



CHILD SUICIDE BOMBER IN THE NORTH EAST NIGERIA: A VICTIM OR PERPETRATOR?

OFODILE Chinweike* and NNATU, Stella Obioma

Department of Sociology/Anthropology,
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

Email: vincentofodile@vmail.com

Phone: 08068566648

*Corresponding author

Abstract

This study examined the perception of people on the influence or effect of Child bomber role on children in the Northeast of Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey design and was guided by two research questions. It used primary data collected through structured questionnaire. The population of the study consists of 4,171,104 out of which 400 respondents were sampled. The data collected was processed with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS, 23), and analyzed using descriptive statistics, while Z-test was employed for test of hypotheses. The findings revealed that child bomber assignments has a significant effect on the educational level of children in the Northeast. The researchers also found that child bomber role has a significant effect on the socio-psychological behaviour of children in Northeast zone of Nigeria. It was recommended among others that government should further efforts to expose and bring to justice all Boko Haram militants, sponsors and those who are benefiting from the insurgency.

Keywords: Child suicide bomber, Boko haram, insurgency, terrorism, victim

Introduction

Contemporary discussions on Nigeria is almost inevitably replete with issues surrounding militancy, insurgency, and terrorism, due to its linkages with economic, social, political and governance activities, with spiraling effects on regional and international relations (Adewumi, 2014). Since 1999, when the country returned to democratic rule, there has been an upsurge in violent activities in Nigeria with Boko Haram insurgency being at the forefront. The group has committed widespread human rights abuses in parts of north-eastern Nigeria. Also, Boko Haram insurgency poses great threat to national security which in the post-cold war era, is defined beyond securing lives and properties of the people through the protection of territorial integrity of the state against threats of external aggressors. National security have reached the level of encompassing the protection of citizens from the threats of diseases, hunger, unemployment, violation of human rights, displacements and shelter problems, conflict, political repression and environmental degradation, hence, human security (Adedoyin, 2013). Boko Haram's violent activity which has intensified in recent times has largely undermined national and human security.



Also worrisome is the issues of child suicide bombers which involve the exploitation of children to carry out suicide bombings by the group which has been the order of the day in Northeast of Nigeria as part of Boko Haram tactics. This deliberate involvement of children in armed conflict has been condemned by international human rights organizations. According to Gilbert (2014), since the insurgency began, there has been over 12,000 deaths and 8000 persons maimed. Indeed, in the last few years, Nigeria has witnessed increasing feminization of terror by Boko Haram in two paradoxical ways - involving young girls as both the victims and vanguards of terror. As victims of terror, in the form of abductees, their fate has received the greatest international condemnation. The group has abducted at least 500 women and girls in north-eastern Nigeria since 2009. However, the April 2014 abduction of 276 teenage girls from Chibok by the group -has been the largest single incident so far, triggering an international campaign to 'Bring back our Girls'. As vanguards of terror, Boko Haram has graduated from using young girls as couriers of arms, foodstuff and money as well as recruiters to increasing deployment of them as suicide bombers. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to examine people's perception as to whether the child bomber is victim or perpetrator in the Northeast of Nigeria by focusing on key variables of educational accomplishment and psycho-social behavior of such children.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

1. How does child bomb role affect the educational accomplishment of children in the Northeast zone of Nigeria?
2. How does child bomb role affect the socio-psychological behaviour of children in Northeast zone of Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

- ¹ Child bomber role does not have a significant effect on the educational accomplishment of children in the Northeast zone of Nigeria
- ² Child bomber role does not have a significant effect on the socio-psychological behaviour of children in the Northeast zone of Nigeria.

The Origin of Insurgency in North Eastern Nigeria

Activities that predate insurgency in the north-eastern Nigeria can be traced to Muhammad Yusuf in 2002, a native of Jakusko in Yobe State. He was the spiritual leader and founder of the Boko Haram sect. Boko Haram officially founded in Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno State, by Muhammed Yusuf is opposed to everything connected with Western education and civilization. Adeyemi (2013) argues that Boko Haram is an expression of a global Islamic fundamentalism, notable for two things: internal reform in Islam and the imposition of Islamic rule.



