



ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF BANDITRY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIVELIHOODS OF RESIDENTS IN GWADA COMMUNITY, SHIRORO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE

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Abstract

Banditry had a profound and devastating impact on the communities of Gwada in Shiroro local government area, Niger state, Nigeria. This study investigates the multifaceted consequences of banditry, encompassing economic, social, and psychological dimensions. It further evaluates the effectiveness of government and non-governmental organization (NGO) interventions aimed at mitigating the crisis. A mixed-methods approach was employed, incorporating both primary and secondary data were (past researches, journals and news bulletin), because they contained issues about bandits activities. Primary data was collected through the administration of 97 structured questionnaires to a representative sample of the population across five communities: Limawa, Hayin Basawa, Hayin Goburawa, Fabayi, and Tuluku. The sample size was determined using the Salants and Dillman (2007) formula, considering the estimated population of 30,732 (2006 Census) with a projected growth rate of 3.2% per annum. Findings of the study reveal a significant impact of banditry on the community. Over 30% of respondents reported substantial economic losses, while nearly 70% were displaced from their homes. A distressing 50% experienced severe or extreme psychological distress. The disruption of essential services, including education and healthcare, affected over 80% of the population. The study recommends, Re-establishing and strengthening essential public services like education, healthcare and infrastructure; Encompassing security enhancements, economic revitalization, social and psychological support and the restoration of essential public services.

Keywords: *Banditry, Poverty, Socio-economic, Agriculture and Displacement.*

Introduction

The impact of banditry on socio-economic livelihoods has emerged as a critical area of research, particularly in regions grappling with violence and insecurity. This phenomenon has far-reaching consequences, disrupting economic activities, hindering development, and exacerbating poverty. Understanding the multifaceted effects of banditry is essential for developing effective strategies to mitigate its impact and promote sustainable development in affected communities. This literature review examines existing studies on the socio-economic impacts of banditry and similar forms of violence, focusing on economic disruption, social disintegration, and broader implications. The review highlights key findings and methodologies from relevant research to contextualize the situation in Shiroro Local Government Area (LGA), Niger state. Several studies were done, among the study was Ibrahim *et al.* (2020) studies explores the impact of banditry on agriculture in Northern



Nigeria. Ibrahim and colleagues found that banditry significantly hampers agricultural productivity through theft of livestock, destruction of crops, and displacement of farmers. They reported that these disruptions lead to increased food prices and reduced food security in affected areas. The study utilized a combination of household surveys and interviews with local farmers. Adamu and Umar (2019) their research on the economic effects of banditry in the North-Western states of Nigeria highlighted that the agricultural sector faces severe setbacks due to bandit activities. Their findings indicate that banditry disrupts farming activities, causing financial losses and long-term damage to agricultural infrastructure. The study used econometric models to analyze the economic impact on farm incomes and rural livelihoods.

Yahaya *et al.* (2021) this study investigated the effects of insecurity on local businesses in conflict-prone areas of Nigeria. The researchers found that businesses experience operational disruptions due to banditry, resulting in decreased revenue, increased costs for security, and overall economic instability. The study used both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews with business owners. Sulaimon and Afolabi (2022) their research focused on trade disruptions caused by banditry in affected regions. The study revealed that local markets are often shut down or experience decreased trading activity due to the fear of attacks. Sulaimon and Afolabi employed market analysis and trader interviews to assess the economic impact on local commerce. Nwankwo *et al.* (2020) study examined the displacement caused by banditry and its effects on host communities in Northern Nigeria. Nwankwo and colleagues found that displacement leads to a strain on resources in host communities, increases competition for basic necessities, and disrupts social networks. They used case studies and interviews with displaced individuals and host community members. Bello and Mohammed (2019) their research on the socio-economic impact of displacement in the Northern regions highlighted the breakdown of traditional support systems and the humanitarian challenges faced by displaced populations. The study employed field surveys and in-depth interviews with displaced families.

Olaniyan *et al.* (2021) investigated the psychological effects of banditry on individuals and communities. The findings indicate high levels of trauma, fear, and stress among affected populations, impacting their overall quality of life and social cohesion. The researchers used psychological assessments and interviews to gather data. Jibril and Ibrahim (2020) focused on the social impact of insecurity, including the erosion of community structures and trust. They found that banditry leads to social fragmentation and decreased community engagement. The study used qualitative methods, including focus group discussions and interviews. Ogunyemi *et al.* (2022) examined the impact of banditry on education in conflict zones. The researchers found that schools are often closed or disrupted due to insecurity, leading to educational setbacks for children and youth. They used surveys and interviews with educators and students. Abubakar and Musa (2021) focused on the effects of banditry on healthcare services, revealing that insecurity hampers access to medical care and places additional strain on health facilities. The study employed interviews with healthcare providers and facility assessments. Mustapha and Zubairu (2021) evaluated the effectiveness of government and NGO interventions in conflict-affected areas. The findings indicate that security challenges limit the ability of these organizations to implement development projects effectively. The researchers used a combination of program evaluations and interviews with stakeholders. Aliyu *et al.* (2022) analyzed the role of NGOs in addressing the impacts of banditry. They found that NGOs play a crucial role in providing relief and support to the affected people, their efforts are often hindered by ongoing insecurity. The study used case studies and interviews with NGO staff and beneficiaries.

Statement of the Problem

The persistent threat of banditry in Shiroro LGA of Niger state has caused severe disruption to the socio-economic fabric of the region. Banditry, characterized by violent attacks, theft and intimidation, has led to significant economic and social challenges for the local communities. The agricultural sector, a primary source of livelihood for the majority of residents, has suffered extensive damage due to the theft, kidnapping and intimidation has led to reduced agricultural output, higher food prices, and economic instability. Additionally, local businesses face operational difficulties, reduced income, and financial losses due to the insecurity (Daron *et al*, 2001). The fear and trauma associated with banditry have disrupted social cohesion and community life. Displacement of residents has created a humanitarian crisis, straining resources in host communities and leading to a breakdown of traditional support systems. Educational and healthcare services are severely affected, with schools closed and healthcare facilities under strain, further exacerbating the challenges faced by the displaced and resident populations (Ahmed *et al.*, 2024).

Study Area

Gwada community is located in Kuta headquarter of Shiroro LGA in Niger state on Nigeria coordinates 9°57'25 "N 6°49'55" E (Figure 1). Average annual temperature, 26.26°C Varies depending on the season, with hotter temperatures during the dry season and cooler temperatures during the rainy season. Annual rainfall between 1100mm and 1600mm, rainy season typically lasts from April to October. The area has tropical climate, which characterized by a distinct dry season and a wet season (NiMet 2023,). The vegetation is predominantly Guinea savanna, characterized by grasses, shrubs and scattered trees. Some areas may have gallery forests along riverbanks. The soil is primarily sandy loam soils, fertile in some areas, particularly along river valleys. The population is 30,732 (2006 census), predominantly rural population ethnically diverse, with major groups including the Gbagyi, Nupe and Hausa. The socio-economic activities were purely agricultural and livestock rearing activities, with crops such as rice, maize, millet and groundnuts being cultivated. Livestock rearing, with cattle, sheep and goats being raised (Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs).

