

Assessment of the Influence of Banditry and Kidnapping on School Attendance and Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Niger State

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Abstract

Every government can only flourish and direct its activities towards development only in the atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Education is regarded as the tool for any meaningful development as it provides the manpower for any economic, social, political and technological advancement. However, education in Niger State has been bedeviled with a high state of insecurity ranging from kidnapping, banditry, mass abduction of school children, kidnapping of students in exchange for ransom. In the wake of this abduction, the most affected local government in Niger State are Rafi, Mariga, Magama and Shiroro, that is why these areas have witnessed a rapid fall in the number of students attending school and the academic performance of students. This paper examines the implication of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance and provides an overview of the nature of banditry and kidnapping in Niger State. Descriptive survey design was used and the population of the study comprises of 3,135 teachers from the three geo-political zones. The sample size of the study is 384 based on Krejcie and Morgan table. The instrument used in data collection was a structured questionnaire. The hypothesis was tested using Chi-square at 0.05 level of significance. The hypothesis was rejected as the critical value was less than the calculated value. Thus, the study concluded that insecurity has a significant influence on secondary education in Niger State, the paper also concluded that insecurity challenges have contributed to poor academic performance of secondary school students in Niger State. . It was therefore, recommended that, Federal Government in collaboration with Niger State Government and other stakeholders in education should come up with security strategies that will help in protecting the lives of students and staff in our secondary school in order to minimize the challenges of insecurity on our educational system. Niger State Government should ensure they put in place appropriate security measures in secondary schools in Niger State. This can be achieved by renovating all school facilities such as fence, provision of security personnel as well as surveillance equipment such as CCTV Cameras to monitor and prevent any form of attack on students and teachers.

Keywords: Banditry, Kidnapping, School attendance, academic performance, Secondary schools, Niger State

Introduction

In an ideal situation it is the duty of the government to provide good quality education, assessable road to school, teaching and learning materials, modern school buildings, e.t.c as education is the bedrock of development in every giving society, the target of every government should be on how to improve the educational standard in accordance with global trends. It is a fact that government is the apex structure that regulate, manage and maintain the socio-economic, educational and religious activities in the country. It is an exclusive responsibility of the government to make financial and infrastructural provisions in the

educational sector for her citizen to be abreast with the current issues globally. In addition, it is duty of the government as a cardinal objective to provide security which will enable the educational system to function properly as any country under security threat cannot have the opportunity to plan for the educational activities.

Recently, it appears a war is being waged against the educational sector by these enemies of the state in a series of coordinated attacks on schools and educational institutions (Human Right Watch, 2016). Mass abduction of school children, kidnapping of students in exchange

for ransom has been recorded. It will be recalled that Nigeria witnessed the first school kidnapping incident in April 2014, when Boko-Haram insurgents abducted 280 students of Government Girl Secondary School, Chibok (Nduka, 2018). Seven years after the abduction of the Chibok girls, what followed has been an unprecedented clampdown on educational institutions by these insurgents, abducting more students, murdering some in the process, while releasing some in exchange for ransom (European Asylum Support Office, 2021). It is pertinent to note that over 618 schools in the northern Nigeria states were shut down over abduction scare from 2020 to date. The six most hit northern states are Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Kano, Yobe and Niger state. The authorities say recent attacks on schools in the northern region have been carried out by "bandits" include the kidnap of students in Yauri Federal Government College, Kebbi a neighboring state and student from Baptist School Student in Kaduna and on 22 June 2021, 39 students of Federal College of Forestry were abducted. Many here believed that a weak security, lack of commitment on the part of government, youth restiveness, unemployment, lack of accessibility of basic education to certain disadvantaged group, lukewarm attitudes of politicians and political office holders, corruption, poverty, attitude of some parent in the upbringing of their wards, amongst other are causes of this menace that is gradually distorting education in Nigeria and specifically Northern region. This have gradually increased the rate of out of school children. According to UNICEF, (2018) about 10.5 million of the children aged 5-14 years are not in school in Nigeria. This statistics is even worse in the Northern part of Nigeria with only 53% net attendance rate, meaning almost half of the children's population is out of school. The effects of insecurities on education are numerous, but worthy of mention is the significant drop in enrollment rate from the considerable gains that were made in years before. According to reports, enrollment rate has declined by a whopping 23% which can be attributed to parents deciding against releasing their wards to school for fear of being abducted or kidnapped. Many of the parents who defy the

odds to send their wards to school now rue their choice. It is in light of the above that Okpaga, Chijioke and Innocent (2012) observe that Nigeria as a nation must make concerted efforts to raise the educational attainment of all its youths who are the leaders of tomorrow especially those that are deprived of regular school attendance because of insecurity and conflicts. The hope for the country seems to be grim if children cannot go to school due to insecurity challenges.