The official name of Boko Haram is Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad, which in Arabic means "People committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad", translated by residents in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri, where the group had its headquarters, as "Western education is asin". Nigeria since independence in 1960 until 1999, has largely been governed by military heads of states from Northern extraction who are Muslims. During this period, there was a widespread doctrinal belief among the chronic Muslims from the northern extraction to the effect that Christians were heavily proselytizing throughout the country, especially in the Middle Belt region. The response of the northern Muslim political leadership to the spread of Christianity was the deliberate move during the period of 2000-2003 to impose Sharia Law in 12 out of the 19 northern states in which Islamic religion predominates. This development, to all intent and purposes, brought the dissenting Muslim groups together to promote the spread of Sharia in all the northern states of the country. The narratives show that the imposition of Sharia went down well with the interest of the Islamic political and religious class. However, it was clear that radicals, such as members of the Boko Haram sect were opposed to the slow pace approach adopted by the Islamic and political leadership. As a result, the killing of many Muslim clerics by Boko Haram was perceived as a purificationist agenda with respect to Islam.

In 2004, the group moved to Yobe State where it set up its operational base in a village called Kanamma on the border with Niger Republic. The base was used to launch an armed uprising in September 2004, attacking nearby police station, burning schools with the threat that the war will continue as long as the political and educational systems remained unchanged. The Boko Haram group want Sharia Law to be applied all over the country. They vowed that they would rather have a separate Islamic State carved out of Nigeria where they can practise Islamic religion unhindered. The Federal Government of Nigeria considered the position as a brazen threat to national stability, peace and harmony, by sending police officers to the affected area. The group launched military operation on July 26, 2009 to create Islamic State. Thus, it kick-started the series of violent attacks on police formations and public buildings in the affected states.

The government's response led to the killing of hundreds of the sect members on the streets of Maiduguri and displacing thousands of residents who fled the city. The sect regrouped under a new leader named Abubakar Shekau after their former leader Muhammad Yusuf was captured and killed. Adeyemi (2014) notes that from year 2009 and following the assumption of a new leadership headed by Abubakar Shekau, the insurgent group has continued to unleash violence and began what can best be described as the "soft target" capturing of border towns close to the Republics of Cameroon, Chad and Niger, killing unarmed patriotic civilian population of north eastern states in Nigeria, forceful abduction of girls of school age, kidnapping of women, frequent suicide bombing and sporadic shooting in public places. In September 2010 (coinciding with Ramadan), Boko Haram carried out a prison break in Bauchi State where over 700 inmates,



including suspected members of the insurgent group were set free. The group, whose methods of operations include drive-by shootings, suicide bombing and bombing from motorcycles has demonstrated its destructive activities (outside its north-eastern domain) in Katsina and a number of times in Abuja. In 2013, the United States designated Boko Haram a terrorist organization, expressing that it had developed international links with other terrorist groups, such as al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, to wage a global jihad. It is important to note that the leader of Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau formally pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iran and Syria.

The IS-Iran and Syria accepted the pledge, naming the territory under Boko Haram's control as the Islamic state of West African Province and as being part of the global Caliphate it was trying to establish. This development necessitated the United States to include Nigeria as a "country of interest" in the war against terrorism. The Federal Government also responded to increasing instability in the area by declaring a state of emergency in May 2013 in the three northern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa where Boko Haram had strongest operation. However, the deployment of military troops by the Federal Government and the formation of vigilante group in the area caused the sect to retreat to the vast Sambisa forest close to the border with Cameroon from where they launch mass attacks on villages and towns, looting, killing, abducting women and children, and conscripting men and boys into their group. The abduction in April 2014 of more than 200 schoolgirls by Boko Haram from Chibok town in Borno State and the subsequent declaration of Gwoza as the administrative capital of the caliphate show that the sect is unyielding to counter terrorist measures. The terrorists had boasted that they are in an Islamic Caliphate, stressing that they have nothing to do with the Nigerian state. However, the regional coalition made up of troops from Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger was able to engage the sect and caused them to retreat to Sambisa Forest.