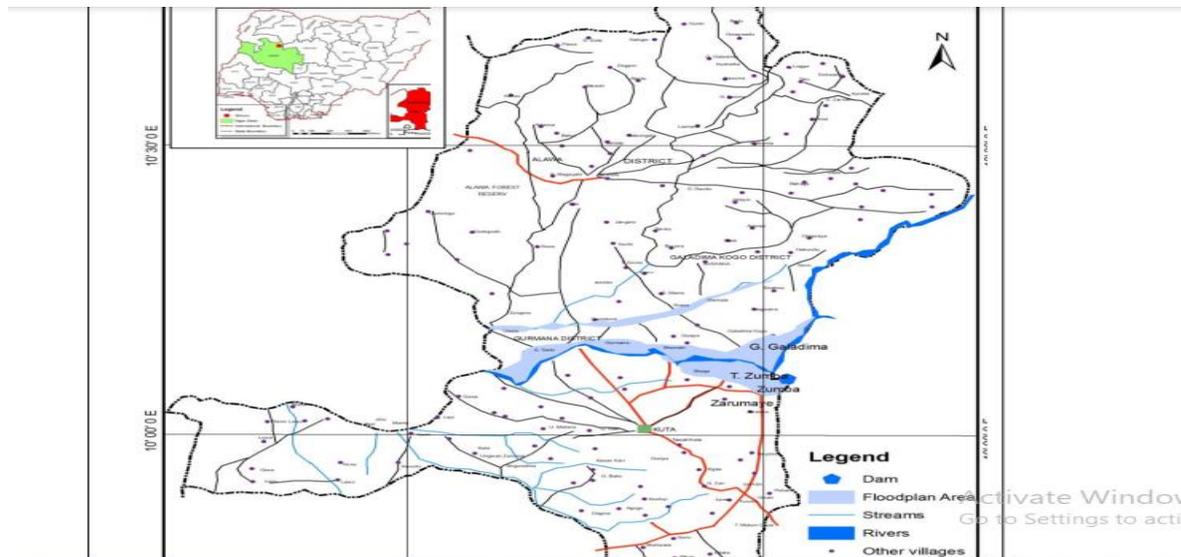


Figure 1: Map of the Study Area
Source: Ministry of Lands and Housing, Minna, Niger State



The sample size for each community was calculated using the formula proposed by Salant and Dillman (2007) to ensure a representative distribution across the varying population sizes.

$$N_s = (N_p)(p)(1 - p)(N_p - 1)/(BC) 2 + (p)(1 - p) \tag{3.2}$$

Where N_s = computed sample size

N_p = size of population

P = proportion expected to answer in a most conservative way (at least 99% = 0.05)

B = accepted level of simple error is 0.05,

C =confidence level (95% =1.960)

$$N_s = \frac{(N_p)(p)(1 - p)}{N_p - 1(b/c)^{2+(p)(1-P)}}$$

$$\text{Limawa} = \frac{8,400 \times 100}{30,732} = 27$$

$$\text{Hayin Basawa} = \frac{7210 \times 100}{30,732} = 23$$

$$\text{Hayin Goburawa} = \frac{6,800 \times 100}{30,732} = 20$$

$$\text{Fabayi} = \frac{5,121 \times 100}{30,732} = 17$$

$$\text{Tuluku} = \frac{3,201 \times 100}{30,732} = 10$$

Questionnaire distribution, shows a total of 97 questionnaires were distributed across the five communities, Limawa community, received 27 questionnaires (27.83%). Hayin Basawa community received 23 questionnaires (23.71%). Hayin Goburawa community received 20 questionnaires (20.23%). Fabayi community received 17 questionnaires (17.52%). Tuluku community received 10 questionnaires (10.31%). Questionnaire return rate, 94 questionnaires were successfully returned (97.8% response rate) 3 questionnaires (3.2%) were unrecoverable.

Table 1: Distribution of Questionnaires among the Five (5) Selected Communities Population of Gwada in Shiroro Local Government Area

S/N	Selected Communities	Population	Sample Size Questionnaire	%	Rate of Returned	Rate of Not Returned
1	Limawa	8,400	27	27.83	25	2
2	Hayin Basawa	7,210	23	23.71	22	1
3	3.Hayin Goburawa	6,800	20	20.62	20	0
4	Fabayi	5,121	17	17.52	17	0
5	Tuluku	3201	10	20.31	10	0
	Total	30,732	97	100.0	94	3

Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)



Results and Discussions

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Age-group on the Impact of Banditry in Gwada Communities

Figure 2, shows dominance of younger demographics of 18-24 age group, which constitutes the largest segment, representing 38.30% of the sample. The second largest group of between 25-34 ages range, closely, comprising 42.55% of the respondents. With decreases progressively with representation age f between 35-44 age group represents 19.15% of the sample. It is likely that older age groups would exhibit even lower representation within the sample. However, in relation to age vulnerability the older individuals are often disproportionately affected by banditry. They may be primary targets for kidnapping for ransom due to perceived wealth or lack of physical defence capabilities. Excluding them from the sample limits our understanding of their specific vulnerabilities and the impact of banditry on their lives, may have developed unique coping mechanisms or resilience strategies in response to the threat of banditry building. In a related study by Ozioma (2022), her work, such as "Beyond Ungoverned Spaces: Connecting the Dots between Relative Deprivation, Banditry, and Violence in Nigeria," published in African Security, delves into the complexities of banditry and its impact on various aspects of Nigerian society. While her research doesn't specifically focus on the underrepresentation of older age groups, it provides valuable insights into the broader context of banditry in Nigeria.

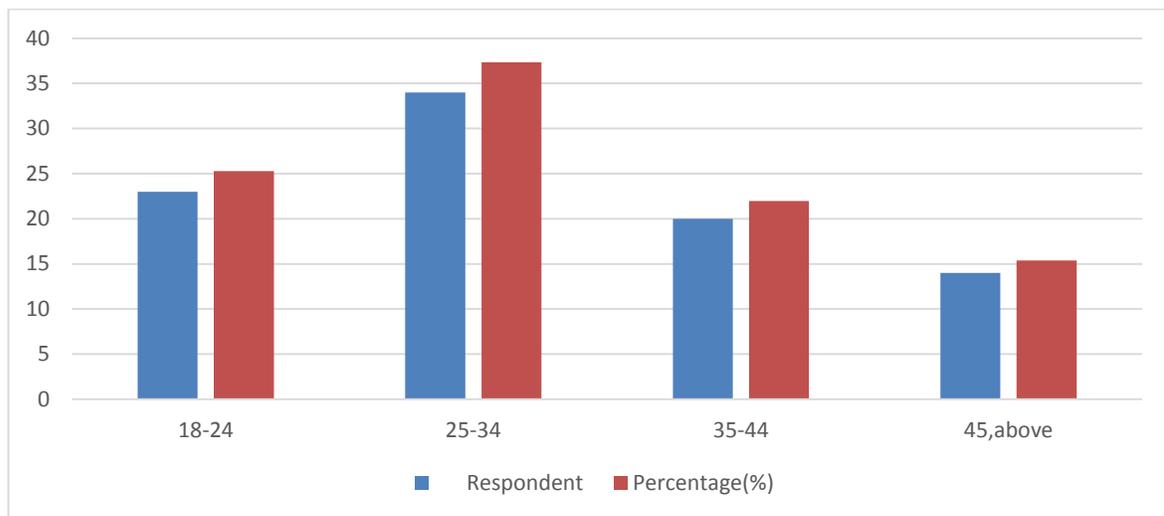


Figure 2: Age Distribution on the Impact of Banditry in Gwada Communities
Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Figure 3, shows the distribution of respondents by gender. There are a total of 94 respondents, with 69.15% being male and 30.85% being female. Findings, shows that, sample is predominantly, with 69.15%, while females constitute 30.85% of the sample, indicating significant presence but lower representation. By implication, neglecting female experiences, women are often subjected to specific forms of violence, such as sexual assault and kidnapping, which may be underreported due to social stigma. Also, women may offer unique insights into the underlying causes of banditry, such as poverty, lack of education, and social marginalization. Their perspectives can help inform more comprehensive and effective strategies for addressing the root causes of banditry.



The results of the survey show that there is a significant gender imbalance among the respondents, with males making up 69.15% of the sample and females only 30.85%. This consistent with other studies on the impact of banditry, which have been found that men are more likely to be affected by this type of violence than their counter part in the area, for example, a study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2019) found that men are more likely to be victims of kidnapping and robbery by bandits than women. This is likely due to the fact that men are more likely to travel alone and to carry valuables such as cash and electronics. Another study by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC, 2020) found that men are also more likely to be killed or injured by bandits than women. This is likely due to the fact that men are more likely to resist bandit attacks or to be caught in the crossfire. The findings of this study suggest that banditry has a disproportionate impact on men. This is likely due to a number of factors, including the fact that men are more likely to be involved in economic activities that make them targets for bandits, such as farming and trading.

