

Influence Of Banditry Insurgency On Pupils School Attendance And Academic Performance In Ifelodun Local Government Area Of Kwara State

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Abstract: *The study examined influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' school attendance and academic performance in ifelodun local government area of kwara state. This study adopted a descriptive survey, A total of 350 primary five pupils were selected as the sample for this study using simple random technique, observational rating scale developed by the researcher (Observational Rating Scale on Banditry Insurgence ORSBT), Proforma on pupils attendance and academic performance. Three research questions were raised and two hypotheses were formulated. Face and content validity was ensured expert review. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.82. It was concluded that there was no significant positive relationship among banditry insurgency, pupils' school attendance and academic performance. It was recommended that Immediate, high-priority investment in community based security initiatives and conflict resolution programs in collaboration with local leaders and state security agencies to directly address the drivers of banditry and improve safety in Ifelodun LGA*

Keywords: Banditry Insurgency, School Attendance and Academic Performance

Introduction

Education is a critical component of societal progress, yet in many parts of the world, including Nigeria, it faces severe challenges due to various forms of insecurity. One of the most pervasive forms of insecurity in Nigeria in recent years is banditry insurgency. Banditry, marked by armed groups attacking rural communities, abducting children, and displacing families, has become a significant threat to public safety and stability, particularly in northern and central Nigeria. Ifelodun Local Government Area (LGA) in Kwara State, located in the middle-belt, is not immune to this growing insecurity, which has had a devastating effect on the educational sector. Schools in this region have been disrupted, attendance has dropped, and the academic performance of students has taken a noticeable decline.

School attendance and academic performance are two key indicators of educational success. However, these two areas are directly impacted by insecurity, as fear of abduction, attacks on schools, and the displacement of pupils and teachers create an unstable environment for learning. For instance, Oluwatayo et al. (2020) found that insecurity in rural areas of Nigeria leads to significant declines in school attendance as pupils are unable to attend classes due to the fear of being attacked or kidnapped. Similarly, studies by Adebayo et al. (2021) have shown that the academic performance of pupils in conflict zones worsens due to both physical absences from school and the psychological toll of living in an insecure environment. 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, 2021).

Okorie (2022) 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. 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).

The effect of insecurity on education is not just a local issue; it reflects broader national and even global concerns about the relationship between safety and educational outcomes. According to Ogunyemi (2022), academic performance in conflict zones is significantly impacted by the constant disruption of normal school activities. This study aligns with Okafor (2023), who highlighted that children exposed to violence and instability experience increased stress, leading to reduced focus and poor performance in both classroom activities and examinations. Okeowo and Kayode (2021) stated that students are being internally displaced due to insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the Northern region indicating that this has an impact on educational institutions and students' administration.

On 30 May 2021 the Niger State police command confirmed 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). Aliyu and Olajide (2021) suggests that educational disruptions caused by banditry in states like Zamfara, Katsina, and Kaduna have resulted in widespread pupil displacement and the closing of schools. In the case of Ifelodun LGA, a similar trend can be observed, where sporadic insurgency activities have led to school closures, reduced attendance rates, and increasing dropout rates. The psychological effects of living in such a tense environment further exacerbate the decline in academic performance. Children are often unable to concentrate on their studies due to stress and anxiety, which impairs their cognitive functions and overall academic achievement.

A number of studies (adepelumi,2018; adesoji 2010; Abonyi, &Ezeh 2017) have been carried out on Banditry insurgency but none this identified studies was conducted to investigate the influence of Banditry insurgency on pupils school attendance. Similarly studies (Obafemi, Babatunde & Oriji, 2015) has also been conducted on the school attendance of students but none of these was carried out to examine the influence of Banditry insurgency on pupils school attendance particularly in Ifelodun Local Government Area of kwara state.

Statement of the problem

Banditry insurgency has emerged as a severe threat to community safety and stability in various regions of Nigeria, including Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State. This persistent insecurity disrupts daily life, instills fear, and compromises the functioning of essential social institutions, particularly schools. While the pervasive presence of such violence is widely acknowledged, there is a critical lack of localized, empirical evidence regarding its specific impact on foundational education. It remains unclear to what extent banditry insurgency directly influences two key educational indicators: pupils' consistent school attendance and their overall academic performance.

Although a decline in both attendance and performance is observable in the area, the assumption that banditry is the sole or primary cause is untested. Other factors such as poverty, inadequate school infrastructure, poor teaching quality, or cultural practices may be significant contributing or confounding variables. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the specific influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' school attendance and academic performance in Ifelodun LGA. Without this clear understanding, interventions may be misdirected; resources could be allocated solely to security measures while neglecting deeper systemic educational failures, or vice versa. This research problem underscores the urgent need to disentangle the effects of insecurity from other barriers to education to inform effective, context-specific policies and programs aimed at safeguarding and enhancing learning outcomes for children in the region.

Research Questions

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. What is the level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state?
2. What is the level of pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State?
3. What is the level of pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State?

Research Hypotheses

The study will test the following null hypotheses (H_0):

H_{01} : There is no significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State.

H_{02} : There is no significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey to examine the influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' school attendance and academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state. The target population for this study comprised 2,038 primary five pupils in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state. A total of 350 primary five pupils were selected as the sample for this study using simple random technique and with the help of research advisor 2006, data for the study were collected using a structured observational rating scale developed by the researcher (Observational Rating Scale on Banditry Insurgence ORSBT), Proforma on pupils attendance and academic performance.

Face and content validity was ensured expert review. Specialists in the department of early childhood and primary education from the Faculty of Education Kwara State University and reliability of the instrument was determined through a pilot study involving 25 pupils from a other local government area of kwara state. The responses from the pilot test were analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha method. The overall reliability coefficient obtained was 0.82, indicating a high level of internal consistency among the items and confirming that the instrument was reliable for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, mean and standard deviation, linear regression was used to test the influence of banditry insurgency with pupils attendance and academic performance. All hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Research Question One: What is the level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state?