Insurgency and Human Security: A Thematic Analysis

The term insurgency conjures often wild disparate interpretation; suffering at the hands of both experts and pundits. According to Moore (2007:2), commonly accepted meanings remain elusive, with predictable conceptual confusion. To him, the term insurgency continues to be used interchangeably, and inexactly, with warfares such as irregular warfare, unconventional warfare, revolutionary and even terrorism. He further posits that "the interchangeability of terms is understandable, given the diverse nature and adaptability of those who wage insurgency and the overlapping traits of these types of conflict." Probably, insurgency could best be understood by first considering what it is not. Insurgency is not terrorism, subversion, guerrilla war, conventional war, revolution, coup d'état (Liolio, 2014), although some insurgent groups have adopted some of their methods in the achievement of their goals.



However, terrorism has become the main commonly adopted strategy by the insurgents. Terrorism in the modern usage is associated with a certain kind of violent action carried out by individuals and groups rather than by the states and with events which take place in peace time rather than as part of conventional war. As a strategy of insurgency, terrorism involves the adoption of some methods to achieve its goals. These include bombing, guerrilla warfare, kidnapping and abduction (Hassan, 2014).

This connotes that insurgency often use terrorism to pursue the goals of the political movement because an insurgency is merely a movement-apolitical effort with a particular objective. In this vein, O'Neil (1990:13) defined insurgency as a "struggle between a non-ruling group and ruling authorities in which the non-ruling group consciously uses political resources and violence to destroy, reformulate, or sustain the basis of one or more aspects of politics. The main objective of insurgency is to challenge the existing government for control; and it requires the active support of some segment of the population; "insurgencies do not happen if the population either supports the government or sees nothing to gain from fighting" (Curtas, 2006). Hassan (2014) notes that "insurgency still remains a political not a military struggle and therefore not amenable to a purely military solution without resorting to a level of brutality unacceptable to the contemporary global environment".

Brief Exposition on Boko Haram Insurgency: Boko Haram sect is not the foremost major group or militia group Nigeria has had, or has faced before; in the 1970s and 1980s, the Maitatsine Fundamentalist sect from the North came on board; in the West, the Odua People's Congress (OPC); in the East, the Bakassi Boys and the Movement of the Actualisation of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), in the South/Niger Delta, the Militants and the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND). *Jama'atul Ahul Sunnah Lidda' wati wal Jihad*, or "people committed to propagating the Prophets' teachings and Jihad", was established in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state as an Islamic group called Boko Haram (Abolurin, 2012). The word 'Boko' (Hausa) means 'book', considered to be Western and 'Haram' (Arabic) means sin or forbidden. Hence, interpretation of Boko Haram in Hausa Language is "western education is sin" (Gilbert, 2014). "In a sense it could be argued that Boko Haram, started as a fundamental Islamic sect that intends to supplant government structures that politicized, corrupted and bastardized proper implementation of Sharia in the north; and to install Islamic regime where Sharia law will be applied to the letters" (Idowu, 2013). But with the thousands of people killed and properties destroyed, their objectives remain largely unknown and hitherto their insurgency has intensified. This massive killings and damage on properties has contradicted what their name stands for, that is opposing anything that was concerned with western education. Conscription of their members has been encouraged by poverty, unemployment, continuous strikes, cult activities; many



youths have left school to join them. Olojo (2013) states that brutal radicalism; enrolment and support for Boko Haram have been significantly driven by economic deprivation. However, while terror activities of OPC, INC, MASSOB, and MEND can be explained within the context of politics and economy, the Boko Haram insurgency is an intricate issue; which can be attributed to political, social, economic, cultural, religious reasons (Idowu, 2013). He further attributed the causes of the Boko Haram insurgency to ethnicity, poverty/inequality, crises of the state, political culture and institution, and foreign influences. The consequences of any act of violence are often despicable and far-reaching. The analysis of the impacts of the insurgency on human security will be based on the broader perspective of human security with particular focus on food and nutrition, health, shelter, education and protection which are the primary needs of every individual.