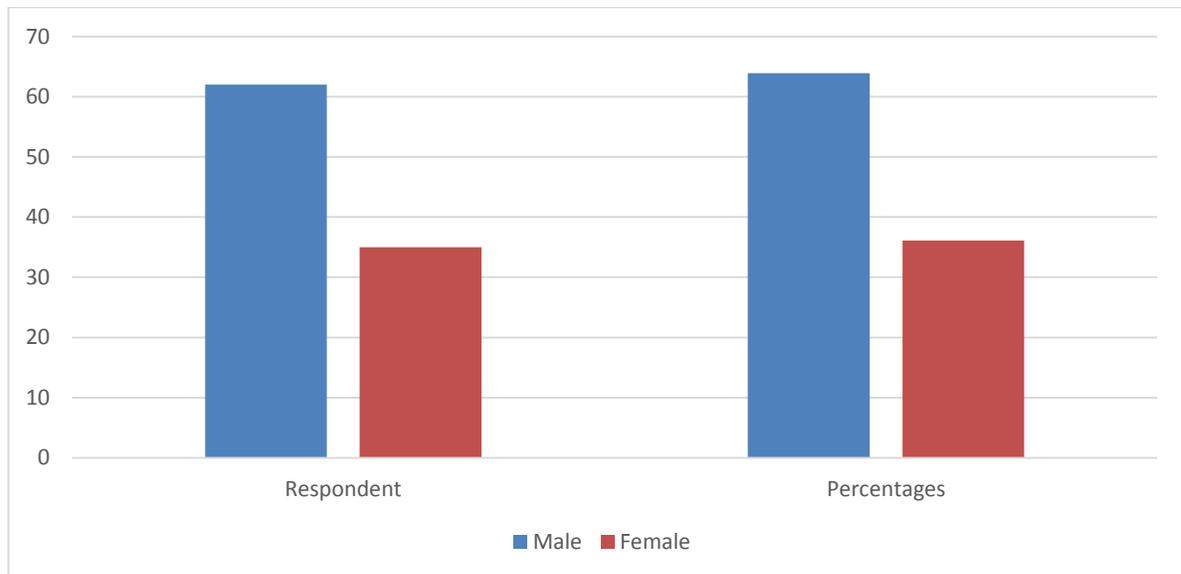


Figure 3: Gender on the Impact of Banditry in Gwada Communities

Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Figure 4, shows significant portion of the respondents (34.04%) are civil servants, indicating a reliance on government employment, while, self-employment and farming are also common occupations, suggesting a mix of formal and informal economic activities. Gender disparity shows a significant gender imbalance among respondents, with males (69.15%) outnumbering females (30.85%). This aligns with existing research suggesting that men are disproportionately affected by banditry. This could be due to their involvement in economic activities that make them targets, such as farming and trading, or due to societal roles and expectations.

Economic vulnerability reveals significant portion of respondents (34.04%) are civil servants, indicating a reliance on government employment. This, coupled with the prevalence of self-employment and farming, suggests a mix of formal and informal economic activities. This mix implies that a substantial part of the population could be vulnerable to the economic consequences of banditry, as informal workers often lack the protections and safety nets associated with formal employment. Types of assistance, most common types of assistance received from government or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are water and food materials (21.28%), medical care



facilities (17.02%), and financial assistance (10.64%). This highlights the immediate needs of those affected by banditry, focusing on basic necessities, healthcare, and financial support. This study is in line with, Chigbo *et al.* (2013). This study explores the root causes of banditry in Nigeria, linking it to political and economic factors, Ofuoku, *et al.* (2012). This research investigates the connection between youth unemployment and violent crime, including banditry, in the Niger Delta region, and World Bank (2017). This report provides a comprehensive overview of violence in Nigeria including banditry and its impact on various aspects of society.

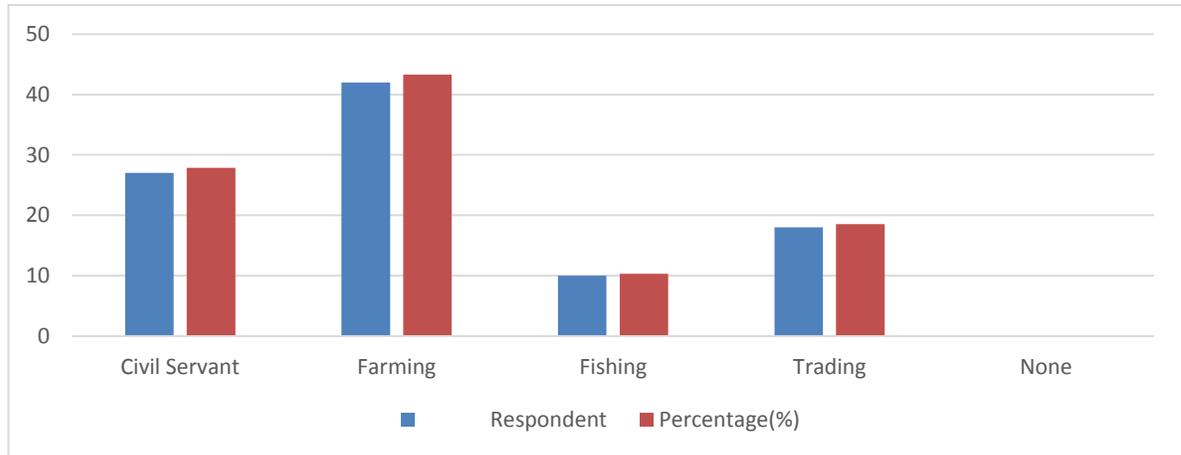


Figure 4: Respondents Types of Occupation

Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Figure 5, provides a breakdown of the marital status of the respondents. The largest proportions of respondents (37.23%) are married. A substantial number of respondents (26.60%) are single. Divorce and widowhood are represented by 22.34% and 13.83% of the respondents, respectively. Married Respondents (37.23%), this group likely represents households with families and dependents. Banditry's impact on this group could involve: loss of income or livelihood, affecting the entire family, Psychological trauma for both the direct victim and their family members, and disruption of family stability due to displacement or fear. Single Respondents (26.60%), this group might include young adults or individuals without dependents. Banditry's impact on this group could involve; disruption of education or career paths, limited social support networks to cope with the effects of banditry, and increased vulnerability to banditry, especially if they are young and without established social connections.

Divorced/widowed respondents (22.34%/13.83%), these groups might already face socioeconomic challenges or vulnerabilities. Banditry's impact on these groups could involve; Exacerbation of existing hardships due to loss of support systems or resources, increased psychological distress due to past trauma and the added burden of banditry, also limited access to assistance or support due to social marginalization. This study is consistent with Enweremadu (2014), the study examines the social and economic dimensions of banditry in Nigeria, highlighting the impact on families and communities. It supports the discussion on the potential effects of banditry on different marital status groups.

