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FACTORS INFLUENCING ARMED BANDITRY AND DETERRENCE OF DEVELOPMENT OF SOKOTO EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The article simply examines the Factors Influencing Armed Banditry and Deterrence of Development of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. After the Introduction, it begins with conceptual review of armed banditry and development to provide succinct explanations for the understanding of the thrust of the article. There were several factors Influencing armed banditry in Sokoto East which were discussed—inadequate law enforcement, corruption and impunity, lack of accountability, poverty, unemployment, lack of educational skills, resource competition, availability of small arms and light weapons, ungoverned spaces, weak security apparatuses and paucity of personnel and the rest. However, the article was underpinned by two theories—frustration and aggression theory and social disorganization theory. Apart from that the conclusion and recommendations were also provided. It was recommended in the article that, there was the need for adequate law enforcement and accountability in Sokoto East so as to ensure honesty and transparency in the development of the district. The people of Sokoto East should be adequately educated and there is also the need for investigative journalism so as to create awareness and support for the fight against armed banditry. Finally, it was suggested in the article that there was the need for a robust security system in Sokoto East to ensure social control and conformity as well as the general progress and development of the district.

Keywords: Factors, Armed Banditry, Deterrence Development, Sokoto East.

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Introduction

Armed banditry is now a global phenomenon and a challenge deterring the growth and development of several nations of the world most especially in Africa, Asia, Europe and America. There are also different forms of armed banditry which are occurring in different geographical regions of the world—highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry and the devastating affects is the tremendous losses of lives and properties (NBS, 2025). However, despite the numerous strategies that are being taken by nations or governments, the situation is not actually changing for the better and development can only be attained when the armed banditry situation is restored to normalcy.

In some developing countries like Nigeria, the issue of armed banditry is increasingly becoming very much serious especially in the north-western part of the country, which comprises the states of Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina , Kaduna, Kano and Jigawa. Armed banditry becomes a very much serious social problem in the zone. It also occurs in different forms—highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry which are also characterized by other atrocities—kidnapping, armed robbery, mass killings of innocent people and Gender Based and Sexual Violence (NBS, 2025, FOS, 2025). Different tiers of government in the north-west—local, state and federal government—have been making moves to bring an end to the challenges of armed banditry or reduce it to the barest minimum, but it is to no avail. In Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria, the level of the occurrence of armed banditry is continuously worsening in the eight Local Government Areas of the district which are Rabah, Wurno, Goronyo, Sabon Birni, Isa, Gwadabawa , Illela and Gada. However, the different forms of armed banditry such as the highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry are also adversely affecting the development of the district because of the other atrocities attached to armed banditry in Sokoto East—kidnapping, armed robbery, mass killings of innocent people and Gender Based and Sexual Violence.

The situation, therefore, needs to be arrested. This is because that is the only way that the district can progress and develop better (Boyi, 2025). Furthermore, there are also several factors influencing armed banditry and deterring the development of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. The factors were inadequate law enforcement, corruption and impunity, lack of accountability, poverty, unemployment and lack of educational skills. Apart from that, there are others—resource competition, historical grievances, availability of small arms and light weapons, ungoverned spaces, transnational network and the rest. As a result of the factors mentioned, there are also some consequences. They are mainly the tremendous losses of lives and properties (Boyi, 2025).

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The main thrust of the article, therefore, is the Factors Influencing Armed Banditry and Deterrence of Development of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. However, the article also aimed at providing solutions to the challenges of armed banditry in Sokoto East for better socio-economic and political development of the district.

Armed Banditry

Armed banditry is a crime committed by some criminal gangs who are normally referred to as the armed bandits and the atrocities they committed are not socially approved and recognized by the societies they belong. Those atrocities have adverse effects on the development of the society. Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria, is one of the areas in the country which are heavily affected by the activities of armed banditry. It also occurs in different forms in the district----highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry. However, the forms of armed banditry mentioned resulted in the occurrence of other challenges or atrocities----kidnapping, armed robbery, mass killings of innocent people and Gender Based and Sexual Violence (NBS, 2025; Sokoto East Governments" Reports, 2025). It should however be noted that the destructive activities of armed banditry in Sokoto East were the disruption of educational learning, deteriorating health conditions of the people, reduced agricultural food production, unemployment and others (Mohammed, 2023; Suleiman, 2023; Akanni, 2024; Farouk, 2022; Rufai, 2024; Ishaka, 2023; Sambo, 2024; NBS, 2025; Sokoto East Governments" Reports, 2025).