Boko Haram's Use of Female Suicide Bombers

The Boko Haram dramatically changed the landscape of internal security in Nigeria when it mounted the first ever suicide bombing in Nigeria, at the Police Headquarters in the Federal Capital city, Abuja on 16 June 2011. The 35-year-old male operative, Mohammed Manga, detonated his explosive-laden car, killing more than 5 persons and destroying several cars. Boko Haram has carried out several of such attacks, involving the fitting of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) on common means of transportation in Nigeria – vehicles, motorcycles and tricycles – or strapped at the body of the suicide operatives. The sect has relied mainly on vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), motorcycle borne improvised explosive device (MBIED), Tricycle (popularly known as Keke NAPEP) borne improvised explosive device (TBIED) and body borne improvised explosive device (BBIED). On 8 June 2014, however, Boko Haram dispatched the first female suicide attacker to the 301 Battalion barracks of Nigerian Army in Gombe, Gombe State. The girl detonated the explosive concealed in her hijab, killing herself and a soldier. The attack was followed by the June 25th bombing at an energy depot in Lagos which was also executed by a female attacker. As of 20th January 2015, there have been a total of 15 female suicide bombings in Nigeria. In terms of mode, 14 were BBIED and only one was VBIED. Of the 17 attempted and actual female suicides bombing attackers, 15 detonated their explosives while 2 were arrested. A girl was caught in July 2014 in Katsina with bombs strapped to her body, Kano recorded the highest number (7 cases) followed by Borno and Yobe States. Of the 7 incidents in Kano, 6 successfully detonated while one deserted out of fear after seeing two of her colleagues' blow themselves up in Kano in December 2014. The sect may have targeted Kano because of its strategic nature. Kano is the economic hub of the North, thus mounting such attacks will help in choking the economic nerve of the northern economy. It also has the highest population in Nigeria, suggesting that it hosts several soft targets that could be easily hit with high success rate in terms of death toll and destruction.

Most of the attacks took place in northern Nigeria. Apart from the blast in Lagos, no other incident of female suicide bombing has occurred in the South. Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau claimed responsibility for the attack in Lagos, possibly to pass



out the message that the group has the capacity to strike further south. However, the inability of the group to mount more of such attacks suggests some strategic limitations, especially in having willing recruits and safe havens to couple such devices without being detected. Some of the attacks were successful while others can be regarded as partially successful or unsuccessful considering that the attackers did not reach the main target or killed fewer than 3 persons. It is often difficult to arrive at the exact figure of people killed in suicide bombings in Nigeria due to varying media and security accounts on fatalities. In view of this, our compilation reveals that conservative estimates of 73 people, including the suicide bombers, were killed in female suicide bombings in Nigeria. Borno was worst hit with 26 fatalities in 3 successful attacks. The impact of the 3 blasts in Borno had more fatal effects than the 6 blasts that occurred in Kano while the only blast in Bauchi killed 14 people.

Why and how Women are being used

The motive for the use of female suicide bombers by Boko Haram is not far-fetched. First, security agents and indeed Nigerians have become well accustomed to the use of male suicide bombers. Thus, strange men or boys attract much suspicion or attention from people. In contrast, women and girls do not attract such suspicion and can easily gain access to places without raising attention. In addition, the use of hijab, as expected of a Muslim woman, becomes a good means of hiding and conveying explosives. The females who carried out the suicide bombings in the north reportedly wore hijabs. This becomes more challenging as Islamic religion forbids a man to frisk a woman. In addition, most security or control posts in the north-east are manned by male security, military or 'civilian JTF' operatives. More so, news of female suicide bombers is often sensational and attracts coverage better than their male counterparts as a result of the element of surprise and shock it provides. Each successful attack will therefore project the group as one that should be feared. Regarding how they are recruited into suicide operations, five key channels are conceivable. First, it is likely that the girls being used are children or widows of Boko Haram fighters who have been brainwashed or radicalized into undertaking a mission not only for martyrdom but also as revenge against the 'infidels' whom they have been made to believe are responsible for the death of their loved ones. Second, it is possible that the female bombers are women or girls recruited by Boko Haram operatives, especially through their female scouts. In June 2014, for instance, troops arrested three suspected female Boko Haram members - Hafsat Usman Bako, Zainab Idris and Aisha Abubakar - who have been secretly recruiting girls for the terrorist group. Those recruited were often transferred to Boko Haram camps or handed over to trainers. In August 2014, security operations also arrested one Ibrahim Ibrahim in Kano State, suspected to be the master trainer of Boko Haram female suicide bombers. He was arrested alongside 16 girls who were reportedly being trained for suicide missions. Third, it is equally likely that any of the bombings may have been carried out by one of the abducted Chibok girls, deceived or coerced into such mission. If so, it has been suggested by Oby Ezekwesili that DNA tests will help to reveal the true identity of the bombers. Fourth,