Table1 : Table showing level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state

S/N	Teachers’ Knowledge	Mean	Std. Deviation	Remarks
1.	I feel afraid when I hear news about banditry or attacks in my community	2.71	.755	High
2.	I find it difficult to concentrate in class because of fear of banditry	2.67	.700	High
3.	I think about my safety when going to or returning from school	3.08	.735	Low
4.	I hear adults around me talking about bandit attacks	2.82	.575	High
5.	I avoid certain roads or places because of fear of bandits	2.73	.616	High
6	I feel worried when I see security officers around my school or community	2.58	.719	High
7	I talk to my friends about things happening in our community related to banditry.	2.59	.491	High
8	I feel safer when my teachers or parents talk to me about how to stay safe	2.79	.733	High
9	I pray or hope for safety because of bandit attacks heard in the community	2.50	.500	High
10	I feel scared when I hear loud noises because I think it may be related to banditry	2.54	.498	High
	Weighted average	2.70		

Decision: Low 1.00-2.49,

High: 2.50-4.00

Table 2 shows level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state. The weighted average is **2.70** which is greater than 2.49 the base line for positive opinion. This therefore shows a numeric indicator that level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state was high.

Research Question Two: What is the level of pupils’ academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State?

Table 2: Table showing the level of pupils’ academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State

Dispersion	Score	N	Mean Score	Remark
Minimum	30			

Maximum	70	350	44.35	Level of pupils' academic performance was low
Key: 0.00 – 49.99 = Low			High: 50.00 – 100.00	

Table 2 shows the level of pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State. Apparently the minimum score was 30 while the maximum score was 70. Then the mean score was 44.35 which indicated that level of pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State was low.

Research Question Three: What is the level of pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State?

Table 3: Table showing the level of pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State

Dispersion	Score	N	Mean Score	Remark
Minimum	24	350	27.05	Level of pupils' attendance was low
Maximum	48			
Key: 0.00 – 64.99 = Low			High: 65.00 – 130.00	

Table 3 shows the level of pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State. Apparently the minimum score was 24 while the maximum score was 48. Then the mean score was 27.05 which indicated that level of pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State was low.

Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis One: There is no significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State.

Table 4: Summary of regression analysis influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	350	0.039	0.002	0.001	.530	0.467

Dependent Variable: attendance

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 4 summarizes the regression results on the influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State. The result indicated that there was a negative influence between banditry insurgency and attendance (R = 0.03) while R-squared is 0.002 which means that the independent variable (banditry insurgency) explained 0.2% variations of the dependent variable (attendance). Thus, this is an accurate reflection that, there is no significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State ($F_{350} = .530$ p = 0.467).

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State.

Table 5: Summary of regression analysis influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State

Model	N	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-cal.	P-value
1	350	0.018	0.014	0.011	21.530	0.312

Dependent Variable: academic performance

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 5 summarizes the regression results on the influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State. The result indicated that there was a negative influence between banditry insurgency and academic performance (R = 0.018) while R-squared is 0.014 which means that the independent variable (banditry insurgency) explained 0.14% variations of the dependent variable (academic performance). Thus, this is an accurate reflection that, there is no

significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State ($F_{350} = .530$ $p = 0.467$).

Summary of the Findings

1. The level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state was high.
2. The level of pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State was low.
3. The level of pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State was low
4. There was no significant positive influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State
5. There was no significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State

Discussion of the findings

The findings revealed that the level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state was high. This might be as a results of persistence occurrence of attacked by bandits. The study was in line with over 57% of schools in Borno, the worst-hit State, are closed as the new school year begins (Chumba et al., 2018). Following the kidnapping of hundreds of students in Katsina State, other States in Northern Nigeria have ordered all schools to close (BBC, 2020). School closures impair children's education quality. The level of pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State was low and the level of pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State was low

The findings also revealed that there was no significant positive influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' attendance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State. This insecurity challenges have negatively affected pupils' 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, (2021) and Eric (2020) 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 (2021) 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 findings also revealed that there was no significant influence of banditry insurgency on pupils' academic performance in Ifelodun Local Government of Kwara State. This is in line with the findings of Nwosu, Ukwunna, Ebokaiwe and Ukwunna, (2019) who opined that school interruption can result in learning gaps, decreased academic performance, and difficulties in catching up with missed lessons. Indicating that armed bandits have repeatedly attacked secondary schools and tertiary institutions in some States within North-western Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study it was concluded that there was no significant positive relationship among banditry insurgence, pupils' school attendance and academic performance in ifelodun local government area of kwara state. More so, the level banditry insurgency in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara state was high.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings;

1. Immediate, high-priority investment in community based security initiatives and conflict resolution programs in collaboration with local leaders and state security agencies to directly address the drivers of banditry and improve safety in Ifelodun LGA
2. Implement a targeted academic remediation and teacher support program focused on foundational literacy and numeracy, along with regular learning assessments to identify and address specific gaps in pupils' understanding.
3. Introduce community engagement and incentive based interventions, such as school feeding programs, parental awareness campaigns, and flexible learning options, to address non-security-related barriers to school attendance
4. Conduct in-depth qualitative research to identify the primary non-banditry factors affecting attendance such as poverty, child labor, or lack of school infrastructure and develop tailored, context-specific strategies to address these root causes.
5. Focus educational improvement efforts on **enhancing in-school factors, including teacher training, classroom resources, and pedagogical methods, while maintaining a secure environment, as internal educational quality appears to be a more direct lever for improving academic outcomes than security measures alone in this context.

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