In the wake of this abduction the most affected local government in Niger state are Rafi, Mariga, Magama, and shiroro these local government are believed to be more prone to bandit attacks than other local government areas. Thus, these areas have witnessed a rapid fall in the number of student attending schools were most private school in those prone areas have shut down. It is evident banditry in Niger State has distorted the educational activities as so many people have to fled to other communities for safety reason. On 30 may 2021 the Niger State police command confirm the kidnap of the score of student from Salihu Tanko Islamiyya School including children within the age s of 4-10 years though freed after 88 days? (PRNigeria. Com 2021) In the same vein twenty-seven boys and their teachers were taken from a Government Science College in Kagara, before they were later on released on 17 February, 2021 (Nduka, 2018). The incidence led to the sudden demise of one of the students. The implication of these abductions is that parents or guardians get scared of allowing their wards to go to school thereby reducing school attendance.

Running a school is a huge responsibility, in particular, the safety of students and staff is vital. It is important to assure parents their children are safe at school, and that the school is adhering to its duty of care for everyone on the premises. This includes students and staff, but also parents and visitors. In an ideal situation a school is supposed to be fenced and secure to prevent any kind of attack on both the students and teachers. There is need for well-trained security personnel to secure the school from both the frontage (gate) and immediate environment. Another effective method for monitoring who is on the school premises is

through the use of CCTV, which enables the school to see exactly who is entering the grounds and also who is leaving. This can help combat truancy and keep accurate records of who is coming and going. It is therefore, imperative for school authorities in collaboration with Ministry of Education to ensure proper security system in our secondary schools in order to minimize the impact of insecurity on school attendance.

The implication of Banditry and Kidnapping on School Attendance

The implication of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance in northern Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. Survey by both the print and electronic media indicated that over 85% of the school children in Northern States of Nigeria do not attend school due to insecurity in the states (Bwala, 2012). Criminal activities perpetuated in Nigeria are always attributed to youths who dropped out of school. Sadly, the dropouts of schools in Maiduguri metropolis are on the increase daily because of insecurity in the state. This development has become a cause of serious concern to all well-meaning Nigerians. Scenario tends to suggest that the future of the Nigerian child especially in the north and Maiduguri in particular who drop out of school is in serious danger and thus, need a very serious attention. DeCos (2005) commenting on the impact of graduation from high school noted that, with the economy changing from a dependence on manufacturing towards more reliance on technology, services and a “knowledge economy,” the need for education beyond high school has grown. According to Patrick (2012) in Nigeria of today, senior secondary school certificate is considered as the minimum requirements for most jobs and status positions.

Eric (2012) reported that, it is not just the pupils or students at the targeted schools that end up being affected, teachers and others are also affected. As a result of insecurity in the Metropolis, school enrolment has gone down by 28 percent more than any other state in the country (Bwala, 2012). According to the Nigeria Education Data Survey (NEDS) (2010) as cited in Saleh (2011) constant attacks makes it even harder for teachers and other

stakeholders to persuade parents to let their children stay on at school.

The issue of insecurity in northern Nigeria has compelled school children to drop out of the school. Fafunwa (1983) noted that dropout is one of the most serious problems that have continued to bedevil the Nigerian educational system from the colonial administration up to independence in 1960 and even beyond. This vies is supported by Patrick (2012) that in the west coast of Africa, a considerable proportion of student dropout of schools each year. Nigeria, DHS Education Data survey (2011) showed a gloomy picture of education particularly in the North west and North East parts of the Nigeria. According to the report, 12 percent of children in Borno state are not in primary school while in Zamfara state, the percentage of out of school children is 68 percent. The two states have the highest numbers of out of school children. The report also revealed that the rate of children who have never been to school is also alarming. The report reveals that 72 percent of children in Borno state have never been to school, with 4 percent in the federal capital Territory. Out of every 120 children, the report revealed that Zamfara have an average of 28 children in school. Borno state have 29 children in school out of every 120 children, Sokoto 34, Yobe 42, while Plateau State has the highest number of children in school with 113 of every 120, Niger has 89.

