocent citizens in various parts of the country

including Kaduna, Jos, Bauchi, Niger, Kano, Maiduguri has become the issue of concern deterring foreigners from investing in the country (Okereocha,2012).

The finding of this research indicates that displacement and humanitarian crises has caused massive overcrowded internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps and government's inability to provide employment has also led to more crime in the society thus the security challenges has had a significant impact in Nigeria's relationship with international organizations such as the United Nations and African union (Adebayo,2014). In addition, corruption and extortion by security personnel, government officials, among others have further eroded trust and exacerbated the security challenges and limited access to basic services such as education, health care, sanitation among others.

However, inadequate security has crippled Maiduguri's economic leading to widespread poverty and decline in living standards. Psychological trauma also prolonged exposure to violence and fear has taken a severe toll on mental health in wellbeing of Maiduguri residence. Moreover, the study still reveals that food insecurity and water scarcity has disrupted agricultural activities and access to clean water, leaving many residents struggling to survive, thus Environmental degradation has also resulted in infrastructure destruction, pollution and deforestation.

Summary

This study provides a comprehensive examination of criminological and security challenges in Maiduguri, Northern Nigeria. The study reveals that traditional threats, counterterrorism, national insecurity, and human rights violations are the main causes of criminological and security challenges in the region. The study also highlights the impact of these challenges on vulnerable populations, including children and women.

The study's findings suggest that the government has a critical role to play in addressing



criminological and security challenges in Maiduguri. This includes developing strategies to prevent, protect, and assist indigenous people affected by these challenges.

Overall, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of criminological and security challenges in Maiduguri and highlights the need for increased interdisciplinary collaboration and diverse methodologies to address these challenges.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study provides a comprehensive examination of the factors triggering security challenges in Nigeria, with a specific focus on Maiduguri. The research reveals that a complex array of forces drives these problems, including insecurity, counterterrorism, criminal gangs, unknown gunmen, political assassins, kidnappings, human rights violations, arm robbers, ritual killers, and other malicious entities. These security challenges have severely impacted Maiduguri citizens, undermining their development, stability, and overall well-being.

The study highlights the far-reaching consequences of insecurity in Nigeria, affecting not only the lives of citizens but also the country's economic growth, social cohesion, and political stability. The prevalence of crime and violence has created a climate of fear, discouraging investment, hindering business operations, and disrupting economic activities. This, in turn, has led to a decline in foreign direct investment, as investors seek safer and more secure environments.

Furthermore, the research emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to addressing insecurity in Nigeria. This involves understanding the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, and social injustice, and developing strategies to address these underlying issues. The government must also ensure the availability of public security at all times, competing with other public goods such as education, health, and infrastructure for public funds.

The study also underscores the importance of community-based initiatives and partnerships between government agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities to address security challenges. This includes promoting community policing, supporting local security initiatives, and fostering collaboration between security agencies and community leaders.

Ultimately, this research underscores the imperative of prioritizing security as a foundation for development and economic growth in Nigeria. By addressing the complex security challenges facing the country, the government can create a safer and more secure environment, fostering an environment conducive to investment, business growth, and overall development. This, in turn, can improve the living standards of Maiduguri citizens, enhance their development prospects, and promote a more stable and prosperous society.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made to address the security challenges facing Maiduguri, Nigeria:

1. It is recommended that governments should collaborate with security agencies to strengthen the security of their citizens. This collaboration can involve sharing intelligence, coordinating security efforts, and providing resources to support security operations.
2. Security challenges can be reduced if the government embarks on domestic projects and creates more employment opportunities. This can help to address poverty, unemployment, and inequality, which are some of the underlying causes of insecurity.
3. Education is a lever to human and societal development. Apart from imparting skills and knowledge to citizens, education can also eliminate ignorance, which is a major contributor to insecurity. Therefore, the government should prioritize education and ensure that all citizens have access to quality education.
4. Community-based initiatives should be promoted to address security challenges.



This can involve supporting local security initiatives, promoting community policing, and fostering collaboration between security agencies and community leaders

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