

Impact of Insecurity on Management of Secondary Schools in Birnin Gwari Educational Zone, Kaduna State, Nigeria

IBRAHIM, Abubakar¹

abubakar1456@gmail.com

+2347034598131,

+2348123322888

¹Ministry of Education Kaduna State, Nigeria

Abstract

This paper examined the impact of insecurity on management of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Educational Zone, Kaduna State, Nigeria. Secondary data were used to support the issues raised in the article. The data were source from print materials and online publications by recognized authors and institutions. This paper identified among others impact of insecurity on management of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Educational Zone, Kaduna State, Nigeria as: closure/relocation of schools, decline in students' enrolment, school girls and women targeted for sexual violence, military use of schools disrupts students' education. The paper also identified that, insecurity in the zone has political and economic based especially when elections are approaching, that the frequency of violence attacks and kidnapping were always being reduced and also when it is period of farm harvest, the frequency of violent attacks and kidnappings for ransom is almost high. In order to address the challenges of insecurity on management of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Educational Zone, Kaduna State ,Nigeria, the paper recommended that; government should have political will to fight all forms of insecurity in the zone through the security agencies, and provision of security awareness in the schools through relevant stakeholders including political, religious and community leaders, youths, to serve as a support system for existing security, and private organizations to support children education in Birnin Gwari Education Zone through funding and donations.

Keywords: Impacts, Insecurity, Secondary Schools, Management

Introduction

Birnin Gwari Education Zone consist of Birnin Gwari Local Government Area and some parts of Chikun Local Government Area in Kaduna State, the education zone is one of the areas facing insecurity problem in Kaduna State (the nation online.net) as a result of banditry that seeped into the zone. Kidnapping become order of the day. Recently, placing.org (2024) noted that the widespread kidnapping in the country invaded pupils and teachers. As a developing nation, placing.org, observed that Nigeria grapples with several security challenges that directly impact its economy and education ranging from insurgency to conflicts between farmers and herdsmen to organized crimes looting and abduction for ransom. These security threats not only undermine national stability and the rule of law but also have advert effects on economy and education. Birnin Gwari Education Zone in Kaduna State is one of the areas experiencing security threats in the country as result of banditry. Birnin Gwari Education Zone also share boundaries with some trouble areas in Katsina, Zamfara and Niger States respectively. The insecurity in the area has migrated to educational institutions. As a result, secondary schools in the zone are not exempted from those problems. The secondary schools in the Birnin Gwari Education Zone are attacks by bandits in different occasions. These attacks led to closure or relocation of some secondary schools in the area.

Secondary School Administration and Management in Kaduna State

The administration and management of secondary schools in Kaduna State rests on the state government through the ministry of education. Hence, the effectiveness of school administration depends on the qualities and quantities of both human and material resources available for the implementation of the school policies and programme. The various human resources required for effective school administration include the teaching and non- teaching staff while the material resources include infrastructural facilities like administrative block, classrooms, libraries, laboratory, toilets, water, electricity, Internet services, among others. Consequently, secondary school education in Birnin Gwari Education Zone, Kaduna State is under threats because of the level of the insecurity in the area. This is also affecting the social, political and economic aspect of the zone.

Impact of Insecurity on Management of Secondary Schools in ... Ibrahim, A. (2025)

Perhaps, secondary education as one of the sectors affected by the insecurity has assumed to be the subject of discussion. Therefore, this paper will examine the impacts of insecurity on management of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Educational Zone, Kaduna State,

Insecurity and Secondary School Management in Kaduna State

The concept of insecurity has been defined by different people or scholars. Oluyomi & Grace (2016) sees insecurity as concerned with feelings of uncertainty, dangers or threats to life. Insecurity is a state of being subject to danger or injury, anxiety, fear, worry, uncertainty, unsureness (Paul, 2015). Hassan (2014), viewed insecurity as negative feelings involving fear, anxiety, uncertainty and injustice among others. Insecurity is an obstacle to learning and prevailing peace or conflict within communities around the school has impacts on the teaching and learning activities of such schools. Insecurity refers to lack of adequate freedom from danger. Insecurity is conceived as a situation where human and national security of a state is compromised by internal and external forces or interests exacerbated by the former's weak or poor economic, military and or human resources development conditions (Onifade, Imhonopi & Urin, M 2013). Best (2006) defined insecurity as a generated stage of conflict, threats to human security, intense violence characterized by fighting, death, injury. Beland (2005), insecurity is "the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection.

