



Evaluation of Boko-Haram Resurgence In Yobe State: Image of Poverty Among Women

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ABSTRACT

Boko Haram's rise and insurgency have changed the lives of thousands of women and girls, often casting them voluntarily or by force into new roles outside the domestic sphere. Some joined to escape their social conditions; others were abducted and enslaved. While men have disproportionately been killed, women are an overwhelming majority among the estimated 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North east, as former wives, slaves or fighters, many bear the stigma of association with the insurgents and are barred from reintroduction into their communities. The present study investigated Boko-Haram Resurgence In Yobe State: Image of Poverty Among Women, The objective of the study was to investigate on the report of sexual and gender-based violence in IDPs camps, to determine the level of allegations of abuses by security forces and/or the vigilantes that assist them in IDPs camp and the roles play by the military in refusing to curb the problem and to identify the determinants of poverty among women in IDPs camp. Four research questions guided the research, are there any cases of gender-based violence in IDPs camp? Are the IDPs camp officials really involved in gender-based violence in IDPs camps? Is the security personal in the camp played any role in refusing to curb the problems of gender-based violence in the IDPs camp? Are women given special consideration in IDP camp during item distribution? The result shows high level of negative treatment on women in the IDP camps respectively.

Keywords: Resurgence, Boko-Haram, Poverty, women

INTRODUCTION

Boko Haram insurgency in North East Nigeria has exposed women (girls, ladies, and mothers) to a complex jeopardy (Usman, 2015). While some women have suffered untimely widowhood or child-lack as a result of the Boko Haram onslaught, others have suffered death, forced abduction, and allied assaults on the main and side lines of the insurgency (Awojobi, O. N.2014). Oftentimes, women have faced direct violence that essentially degrade their humanity. This is evident in the deployment of women as war-front sex slaves, human shields, and suicide bombers by the insurgents. The virtual expendability of women in the context of Boko Haram insurgency has been vividly demonstrated by the gale of female suicide bombings in Nigeria over the recent years (Abdu & Shehu 2019). By means of a textual and contextual analysis of library sources and/or documentary data, as well as an adroit application of the theory of objectification, this study posits that, in addition to suffering collateral vulnerabilities, women have equally been instrumentalized as objects of terror in the context of Boko Haram insurgency. Boko Haram attacks, the military's persecution of suspects and its strategy of emptying contested areas have forced over a million women and girls to flee homes (Hamadou, 2020). Some suspected supporters are in detention. Hundreds of thousands of females are in government camps where food is scarce and healthcare dismal; in unofficial camps, the situation can be even worse. Separated from husbands and

sons conscripted or killed by Boko Haram or arrested by security forces, many women are now fully responsible for their families' protection and economic well-being.

Terrorism often takes the form of gendered violence. It is a phenomenon that involves and affects people differently based on their respective gender and allied intersectionalities. Traditional literature on terrorism proffers somewhat mixed perspectives on how gender determines the involvement of people in terrorism. Some scholars contend that terrorism is overly a masculine phenomenon, with men usually plotting and leading the operations (Ezeani, et al., 2021). Yet, some other scholars argue that women count among the 'vulnerable demographics', which suffer the most of the terrorism consequences. (Ayoyo et al., 2021) Importantly, conflict scholars who are inclined to gender analysis believe that 'gender affects the way war and conflicts are experienced'. (Inah et al., 2021) Put straight-forwardly, 'Armed conflicts affect women and men differently'. (Okolie-Osemene et al., 2019) But while the effects of terrorism are no respecter of gender, history has clearly demonstrated that women are often at the receiving end of the violence. In effect, 'Although women are not inherently vulnerable, they frequently fall heightened danger in (such) situations of violence.

Statement of the Problem

Human Rights Watch documented sexual abuse, including rape and exploitation, of 43 women and girls living in seven internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. The government is doing enough to protect displaced women and girls and ensure that they have access to basic rights and services and to sanction the abusers, who include camp leaders, vigilante groups, policemen, and soldiers. In view of the above there is need to thoroughly undertake a study of the image of women in the IDP camp in Yobe state because of the series of allegations and the endemic corruption, mismanagement of the governmental and non-governmental funds, injustice as well as exploitations of women who suffer a lot as a result of Boko Haram insurgency. Comparative analysis of some of the researches dealing with this issue has not been adequately done and thus the need of this study.