The areas with the lowest number of children in school are in the Northern region of Nigeria as they are worst hit by the Boko Haram attack. The level of education could also be regarded as the basis for such groups to emerge. Testing parental understanding of education, the survey shows that 80% of parents in Zamfara State cannot read and write in English Language. Niger State 63 percents, Yobe 78 percent and Adamawa with 47 percent of parents that cannot read or write in English (The Nation, 2011). This may account for why such states became breeding grounds for Boko Harams. Boko Haram has dealt a fatal blow on the enrolment of pupils and students to schools in the Northern Nigeria.

The Nature of Banditry and Kidnapping in Niger State

Niger state has been under siege from bandits for the past seven years. Out of the 25 local government areas in the state, 18 have been attacked by these bandits and local government areas which are constantly invaded and almost completely overrun are Shiroro, Munyan, Rafi, Mashegu and of recent Paiko. These bandits now strike mostly in the day time and operate without any challenge from the security agents. Their mode of operation remains the same; riding on motorcycles with not less than two to three of them on each motorcycle and fully armed. Sounds of gun shots rent the air to herald their arrival and scare the villagers and anybody that comes across them, men, and women, old and young are felled by their bullets. They would then move from house to house in search of money, foodstuffs, and other handy valuables and also rustle cows and other domestic animals, in some cases, the houses of the residents are completely burnt down thereby rendering them homeless. Besides, many have been maimed while the women, both old and young ended up being raped (Wole, 2021).

Shiroro local government had witnessed the highest number of attacks since the first incident which occurred in some communities in March 2015 when 30 heavily armed bandits suspected to be cattle rustlers invaded them leaving 20 people killed. While in Kokoki village two secondary school students were killed in the process, since then, there has never been peace in the area till now. No fewer than 38 people were killed while many others fled from their homes. 2,000 cattle and 300 sheep were stolen from the people by the bandits. Also 15 people were kidnapped and ransom of about N11million paid by their relations.

Subsequently, in 2016, 36 bloody attacks were carried out in about 70 communities across the three local government areas. Communities like Kaure, Kukoki, Ajata and Kwaki, all in Shiroro Local Government Area became theatres of war. Pandogeri, Allawa and Madaka in Rafi Local Government Area were not spared by the bandits. Over 50 people were killed, 12 others were kidnapped and N5million was paid by relations as ransom to secure the

release of the victims while 2 600 cattle were rustled (Wole, 2021).

However, on January 15, 2017, the bandits struck again, killing nine people, with 6,000 others rendered homeless. Five people were abducted and N3million ransom was later paid to secure their release. Between April and June 2017, 11 people were killed, about N30million was paid as ransom by the residents to secure their release with about 1000 cattle and 150 sheep stolen. Between September and December in 2017, 20 villages within Zagzaga community in Munya local government with about 25,000 inhabitants became a safe abode for these armed men. The bandits, within six months in the area carried out another attack killing six people and abducted 19 people including an SS11 female student of Day Secondary School, Zagzaga who served as cook for abducted persons for two weeks before ransom was paid on her behalf and she was eventually released. The communities it was gathered paid N11 million to secure the release of all those people kidnapped after selling almost all their farm produce. This situation forced 90 percent of the 250 000 inhabitants to relocate to nearby Communities. Between January and March 2018, 20 people were kidnapped and N19 million ransom was said to be paid while four people lost their lives. On 12th of September, 2019, another coordinated attacks were launched by the bandits across the three local government areas of Shiroro, Rafi and Munya during which 80 people were killed, 100 others wounded and about 1000 people fled from their homes. Between September and December, the blood-letting continued unabated and about 100 people were killed with 70 killed in one attack in Kwaki, Barden, Dawaki, Ajayin, Ajatai, Bataro, Bwailo and Giji communities leaving 3 500 people displaced. (NSEMA 2019). This development forced the government to enter into a “Peace Deals” during which the amnesty was offered to the bandits and 13 of them earlier arrested by security agents in parts of the state were released. No fewer than 40 of them were said to have surrendered their arms to the government as part of the peace deal. However, less than a month after the so-called peace deals, another set of bandits attacked some

communities in Rafi local government, leaving four people killed, 20 people injured and six abducted. However last year, the attacks assumed a different dimension. Apart from Chanchaga, Bosso, Suleja, Tafa and Gawu Babangida, the remaining local government areas in Zone B Senatorial District have been taken over by the bandits.