Development

Generally speaking, the concept of Development is relative and this is in view of the fact that, what is perceived as development in a particular country or society may not be a development in the other. According to Akanle (2023), the concept of development was from the French word Des envolupper which simply entails unfolding. Development, therefore, can be perceived as discoveries of new things or a new way of life. The identical words, here, are progress, advancement and growth. Akanle also noted that, there are some pragmatic indicators of absence of development in a society----poor infrastructures, widespread poverty, poor governance structures, dependence and mentality systems, low level of per capita income, illiteracy and others.

In Sokoto East, Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria', there are numerous factors Influencing armed banditry. Those are the factors which are deterring the development of the district. However, they are also noticeable----inadequate law enforcement, corruption and impunity, lack of accountability, poverty, unemployment, lack of educational skills, resource competition, historical grievances, availability of small arms and light weapons, ungoverned spaces, weak security apparatuses and paucity of

personnel, the porosity of borders and boundaries and the rest. Development in Sokoto East, can only be achieved, when the Sokoto State Government and Local Government Areas of Sokoto East firmly and resolutely fight against armed banditry with good faith.

Factors Influencing Armed Banditry and Deterrence of Development of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria

Sokoto East is one of the three Senatorial districts of Sokoto State, Nigeria (Figure 1). The district comprises eight Local Governments areas, which are Rabah, Wurno, Goronyo, Sabon-Birni, Isah, Gwadabawa, Illela, and Gada. Armed banditry is the major challenge in Sokoto East and it has been adversely affecting the development of the district. Several factors influence the development of armed banditry in Sokoto East, which will be discussed in the following sections.

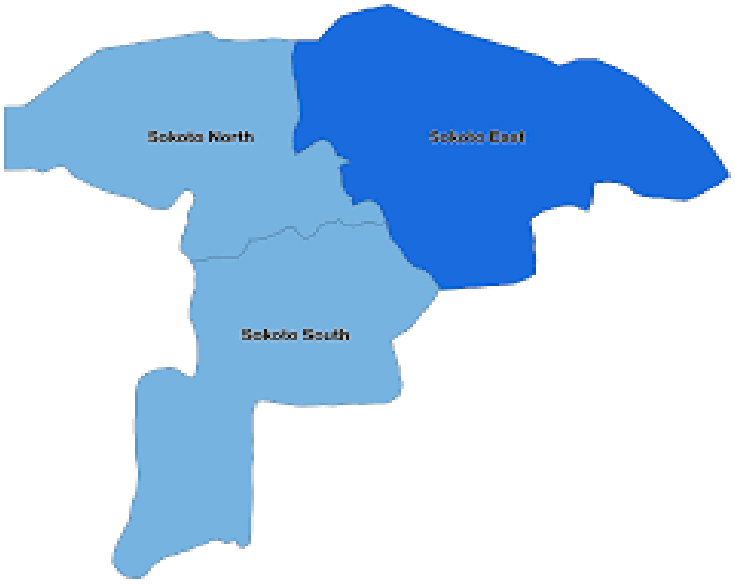


Figure 1: A Map of Sokoto State, Showing the Location of Sokoto East Senatorial District

i. Inadequate Law Enforcement: This is a factor that contributed in worsening the armed banditry situation in Sokoto East. Inadequate law enforcement occurred as a result of some conditions such as insufficient personnel, poor funding and lack operational facilities and over centralized structure which hindered an effective policing in the society. With regard to the issue of security in Sokoto East, it was observed that the supply of police, civil defence, the military personnel and others was very insufficient which as a result of that; they found it very difficult to control the security situation in the district. However, apart from that, the security personnel of the district were also chronically underfunded which limited their capacity for effective operations including the acquisition of necessary equipment and infrastructures (NBS, 2025).

ii. Corruption and Impunity: Researches indicated that, in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, corruption and impunity contributed in fuelling armed banditry by creating an environment where the criminals operated without fear or consequences and

gained access to resources and weapons in the district (Chitra, 2023; Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics, 2025). Corruption enabled the illicit flow of arms and money, while impunity from state Institutions like security forces and judiciary provided cover for the armed bandits in Sokoto East. This situation also perpetuated the armed banditry situation by allowing the criminal networks to thrive in the Sokoto East (NBS, 2025).