Boko Haram may also be using children (orphans) whose parents they killed in their countless attacks on communities in northern Nigeria or who they abducted during raid on communities within and outside Nigeria. Fifth, it is possible that Boko Haram may be sourcing such children from cartels involved in human trafficking, without such cartels knowing the purpose for which the children were bought. Any or all of these channels may be the conduit of recruitment for suicide operation. Unravelling the true identity of some of these bombers will be a bit difficult given the absence of reliable identification system in Nigeria.

Empirical Review

Ufuoma (2017) carried out a study on the psychological trauma inflicted by Boko Haram insurgency in the North Eastern Nigeria. The study was guided by three research questions and descriptive survey design was used. The data used was a primary data collected through structured questionnaire. The data collected was analyzed using Z-test with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The findings revealed that psychological effects of this insurgency on various stakeholders are unquantifiable. The researcher concluded that Boko Haram insurgency has a great psychological trauma on residence.

Tope (2014), carried out a study on the impact of child bombing on the socio-psychological behaviour of children in Nigeria. The study was guided by three research questions and descriptive survey design was used. The data used was a primary data collected through structured questionnaire. The data collected was analyzed using Z-test with the aid of statistical package for social sciences. The findings revealed that child bombing has a great negative effect on socio-psychological behaviour of children.

Udoye (2015), carried out a study on terrorism as correlate of child bombing using Borno state in Nigeria as a case study. The study was guided by three research questions and descriptive survey design was used. The population of the study consisted of 2034 residents of Borno state and 234 was sampled using simple random sampling. The data used was a primary data collected through structured questionnaire. The data collected was analyzed using Z-test with the aid of statistical package for social sciences. The findings revealed that there was a significant relationship between child bombing and terrorism in Borno state.

Theoretical Framework

In social sciences, specifically behavioural sciences, there is no universal/general theory that captures human actions and reactions. To this, we engaged two theories, stress response theory and the theory of shattered assumptions, to unpack this study. The stress response theory by Horowitz (1976, 1986) shows the relationship between traumatic event and human sanity. The key idea of this theory is that a traumatic event affects cognition of an individual and, depending on how such individual handles all the various thoughts within him, will determine if the individual would be diagnosed as having PTSD or not.



According to Horowitz, failure to process the trauma information leads to persistent post-traumatic reactions as the information remains in active memory and continues to intrude into consciousness in the form of intrusions, flashbacks, and nightmares. For instance, in the case of Chibok girls kidnapped by the Boko Haram sect, as at the time of the kidnap, these children would have diverse thoughts running through their minds and if not guided they might be at psychiatric risks. This explains why Machel (1996) recommends speedy measures to promote the psychological recovery of violated children as regards violence. With WHO (in press) emphasizing the economic and social burden caused by PTSD and how this could be significantly reduced if PTSD symptoms are identified earlier and appropriate cognitive and behavioural intervention provided. Any traumatic event influences an individual's total wellbeing (school children and their parents) as their inability to match thoughts and memories of trauma would result in nightmares and if not timely managed, can lead to a psychiatric case. Kidnapping has both long-term and short-term effects on individuals, families, society, and the state at large, as it is one of the most psychologically damaging crimes of all.

Victims of kidnap often take many years to heal from the psychological wound inflicted upon them while others never completely recover. Kidnappings cause deep emotional and mental scars that leave victims to battle through issues of trust, independence, love, sex, respect, and a litany of others. Drawing from the stress response theory, individual's reaction to traumatic events involve the following: cognition (intrusion thoughts; impaired memory; denial; flashbacks and confusion), emotional (shock and numbness; fear and anxiety; helplessness, anger at anybody (perpetrators, themselves and the authorities); depression and anhedonia (loss of pleasure in what was initially pleasurable) and social withdrawal (isolation, irritability and denial). Though, Horowitz, Wilner, and Alvarez (1979) developed Impact of Event Scale (IES) to measure two out of the three distinct symptoms of PTSD, namely, intrusion and avoidance, this scale is limited in that McGorry et al. (1991) discovered an insignificant relationship between the subscales assessing intrusion and avoidance symptoms. Also, Horowitz's theory does not offer explanation regarding how elements of support networks, resilient factor, individual differences and meaning interpretations affect emotion processing (Dalglish, 2004)