Farmers unable to embark on full scale farming, for the past few years, most of the farmers in the state have been totally displaced and can no longer embark on full scale farming and this had negative impact on food production and prices. Some of the crops which were harvested between 2019 and 2020 were stolen by these bandits and the remaining set on fire. Invariably, these developments have pushed up prices of all foodstuffs not only in Niger state but nationwide. The banditry which started gradually through cattle rustling in Shiroro local government area in 2015 has now gone beyond control as it has spread to other local government areas forcing many to abandon their ancestral homes to take refuge in different Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps located in six different places across the three local government areas of the state (Vanguard News Paper, 2020).

According to statistics provided in 2020, no fewer than 7 600 residents, including men, women and children have been forced to relocate from their homes to camps at primary schools in Kuta and Zumba in Shiroro local government, Bosso in Bosso local government and Kagara in Kagara local government. The Camp in Kuta, the headquarters of Shiroro local government is said to be having the highest number of the IDPs, with over 3 000. As the attack continues, no doubt, the number in the camp will continue to increase too. The Bosso primary school camp is also said to be accommodating over 2 500. The other IDPs camps in Zumba, Kagara and Erena towns accommodate not less than 2,100 people each (Wole, 2021).

Statement of the Problem

There is no doubt that peace, security, and serenity are important factors for successful teaching and learning. In the absence of these factors, teaching and learning becomes distorted. The effects of insecurity such as

banditry and kidnapping on school attendance in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. Survey by both the print and electronic media indicates that over 85% of the school children in the north and some parts of the middle belt do not attend school due to insecurity in the areas (Bwala, 2016). Criminal activities perpetuated in Nigeria are always attributed to youths who dropped out of school. Apart from negative impact of insecurity on school attendance leading to school dropout as well as economic and social problems it has caused the nation a decline in its educational activities. Okorie (2017) observes that Nigerians are constantly bedevilled with fears of one attack by one extremist group or the other. Hostage taking, bomb throwing (explosion) and violent crimes are now part of the daily life of Nigerians (Fasan, 2016).

Since mass abduction of students has become a thing of regular reoccurrence, under these extreme circumstances of fear and uncertainty, teachers cannot impart knowledge fully and effectively to their students, and students cannot learn either with full concentration and attention. The net result is a rapid decline in the quality of education, as performances in internal and external examinations begin to hit the rock. Another implication of banditry and kidnapping on secondary school education in Niger State is that, it negatively affects girl-child education as parents are usually scared of enrolling their female children especially when they are considered the most vulnerable to the insecurity challenges.

It was based on the above that this paper intends to examine the influence of banditry and kidnapping on the attendance and performance of secondary school students in Niger State.

Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this research was to examine the impact of banditry and kidnapping on secondary school education in Niger State, with reference to some selected secondary schools in three zones in Niger State. The specific objectives are to:

- i. Determine the effects of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance in secondary schools in Niger State;
- ii. Examine the influence of banditry and kidnapping on academic performance

of secondary schools students in Niger State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study

- i. What is the effect of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance in secondary schools in Niger State?
- ii. What is the influence of banditry and kidnapping on academic performance of secondary schools students in Niger State?

Hypothesis

H₀₁: There is no significant influence of Banditry and Kidnapping on the academic performance of secondary school students in Niger State.

Methodology

The methodology used is a descriptive survey design the population of the study comprises of all teachers 3 135 in public senior secondary school in the three geo-political zones in Niger State. The sample size of 384 and a simple random sampling was used to select them from

9 secondary school, 3 secondary school from each geo- political zone.

The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire made up of two sections. Section A elicited information on personal data of the respondent. Section B consist of 10 items questions. Linkert scale was used in soliciting for respondent’s opinion. The questionnaire was subjected to face validation by two experts in measurement and evaluation. To determine the reliability of the instrument a pilot study was conducted and the result was analysed using pearson product moment correlation coefficient and the result obtained was 0.79 establishing the reliability of the instrument.