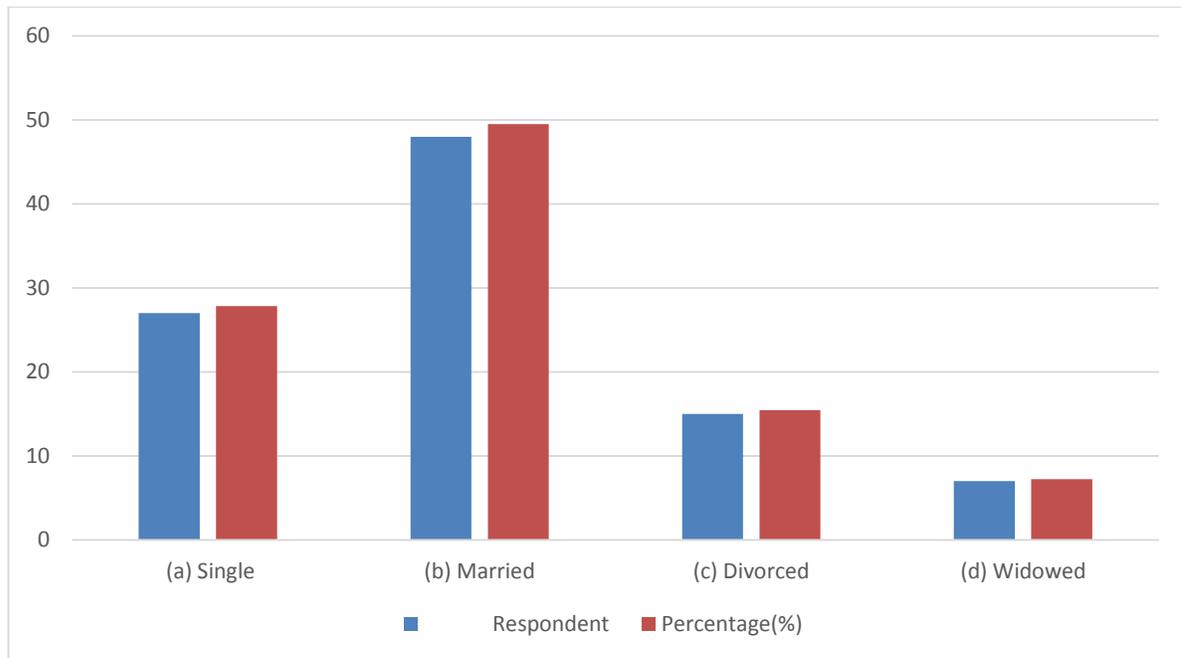


Figure 5: Marital Status on the Impact of Banditry in Gwada Communities

Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Effects of Banditry on Agricultural Activities in Gwada Communities

Figure 6, provides insights into how banditry has affected agricultural activities in the surveyed area. Loss of livestock: The most significant impact is the loss of livestock; affecting 37.23% of respondents, a substantial proportion (31.91%) of respondents have incurred increased costs for security measures. These factors affect a smaller percentage of respondents but still have a significant impact on agricultural production. The implications of the study reveal that loss of livestock (37.23%) is the most significant impact, likely due to livestock being a valuable target for bandits. This loss can have devastating consequences for farmers, as livestock often represent their primary source of income and livelihood, (31.91%), need for increased security measures, such as hiring guards or constructing fences, represents a substantial financial burden for farmers. This can reduce profitability and make it difficult for farmers to continue their operations, (18.09%), reveals how banditry can disrupt farming activities, leading to reduced crop yields. This can be due to factors such as farmers being unable to access their fields or having to abandon crops due to fear of attacks, while, (12.77%), shows disrupt farming activities in various ways, such as by preventing farmers from accessing their fields, disrupting planting and harvesting schedules, and damaging crops. This can have a significant impact on agricultural production and food security. This study is in line with (Usman & Jibrin, 2021). This study examines the impact of banditry on rural livelihoods in Northwestern Nigeria, specifically focusing on the effects on agricultural activities and food security. It supports the discussion on the various ways in which banditry disrupts agricultural production and livelihoods.

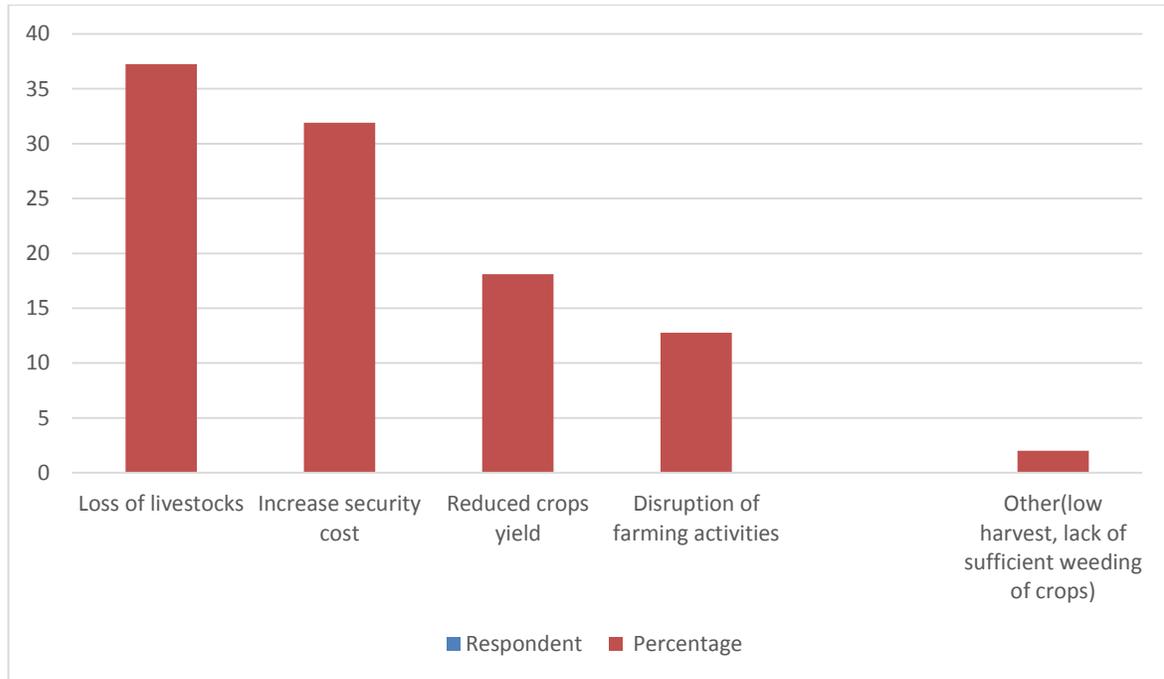


Figure 6: Effects of Banditry on Agricultural Activities in Gwada Communities

Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Banditry Effects on Business or Trade Activities in Gwada Communities

Figure 7, provides insights into how banditry has affected business and trade activities in the surveyed area. The most significant impact is the increased cost of security measures, affecting 40.43% of respondents. Disrupted business operations: A substantial proportion (26.60%) of respondents has experienced disruptions to their business operations. Decreased revenue: A smaller percentage (19.15%) has seen a decrease in revenue. Other Impacts: 13.83% of respondents reported other impacts, which could include loss of customers, damage to property, or difficulty accessing markets. In a related study by Umar & Ibrahim (2021) this study investigates the effects of banditry on agricultural production, food security, and livelihoods in Nigeria. It uses primary data collected from farmers in affected areas and analyzed the impact of banditry on various aspects of agricultural activities, including crop production, livestock rearing, and access to markets. Also by Usman & Umar (2022) the study focuses on the specific impact of banditry on agricultural production and food security in the North-West region of Nigeria. It uses a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative data, to analyze the challenges faced by farmers in the region due to banditry. Further, study by Yusuf & Abubakar (2023) this study examines the impact of banditry on agricultural productivity and food security in Zamfara state, a region heavily affected by banditry. It uses primary data collected from farmers and analyzed the various challenges faced by farmers, including loss of crops, livestock, and access to markets. These studies provide valuable insights into the devastating effects of banditry on agricultural activities in Nigeria. They highlight the challenges faced by farmers, the impact on food security, and the need for effective interventions to address this critical issue.