Aims and Objective of the Research

The aim of the study are to examine the image of the women in the IDP camp and identify the ways and strategies follow in under sore the image and status of women in the IDPs camp. The objectives of the study are:

- i. To investigate on the report of sexual and gender-based violence in IDPs camps
- ii. To determine the level of allegations of abuses by security forces and/or the vigilantes that assist them in IDPs camp and the roles play by the military in refusing to curb the problem
- iii. To identify the determinants of poverty among women in IDPs camp

Research Questions

Considering the Statement of problem and the research objectives the following questions should be asked;

- a) Are there any cases of gender-based violence in IDPs camp?
- b) Are the IDPs camp officials really involved in gender-based violence in IDPs camps?
- c) Is the security personal in the camp played any role in refusing to curb the problems of gender-based violence in the IDPs camp?
- d) Are women given special consideration in IDP camp during item distribution?

Scope of the Research

Insurgency is one of the fundamental challenged faced in the globe after September eleven, security threat in Nigeria and other neighbouring countries of the world became rampant. The North-eastern Region of Nigeria is worse affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, especially Borno and Yobe States are the home based were Boko-Haram was delivered. Yobe state was the home town of Muhammad Yusuf and Abu-Bakr Shekau. Based on this, the study intends to cover some sites of the IDPs Camps in Yobe State, which involved three local governments Geidam, Kanenma and Gashua. However, some of the camps are not recognized by government as they were just formed by the IDPs who fled their homes to settle at a places they considered safe, example of such camps were located at Gashua town. Yobe state was created on the 27th, August 1991 by the military administration of President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. It was carved from old Borno State. This research covered both the government recognized and the unrecognized camps

with the view of understanding allegation of gender-based violence. Moreover, it covered a period from 2021/2022. The reason for this scope is to ensure comprehensive result/findings from the research¹.

Significance of the study

The research shall be of great use to the government of Yobe state and Nigeria at large. This is because it will provide comprehensive facts and information on the issues, challenges and effects that arise as a result of corruption in IDPs Camps. It will provide a guide to the government in providing the necessary things required that meet the need for better protection of women and girls affected by the violence and respond to immediate humanitarian needs. Screen the predominantly female adults from areas formerly controlled by Boko Haram with diverse teams that include protection officers provided by national civil society organisations and trained by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to ensure adequate treatment of both suspects and victims. It will further guide towards addressing the challenges and effects therein.

The research shall be of useful to the people of Yobe state and beyond by educating and informing them accordingly about the good things such as greater accountability in distribution of food and gender sensitive assistance in IDP camps and host communities. This shall no doubt allow peace to reign in the IDPs Camp. The research shall also be useful to the NGOs as it could help in providing them with first-hand information that can enable them to put in more strategies towards the accomplishment of their missions on the IDPs. To the academicians and other researchers, the research will produce a reference material which will serve as an important guide in conducting further research on same area or other similar areas.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The design of this study is a survey type. A survey research design according to Nworgu (1991) is one in which a group of people or items is studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a few people or items considered to be representative of the entire group of population. This design was considered appropriate and suitable for this study because it focuses on obtaining information and analyzing data from a group of Women selected from different IDPs in Yobe State, Nigeria. This women serves as the representative of the entire population about the topic Evaluation of Boko-Haram Resurgence In Yobe State: Image Of Poverty Among Women

Population of the Study

The population of Yobe State which according to Nigeria National Population Commission census, 2006 was about 2,321,291 is the focus of the research. It is one of the three most affected states in the North-Eastern Region of Nigeria placed next to Borno State with respect to Boko Haram destruction. For the purpose of this study a target population was extracted from the three IDP Camps in the State, a population of 16000 both male and female respectively.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample of this study was comprises of 200 women selected randomly from 3 IDP camps respectively. Random sampling technique was adopted to select 200 women from each of the three IDPs in Yobe State respectively.