iii. Lack of Accountability: Lack of accountability is a fundamental factor driving armed banditry in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State. This was in view of the fact that that, it fuelled corruption in the governance and security Institutions by misappropriation of funds for defence, welfare and arms (Sahara Reporters, 2022; Sokoto East Governments' Reports, 2025). Lack of accountability also leads to state sponsored violence and complicity which was due to the fact that, the complicity of some agents in fuelling the conflicts directly or indirectly was as a result of the absence of a robust accountability system (NBS, 2025).

iv. Poverty: Poverty is a factor that has been adversely affecting the development of many societies and Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State in particular. It was researched that, there were thousands of people who were living in abject poverty in Sokoto East. The reason for that was not far-fetched. They were incapable of maintaining the basic necessities of life----food, shelter and clothing (NBS, 2025). It was found that, some members of the families who failed to resist the situation of poverty found themselves in the unpleasant activities of armed banditry in Sokoto East. They also committed some atrocities ranging from mass killings of innocent people, highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry (Dange, 2019; Sokoto Bureau of Statistics, 2023 & 2025).

v. Unemployment: According to Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics (2023), majority of the youth who were found in the activities of armed banditry in the district, used to be busy during the rainy season and immediately after the season, they stayed unemployed untill the commencement of another rainy season. One of the bandits who were arrested by the security personnel in Rabah Local Government Area of Sokoto East was reported to have said that unemployment was the major reason why the youth engaged in armed banditry (SSBS, 2025; Adesina, 2023; Azeez, 2015).

vi. Lack of Educational Skills: The level of illiteracy was very high in Sokoto State. It was because of the fact that, according to Sokoto State Ministry of Education (2022), there were many people with low educational skills coupled with ignorance. Some researches indicated that, most of the armed bandits in Sokoto East were illiterate and ignorant. It was because of that, both the armed bandits and their informants used to be engage in committing different forms of armed banditry----highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry and with also atrocities----kidnapping, armed robbery, mass

killings of innocent people and Gender Based and Sexual Violence (NBS, 2023; NBS, 2025; Anas, 2022; Akinwotu & Sahabi, 2020).

v. Resource Competition: Resource competition especially between the Fulani herders and Hausa farmers was a factor that fuelled armed banditry in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. However, the conflict was intensified was by some conditions—environmental degradation, desertification and climate change which reduced grazing routes and farmlands leading to increasingly violent clashes and formation of armed bandit groups in the district (Mohammed, 2023). It was also observed that, socio-economic factors—poverty, unemployment and proliferation of small arms further compounded the issue by creating a complex system where scarcity directly contributed to armed banditry in the district (Sokoto East Goverments' Reports, 2025).

vii. Historical Grievances: History revealed that there were some historical grievances between the Gobirawa people of Sabon Birni, Isa and other places and also the Fulani people since before the commencement of the 1804 Jihad waged by Shehu Usmanu Danfofiyo in Hausaland and beyond. Therefore, the long existing conflicts between the Gobirawa farmers and Fulani herders had continue to grow even in the contemporary times. However, the situation resulted in the emergence of many armed banditry groups in Sokoto East (Rufai, 2024).

viii. Militia Groups: Militia groups are part of the factors influencing armed banditry in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State. Normally, the militia groups are the organizations of non professional citizens trained to act as soldiers operating like an army but distinct from a country"s official armed forces (NBS, 2025). They are often formed for community or national defense acting as a reserve or supplementary force to regular troops but can also be independent community based groups (NBS, 2025). In Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, the people that normally performed as militia groups were the Vigilante Groups, the Yan Sakai and others (Sokoto East Governments" Reports, 2025). It is very unfortunate to note that some members of the militia groups compromised security by offering some support for armed banditry groups. With that, they contributed in inflicting many unpleasant effects on the development of people-- losses of lives, properties, disruption of educational learning, deteriorating health conditions of the people, reduced agricultural food production and unemployment (Rufai, 2024; Suleiman, 2023, Mohammed, 2023).

xi. Availability of Small Arms and Light Weapons: This is one of the factors influencing armed banditry and deterrence of development of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. Some researches indicated that, there was the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the district. That was in view of the fact some weapons such as anti aircraft guns, rocket propelled grenade tubes, general purpose machine guns, AK 47, AK 49, G3 magazines and the rest were owned by some armed bandits Sokoto East

(Rufai, 2023). A notable example of this was the case of Bello Turji, a bandit operating along the axis of Isa and Sabon Birni Local Government Areas of Sokoto East. However, they engaged in different forms of armed banditry---highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry (Boyi, 2025).