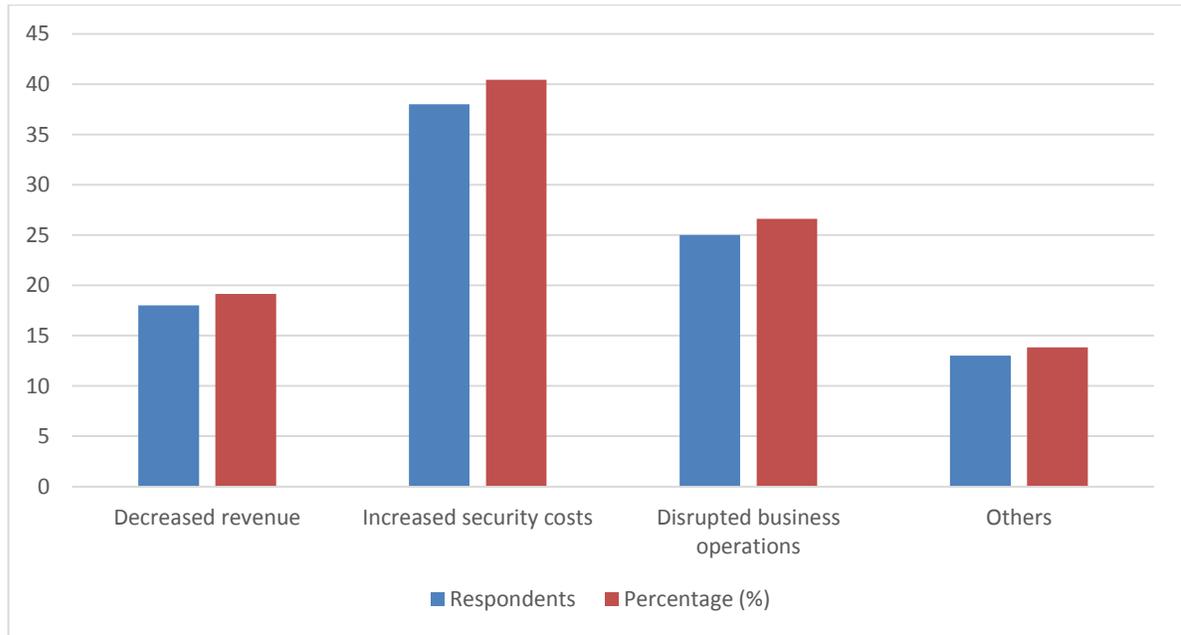


Figure 7: Banditry Effects on Business or Trade Activities in Gwada Communities
 Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)

The Financial Impact on Household in Gwada Communities

Figure 8, provides insights into the extent of financial impact that banditry has had on the surveyed households. The most common level of financial impact is moderate (₦10,000 - ₦50,000), affecting 42.55% of households. A significant proportion (35.11%) of households experienced minor financial losses (less than ₦10,000). Severe Impact: While a smaller percentage (8.51%) experienced severe financial losses (more than ₦100,000), this still represents a significant burden on these households. Banditry disrupts agricultural activities, forcing farmers to abandon their fields due to fear of attacks. This leads to crop losses, reduced income, and destruction of livelihoods. Studies like "The Impact of Banditry on Agricultural Production and Food Security in Nigeria" by Umar & Ibrahim (2021) highlight the significant decline in agricultural productivity and income generation in affected areas. Banditry often forces households to flee their homes, leaving behind their livelihoods, assets, and social networks. This displacement can have long-term consequences, including poverty, food insecurity, and psychological trauma. Usman & Umar (2022) in "The Effects of Banditry on Agricultural Production and Food Security in the North-West Region of Nigeria" emphasizes the significant impact of displacement on household livelihoods and well-being. The disruption of agricultural activities and displacement can lead to food shortages and increased food prices, making it difficult for households to afford nutritious food. This can have severe consequences for children and vulnerable populations, including malnutrition and stunted growth. Studies like "The Impact of Banditry on Agricultural Productivity and Food Security in Zamfara State, Nigeria" by Yusuf & Abubakar (2023) highlight the link between banditry, food insecurity and malnutrition.

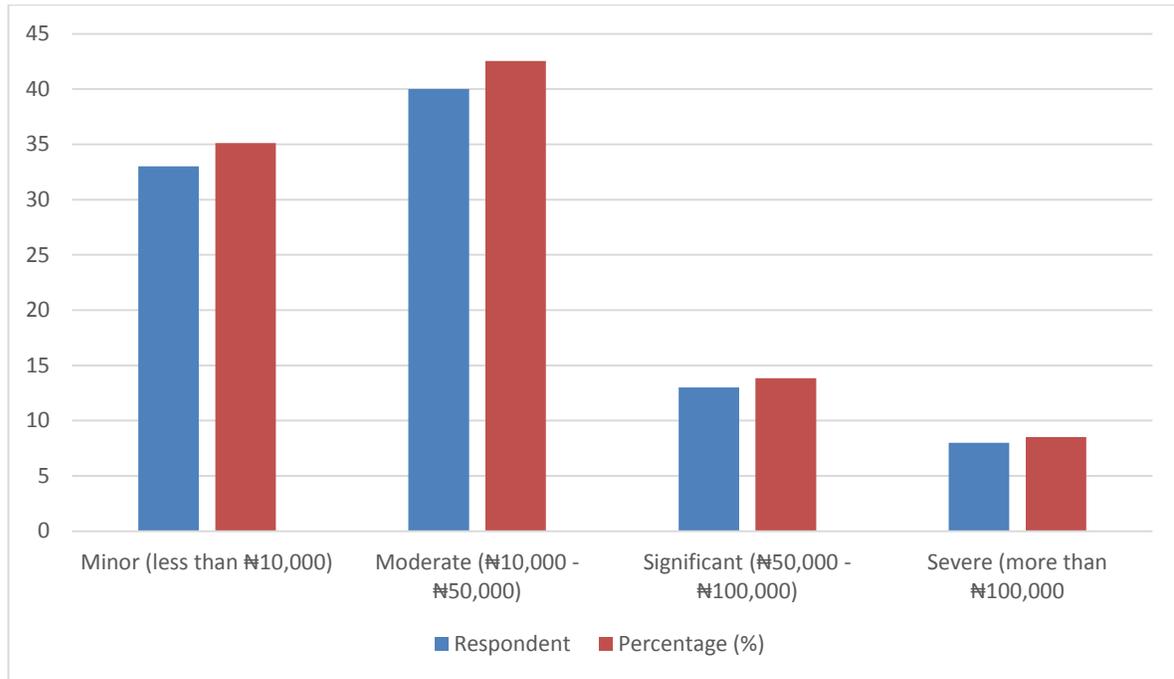


Figure 8: The Financial Impact on Household in Gwada Communities

Source: Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Displaced Family due to Banditry in Gwada Communities

Figure 9, reveals that substantial majority of respondents (69.15%) have experienced displacement due to banditry, underscoring the severe consequences of this violence on individuals and families. Displacement often leads to the loss of homes, land, and livelihoods, forcing people to seek refuge in unfamiliar areas. This displacement can have profound social and psychological impacts, including increased stress, anxiety, and depression. Additionally, the influx of displaced people can strain the resources and infrastructure of host communities. Relevant research done, include, International Crisis Group (ICG) has conducted extensive research on banditry in West Africa, including its impact on displacement and humanitarian crises. Their reports provide valuable insights into the root causes of banditry and potential solutions. Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) collects and analyzed data on political violence and protest events around the world. Their data can be used to map and track the spread of banditry and its impact on displacement patterns. Humanitarian Organizations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) often conduct research and provide assistance to populations displaced by conflict, including banditry. Academic researchers have conducted research on the causes and consequences of banditry in specific regions. Their work can provide valuable insights into the complex dynamics of this phenomenon. "These organizations, like ICG, ACLED, UNHCR and ICRC have been actively conducting research and publishing reports on displacement crises, including those caused by banditry. The frequency and scope of their publications vary depending on the specific crisis and the organization's research priorities".