Data generated from the respondents were analysed using descriptive statistics with simple percentage and frequency table. Chi-square was used to test the null hypothesis at alpha level of 0.5% level of significant and when calculated Chi-Square is greater than the critical or table value Hypothesis is rejected. When the calculated Chi- Square is less than the critical or table value Hypothesis is accepted.

Results

Research Question 1: What is the effect of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance in secondary schools in Niger State?

Table 1: Table Showing the Response of Teachers on effect of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance in secondary schools in Niger State

S/N	Items	SA	A	SD	D	Total
1	Activities of kidnapper and banditry has significantly affected educational system as attendance of students is very low due to insecurity challenges Majority of the parents in places where banditry and kidnapping is common in Niger State refuse to send their wards to school due to fear of insecurity such as kidnapping	35 (77.8%)	10 (22.2%)	-	-	45
2	The general attendance and enrolment of male students seems to be higher as compared to that of female since female students are usually considered more vulnerable to insecurity	30 (66.7%)	15 (33.3%)	-	-	45
3		40 (88.9%)	5 (11.1%)	-	-	45

4	Students from displaced family are not able to attend school	43 (95.6%)	2 (4.4%)	-	-	45
5	Constant insecurity challenges makes it harder for teachers and other stakeholders to persuade some parents to let their children stay on at school	40 (88.9%)	5 (11.1%)	-	-	45

Source: Field Survey 2021

Item 1 under table 4 revealed that 35 representing 77.8% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion that activities of kidnappers and banditry has significantly affected educational system as attendance of students is very low due to insecurity challenges, while the remaining 10 representing 22.2% of the respondents agreed with the assertion.

Item 2 under table 4 shows that 30 representing 66.7% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the assertion that majority of the parents in places where banditry and kidnapping is common in Niger State refuse to send their wards to school due to fear of insecurity such as kidnapping, while the remaining 15 representing 33.3% of the respondents agreed with the assertion.

Item 3 under table 4 revealed that 40 representing 88.9% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion that the general attendance and enrolment of male students seems to be higher as compared to that of female since female students are usually considered more vulnerable to insecurity, while the remaining 5 representing 11.1% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion.

Item 4 under table 4 shows that 43 representing 95.6% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion that Students from displaced

family are not able to attend school, while the remaining 2 representing 4.4% of the respondents agreed with assertion.

Item 5 under table 4 shows that 40 representing 88.9% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion that Constant insecurity challenges makes it harder for teachers and other stakeholders to persuade some parents to let their children stay on at school, while the remaining 5 representing 11.1% of the respondents agreed with assertion.

The implication of the above analysis is that activities of kidnappers and bandits have significantly affected educational system as attendance of students is very low due to insecurity challenges. Majority of the parents in places where banditry and kidnapping is common in Niger State refuse to send their wards to school due to fear of insecurity such as kidnapping. The general attendance and enrolment of male students seems to be higher as compared to that of female since female students are usually considered more vulnerable to insecurity. Students from displaced family are not able to attend school. Constant insecurity challenges make it harder for teachers and other stakeholders to persuade some parents to let their children stay on at school.

Research Question 2: What is the influence of banditry and kidnapping on academic performance of secondary schools students in Niger State?

Table 2: Table showing the Teacher’s Response on influence of banditry and kidnapping on academic performance of secondary schools students in Niger State

S/N	Items	SA	A	SD	D	Total
1	Insecurity challenges has affect students’ performance in examination due to fear and anxiety	30 (66.7%)	15 (33.3%)	-	-	45
2	Students use the excuse of the low school attendance to practice	35 (77.8%)	10 (22.2%)	-	-	45

	truancy which affects their academic performance.					
3	Low student's school attendance prevent them from attending lessons which affects their performance in examination	30 (66.7%)	14 (31.1%)	1 (2.2%)	-	45
4	Student performance in school activities are usually very low resulting in poor academic performance	30 (66.7%)	15 (33.3%)	-	-	45
5	Teachers are only able to cover just substantial part of syllabus due to low students school attendance	35 (77.8%)	4 (8.9%)	-	1 (2.2%)	45

Source: Field Survey 2021

Item 1 under table 5 revealed that 30 representing 66.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion that insecurity challenges have affect student's performance in examination due to fear and anxiety, while the remaining 15 representing 33.3% of the respondents agreed with the assertion.

Item 2 under table 5 shows that 35 representing 77.8% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the assertion that Students use the excuse of the low school attendance to practice truancy which affects their academic performance, while the remaining 10 representing 22.2% of the respondents agreed with the assertion.