Table 1.1: Breakdown of Sample Population of data Collection methods

Category	Source/Location	No. of participants	Age group
Group Focused for Discussion	Kanemma IDP Camp	9	18-30
	Kanemma community	10	31-50
		10	51 >
✓	Balle Village-IDP Camp-Geidam Community	9	18-30
		9	31 – 50
		9	51 >
		9	
	Garin Damido Camp-Yunusari Community IDP	9	18-30
		9	31 – 50
		9	51 >
Interviews	Baimari IDP Camp, Balle Community	2 participants	18-30 31 – 50
Informant Interview	Garin Lamido- IDP Camp	1	55

Research Instrument

Structured questionnaire was the major instruments to collect data for this study. The researcher designed the questionnaire titled “ Evaluation of Boko-Haram Resurgence In Yobe State: Image Of Poverty Among Women.” for the respondents to respond to four (4) likert’s types rating scales of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D), and Strongly Disagreed (SD) respectively. The items in the questionnaire were structured based on stated research questions.

Validation of Research Instrument

The instrument used to collect data for this study was validated by the senior lecturers in school of Science Education, Federal College of Education (Technical) Potiskum, Yobe State. The correction and suggestion made was strictly adhered before producing the final copy of the instrument.

Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire design for this study was distributed to the selected Women in the IDP Camp. The researcher was assisted by four research assistants who are the students and teachers with two interpreters of Kanuri and Hausa/Fulani respectively. After respondents filled the questionnaire, the researcher then collected the filled questionnaire on-the-spot.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected for this study were analyzed using mean and standard deviation as statistical tools. A four (4) of points rating scale of likert’s type was used with assigned values of 4, 3, 2 and 1 as options to the items on the questionnaires. These options are:-

Strongly Agreed	(SA)	-	4points
Agreed	(A)	-	3points
Disagreed	(D)	-	2points
Strongly Disagreed	(SD)	-	1point

The mean of the above was determined by calculating the average.

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum fx}{n}$$

Where,

\bar{X} = mean

F = frequency

X = nominal value of option

\sum = summation sign

N = number of the respondent

A cut- off point of 2.50 was used to determine the mean which is thus:

$$\frac{4+3+2+1}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.50$$

This means that any mean score equal to or greater than was considered as agreed response and any mean score less than (<) 2.50 was considered as disagreed responses.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

The table below discusses the research result obtained using the questions distributed to the respondent. Each table analyses one research question respectively.

Research Question 1: *Are there any cases of gender-based violence in IDPs camp?*

SN	Statement Strategy	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	Food items are only given to male victims	3.67	1.48	Accept
2.	There are cases of sexual harassment by the securities	3.56	1.36	Accept
3.	Poverty and hunger makes women vulnerable	3.54	1.36	Accept
4.	The Camp officials fight against gender based violence	2.34	1.89	Reject
GRAND MEAN		3.27		Accept

Source: Field work 2022

The table above discusses the cases of gender-based violence in the IDPs Camps, the question state that are there any cases of gender-based violence in IDPs Camp? Based on the responses and the cumulative grand mean of the response which is 3.27, it shows that the cases of gender-based violence is common in the area.

Research Question 2: *Are the IDPs camp officials really involved in gender-based violence in IDPs camps?*

SN	Statement Strategy	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	Officials harass women in Camps	3.67	1.48	Accept
2.	There is no provision for harassment in the Camp	3.54	1.36	Accept
3.	No case of sexual but food harassment	2.34	1.89	Reject
4.	The women exposed themselves to harassment	3.67	1.48	Accept
GRAND MEAN		3.30		Accept

Source: Field work 2022

The table above discusses the role of IDPs officials in the cases of gender-based violence. The question state that are the IDPs camp officials really involved in gender-based violence in IDPs camps? Based on the response received from the respondent the people agree with the statement with a mean of 3.30 respectively. Regardless of which type of violence the officials are directly or indirectly involved in the situation.

Research Question 3: *Did the security personnel in the camp played any role in refusing to curb the problems of gender-based violence in the IDPs camp?*

SN	Statement Strategy	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	The securities fight against gender violence in the camp	3.67	1.48	Accept
2.	Some military personnel harass women in the Camp	3.54	1.36	Accept
3.	The security personnel ensure equal item distribution	3.87	1.46	Accept
4.	There is no relationship between securities and IDPs	2.36	1.89	Reject
GRAND MEAN		3.36		Accept

Source: Field work 2022

The table above discusses the role of security personnel in gender-based violence among women in the IDP camps. The question state that; did the security personnel in the camp played any role in refusing to curb the problems of gender-based violence in the IDPs camp? Based on the result obtained from the respondent the security personnel are directly involved in many cases of gender-based violence among

women in the camps. With a grand mean of 3.36, securities are to be blame for occurrence of such incidence in the camp.