Figure 9: Displaced Family due to Banditry in Gwada Communities
Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Figure 10, provides insights into the duration of displacement for those who have been forced to leave their homes due to banditry. A significant proportion of displaced individuals (36.17%) have been displaced for more than 6 months. A smaller percentage has been displaced for shorter periods, such as less than a month (15.96%) or 1-3 months (22.34%). Long-term displacement can lead to prolonged suffering, including economic hardship, social isolation, and psychological trauma. The longer people are displaced, the more difficult it becomes to rebuild their lives and return to their homes. Long-term displacement can put a strain on host communities, as they may struggle to provide adequate resources and support to displaced populations. Several researches were done on banditry, for instance, Bashir (2021) on the implications of cattle rustling to human and food security in the rural communities of Kaduna state, Nigeria and Gimba (2022) on banditry and a shared sovereignty. Lapeju & Peter (2021) on the impact of banditry on Nigeria’s security in the Fourth Republic: an evaluation of Nigeria’s northwest. Umaru (2020) threats of rural banditry on human and food security in Niger state, Nigeria. Usman, & Singh (2021) the persistence of insecurity in Northern Nigeria: A critical analysis on banditry.

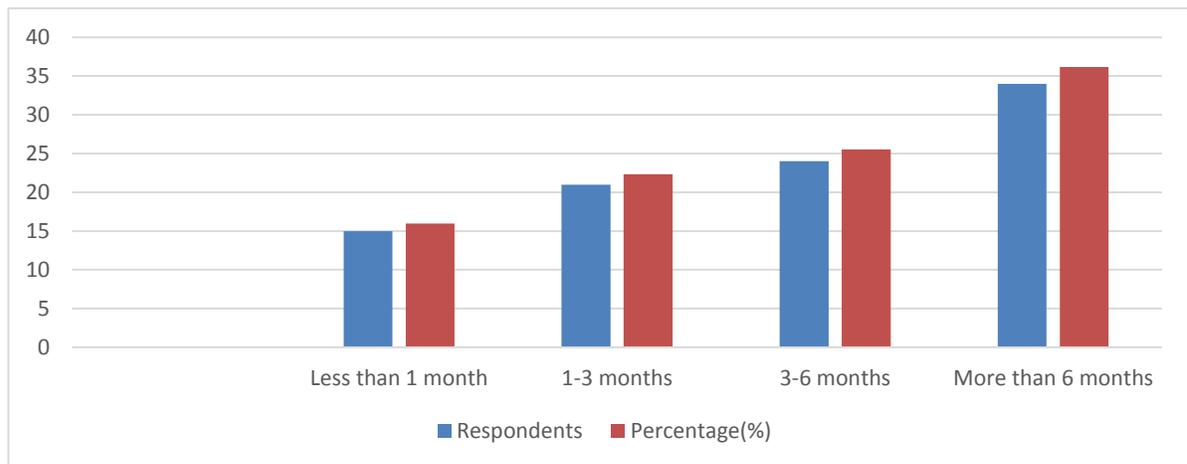


Figure 10: Month of Displacement of Educational Services in Gwada Communities
Author’s Field Survey (2024)



Disruption of Education Impact of Ah N Banditry on Individuals and Families in Gwada Communities

Figure 11, provides insights into the various ways displacement has affected the daily lives of respondents. Disruption of Education, most significant impact is the disruption of education for children, affecting 52.13% of respondents (24.47%) face difficulties in accessing basic needs like food and water, 18.09% of respondents reported increased stress and anxiety as a result of displacement. While, only smaller percentage of the respondents face challenges in accessing healthcare. Disruption of education can have long-term negative consequences for children's academic achievement and future opportunities, difficulties in accessing basic needs and healthcare can increase the risk of malnutrition, disease, and other health problems, and increased stress and anxiety can have a significant impact on mental health and well-being. Researches like Peterside (2021) school kidnappings and its implications for posterity and Orikpe (2013) on education and national security: changes and the way forward, have similar views.

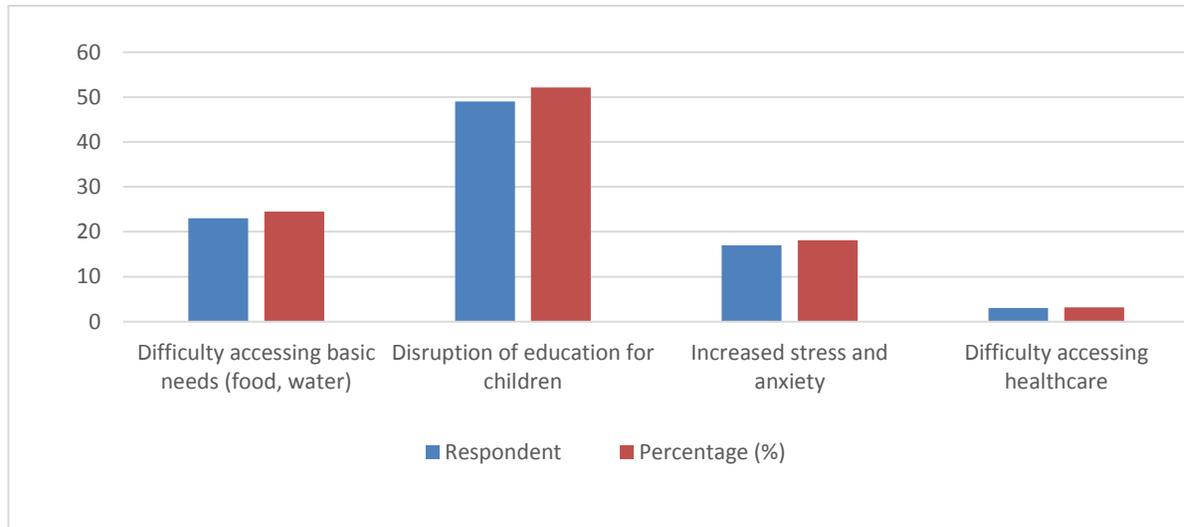


Figure 11: Disruption of Education Impact of Ah N Banditry on Individuals and Families in Gwada Communities
 Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Psychological Impact of Banditry on Family in Gwada Communities

Figure 12, provides insights into the psychological impact of banditry on individuals and families. A significant proportion of respondents (40.43% + 13.83% = 54.26%) reported severe or extreme psychological, 24.47% of respondents reported a moderate psychological impact. Only 21.28% of respondents reported a minimal psychological impact. The high prevalence of severe and extreme psychological impact suggests that many people are struggling with mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Psychological distress can lead to social dysfunction, including family conflict, community tension, and reduced social cohesion. The psychological impact of banditry can significantly reduce the quality of life for individuals and families. This study in consistence with Femi-Lawal *et al.* (2023), the study explored the psychological consequences of banditry on youth in Northwest Nigeria. They found that exposure to violence and insecurity associated with banditry can lead to long-lasting effects on mental health, including increased levels of stress, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD),

Carpiniello (2023), focused on the impact of banditry on women in Nigeria. It highlighted the significant psychological trauma experienced by women due to the threat of violence, displacement, and loss of livelihoods as well as Srinivasa and Lakshminarayana (2006), the study not specifically focused on banditry; this study examined the psychological impact of conflict and violence on families. Their findings can be relevant to understanding the broader effects of insecurity and trauma on family dynamics. These studies, along with others, provide valuable insights into the devastating psychological consequences of banditry on individuals and families. The findings underscore the urgent need for mental health support and psychosocial interventions for affected communities. It is important to note that research on this specific topic may be limited, and more studies are needed to fully understand the complex psychological impact of banditry on families.