xii. Political Instability and Conflict: Political Instability and conflict contributed in creating an environment for criminality where the poor governance and weak state presence favoured the conditions for armed banditry. Political stability also fuelled corruption and resource exploitation in Sokoto East. This was because banditry was politicised with the actors using it for their own gain and contributed to the culture of impunity (Mohammed, 2023, MACBAN, 2024).

xiii. Cultural and Social Norms: Cultural and social norms contributed in fuelling long standing conflicts which fostered a state of marginalization resulted in the breakdown of traditional values (Yahaya, 2022; NBS, 2025). Conflicts between the Fulani herders and Hausa farmers over scarce resources had escalated widespread banditry in the district. However, this was exacerbated by a cultural shift towards materialism and a weakening of a community sections alongside a sense of grievance among marginalized groups like the Fulani (NBS, 2025).

xiv. Social Network: Social network simply entails a network of social interactions and personal relationships. In the context of criminal studies such as armed banditry, the social network examines how individuals or groups are involved in criminal activities. In the case of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria, the notorious armed groups led by the gang leader called Bello Turji had developed a social network that enabled the members of the groups to interact with one another. However, they also organized meetings and other things on how they carry out their operations of criminality thereby inflicting many adverse effects on the development of the people of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State (Sokoto East Governments' Reports, 2025).

x. Media and Information: These are part of the factors influencing armed banditry in Sokoto East. Media and information influenced armed banditry in Sokoto East in different ways----negative and positive. First of all, the media and informarion influenced armed banditry by framing the conflicts thereby disseminating the informarion about the scale of attacks and potentially glamourized bandit activities in the district (NBS, 2025). Conversely, the mass media also contributed in broadcasting informarion that helped in discouraging banditry by avoiding sensationalism and with that, the communities and government were assisted with strategies to address the challenges of armed banditry in Sokoto East (Sokoto East Goverments' Reports, 2025).

xv. Transnational Criminal Networks: Transnational criminal networks are the organized groups that operated across national borders to profit from serious large-scale criminal activities (NBS, 2025). These networks typically have international structures, a degree of

continuity and often use violence; a better example includes armed banditry in Nigeria and Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State. Transnational criminal networks existed in Sokoto East. They also had their peculiar characteristics----the transnational nature whereby their operations used to go beyond one country like the case of Nigeria and Niger. However, the transnational criminal networks in Sokoto East had a global impact in consideration of the fact that, they contributed in undermining legitimate economies of the district through corruption, compromising governance and violated human rights of the people (NBS, 2025; Sokoto East Government's Reports, 2025).

xvi. Ungoverned Spaces: The ungoverned spaces were among the factors influencing armed banditry in Sokoto East. The eight (8) Local Government Areas of the district were largely covered by Savannah vegetation and also some portions of the forest trees around the villages of the district bordering Zamfara State and some parts of Niger Republic (NBS, 2025). Normally, the ungoverned spaces served as the hideouts for the armed bandits of the district and they also engaged in different forms of armed banditry--highway banditry, cattle rustling, rebel, religious and urban banditry. However, these forms of armed banditry are associated with other atrocities--kidnapping, armed robbery, mass killings of innocent people and Gender Based and Sexual Violence (Sokoto State Bureau of Statistics, 2025).

Table 1: Some Villages with Ungoverned Spaces used by Armed Bandits in the Sokoto East

S/N	Local Government	Villages with ungoverned spaces
1.	Rabah	Tabanni Tursa, Tumbulla, Gawon Fulani, Sabaru, Alilikiru, Warwanna, Tabaannin Gandi, Badamma,. Sangiwa, Gawakuke
2.	Wurno	Marnona, Gawakuke, Sabon Garin Liman, Kwargaba, Barayar Zaki, Kawadata, Doron Sule
3.	Goronyo	Rahimgo, Kagara, Dantasakko, Kirare, Giyawa, Rimawa
4.	Sabon Birni	Gangara, Kyara, Labbau, Gawakuke, Alkalawa, Tsohuwa, Mai lalle
5.	Isa	Gundumi, Bafarawa, Modachi, Gidan Sale, Bargaja, Tidibale
6.	Gwadabawa	Gigane, Zugana, Mammande, Salame
7.	Illela	Kalmalo, Ambarura, Damba
8.	Gada	Rafin Duma, Dukamaje, Gilbadi, Kaffe, Ila