Research Question 4: *Are women given special consideration in IDP camp during item distribution?*

SN	Statement Strategy	Mean	SD	Remark
1.	No special consideration on women in the Camp	3.87	1.46	Accept
2.	Women are served first before men	2.34	1.89	Reject
3.	There is equal treatment among people in the camp	3.87	1.46	Accept
4.	Psychological distress affect women in the Camp	3.56	1.37	Accept
GRAND MEAN		3.41		Accept

Source: *Field work 2022*

The table above discusses a provision for women to have special treatment in the Camps in order to reduce high cases of gender-based violence among women. The question state as; are women given special consideration in IDP camp during item distribution? The result obtained shows that women are given special treatment in the Camp by both officials and securities, a grand mean of 3.41 shows a gross acceptance of the statement.

Summary of findings

Based on the find of the research and the data collected in the course of the research on issues associated with image of women at IDPs Camp in some selected areas in Yobe state the following findings were arrived at:

1. Majority of the women were living in a condition of deprivation and poverty and many of them believed that, there is need for the government and non-governmental organisations to come to their aid; this will enable them to start a new life at their various destinations if the camps were due for closure.
2. Women and girls staying at the Camps, many of them have been subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation or have been among the increasing number of cases of child, forced, or coerced marriages in displacement settings. A 2017 report by the UN Secretary-General describes incidents of rape, sexual violence, and sexual exploitation carried out by security guards, camp officials, the Civilian Joint Task Force, and other officers of the Nigerian security forces. A 2017 report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs described “an epidemic of exploitation and abuse,” noting that “sexual exploitation and sexual violence, including demands for transactional sex to access food and non-food items, are commonplace” and that these “violations have been exacerbated by a lack of adequate assistance to IDPs in host.
3. The finds of this study also noted that in some camps women and children were faced with difficulties in access of livelihood materials the distributions of food and other materials was under the guidance and authority of males, a such creating the conditions for demanding of sex due to scarcity of food item and other materials. International and regional human rights bodies have urged Nigeria to investigate, prosecute, and punish perpetrators of alleged sexual exploitation, including “transactional sex” in IDP camps.
4. Women and girls in the IDP camps encounter so many problems such as locking in a compounds where majority of the staff are men, majority of women and minor girls have experienced sexual and gender-based violence or resort to the second alternative of ‘survival sex’ with some of the camp officials and security personnel in exchange of food, money or permission to leave the camp. In several sites, sexual exploitation was said to be so frequent that parents preferred to marry their daughters at an early age.
5. Many women, children, and dis able people in IDPs camps are face with psychological distress related to the displacement and other problems related to the Camps life.

CONCLUSION

Majority of women in the IDPs camp were faced with so many problems; economic, lack of education, social and gender-based violence and most of the times from the camp officials as outline from other research. In a similar research, on women and Boko Haram insurgency is said 'IDPs outside government-run camps have generally received even less food and medical help, but several government-run camps have very high rates of mortality and children's malnutrition and low rates of vaccination. This is true not only of camps close to remaining Boko Haram areas, where understandable movement restrictions constrain economic activity and access to health services, but also of those supposedly safe from Boko Haram, around Maiduguri city. Women and girls in the camps face specific problems. Locked up in compounds where most guards and much of the staff are men, many have experienced sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) or resorted to "survival sex" with camp officials and security personnel in exchange for food, money or permission to leave the camp. In several sites, sexual exploitation was said to be so frequent that parents preferred to marry their daughters at an early age.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The effort of Dr B.Y Luka who is now of blessed memory is acknowledged in conceptualizing the design of this study and the development/improvement of the manuscripts. The members of staff who in a way participated as research assistant and the management, Umar Suleiman College of Education Gashua who made the implementation of the research result possible. Special appreciation to Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) for shouldering the cost of the project via Umar Suleiman College of Education Gashua research grant cycle.

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