The theory of shattered assumptions by Janoff-Bulman (1992) explains the role of worldview in psychological efforts by the individual to retain and improve perceptions of control and stability following a traumatic occurrence. The persons develop fundamental yet, silent assumptions about the world and themselves. According to this theory, the basic assumptions of any individual regarded to be most relevant in influencing response to trauma are in three folds, namely: the world is kind or benevolent, the world is meaningful and the self is worthy. The worldview aim is to offer the individual with meaning, self-esteem and the misconception of invulnerability. During a traumatic event, the worldview of an individual changes, the world is no more perceived as benevolent or kind nor do they perceive themselves as competent and secured. The implication of this consequence of



defenceless, confusion, awareness of insecurity, results in anxiety and physiological reactivity that characterize PTSD. Significantly, two things are happening at the same time, when the worldview assumption of the individual is shattered, the worldview is destabilized and the awareness of the individual's mortality becomes intense (Janoff-Bulman, 1992).

Although the theory of shattered assumptions seems convincing, the theory is not without its limitations. Drescher and Foy (1995) noted that the theory did not give explanation to the representativeness of this model, evaluation of the model focused solely on using World Assumptions Scale [WAS] (Janoff-Bulman, 1992) known to be used for psychometric issues (Kaler et al., 2008). Hence reported findings are results from self-administered retrospective writing and lacks future studies to support the arguments (Drescher & Foy, 1995). Also, the model does not describe how shattered worldview affects PTSD, particularly individual suffering from comorbid disorders (Drescher & Foy, 1995).

Materials and Methods

The study adopted descriptive survey design. It involves collection of standardized information from a sample which is representative of the entire group or population. According to Nworgu (2015), descriptive survey research describes and interprets what it finds regarding relationships that exist or effects that are evident, as well as trends that are developing. This design was considered appropriate for this study because it helped the researchers to explain the effects of child bombing roles on children in Northeast Nigeria.

The area of study is Borno state in Northeast zone of Nigeria which has encountered many attacks by the Boko Haram group. The study population consists of 4,171,104 which constitute the state's population (National Population Census, 2006)

The sample size was determined using Taro Yamene formula shown as follows:

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

where,

n = sample size,

N = population size,

e = error of significance,

1 = constant.

Using the formula, we have

Therefore, let n? N = 4171104, e = 5% or 0.05

$$n = \frac{4171104}{1 + (0.05)^2}$$



The primary source of data was structured questionnaire. It was used because it is vital in gathering information in a survey and also provides a quick means of obtaining respondents view on the subject of study. Content validity process to ensure that instrument measured correctly what it set out to measure was established by giving the instrument to two senior academic staff, one in Sociology and the other in Educational Measurement and Evaluation. Their comments and corrections were used to improve the instrument before use for this study. Also, to ensure reliability of the instrument (to ensure that it will be able to elicit consistent result), it was tested for internal consistency using Cronbach's Alpha test. A pilot study was conducted using ten percent (10%) of the sample size of the study which is forty (40) copies of questionnaire. At the end, thirty five (35) copies were retrieved. The result obtained is shown in the table below:

Table 3.1 Reliability Statistic

Cronbach's Alpha	N. of items
.840	35

Source: Field Survey (pilot Study), 2018; Computation: SPSS ver. 23

From the result obtained, the reliability coefficient was .840 which if converted into percentage is 84%. This signifies that the instrument is reliable and capable of eliciting consistent result.

Inferential statistics were used for data analysis while the Z-test was employed to test hypotheses. The Z-test formula is given below:—

Where \bar{x} = Sample mean
 μ = Population mean
 n = Sample size
 $n-1$ = Degree of freedom

Decision Rule: accept the null hypothesis when the alpha value is greater than the probability values, otherwise we reject.

Findings/Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis I

Child bomber role does not have a significant effect on the educational attainment of children from Northeast Nigeria.