The definitions above shows that insecurity can be generally means the state of been afraid of attack from any part of the environment. The form of insecurity in Birnin Gwari Education Zone of Kaduna State is the clashes between farmers and herdsmen. The Fulani herdsmen and farmers clashes is a form of insecurity prominent in Birnin Gwari Education Zone and the factors responsible for the insecurity are political and economic factors, because whenever is harvesting period or election is approaching the menace of insecurity is high and or reduce on the other hand to the lowest level. The insecurity in Birnin Gwari Education Zone led to the closure or relocation of schools with secondary schools inclusive as those communities have deserted their villages as a result of constant attacks by the bandits. For example, kidnapping of 135 students from the LEA Primary and Junior Secondary Schools Kuriga, Chikun LGA part of Birnin Gwari Education Zone is one of the incidences of insecurity in the area. As it is observed, Kaduna State is one of the states in Nigeria that has been waging sustained battle against banditry, kidnapping and other forms of criminality, governor Uba Sani said of the crisis the state educational sector is facing. In several local government areas particularly Birnin Gwari, Chikun, Kajuru, Giwa and Igabi insecurity has forced school consolidation, further pushing up the number of out- of- school children. However, the state government has adopted security measures to protect educational institutions, students and teachers from attacks orchestrated by bandits and terrorists (the nation online.net). That the Kaduna State government would not fold its arms and just lament. And what solutions are the school administrators pursuing. According to governor Sani, part of the measures the state government adopted to ensure safety of school children included perimeter fencing around schools, establishing Security and Safety Response Committees, provision of emergency lines to schools and security management training for school managers among others. Another proactive measure that the government has put in place is movement of schools from high-risk areas to safer areas. This way, more schools are concentrated in safer areas, out of the easy reach of terrorists (thenationonline.net).

Impacts of insecurity in Birnin Gwari Education Zone

1. Closure/Relocation of schools the closure/relocation of schools has impacted greatly on the administration of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Education Zone, Kaduna State. The kidnapping of 135 students from L.E.A Primary and Junior Secondary School, Kuriga, Birnin Gwari Education Zone, Kaduna State, tragically illustrates the devastating impact of insecurity on education access and safety (thenationonline.net). Primary and Secondary Schools around Birnin Gwari Local Government Area were also shutdown following attack on UBE Primary School Rema where three teachers abducted (Dailytrust.com.) Daily trust gathered that in Rema, Zaman Daji, Bugai as well as Government Girls Junior and Senior Secondary School, Bagoma in Birnin Gwari were closed as students and teachers have stayed back at home for fear of being attacked. There are also schools moved from high-risk areas to safer areas as a result more schools are concentrated in safer areas.
2. Low enrollment: Low students' enrollment is another impact of insecurity on the administration of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Education Zone, Kaduna State. A lot of villages in Birnin Gwari Education Zone, are virtually empty as parents have remove their children from schools due to insecurity. The Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani, said the state's educational system is facing a crisis of declining enrolment, with over 200 000 fewer Primary School pupils recorded in

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.64348/zije.20252>

Impact of Insecurity on Management of Secondary Schools in ... Ibrahim, A. (2025)

2022/2023 academic session compared to previous year. The dramatic drop (from 2,111,969 in 2021/2022 to 1,734,704 in 2022/2023), he said is largely attributed to insecurity. The governor added that several local government areas particularly, in Chikun, Birnin Gwari, Kajuru, Giwa and Igabi, insecurity has forced pushing up the number of out- of - school children (thesun.ng).

3. School girls and women targeted for sexual violence: The administration of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Education Zone is faced with a serious challenge where schools girls and women are disproportionately affected by conflict, while their right to education is opposed; they are targeted for sexual violence at or while enroute to schools; as a result, their families withdraw them for security reasons.
4. Impacts of military use of schools: The administration of secondary schools in Birnin Gwari Education Zone is affected by the military use of secondary schools. The military forces or other armed groups damages facilities, disrupts students' education, and or students are entirely displaced.

Solutions to Insecurity among Secondary Schools in Birnin Gwari Educational Zone

There is need for authorities at all levels to take proactive steps to address the insecurity in our secondary schools and the country. Government must show strength and rise up to her responsibilities to protect our schools, lives, and properties. Secondary education must not be silenced by terrorists or kidnappers. School children and educational institutions deserve to be protected from becoming soft targets for kidnappers, bandits or terrorists. Secondary Schools must not be allowed to be turned into battle grounds where people go to display their grievances, collect bails for ransom or show their kidnapping strengths. Failure to protect the schools is a failure to the present and future generations. Thus, government at all levels; communities and educational institutions have to do more to protect the schools from all forms of attacks, particularly from the menace of kidnappings.