Item 3 under table 5 revealed that 30 representing 66.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion that low students school attendance prevents them from attending lessons which affects their performance in examination, 14 representing 31.1% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion, while the remaining 1 representing 2.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed with the assertion.

Item 4 under table 5 shows that 30 representing 66.7% of the respondents strongly agreed with

the assertion that Student performance in school activities are usually very low resulting in poor academic performance, while the remaining 15 representing 33.3% of the respondents agreed with assertion.

Item 5 under table 5 shows that 37 representing 77.8% of the respondents strongly agreed with the assertion that Teachers are only able to cover just substantial part of syllabus due to low students school attendance, 5 representing 8.9% agreed with the assertion, while the remaining 1 representing 2.2% of the respondents disagreed with assertion.

The implication of the above analysis is that insecurity challenges have affect students' performance in examination due to fear and anxiety, Students use the excuse of the low school attendance to practice truancy which affects their academic performance, low students school attendance prevent them from attending lessons which affects their performance in examination, Student performance in school activities are usually very low resulting in poor academic performance and that Teachers are only able to cover just substantial part of syllabus due to low students school attendance.

Table 3: Hypothesis: There is no significant influence of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance and academic performance of secondary schools students in Niger State.

O	E	O - E	(O - E) ²	$\frac{\sum (O - E)^2}{E}$
250	339	-89	7921	23.4
89	339	-250	62500	207.8
				X² = 231

Source: Field Survey, 2021

$$\text{Chi-square (X}^2\text{)} = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where

O = Observed frequency,

E = Expected Frequency

X² = Chi-square

The critical value of 3.84 was obtained from the chi-square table at alpha level of 0.05 or 5% and the calculated value is obtained at 231, the calculated value is greater than the critical value as such the null hypothesis is rejected which state that there is no significant influence of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance and academic performance of students in secondary Schools in Niger. State. Because it show from the findings that there is significant influence of banditry and kidnapping on school attendance and academic performance of students in secondary Schools in Niger. State.

Findings from this study revealed that the activities of kidnappers and banditry has significantly affected educational system as school attendance becomes very low due to fear of been kidnapped by bandit. This insecurity challenges have negatively affected students' performance because it breed absconding from regular classes and attending lesson which

result to poor performance in terminal and session examination. . This finding above aligned with that of Bwala, (2012) and Eric (2012) who report that as a result of insecurity in Maiduguri Metropolis, school enrolment has gone down by 28 percent more than any other State in the country. With this development, it is not just the pupils that ended up being affected; teachers, parents and the entire State are also affected. It also corroborates with the finding of Saleh (2011) who concluded that constant attacks makes it even harder for teachers and other stakeholders to persuade parents to let their children stay on at school.

The finding also agreed with the finding of Umaru and Terhemba (2014) who reported that the level of secondary school attendance under crisis situation in Damaturu metropolis was found to be low as parents and teacher were not willing to risk their lives and that of the students.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were made:

- i. Insecurity has a significant impact on secondary school education in Niger State. Activities of banditry and kidnappers in the study area has prevent several student from attending school as some of the family have been displaced, while some of the parents are afraid to send their children to school.
- ii. Insecurity challenges have contributed to poor academic performance of

students. Insecurity has also affected children enrolment in secondary schools especially female children who are considered as the most vulnerable ones.

- iii. There is need for Government to tackle insecurity challenges in order to eradicate its impact on educational system in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on findings:

- i. Federal Government in collaboration with Niger State Government and other stakeholders in education should come up with security strategies that will help in protecting the lives of students and staff in our secondary school in order to minimize the challenges of insecurity on our educational system;
- ii. Measures should be taking by educational stakeholders on how to improve on poor academic performance of student due to insecurity challenges in Niger State. This can be achieve when the security challenge are reduced to the barest minimum and through counselling intervention for parents that are not willing to send back their children to the affected schools may see the need for them to return their wards to schools or transfer them to other schools that are not affected by the crisis to continue with their studies.
- iii. Niger State Government should ensure they put in place appropriate security measures in secondary schools in Niger State. This can be achieved by renovating all school facilities such as fence, provision of security personnel as well as surveillance equipment such as CCT Cameras to monitor and prevent any form of attack on students and teachers;

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