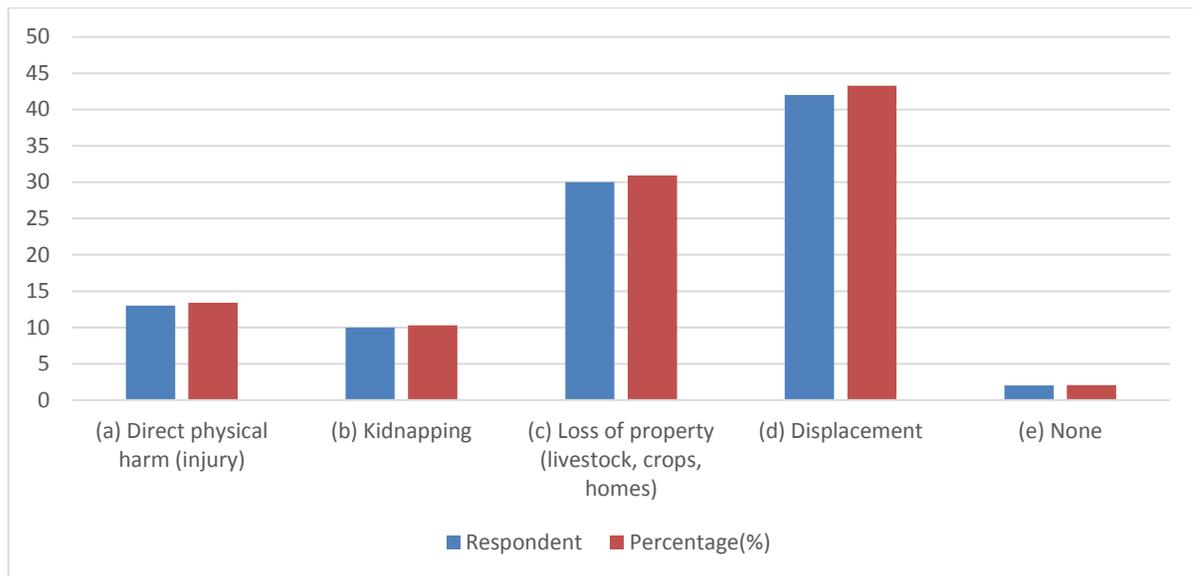


Figure 12: Psychological Impact of Banditry on Family in Gwada Communities Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Figure 13, indicates that a significant majority of respondents (72.34%) have observed changes in community cohesion and social support structures due to banditry. Erosion of Trust: Banditry can erode trust among community members, leading to increased suspicion and fear. Weakened Social Networks: The breakdown of social networks can hinder collective action and reduce access to support. Increased Vulnerability: A weakened social fabric can make communities more vulnerable to future shocks and stressors. Similar study done by Femi-Lawal *et al.* (2023), the study explored the psychological consequences of banditry on youth in Northwest Nigeria. They found that exposure to violence and insecurity associated with banditry can lead to long-lasting effects on mental health, including increased levels of stress, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Carpiniello (2023), research focused on the impact of banditry on women in Nigeria. It highlighted the significant psychological trauma experienced by women due to the threat of violence, displacement, and loss of livelihoods. Srinivasa and Lakshminarayana (2006), this study examined the psychological impact of conflict and violence on families. Their findings can be relevant to understanding the broader effects of insecurity and trauma on family dynamics. These studies, along with others, provide valuable insights into the devastating psychological consequences of banditry on individuals and families. The findings underscore the urgent need for mental health support and psychosocial interventions for affected communities.

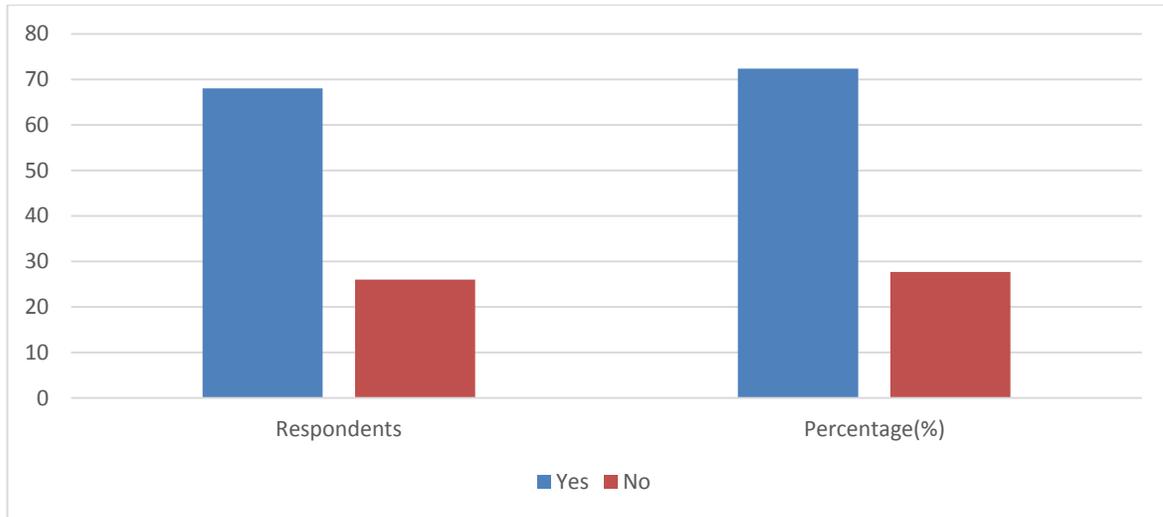


Figure 13: Changes in Community Cohesion or Social Support Structures Due to Banditry in Gwada Communities
 Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Nature of Education Service Disruption in Gwada Communities

Figure 14, provides a breakdown of the specific types of disruptions in education services experienced by respondents. The most common type of disruption is school closures, affecting 62.77% of respondents; 20.21% of respondents reported reduced school attendance. While, 17.02% of respondents experienced interruptions to learning activities, school closures and reduced attendance can lead to significant learning loss, particularly for younger students. The disruptions in education can exacerbate existing educational inequalities, as disadvantaged students may be more likely to be affected. Economic consequences also, lack of education can limit future economic opportunities and hinder social mobility.

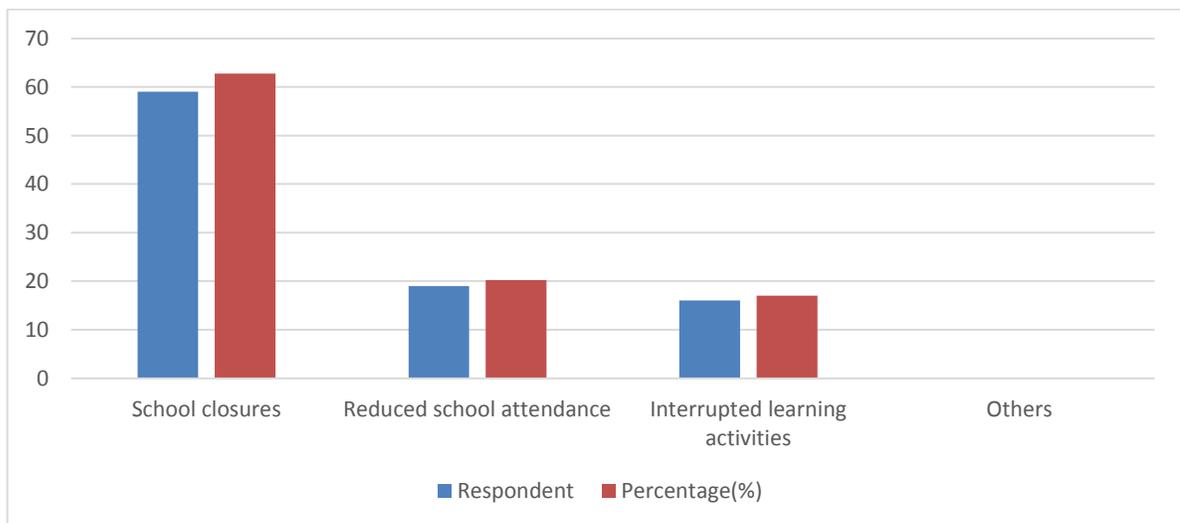


Figure 14: Nature of Education Service Disruption in Gwada Communities
 Author’s Field Survey (2024)



Healthcare Services Effects Due to Banditry in the Study Area

Figure 15, provides a breakdown of the specific impacts of banditry on healthcare services. The most significant impact is a shortage of medical supplies, affecting 48.94% of respondents; 31.91% of respondents reported reduced access to medical facilities., while, 19.15% of respondents experienced increased waiting times for medical care. Shortages of medical supplies can compromise the quality of care provided, leading to suboptimal treatment outcomes. Reduced access to medical facilities and increased waiting times can delay the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and injuries, while, delayed or inadequate treatment can lead to increased morbidity and mortality rates.