Source: Sokoto East Local Governments' Reports, 2025

xvii. Porosity of Borders and Boundaries: Other factors which influenced the activities of armed banditry in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State are the issues of porosity of borders and boundaries. The district had some Local Government Areas notably known as Rabah and Isa which shared boundaries with Zamfara state. The Local Government

Areas were porous and very accessible. This was the reason why the armed bandits from Zamfara state could easily cone to the neighbouring Local Government Areas of Sokoto East and engaged in the activities of destroying lives and properties. With that, they also found it easy to get back to Zamfara state (Rufai, 2021; Rufai, 2024; NBS, 2025).

Furthermore, with regard to the issue of border, it could be understood that , there were Local Government Areas of Sokoto East which shared border with Niger Republic----Illela, Gada and Sabon Birni. The porosity of their borders with Niger Republic was a potent factor which helped to trigger armed banditry. This was in view of the fact that, whenever the armed bandits around Illela, Gada and Sabon Birni committed some atrocities, they could easily run away and passed through the neighbouring borders of Niger Republic. They only did that to hide. However, the armed bandits also found it easy to get back to their areas of operations when the situation was normal (NBS, 2025).

Table 2: Some Local Government Areas in Sokoto East with their villages which share boundaries with Zamfara State

S/N	Local Government	Villages sharing boundaries with Zamfara state
1.	Rabah	Badammar Dan-Gra, Tabannin Gandi, Dankarmawa, Allikiru, Ilulu, Sangiwa, Yar Tsakuwa
2.	Isa	Bafarawa, Modaci, Kamarawa, Isa town

Source: Sokoto East Local Governments' Report, 2025

Table 3: Some Local Government Areas in Zamfara State with their villages and towns which share boundaries with Sokoto Eastern Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria

S/N	Local Government	Villages and towns sharing boundaries with Sokoto East
1.	Bakura	Tumba, Badamma Mai Masallaci, Dambo, Balgari
2.	Shinkafi	Dan Dabi, Katuru, Kwanar Isa

Source: Sokoto East Local Governments' Report, 2025

Table 3: Illela, Gada and Sabon Birni Local Government Areas of Sokoto East and their towns and villages which share borders with Niger Republic

S/N	Local Government	Towns and villages sharing borders with Niger Republic
1.	Illela	Illela, Jema, Tafkin Tarama, Runji, Kalmalo, Tumbulunkum, Araba, Rugumawa
2.	Gada	Gada, Dukamaje, Mozage, Rafin Duma, Gilbadi, Bigal, Marmaro, Wauru, Kyadawa
3.	Sabon Birni	Labbau, Takazaba, Araba, Tatsira, Sabon Birni, Dan Gari, Maiwa

Source: Sokoto East Local Governments' Report, 2023

Table 4: Tahoua and Maradi states of Niger Republic and their towns and villages which share borders with Illela, Gada and Sabon Birni Local Government Areas of Sokoto East, Nigeria

S/N	State	Towns and villages sharing borders with Sokoto East, Nigeria
1.	Tahoua	Konni Niger, Jimar Kaya, Masallata, Ambuta, Shetau, Babudoli, Tabanni, Madawa Niger, Yar Rumfa, Bakatsira, Kurega, Gidan Noma, Kuri
2.	Maradi	Kuya, Gidan Runji, Tsibiri