School security should be taking seriously by secondary schools in line with the modern-day security realities. Secondary Schools should not wait until they are targeted before they put preventative measures in place to protect their students, teachers and infrastructures. The Safe Schools Initiative should build community security groups to promote safe zones for education, consisting of teachers, parents, community leaders, Nigeria Police Force and young people. Bank-olemoh in Abdulkarim ,I.(2022) drew attention to the aspect of the National Emergency Response Plan, which is a standardized emergency and crisis response plan; which provides a step - step guide in line with the process to be taken in the event of an emergency.

The content of the emergency response plan must highlight the following:

1. **Emergency Action Plan:** There is a need for standardized emergency action Plan within schools in the same manner a First Aid response mechanism addresses a medical emergency. This frame work must provide adequate knowledge as regards prevention, reaction and recovery from security threats in the schools. A mapped - out manual explaining safety precautions, environmental awareness, threats assessment and other basic security tips should be provided to schools for incorporation into their teaching and learning experience.
2. **Lockdown procedures:** The need for lockdown procedures during emergencies cannot be overemphasized. The fright that comes with security threats such as kidnapping incident, terrorists attack, school shouting, or a fire incident generally insurgent victim. The role of a step - by- step guide during an emergency has been reported as generally contributing to increasing the chances of a victim 's survival, in significant terms, particularly when the procedures are remembered during the emergency. Security procedures and routines protocols will be simplified to aid in the spontaneous reaction of both students and teachers to certain security alarms in their communities.
3. **Self - Defense and Personal Safety Drills:** Safety drills must become common place within the Nigerian secondary school's environment and must be taught broadly from a tender age. The need for students, teachers and other active participants in Nigeria to develop self- defense skills remains a requisite toolkit for survival in modern times.
4. **Centralized Channel of Information Dissemination (Alert systems, Emergency Response Numbers,):** The importance of prompt information sharing and dissemination, using a unified communication channel cannot be overemphasized. This channel must involve the collaboration of all relevant agencies and groups, particularly local and state law enforcement agencies. This will provide schools with requisite framework required to send out distress calls or to relay vital intelligence to law enforcement agencies and other complementary security services outfits.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.64348/zije.20252>

Impact of Insecurity on Management of Secondary Schools in ... Ibrahim, A. (2025)

5. **There should be also awareness and community engagement:** This is a security awareness exercise involving relevant stakeholders including political, religious and community leaders, youths, School Based Management Committee among others. This is expected to serve as a support system for the existing security set up in, and around the schools.

References

- Abdulkarim, I. (2022). Upsurge in Attacks on Secondary Schools. A paper presented at All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS) mandatory continuing professional training programme, North West Zone session, Kano.
- Beland, D.(2005). The Political Construction Collective Insecurity: From Moral Panic to Blame Avoidance and Organized Irresponsibility. Center for European Studies Working Paper Series 126.
- Best, S.G.(2006). The Method of Conflict Resolution and Transformation in Shedrack Gaya
- Best(ed) Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa. Ibadan: Spectrum Book Ltd.
- Garba, M. E.(2024). Consequences of Insecurity on Educational System in Kaduna State, Nigeria, MSI journal of Arts, Law and Justice, 1(1). MSI publishers
- Hassan, M.B.(2014). Boko Haram Insurgency and Spate of Insecurity in Nigeria: Manifestation of Governance Crisis Journal of Research on Humanities and Social Science 4(18).
- <https://daily.trust.com/schools-around-Birnin-Gwari-closed-after-abduction-of-teachers>. Retrieved 27/12/24.
- <https://thenationonline.net/towards-school-safety-in-kaduna/>. Retrieved 27/12/2024.
- <https://the.sun.ng/kaduna-facing-poor-school-enrollment>. Retrieved 27/12/2024.
- Niyi, O J, Godwin, A.N & Unoaku, O. C. (2021) Effects of Insecurity on School Administration in Nigeria. Middle European Scientific Bulletin, 13, 2694- 9970
- Onifade, C. Imhonopi, D & Urim U. M.(2013). Addressing the Insecurity Challenges in Nigeria: The Imperative of Moral Values and Virtue Ethics. Global Journa-l of Human Social Science, 13(2),1.
- Oluyemi, A & Grace, S.M.(2016). Environmental Insecurity and the Nigerian Child's Learning: Coping Strategies Asia Pacific Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, 4(1), 13- 17.
- Paul ,N (2015). Effects of Insecurity on the Quality Tertiary Education in Nigeria. Asian Journal of Applied Sciences, 3(6), 965- 976.