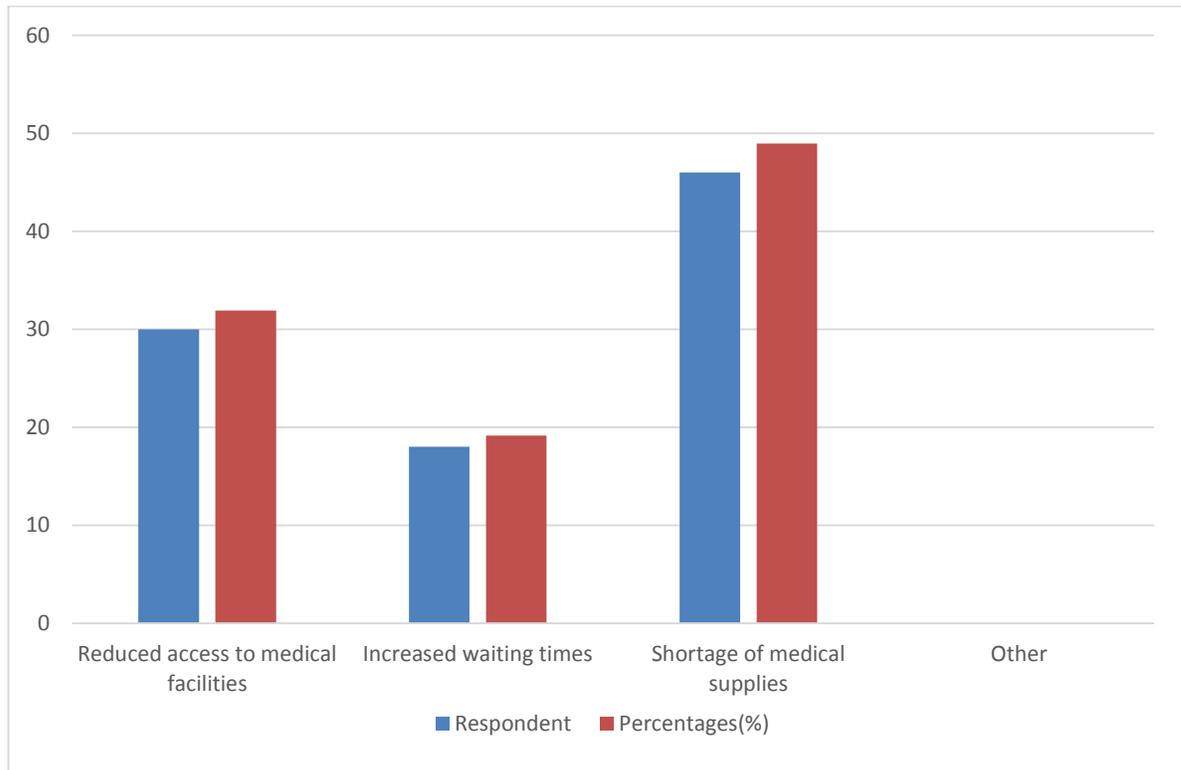


Figure 15: Healthcare Services Effects Due to Banditry in the Study Area Author’s Field Survey (2024)

Assistance Received from Government or Non-Governmental Organizations

Figure 16, shows that the most common type of assistance received was water and food materials (21.28%), followed by medical care facilities (17.02%), and financial assistance (10.64%). The least common type of assistance received was psychological support and counseling (8.51%). In terms of the number of respondents, the most common type of assistance received was all of the above (30%), followed by water and food materials (20%), and medical care facilities (16%). The least common type of assistance received was counselling (8%).

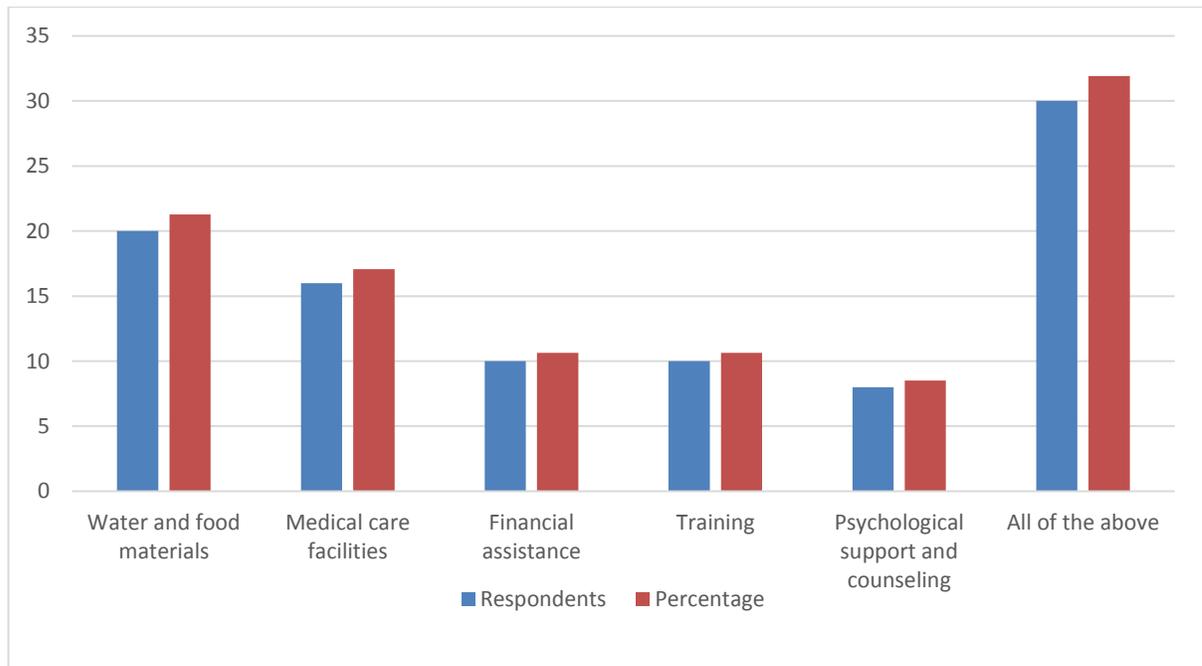


Figure 16: Assistance Received from Government or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Due to Banditry in Gwada Communities
Author's Field Survey (2024)

Conclusion and Recommendations

The reviewed literature demonstrates that banditry has widespread and profound effects on the socio-economic livelihoods of affected communities. The economic disruptions include damage to agriculture and local businesses, while social impacts involve displacement, psychological trauma, and the breakdown of community structures. The broader implications for education, healthcare, and the effectiveness of interventions highlight the need for comprehensive strategies to address the multifaceted challenges posed by banditry. This literature review provides a foundation for understanding the specific impacts of banditry in Shiroro LGA and supports the development of targeted interventions to mitigate these effects and promote recovery and development in the region.

To address the multifaceted challenges posed by banditry, a comprehensive and multi-sectorial approach is required. Key recommendations include:

1. Increased deployment of security forces to affected areas.
2. Empowering communities to establish local security committees and vigilance groups.
3. Providing financial assistance, agricultural inputs, and vocational training to affected individuals and communities.
4. Investing in infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, to facilitate economic activity.
5. Supporting sustainable agriculture, small-scale businesses, and other income-generating activities as well as providing access to mental health services, including counseling and therapy.
6. Investing in school infrastructure, teacher training, and educational materials.
7. Strengthening coordination between government agencies, NGOs, and community-based organizations.



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