Source: Sokoto East Local Governments' Report, 2023

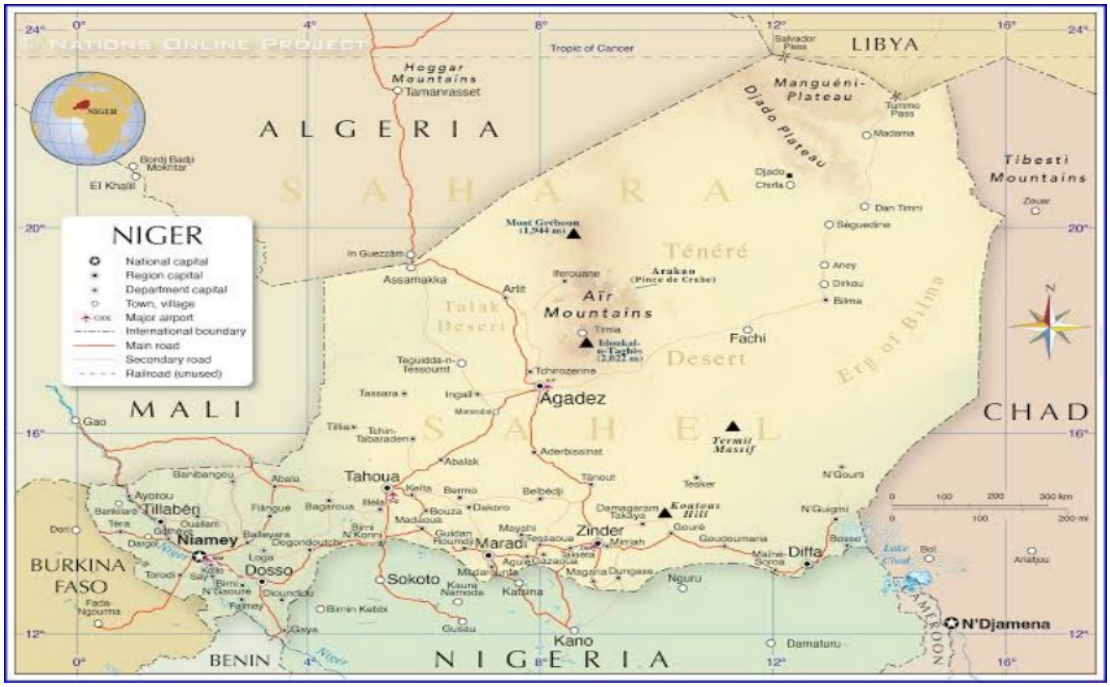


Fig 2: Map of Niger Republic



Fig

Figure 3: Map of Maradi, Niger Republic, 2025

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xviii. Weak Security Apparatuses and Paucity of Personnel: It was researched that the security apparatuses in Sokoto East were weak despite the laudable efforts that the Local Government Areas, State and Federal Government of Nigeria had been making to restore normalcy in the district (Sokoto East Government's Reports, 2025). The security apparatuses in Sokoto East comprised the police, civil defense, the military and vigilante groups. They had been made to be weak because of some conditions-- inaequate funding, the executive control and interference and also the shortage of fighting equipment against the bandits operating around the district (NBS, 3025; MACBAN, 2020). There was also the shortage of security personnel in Sokoto East. This became a serious challenge. That was also the reason why the security personnel found it difficult to adequately fight against the armed bandits by flushing them out of Sokoto East.

xiv. Social Injustice: Within the context of this study, the social injustice entails the social grievances arising from the deep rooted injustice against the pastoralists or pastoral communities residing in some parts of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. In Sokoto East, for example, the pastoralists particularly the Fulanis had been seriously making complaints about the abuse and denial of social rights by the local people (farmers), Local Governments and the Sokoto State Government. However, the complaints had been made several times but no actions had been taken to pacify the Fulani pastoralists or avert the situation. Some of the complaints were the denial of the grazing lands and pastures for the animals—cattle, sheep, goats and the rest. Furthermore, according to Bello Turji who was the leader of the armed bandits of the district, the major reason for their involvement in the nefarious activities of armed banditry was because of the social injustice which they suffered from the government (Rufai, 2024).

xx. Hunger and Starvation: Hunger and starvation contributed in influencing so many people particularly the young and energetic youth in the activities of armed banditry in Sokoto East. Researches indicated that as a result of intense hunger and starvation coupled with other conditions of poverty as well as the continuous increase of social insecurity in Sokoto East, the situation actually changed and became worse. Most of the youth became frustrated and aggressive. As a result of that, they became heartless and ended up in offering their support for the armed bandits thereby destroying lives and properties (Rufai, 2023).

Frustration Aggression Theory (F.A)

This is a theory which is also referred to as frustration aggression displacement theory. The theory came in to being around the year 1939. However, it was also at the Yale University Institute of Human Relations. The theory was propounded by five (5) groups of scholars-----Leonard Doob, John Dollard, Neal Miller, Oval Mowerer, and Sears. The

underlying asumptions of the theory indicate that, frustration leads to aggressive behaviour in the society and the theory further explains that, frustration creates an inclination towards aggression but environmental cues may act as trigger for aggression. The theory can therefore understand that, it is relevant to the Nigerian context. This is in view of the fact that, there are several factors influencing armed banditry in Sokoto East. As a result of frustration, the factors triggered many armed bandits in to such kind of nefarious business in Sokoto East. Some of the factors-----inadequate law enforcement, corruption and impunity, lack of accountability, poverty, unemployment, ungoverned spaces, the availability of small arms and light weapons, hunger and starvation, porosity of borders and boundaries,, social injustice, weak security apparatuses and paucity of personnel and the rest. However, the factors mentioned contributed in fuelling the activities of armed banditry in Sokoto East thereby inflicting some consequences which are unpleasant or detrimental to the attainment of a development. These are educational disruption, deteriorating health conditions of the people, unemployment, the reduced agricultural food production and others. Development can therefore be attained in Sokoto East when all the conditions mentioned are vigorously pursued and cleared away so as make the situation to be better.