¹ Child bomber role has a significant effect on the educational attainment of children in Northeast Nigeria.



.Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Educational level	5	73.200	64.7700	4.00	204.00

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (Z-Test)

		Educational level
N		5
Normal Parameters ^{a, b}	Mean	73.200
	Std. Deviation	70.770
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.129
	Positive	.129
	Negative	-.239
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		.492
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.030

a. Test distribution is Normal.

b. Calculated from data.

From the analysis above, it shows that the probability value(0.030) is less than the alpha value (0.05), the researcher accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that child bomberhas a significant effect on the educational level of the north east children.

Hypothesis II

Child bomber role does not have a significant effect on the socio-psychological behaviour children in Northeast Nigeria.

¹ Child bomber role has a significant effect on the socio-psychological behaviour of children from Northeast n.



.Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
socio-psychological behavior	5	73.200	70.66	12.00	177.00

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (Z-Test)

		socio-psychological behavior
N		5
Normal Parameters ^{a, b}	Mean	73.200
	Std. Deviation	70.770
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.129
	Positive	.129
	Negative	-.239
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		.492
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.011

a. Test distribution is Normal.

b. Calculated from data.

From the analysis above, it shows that the probability value(0.0011) is less than the alpha value (0.05), the researcher accept the alternative hypothesis and conclude that child bomber has a significant effect on the socio-psychological behaviour of north east children.

Summary of Research Findings

The summary of findings of this research is as stated below;

- a. Child bomber role has a significant effect on the educational attainment of children in Northeast Nigeria.
- b. Child bomber role has a significant effect on the socio-psychological behaviour of children in Northeast Nigeria.

The above listed findings will stimulate the government, society, security agencies and future researchers. To the government, the study has revealed the side effect of child bombing role and calls for improved effort to reduce the insurgence. The study has also re-awakened the importance of being security conscious by members of any society (Northeast Nigeria in particular) so as to reduce the rate of bomb attacks and deployment of children in such bombing in the society. Furthermore, the findings of this study will be of immense benefit to future researchers and the security agencies. They must re-double their effort to reduce child bombing.



Conclusion

From the findings, the researchers concluded that child bomber role has significant effect on the educational attainment of children living at Northeast zone of Nigeria; and that child bomber role also has significant effect on the socio-psychological behaviour of children in Northeast zone of Nigeria. The child is thus more of a victim than a perpetrator in the insurgency situation in the Northeast zone of Nigeria. Child bombers are also yet to attain age of reason, so they are merely being exploited.

Recommendations

Government needs to pursue a more comprehensive strategy that will address the economic and social roots of the crisis. Deliberate measures must be taken to address the prevalence of poverty, unemployment and low level of education among the youths. The youths are potential weapons in the hand of the insurgent group. Government should therefore adopt mass education and literacy programmes in the region as the main tool for empowering the citizenry in general and the young girls in particular. The various levels of government in the region and wealthy individuals should collaborate to embark on massive education programmes. The international community and financial institutions should be encouraged to assist in providing adequate fund and expertise that will ensure that government in the region give education the required attention. Government should also make necessary efforts to expose and bring to justice all Boko Haram militants, sponsors and those who are benefiting from the insurgency.

In addition, government should launch an aggressive awareness programme to encourage children especially the young girl to return to school through the provision of scholarship and other incentives. Governments in the region should provide free and compulsory education from primary to university for all girls in the north-eastern region. The religious leaders should play active role in preaching against terrorism. Adequate security must be guaranteed in schools to reassure students and teachers of their safety during school hours. The government must rehabilitate and resettle all internally displaced children. The affected communities should be made safe for the fleeing teachers to return and provide their services for the upliftment of the young girls.