Social Disorganization theory

The theory was propounded by a scholar known as Clifford Shaw around the year 1929. It was later published in 1942 with his assistant Henry Mckay. Social disorganization theory highlights on how the breakdown in social institutions and community cohesion created a condition for banditry which later leads to so many bad effects on the development of a people or society. According to the theory, in every society, there are some fundamental institutions which are expected to function better and the breakdown of those institutions leads to adverse effects such as for example, poverty and unemployment which are detrimental to the progress and development of the society.

Social disorganization theory is relevant to the Nigerian context. This is in view of the fact that, some researches examined the relationship between armed banditry and economic development in various Nigerian states--Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and the rest (Rufai, 2024, NBS, 2025).As a result of social disorganization, some conditions arose which are responsible for the commitment of arned banditry activities in the areas mentioned. However, the conditions also deter the progress and development of the people---inadequate law enforcement, corruption and impunity, lack of accountability, poverty, unemployment, lack of educational skills, resource competition, historical grievances, availability of small arms and light weapons, cultural and social norms, transnational criminal networks, ungoverned spaces, porosity of borders and boundaries, weak security apparatuses and paucity of personnel, social injustice, hunger and

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starvation and the rest. It should also be understood that, the occurrence of the conditions for armed banditry also led to the emergence of some consequences on the development of the people of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. These are mainly the disruption of educational learning, deteriorating health conditions of the people, reduced agricultural food production, unemployment and others (Rufai, 2024; Maccido, 2023; Samaila, 2023; NBS, 2025; Sokoto East Government's Reports, 2025). Therefore, providing solutions to the challenges pointed out is significant because it can help in boosting proper and sound economic development in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be clearly understood that, the issue of armed banditry has become a global phenomenon and challenge affecting the progress and development of many states and societies. In the article, the concepts of armed banditry and development have been discussed. There were also some factors influencing armed banditry and deterrence of development of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State. Some of the factors highlighted were inadequate law enforcement, corruption and impunity, lack of accountability, poverty unemployment, lack of educational skills, resource competition historical grievances availability of small arms and light weapons, cultural and social norms, social network, media and information, transnational criminal networks, ungoverned spaces, porosity of borders and boundaries, weak security apparatuses and paucity of personnel, social injustice, hunger and starvation etc.

Furthermore, there were also some theories that were adopted to provide clearer and better understanding of the activities of armed banditry especially in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. The theories were two---frustration aggression and social disorganization theories. However, the theories were also relevant to the Nigerian context and Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. Based on the findings which have been revealed in the article, the following are the recommendations:

i. The provision of adequate law enforcement is something that is of potential significance in every society. There is the need, therefore, for adequate law enforcement in Sokoto East so as to fight against for example, corruption and impunity in the district.
ii. There is hardly a society that can progress and develop better without accountability. This should, therefore be reason why adequate accountability is needed in Sokoto East. It can help seriously in the fight against armed banditry with honesty and transparency in the district.

iii. The people of Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria need to be adequately educated with the support of the three (3) tiers of government in Nigeria---Local Government Areas, the State and even the assistance of support from the Federal Government of Nigeria. This is because of the fact that, education is a weapon of liberation from ignorance, poverty and diseases and also, an indispensable tool for national development. When the people of Sokoto East are adequately given proper and sound education, they can help in no small measure in the fight against armed banditry in their district.

iv. There is the need for an investigative journalism in Sokoto East Senatorial District of Sokoto State, Nigeria. This will help in enabling both the Sokoto State Government and Local Government Areas of the district to be acutely aware of what is happening on armed banditry activities and also the actions to be taken so as to root them out for peace, stability and development.

v. There is also the need for a robust security system in Sokoto East. This is because it will provide an important opportunity for social control and conformity as well as the general progress and development of Sokoto East.

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