References

- Abdulrasheed O., Bello A., Adaobi O, (2014). Historical Analysis of Boko Haram Insurgency on Educational Management in Northern Nigeria, *Global Journal of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences* European Centre for Research Training and Development UK (www.eajournals.org).
- Abolurin, A., (2012). An Assessment of Roles of Security Agencies in Checkmating Insurgent Movements in Nigeria. *African Journal for the Psychological study of Social Issues*, 15 (1 &2): 250-270.
- Abolurin, B. A. (2012), ‘‘ Boko Haram: One Voice, Multiple Tongues’’ in Adeyinka Bankole and Shola J. Omotola (eds), *Whither The Nigerian Project?* South Africa, JUTA.
- Adewumi A., (2014). The Battle of the Minds: the Insurgency and Counter Insurgency in Northern Nigeria. West Africa Insight, Boko Haram.
- Adewumi, O. (2014). Between Mutallab and Boko Haram’’ in Power, *Politics and Death: A front-row account of Nigeria Under the late President Yar’Adua’’*, Prestige Imprint, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.
- African Quarters., 2015. Boko Haram’Child Bomber’ Kils Six in Maiduguri, Nigeria. african quarters.com/boko-haram-child-bomberkills-six-in-maiduguri-nigeria/ Retrieved on the 14th of October, 2015.
- Aribisala, F. (2014). The Challenge of Counter-Insurgency in Nigeria. A Key Note Presentation at Nigeria Development and Finance Forum 2014 Conference in New York on May 29-31.
- Assessment Capacities Project. (2015). Nigeria: Boko Haram Insurgency. Downloaded from reliefweb.int/report/Nigeria/acapsbriefing-note-nigeria-boko-haram-insurgency-20-ssssjanuary-2015. Retrieved from the Reliefweb on the 3rd of October, 2015.
- Atiku, A. (2015). Atiku Abubakar has revealed that 70% of Northerners are illiterates, while ten million Nigerian children are currently out of school. (Federal Government Neglects Almajiri Schools Naij. Com. 21/01/2015).
- Awortu, B. E., (2015). Boko Haram Insurgency and Underdevelopment of Nigeria. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences* (5) 6pg 213-220.



- Briggs, N. D., (2010). "Poor health as index of Human insecurity in Africa", in Obasanjo et al (Eds.) 2010 *'Human security in Africa: Perspective on Education, Health and Agriculture*. Centre for humansecurity, OOPL, Abeokuta.
- Curtas, A. F. (2006) "Gender Inequality in Nigeria Education Sector *African Journal of Stability and Development*, 2 (2).
- Curtas, S. D., (2006). *A New Type of Insurgency? A Case Study of the Resistance in Iraq*. Graduate Thesis and Dissertation. Scholar Commons, University of South Florida.
- Gilbert, B. A. (2014), "' Boko Haram Terrorists' Menace and Nigeria's National Security'" in Toyin Falona and Jane Nana (eds), *Social and Religious Movements in Africa*, New York, Africa World Press.
- Gilbert. K. (2014), The Kano College Blast: *The National Newspaper*.
- Hassan, F. (2014) "Effects of Insurgency on Girls Education in North-eastern Nigeria", *European Journal of Education and Development Psychology, UK, Vol.3, No.1*.pp 44-50.
- Idowu, B.A. (2013), "' Will Emergency Rule Curb Boko Haram Violence?'" Available at <http://dwafrica.ng.com/news> Research on Islam and Muslims in Africa, RIMA Policy Paper, Volume 1 (2013).
- Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND, 2014). *Pushing for safe education for Girls in Nigeria* Catapult, New York, NY 11201.
- Liolio, A.J & Durojaye E. (2014), *Impact of the Boko Haram Insurgency on the Child's Right to Education in Nigeria*, PER/PELT (19) DOI.
- Moore, A.B. (2007) *History of Education in Nigeria*, George Allen Press, London, UK.
- National Population Commission (2013), *Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey*.
- National Population Commission (2014), *Basic Education Profile for North-east Nigeria* (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States).
- NCRM (2014), National Commission for Refugee Management Agency, Abuja, Nigeria.
- NEMA (2014), National Emergency Management Agency, Abuja, Nigeria.



Odogwu, T. (2017). Educate Girls, Stop Building Mosques, Sanusitells Northerners, *The Punch Newspaper January 20*.

Olojo, O. B. (2015), 'Effects of Insurgency and Challenges onFemale's Education in Nigeria African, *Journal for thePsychological Study of Social issues, Vol. 18 No. 3, pg 51-57*.

UNICEF (2015), *Insecurity Threatens Gains in Girls' Education: Parent Unwilling to Enrol Their Daughters in School in the North-East*.